



Paris

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HISTORY

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Paris, city and capital of France, situated in the north-central part of the country. People were living on the site of the present-day city, located along the Seine River some 233-miles (375-km) upstream from the river's mouth on the English Channel (La Manche), by about 7600 BCE. The modern city has spread from the island (the Île de la Cité) and far beyond both banks of the Seine.

In the Beginning

Paris was founded around the end of the 3rd century BC by the Gauls who were called Parisii. In 52 BC Julius Caesar's legions conquered the territory, founding the Roman city, Lutetia on the earlier settlement.

King Clovis

King Clovis was the first king of France, and the founder of the country as well. He changed the power structure of tribes, banishing local leaders and uniting the people under one single ruler, making kinship hereditary for his successors. His brilliant military tactics, policies and religious devotion that enabled him to conquer the region of Gaul, making Paris the capital city in 508 after the fall of the Roman Empire.

Christianity and Foreign Rule

Christianity was introduced in the second century AD, while the Roman domination ended in the 5th century with the arrival of the Franks. In 508 Clovis I established Paris as the capital of the kingdom.

The French Revolution

This 10-year bloodshed that cost thousands of French lives, was what ultimately ended the absolute monarchy of Louis XVI and the feudal system – establishing a republic led by Napoleon Bonaparte.



MONEY

MONEY



Planning to pay with a combination of cash, credit or debit cards, and traveler's checks can be the best strategy when visiting the French capital. Here's why: ATM machines are not always readily available in some places in and around Paris, so relying solely on cash may lead to trouble.

Credit Cards

Visa and MasterCard are accepted by most shops and restaurants, though smaller merchants, some neighborhood restaurants or bars, and street vendors may not take credit cards. (Also, restaurant tips are normally given in cash.) American Express is accepted at higher-end boutiques and restaurants that cater to tourists.

Debit Cards

Debit cards get the gold for convenience. Equipped with a chip, secured with a PIN, and providing direct access to your own money, almost everyone in France uses a debit card to pay. Visa and Mastercards are commonly accepted



Visitors from the USA

ATMs accepted in Paris is a chip-and-pin cards and cards with only a magnetic strip on the back. Be prepared to use a four-digit numeric PIN. If your bank uses a six-digit PIN or a combination of letters and numbers, ask the bank to change your PIN or to provide instructions for using your ATM card overseas.

ATM

Your best source of cash is an automated teller machine (ATM) or cashpoint. You'll find ATMs on banks and post offices all over Paris, and most of them have step-by-step instructions in your choice of French, English, and other languages.

HELPFUL INFO

Climate

The climate in Paris is temperate and is influenced by the Atlantic Ocean: it is cold but not freezing in winter, and pleasantly warm in summer; however, it receives some continental influences, so it can sometimes be very cold in winter and hot in summer. The best time to visit Paris is from mid-May to mid-September; in particular from mid-May to late June, when the days are long, nature is in bloom, and there is a low risk of excessive heat

Electricity

Electrical outlets in Paris usually deliver power at 220–240 volts. It is much stronger than most North American sockets, which usually deliver 110–120 V. Power plugs in France have the particularity of being male and female at the same time. In most countries, plugs only have prongs and sockets are only receptacles for those prongs. However, electric plugs have 2 prongs and a receptacle in France. If your power plugs do not match this shape, you may need an adapter. However, an adapter only solves the shape issue; it does not change the voltage. So you may need to use both an adapter (which enables you to plug your appliance into the different style of socket) and a converter (which allows it to run on the different voltage).



Technology & Communication

The communications infrastructure of Paris ranks high among advanced countries. There were about 35-million main telephone lines in use by the end of 1998, with mobile cellular phone usage at about 35% of that figure. There are fewer Internet service providers (ISPs) in Paris, but there is easy access to the Internet via both domestic and foreign ISPs. Paris is a very conservative country, deeply committed to its own distinct national information infrastructure, which makes the country cautious in approaching innovations that do not originate within France.

Infrastructure & Transport

“Grand Paris” benefit from different types of transport: by road transport; air transport for domestic and international travel, river transport for goods or recreation. The Paris public transport system is run by RATP and consists of 16 lines of Métro (underground), 3 Tramway lines, 2 RER suburban express train (which interconnects with the Métro inside Paris), 351 bus and Noctilien (night bus). One of the first Parisian airports settled in le Bourget in 1914.



In Case Of An Emergency

One of the first things you should do when arriving in Paris is to make a list of phone numbers to use in case of emergency. The key numbers are: Pompiers (fire department): 18 SAMU (emergency medical services): 15 Police: 17 Poison Control: 01 40 05 48 48

Language

The official language of the country is French. But in the parts of the city that see the most tourists, people will understand and talk to you in English. Regional languages are also spoken like dialects of German and Celtic languages.



