

# ICN+T 2012

## PARIS ATTRACTION

### **The Eiffel Tower:**

Métro: Trocadéro, Ecole Militaire, or Bir Hakeim. RER: Champ de Mars-Tour Eiffel

**[www.tour-eiffel.fr](http://www.tour-eiffel.fr)**

This is one of the world's most recognizable monuments and the best-known monument in all of Europe, and it is breathtaking to behold. Be sure to take the lift for a view of the city. Weighing 7,000 tons, but exerting about the same pressure on the ground as an average-size person sitting in a chair, the wrought-iron tower wasn't meant to be permanent. Gustave-Alexandre Eiffel, the French engineer whose fame rested mainly on his iron bridges, built it for the 1889 Universal Exhibition. (Eiffel also designed the framework for the Statue of Liberty.) Praised by some and denounced by others (some called it a "giraffe," the "world's greatest lamppost," or the "iron monster"), the tower created as much controversy in the 1880s as I.M. Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre did in the 1980s. What saved it from demolition was the advent of radio - as the tallest structure in Europe, it made a perfect spot to place a radio antenna (now a TV antenna).

The tower, including its TV antenna, is 317m (1,040 ft.) high. On a clear day you can see it from 65km (40 miles) away. An open-framework construction, the tower unlocked the almost unlimited possibilities of steel construction, paving the way for skyscrapers. Its plans spanned 5,400 sq. m/18,000 sq. ft. of paper, and it contains 2.5 million rivets. But forget the numbers. Just stand beneath the tower, and look straight up. It's like a rocket of steel lacework shooting into the sky.

To get to Le Jules Verne (tel. 01-45-55-61-44), the second-platform restaurant, take the private south foundation elevator. You can enjoy an aperitif in the piano bar and then take a seat at one of the dining room's tables, all of which provide an inspiring view. The menu changes seasonally, offering fish and meat dishes that range from filet of turbot with seaweed and buttered sea urchins to veal chops with truffled vegetables. Reservations are recommended.

Time Out at the Tower -- To see the Eiffel Tower best, don't sprint -- approach it gradually. We suggest taking the Métro to the Trocadéro stop and walking from the Palais de Chaillot to the Seine to get the full effect of the tower and its surroundings; then cross the pont d'Iéna and head for the base, where you'll find elevators in two of the pillars -- expect long lines. (When the tower is open, you can see the 1889 lift machinery in the east and west pillars.) You visit the tower in three stages: The first landing provides a view over the rooftops, as well as a cinema museum showing films, restaurants, and a bar. The second landing offers a panoramic look at the city. The third landing gives the most spectacular view; Eiffel's office has been re-created on this level, with wax figures depicting the engineer receiving Thomas Edison.

Tour Eiffel Bargain -- The least expensive way to see the Tour Eiffel is to walk up the first two floors at a cost of 7.80€. That way, you also avoid the long lines waiting for the elevator - although the views are less spectacular from this platform. If you dine at the tower's own

Altitude 95 (tel. 01-45-55-20-04), an Eiffel restaurant on the first floor, management allows patrons to cut to the head of the line.

### **Louvre Museum:**

34-36 quai du Louvre, 1e, Métro: Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre, [www.louvre.fr](http://www.louvre.fr), Main entrance in the glass pyramid, Cour Napoléon

Arguably the world's most famous art museum, the Louvre's most popular piece is Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa." It was established in 1793, and is one of the oldest museums in Europe. Its collections spans from the birth of great civilizations up to the 19th century.

### **Centre Pompidou:**

Place Georges-Pompidou, 4e, Métro: Rambuteau, Hôtel de Ville, or Châtelet-Les Halles, [www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr)

The funky and hip Centre Pompidou features a wonderful collection of modern art within its creatively designed building. It also features a cinema, concerts and children's activities.

### **Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie:**

Parc de la Villette (Eastern Paris) [www.cite-sciences.fr](http://www.cite-sciences.fr)

This fun, hands-on science museum attracts 2.5 million visitors each year, with its cool exhibits on anatomy and biology. The Cité also has a multimedia library, a planetarium, and an "inventorium" for kids.

It is located in one of the Paris's largest park which is designed like a city with its streets, gates, buildings, its "Folies" and squares. The Canal de l'Ourcq runs through it, and the park hosts shows, restaurants, fun and cultural activities.

### **Arc de Triomphe:**

Place Charles de Gaulle-Etoile, 8e, Métro: Charles-de-Gaulle-Etoile. Bus: 22, 30, 31, 52, 73, or 92, [www.monum.fr](http://www.monum.fr)

Climb to the top for one of the best views of Paris. No, it doesn't go as high as the Eiffel Tower. But since the city is relatively flat, the vantage point at this height is actually better.

