

MYTHICAL PARIS

There is no escaping the fascination of this legendary district, starting of course, with the smile of the Mona Lisa and the hieroglyphs at the place de la Concorde. Then, at the Louvre, there is *The Wedding Feast at Cana*, *The Winged Victory of Samothrace*, discovered on the banks of the Aegean Sea and *The Lacemaker* by Vermeer. There's the Cour Carrée, the Grande Galerie, and the 175-metre colonnade – a brief history tour that continues up to the gates of the Elysée Palace.

There are also the voluted columns of the Grand and Petit Palais, the Seine from the railings of the Tuileries gardens, town houses in avenue Gabriel, fashion designers in avenue Montaigne, a few Picassos at the Orangerie. Visitors will fall under the spell of the silky bedroom of Jeanne Lanvin at the Decorative Arts museum and the palace of the courtesan Païva, a few steps from the rond point des Champs-Élysées. At the top of the avenue, the futuristic vessel-like Drugstore is quite impressive too. The 1918 and Liberation parades, the cycles of the Tour de France, the tanks of the 14 July, the celebrations following the 1998 Football World Cup all contribute to the making of a myth!



**Concorde (8th) • Champs-Élysées (8th)
• Tuileries (1st) • Louvre (1st)**



M Charles-de-Gaulle – Étoile (lines 1, 2, 6) • Champs-Élysées – Clemenceau (lines 1, 13)
 • Concorde (lines 1, 8, 12) • Tuileries (line 1) • Palais-Royal – Musée-du-Louvre (lines 1, 7)

DON'T MISS

Arc de Triomphe and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* **PASS**



At the tip of the Champs-Élysées, directly in line with the Arc du Carroussel and the Arche de la Défense, is Napoléon's triumphant antique arch. Commissioned in 1806 to celebrate the victories of the Great Army, it was completed in 1836. Its huge proportions – 50 metres high and 45 wide – are decorated with fine sculpture by Cortot and Étex, along with Rude's famous *Marseillaise*. Described by Victor Hugo as “a heap of glory”, the arch became a national symbol. A flame is rekindled each evening at 6.30pm and the inscription “Here lies a French soldier, who died for his country” is written on the tomb of an unknown soldier laid to rest here in 1921.

Place du Général-de-Gaulle (8th).
 M° Charles-de-Gaulle – Étoile.
 Tel: 01 55 37 73 77.
 Daily. From 1 Apr to 30 Sept:
 10am-11pm. From 1 Oct-31 Mar:
 10am-10.30pm.
 Open after the parades on 8 May,
 14 Jul and 11 Nov. 1 Jan,
 1 May and 25 Dec: closed.
 €9 – RR: €5.50. Under 18s: free.
 Nov to end Mar, 1st Sun of
 the month: free.

www.monuments-nationaux.fr



DID YOU KNOW?

From the roof dominating place de l'Étoile, twelve avenues radiate outwards, some with the names of victories (Friedland, Iéna, Wagram) and generals of the Empire (Carnot, Hoche, Kléber, Marceau). When the sun sets under the Arch directly in line with the Champs, it really is a spectacular sight!

Champs-Élysées



Between Concorde and Étoile, is the emblematic section of a perspective that extends from the Louvre Pyramid to La Défense. The first steps of this “glorious way”, an obligatory passage for patriotic parades, were however modest. Lined with undergrowth, the avenue reached the current site of place de l'Étoile in 1724. A fashionable place to walk, the gardens were devastated at the fall of the Empire. They regained their splendour around 1840: candelabras, fountains, creamy pavilions, landscaping with flowers and copses date from this period of balls and theatres. It was one hundred years later that rapid development occurred when affluence spread to the

west of the capital. The avenue was then adorned with prestigious palaces, cafés and restaurant terraces and cinemas – joined today by ready-to-wear fashion stores and high-tech showrooms. Everything can be found on the “Champs”: films, dresses, lunch, cotton and compresses, racing cars, yoghurts and fresh vegetables, books, CDs, perfume ... from morning to midnight, sometimes 24 hours a day, often 7 days a week.

Musée du Louvre* PASS



The biggest museum in Paris, and home of the *Mona Lisa*, *The Raft of the Medusa*, and *Venus de Milo* was, first and foremost, the jewel in the crown of the kings, emperors and republics of France. From the sombre late-12th-century fortress to Per's glass pyramid, inaugurated in 1989, many have reigned here and practically everyone has left their mark – Renaissance, Classic, First and Second Empire, contemporary ... The Louvre, a museum since 1793, houses collections of Western art from the Middle Ages to 1848, and collections of ancient oriental, Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan and Roman civilizations which preceded and influenced them, as well as graphic arts and Islamic arts.