LGBT Travel

LGBT culture in France is centred on Paris, the capital city, where there is an active LGBT community. Paris was the first European capital to vote in an openly gay mayor when Bertrand Delanoë was elected in 2001, and the city itself is very open – same-sex couples. In 2013 France became the 13th country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage (and adoption by same-sex couples), and polls show that the majority of French citizens support marriage equality. Bars and clubs are generally all gay- and lesbian-friendly.

Religion

In the middle of the 16th century, Paris was the helpless witness of a bloody religious war which opposed the Roman Catholic hierarchy and Protestant believers. The horror culminated in the infamous Massacre of St Bartholomew's Day. That night, nearly three-thousand souls perished in a bloodbath in the streets of the capital. In 1598, Protestants were granted the freedom to worship as they wished, and since that date the various religious communities have lived in harmony. According to a survey held by Institut Montaigne and Institut français d'opinion publique (Ifop) on 2016, 51.1% of the population was Christian, 6.6% was Islamic and 0.8% was Jews.



Getting There

If you are getting to Paris by plane you will arrive at one of the three airports serving the capital. Both Paris Charles de Gaulle and Orly Airports handle international and European domestic flights with the smaller Beauvais airport offering flights from 'Low budget' carriers. If you are getting to Paris by train from London you will arrive at Paris Gare de Nord station, one of six main stations serving the city. Depending on where your departure is you will arrive at one of these six mainline Paris city stations.

Driving

The city of Paris is well served by road links from all points of the compass, bringing visitors from all the major cities of Europe and beyond. Journey time between exits/gates are now displayed on illuminated overhead panels. Exit signs for each gate into the city are given plenty of time in advance so as not to miss them, make sure you position yourself correctly, in the right-hand lane. The French are meticulous about staying to the right, and never drive more than a few hundred meters in the passing lane. The speed limit is 80-km/h (50-mph), Watch out for the speed traps.

THE EXPERIENCE

Culture

Paris is the centre of art, fashion, food and architecture. As one of the world's leading cultural centres, it is home to many cultural icons like museums and monuments. French people love music and the opera, and Paris has some of the largest opera houses in the country. When it comes to fashion, Paris is the home of haute couture and the starting point of all trends. The French are really proud of their food and Paris' food represents many regions and cultures. The festivals celebrated in Paris are Bastille Day, Parc de la Villette (the open-air cinema event), Bois de Boulogne that features outdoor theatre performances, film and music festivals, etc.

Bucket List

Get to the top of the Eiffel Tower

Have your painting done in Montmartre

See the Mona Lisa at the Louvre

Visit Place Vendôme

View Paris from the towers of Notre Dame Cathedral

Shop at Galeries Lafayette

Ride the 3bis Metro line

Walk the stairs up to Montmartre

See a cabaret show at the Moulin Rouge, Lido, or Crazy Horse

Family Travel Highlights

Indulge in a 3hr Chocolate Tasting Tour

Pet the bunnies at one of the oldest flower and bird markets on Île de la Cité

Visit Jardin des Tuileries

Enjoy a river cruise along the Eiffel Tower & Seine

Have a Fat Tire Bike Tour

Tourist Authority

Tourism in Paris is a major income source for Paris and the city ranks in the world's most visited cities. In 2013, the City of Paris welcomed 15.6-million international visitors, the largest number of whom came from the United States.[1] In the Paris region, the largest numbers of foreign tourists came in order from Britain, the United States, Germany, Italy, China and Canada. In 2012, 263,212 salaried workers in the city of Paris, or 18.4% of the total number, were engaged in tourism-related sectors; hotels, catering, transport and leisure.



Foods To Try

Macarons from Ladurée

Baguette

Steak And Frites

Gelato

Crepe

Croissant

Escargot

Sole Meunière

Croque Monsieur/Croque Madame

Drinks To Try

Citron Pressé

Especially refreshing on a hot summer's day in Paris is a fancy French lemonade. Traditionally served in cafes, it is a the perfect thirst-quenching beverage.

Cafe au Lait

A bowl filled with an equal mixture of steaming hot coffee and frothy warmed milk create a mocha-colored beverage that warms both the heart and the fingertips.

Kir or Kir Royale

Served in a champagne flute this mixture of white wine (kir) or champagne (kir royale) and a splash of crème de cassis is a show-stopping blush pink after mixing.

Pastis

A summer beverage- but don't let that stop you! It has a strong anise, or licorice flavor and is typically diluted with cool spring water to create a milky, refreshing elixir.

Chocolat l'ancienne

This is not your typical American cocoa powder and hot water mixture. Oh no, this is thick, rich and decadent melted dark chocolate poured into cups, and served alongside it's own separate dish of fresh whipped cream.



Photography Hot Spots

Au Vieux Paris D'arcole

Shakespeare & Company

Seine

Saint-Chapelle

Versailles Palace

Eiffel Tower

Louvre Museum

Souvenirs To Buy

Fancy Beret

Marinière Sweater

Good Bottle of Wine

Opinel knife

Eiffel Tower miniature

Items from the bouquinistes

Tasteful cheese

Iconic Macarons

Antique treasures at a flea market