Located at the western end of the Champs-Élysées, the Arc de Triomphe suggests an ancient Roman arch, only it's larger. Actually, it's the biggest triumphal arch in the world, about 49m (161 ft.) high and 44m (144 ft.) wide. To reach it, don't try to cross the square, the traffic is too busy. With a dozen streets radiating from the "Star," take the underground passage. Commissioned by Napoleon in 1806 to commemorate the victories of his Grand Armée, the arch wasn't ready for the entrance of his empress, Marie-Louise, in 1810. It wasn't completed until 1836, under the reign of Louis-Philippe. Four years later, Napoleon's remains, brought from St. Helena, passed under the arch on their journey to his tomb at the Hôtel des Invalides.

Since that time, it has become the focal point for state funerals. It's also the site of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in whose honour an eternal flame burns.

The greatest state funeral was Victor Hugo's in 1885; his coffin was placed under the arch. The arch has been the centerpiece of some of France's proudest moments and some of its most humiliating defeats, notably in 1871 and 1940. The arch's happiest moment occurred in 1944, when the liberation-of-Paris parade passed beneath it. That same year, Eisenhower paid a visit to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a new tradition among leaders of state and important figures. After Charles de Gaulle's death, the French government (despite protests from anti-Gaullists) voted to change the name of this site from place de l'Etoile to place Charles de Gaulle. Nowadays it's often known as place Charles de Gaulle-Etoile.

Of the sculptures on the monument, the best known is Rude's Marseillaise, or The Departure of the Volunteers. J. P. Cortot's Triumph of Napoléon in 1810 and Etex's Resistance of 1814 and Peace of 1815 also adorn the facade. The monument is engraved with the names of hundreds of generals (those underlined died in battle) who commanded French troops in Napoleonic victories.

You can take an elevator or climb the stairway to the top, where there's an exhibition hall with lithographs and photos depicting the arch throughout its history, as well as an observation deck with a fantastic view.

### **Notre-Dame Cathedral:**

6 place du Parvis Notre-Dame, 4e, Métro: Cité or St-Michel. RER: St-Michel  
www.monum.fr - Admission free to cathedral. Towers 5.50€, Treasury 5.50€

Notre-Dame is the heart of Paris and even of the country itself: Distances from the city to all parts of France are calculated from a spot at the far end of place du Parvis, in front of the cathedral, where a circular bronze plaque marks Kilomètre Zéro. The cathedral's setting on the banks of the Seine has always been memorable. Founded in the 12th century by Maurice de Sully, bishop of Paris, Notre-Dame has grown over the years, changing as Paris has changed. Its flying buttresses (the external side supports, giving the massive interior a sense of weightlessness) were rebuilt in 1330. Though many disagree, Notre-Dame is more interesting outside than in, and you'll want to walk all around it to fully appreciate this "vast symphony of stone. The histories of Paris and Notre-Dame are inseparable. Many prayed here before going off to fight in the Crusades. The revolutionaries who destroyed the Galerie des Rois and converted the building into a secular temple didn't spare "Our Lady of Paris." Later, Napoleon crowned himself emperor. But carelessness, vandalism, embellishments, and wars of religion had already demolished much of the previously existing structure.

The cathedral was once scheduled for demolition, but because of the popularity of Victor Hugo's Hunchback of Notre-Dame and the revival of interest in the Gothic period, a movement mushroomed to restore the cathedral to its original glory. The task was completed under Viollet-le-Duc, an architectural genius. The houses of old Paris used to crowd in on Notre-Dame, but during his redesign of the city, Baron Haussmann ordered them torn down to show the cathedral to its best advantage from the parvis. This is the best vantage for seeing the three sculpted 13th-century portals (the Virgin, the Last Judgment, and St. Anne).

If possible, come to see Notre-Dame at sunset. The main body of the church is typically Gothic, with slender, graceful columns. In the choir, a stone-carved screen from the early-14th century depicts such biblical scenes as the Last Supper. Near the altar stands the 14th-century Virgin and Child, highly venerated among Paris's faithful. To visit the gargoyles immortalized by Hugo, you have to scale steps leading to the twin towers, rising to a height of 68m (223 ft.). Once there, you can inspect devils (some giving you the raspberry), hobgoblins, and birds of prey. Look carefully, and you may see hunchback Quasimodo with Esmeralda.