Main entrance via the pyramid (1st).

M° Palais-Royal – Musée-du-Louvre.

Tel: 01 40 20 50 50.

Daily: 9am-6pm, except Tues, 1 Jan, 1 May and 25 Dec.

Wed and Fri: open until 10pm.

€9.50 – RR: €6 after 6pm.

Under 18s, under 26s (Fri late opening) and 1st Sun of the month: free.

Exhibitions Hall Napoléon: €11. Combined ticket: €14 – RR: €12.

Multimedia guide (commentary of works according to profile of visitor): €2/€4/€6.

www.louvre.fr



DID YOU KNOW?

Uncovered by archaeological excavations in 1985, the foundations of the donjon and the moat of the castle, built at the gateway to the city, under the reign of Philippe Auguste (1180 to 1223), can be visited in the medieval part of the museum.

Place de la Concorde

Work began on place Louis XV in 1755. It broke with the tradition of enclosed royal squares, to open up the perspective to the Tuileries gardens. The fine mansion houses – the Hôtel de la Marine and the Hôtel Crillon underlined the axis of the statue of the monarch – were demolished after thirty years. Place de la Revolution is where Louis XVI, Marie-Antoinette, Danton and Robespierre were guillotined. However, place de la Concorde spells reconciliation. Louis-Philippe sought a monument that would cool revolutionary and royalist passions, which he found in the 3,300-year-old Obelisk, a gift from the pasha of Egypt. Erected in 1836, its 23 metres and 230 tons of pink granite took four years to travel from Luxor! Two fountains, embellished with golden mermaids and fish, enliven the grey, green and golden decor of the square.

HOTEL

Guests who have stayed at the Crillon, a luxury palace hotel designed to pamper a select clientele, include the Emperor Hiro-Hito, King George V of England and Theodore Roosevelt. In 1778, the treaty in which France recognized the independence of the United States was signed here, and 1919 saw the creation of the League of Nations, the older brother of the United Nations.

Jardin des Tuileries

Statues populate the terraces, the lawns and flowerbeds laid out in the French style, the copses and the areas around the ornamental ponds: an academic *Spartacus* on a marble pedestal and the contemporary *Welcoming Hands*, by Louise Bourgeois, plus classical allegories and Tinguely's tricolor. The green Maillol bronzes emerge from the labyrinth of hedges that connect the Tuileries to the Louvre. At the other end, in a direct line with the great axis, the garden opens out spectacularly onto Concorde. Lush greenery, games, refreshment chalets, and *famiente* lie between the two.



1st. M° Concorde.



DISCOVER

Galleries nationales du Grand Palais

This majestic stone building with its floral decoration, crowned with a splendid metallic-framed glass roof, was constructed for the Exposition Universelle in 1900. Architecturally daring in its time, the Grand Palais houses the Palais de la Découverte science museum in one of its wings, while its nave and galleries are a dream showcase ... for dream exhibitions!

3, av. du Gal-Eisenhower (8th). M° Champs-Élysées – Clemenceau. Tel: 01 44 13 17 17. Open during exhibitions from 10am to 8pm. Late-night openings: contact for information. Closed Tues, 1 May and 25 Dec. €10 – RR: €8. Under 13s: free. www.grandpalais.fr



Petit Palais – Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris

Like its 'Grand' neighbour, the *Petit* (little) Palais is an example of the eclectic splendour of the Exposition of 1900. The building alternates white and coloured marble, moulding and garlands, painted ceilings, mosaic flooring and opal stained-glass windows around an interior garden. The city's Fine Arts museum since 1902, the Petit Palais displays collections of painting, sculpture and art objects from antiquity to 1918. Amongst other marvels, visitors will admire Greek amphora, orthodox icons, Gothic ivories, Italian Madonnas, paintings by Rubens, Saxe porcelain and blown-crystal glass vases.