Approached through a garden behind Notre-Dame is the Mémorial des Martyrs Français de la Déportation de 1945 (Deportation Memorial), out on the tip of Ile de la Cité. Here, birds chirp and the Seine flows gently by, but the memories are far from pleasant. The memorial commemorates the French citizens who were deported to concentration camps during World War II. Carved into stone are these blood-red words (in French): "Forgive, but don't forget." The memorial is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 9:45pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 9:45pm. Admission is free.

### **Sacré-Coeur basilica:**

Place St-Pierre, 18e, Métro: Abbesses; take elevator to surface and follow signs to funicular, [www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.com](http://www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.com), free admission to basilica, joint ticket to dome and crypt 5€

Sacré-Coeur is one of Paris's most characteristic landmarks and has been the subject of much controversy. Atop the butte (hill) in Montmartre, its multiple gleaming white domes and campanile (bell tower) loom over Paris like a 12th-century Byzantine church. But it's not that old. After France's 1870 defeat by the Prussians, the basilica was planned as a votive offering to cure France's misfortunes. Rich and poor alike contributed money to build it. Construction began in 1876, and though the church wasn't consecrated until 1919, perpetual prayers of adoration have been made here day and night since 1885. The interior is brilliantly decorated with mosaics: Look for the striking Christ on the ceiling and the mural of his Passion at the back of the altar. The stained-glass windows were shattered during the struggle for Paris in 1944 but have been well replaced. The crypt contains what some of the devout believe is Christ's sacred heart -- hence, the name of the church.

Insider's tip: Although the view from the Arc de Triomphe is the greatest panorama of Paris, we also want to endorse the view from the gallery around the inner dome of Sacré-Coeur. On a clear day, your eyes take in a sweep of Paris extending for 48km (30 miles) into the Ile de France. You can also walk around the inner dome, an attraction even better than the interior of Sacré-Coeur itself.

### **Panthéon:**

Place du Panthéon, 5e, Métro: Cardinal Lemoine or Maubert-Mutualité - Nearest building from the conference location. [www.monum.fr](http://www.monum.fr) - Admission 7.50€.

At the summit of Saint Geneviève's mount, at the heart of the Latin Quarter amongst a cluster of schools and universities, the Panthéon dominates Paris. For almost the entire 19th Century, well before the Eiffel Tower, Sacré Coeur de Montparnasse and the Montparnasse Tower, the Panthéon was the first building that visitors arriving in Paris from the provinces or from abroad would see, and from which it was possible to take in the entire city in one complete

and exceptional view. The Basilica of Saint Geneviève, which became the Panthéon under the French Revolution, and was formerly a lighthouse and a cave, is as much a majestic piece of late 18th Century architecture as a living emblem and witness to the history of France for over 250 years. The Panthéon is considered a model of design, combining, according to a scholar of the Age of the Enlightenment, «the lightness of construction of gothic edifices with the purity and the magnificence of Greek architecture». A masterpiece of the architect Soufflot, the Panthéon was part of the urban renewal of Paris, which makes it an essential feature of a tour of the capital's monuments. Famous for its dome, an admirable blend of balance and harmony, this building is also well-known for its interior décor. The result of contradictory functions assigned to the edifice since the Revolution, the décor is a mixture of Christian and Republican symbolism in immense ideological confusion. As a church, a temple of humanity or a national basilica according to the regime in power, the paintings on the sides of the nave reflect in the intensity of their message the artistic syncretism of the Third Republic (especially those by Puvis de Chavanne).

The Panthéon has become above all a republican necropolis where the history of France blends with the world of writers, scientists, generals, churchmen and politicians. So having passed the peristyle at the threshold, visitors can only stand in awe of the solemnity of the space, stunned by the immensity of the interior. Only the swing of the pendulum in the centre of the building, a replica of the experiment carried out by Foucault in 1851 to study the earth's roundness, seems to stir the deep calm. The crypt houses the tombs of more than 70 personages from Voltaire and Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Alexandre Dumas, who was interred on 28th November 2002.

Laicized in 1791, it became the national Pantheon. During the 19th century, its function was either religious, either patriotic, depending on the political regime. Under the 3rd Republic, it was turned into an edifice devoted to the memory of famous men, on the occasion of Victor Hugo's funeral (1885).

### **Musee d'Orsay:**

1 rue de Bellechasse, 7e, Métro: Solférino. RER: Musée d'Orsay, [www.musee-orsay.fr](http://www.musee-orsay.fr)  
This museum may not be the massive size of Louvre, but its Impressionist collection is among the best in the world. The museum is housed in a former rail station attracting 2.1 million visitors annually.