Av. Psdt-Winston-Churchill (8th). M° Champs-Élysées – Clemenceau. Tel: 01 53 43 40 00. Daily: 10am-6pm, except Mon and public hols. Tues: open until 8pm during temporary exhibitions. Permanent exhibitions free: www.petitpalais.paris.fr

Musée de l'Orangerie* **PASS**



Built in 1852, the Orangery of the Tuileries soon lost its fruit trees to become a storehouse, and a room for examinations and dog competitions. Its destiny became clearer when Monet chose it to house the complete cycle of the *Nymphéas* (Water Lilies) on which he worked from 1914. Since its renovation was completed in 2006, the panels of a landscape of water lilies, weeping willows, reflections of trees and clouds – 2 metres high, almost 100 long – have regained their beauty and meaning in daylight. This exceptional venue also does justice to the collection of art dealer Paul Guillaume of whom it was said "the paintings and statues whispered in his ear". And 'his' Renoir, Cézanne, Rousseau, Modigliani, Marie Laurencin, Matisse, Derain, Picasso, Soutine and Utrillo paintings definitely reveal a certain flair.

Jardin des Tuileries (1st). M° Concorde.

Tel: 01 44 77 80 07. Daily: 9am-6pm, except Tues, 1 May and 25 Dec. €7.50 – RR: €5.50.

+ €2 for temporary exhibitions.

1st Sun of each month: free.

www.musee-orangerie.fr

DID YOU KNOW?

For 30 years, Monet placed his easel opposite his water garden to capture the changes in nature: the *Nymphéas* cycle numbers some 300 paintings!

Musée du Jeu de paume – Concorde site

Don't be confused: it was in another room, at Versailles, that the famous Tennis Court Oath was taken at the start of the French Revolution! This building was only built in 1861 and when tennis replaced the game of *jeu de paume*, it became a venue for art. The gallery was redesigned in 1987 and now stages exhibitions devoted to the 'image', mixing periods and techniques, from the beginnings of the photo to third millennium videos. Combine a walk through the Tuileries with one of its sparkling exhibitions and an assortment of films and conferences to prolong the charm.

1, place de la Concorde (8th). M° Concorde.
Tel: 01 47 03 12 50. Tues: 12-noon to 9pm.
Wed to Fri: 12-noon-7pm. Sat and Sun: 10am-7pm.
Closed Mon. €7 – RR: €5. www.jeuropaume.org

Musée Jacquemart-André



Nélie Jacquemart was commissioned to paint the portrait of Édouard André, the heir of a banking family. They were to remain inseparable and devoted their fortune to the collection exhibited in their mansion, built in 1875. The magnificent reception rooms, winter garden and private apartments are decorated with Louis XV and Louis XVI furniture, paintings by Boucher, Chardin and Fragonard and treasures of the Italian Renaissance. The smoking room is English with Hoppner, Lawrence and Reynolds. The Flemish and Dutch masters of the 17th century, led by Rembrandt, are displayed in the library.
158, bd Haussmann (8th). M° Saint-Philippe-du-Roule. Tel: 01 45 62 11 59. Daily: 10am-6pm.
€11 – RR: €8.50. Under 7s: free.
www.musee-jacquemart-andre.com

Palais-Bourbon

The Palais Bourbon, which has housed the Assemblée Nationale (the lower house of the French parliament), was built in 1726 for Louise-Françoise, daughter of Louis XIV and Madame de Montespan, the widow of the Duc de Bourbon.



33 bis, quai d'Orsay (7th). M° Assemblée-Nationale.
Tel: 01 40 63 64 08. Voice activated service:
01 40 63 99 99. ID required. Free admission and visit.
www.assemblee-nationale.fr

Les Arts décoratifs

This institute pursues the objectives it was given at the outset, "to promote what is both beautiful and useful" and groups together the Musée Nissim-de-Camondo and the Musées des Arts décoratifs, de la Publicité, de la Mode et du Textile.

107, rue de Rivoli (1st). M° Palais-Royal – Musée du-Louvre. Tel: 01 44 55 57 50.
Tues to Sun: 11am-6pm. Thurs: open until 9pm.
€9 – €7.50. www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr

Musée des Arts décoratifs* **PASS**

Since its renovation, a saunter through the museum's nave and galleries is an even more special experience. The setting is all whiteness and airy spaces with calligraphy quotations in red on the walls. The riches of the Medieval and Renaissance periods embellish the residence and testify to its grandeur. From Henri IV to Louis XVI, it is pure magnificence. Ebony and rosewood, classical ideals, useful objects and philosophy all contribute to the rich pomp of the salons. Bourgeois splendour triumphs in the 19th century. Then come the sinuous curves of art nouveau, the geometry of art deco, and the industrial logic and functionalism of the 1950s, before plastic and anti-conformism give way to individualism and the desire for natural comfort. The trend for the 21st century is predicted to be ... low-key.



Musée de la Publicité* **PASS**

The collection of posters (some of which date from the 18th century), and press, film, and radio advertisements showcase advertising in all its forms, including a retrospective of Chinese posters, a tribute to the pioneers of the advertisement, displays of logos, the power of images from Man Ray to Jean-Paul Goude, the epic story of the 'Nantais' biscuit and a Senegalese soldier on a box of cocoa. These works cannot be on permanent display due to their fragile nature and are thus presented in temporary exhibitions only. However the multimedia library is open to everyone.

Musée de la Mode et du Textile* **PASS**

Silks, embroidery, printed fabrics, lace, tapestry – 31,000 pieces in total – present the history of textiles from the 14th century onwards. Fashion is showcased with a collection of outfits and accessories from the 17th century to creations by Balmain, Chanel, Courrèges, Dior, Lanvin, Lacroix, Poiret, Saint Laurent, etc. These works cannot be on permanent display due to their fragile nature and so appear in temporary exhibitions only.

Musée Nissim-de-Camondo* **PASS**

In the first decade of the twentieth century, the banker Moïse de Camondo, a passionate collector of 18th-century decorative arts, had a magnificent mansion built on the edge of Parc Monceau, inspired by the Petit Trianon at Versailles but equipped with all modern comforts.

In his wood-panelled apartments, he artfully displayed his collection. From the blue salon to porcelain collections, he takes us from Versailles to the table of Catherine II of Russia. In 1936, the mansion became a museum. A wonderful opportunity to visit an exceptionally refined family residence.

63, rue de Monceau (8th). M° Villiers.

Tel: 01 53 89 06 50. Wed to Sun: 10am-5.30pm.

Closed Mon and Tues. €7 – €5.

www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr

**Chapelle expiatoire*** **PASS**

Guillotined in 1793, Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette were hastily buried in the Madeleine cemetery, on the actual site of square Louis XVI. During the Restoration, their remains were exhumed and transferred to the Basilique de Saint-Denis. Louis XVIII erected a funerary chapel, completed in 1826, on the site of their first tomb. Laid out as a Greek cross, it is decorated inside with angels, *fleurs-de-lis*, an altar in white marble, and a sculpture of *Marie-Antoinette soutenue par la Religion*, by Cortot.

29, rue Pasquier (8th). M° Saint-Lazare.

Tel: 01 44 32 18 00. Thurs, Fri, Sat: 1-5pm.

And some public hols. €5 – RR: €3.50. Under 18s and 1st Sun of the month (from Nov to Mar): free.

www.monuments-nationaux.fr

**Palais de La Découverte**

How does a light bulb light up? Do animals speak? What is out there in space? To answer these questions, Scientists carry out spectacular experiments on four themes (the Earth and the Universe, matter and energy, mathematics, and living

things), which provide the focus for the permanent and temporary exhibitions. And the planetarium is an invitation to travel through the universe.



Av. Franklin-D.-Roosevelt (8th). M° Champs-Élysées – Clemenceau. Tel: 01 56 43 20 21.

Tues to Sat: 9.30am-6pm. Sun and some public hols: 10am-7pm. Mon and some public holidays: closed.

€7 – RR: €4.50. Planetarium: €3.50 supplement.

Under 5s: free. www.palais-decouverte.fr

**Musée Cernuschi**

Philanthropic financier and aesthete traveller, Henri Cernuschi (1821-1896) bequeathed the works of art he had collected on his long travels together with his mansion, at the edge of Parc Monceau to the City. Rooted in the art and archaeology of ancient China, from the Neolithic period to the 13th century, the museum gives centre stage to a huge bronze Buddha. Around this sage meditating opposite a bay window inundated with light, are jade necklaces, ceramics, a *Barbare Occidentale* with a long terra cotta nose and much more.

7, av. Velasquez (8th). M° Villiers.

Tel: 01 53 96 21 50. Daily: 10am-6pm, except Mon and public hols. Permanent collections free.

www.cernuschi.paris.fr

Parc Monceau

This 18th-century Anglo-Chinese 'folly' was one of the first irregular gardens designed like a cabinet of outdoor curiosities. Amongst the lawns and play areas, there remain some extravaganzas: the mock antique ruins surrounding the ornamental pond, a little bridge, a grotto, rocks and even an Egyptian tomb covered with moss!

The last folly of note was the capture of a wolf, in 1972.

8th. M° Monceau.