### **Grévin Museum:**

Métro: Grands Boulevards [www.grevin.com](http://www.grevin.com)  
The Grévin is Paris's number-one waxworks.

### **La Madeleine:**

Place de la Madeleine, 8e, Métro: Madeleine, [www.eglise-lamadeleine.com](http://www.eglise-lamadeleine.com) - Free admission

La Madeleine is one of Paris's minor landmarks, dominating rue Royale, which culminates in place de la Concorde. Though construction began in 1806, it wasn't consecrated until 1842. Resembling a Roman temple, the building was intended as a monument to the glory of the Grande Armée (Napoleon's idea). Later, several alternative uses were considered: the National Assembly, the Bourse, and the National Library. Climb the 28 steps to the facade, and look back: You'll be able to see rue Royale, place de la Concorde and its obelisk, and

(across the Seine) the dome of the Hôtel des Invalides. Don't miss Rude's Le Baptême du Christ, to the left as you enter.

### **Palais and Jardin du Luxembourg:**

6th Arrondissement, Métro: Odéon; RER: Luxembourg - Near the conference location Marie de Médicis, the wife of Henri IV, ordered the Palais du Luxembourg built on this site in 1612, shortly after she was widowed. A Florentine by birth, the regent wanted to create another Pitti Palace. Architect Salomon de Brossee wasn't entirely successful, though the overall effect is Italianate. Alas, the queen didn't get to enjoy the palace, as her son, Louis XIII, forced her into exile when he discovered she was plotting to overthrow him. She died in poverty in Cologne. For her palace, she'd commissioned 21 paintings from Rubens, which glorified her life, but they're now in the Louvre. You can visit the palace Monday, Friday and Saturday from 10:30am to 2:30pm, but you must call tel. 01-44-54-19-49 to make a reservation. The cost is 10€ per person.

You don't really come to the Luxembourg to visit the palace; the gardens are the attraction. For the most part, they're in the classic French tradition: well groomed and formally laid out, the trees planted in patterns. Urns and statuary on pedestals -- one honouring Paris's patroness, St. Geneviève, encircle a central water basin.

### **Walking tours:**

The best to discover Paris is on foot. Our favourite walks are along the Seine River and down the Champs-Élysées from the Arc de Triomphe to the Louvre. We also highlight the attractions of Montmartre, the Latin Quarter and the Marais.

### **Bus tours:**

Cityrama, 2 rue des Pyramides, 1er (tel. 01-44-55-61-00); Métro: Palais-Royal-Musée du Louvre, <http://www.pariscityrama.com/index.htm>

Visit Paris and all the major places of interest in the city with Paris l'OpenTour buses. Enjoy fantastic views from the open top deck! 4 routes, 50 stops to visit Paris in your own time: with the 1 or 2 day pass; hop on and off as often as you please to discover all the city...

See routes on <http://www.pariscityrama.com/files/documents/OPENTOUR.pdf>

On a double-decker bus, you take a 2-hour ride through the city. You don't go inside any attractions, but you get a look at the outside of Notre-Dame and the Eiffel Tower, among other sites, and it helps you get a feel for the city. There's commentary in eight languages on earphones. Also, tours including visits or night tours can be purchased.

The RATP (tel. 08-92-68-77-14) [www.ratp.fr](http://www.ratp.fr), which runs regular public transportation, also operates the Balabus, a fleet of orange-and-white big-windowed motor coaches. The only drawback is their limited operating times: Sunday and national holidays from 12:30 to 8:30pm, from April to the end of September. Itineraries run in both directions between Gare de Lyon and the Grand Arche de La Défense. Three Métro tickets will carry you along the

entire route. You'll recognize the bus, and the route it follows, by the Bb symbol on its side and on signs posted along its route.

### **Cruises on the Seine:**

A boat tour on the Seine provides views of the riverbanks and Notre-Dame. Many boats have sun decks, bars, and restaurants. Bateaux-Mouche (tel. 01-40-76-99-99) - Métro: Alma-Marceau, [www.bateaux-mouches.fr](http://www.bateaux-mouches.fr) cruises depart from the Right Bank of the Seine, adjacent to pont de l'Alma, and last about 75 minutes. Tours leave daily at 20- to 30-minute intervals from 10am to 11pm between April and September. Fares are 8€ for adults. Dinner cruises depart daily at 8:30pm, last 2 hours, and cost 95€ to 125€. On dinner cruises, jackets and ties are required for men.



Arc de Triomphe



Tour Eiffel



Pont Alexandre III



Notre Dame