















LOCATIONS ON THE PARIS WAY ITINERARY




	<p>The Louvre</p>	<p>Welcome to the world-renowned Louvre, a place where art, history, and beauty converge in a breathtaking display! Get ready to embark on a remarkable journey through time and culture as you explore one of the most iconic museums in the world.</p> <p>Step inside and be greeted by a magnificent collection that spans centuries, from ancient Egyptian artifacts to Renaissance masterpieces and beyond. A 'History of the Louvre' can be found in the Highlights and History section.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Louvre and its contents are worth at least \$45.5 billion. 2) It would take 100 days to see all of the art in the Louvre. 3) 66% of the paintings in the Louvre were created by French artists. 4) 15,000 people visit the Louvre every day. 	<p>https://www.louvre.fr/en</p>
	<p>Brief History of the Louvre</p>	<p>The Louvre's history is just as fascinating as the art it houses. Here's a beginner-friendly overview:</p> <p>The Louvre actually started its life as a fortress in the late 12th century, built by King Philip II. Over the years, it evolved from a defensive structure to a royal palace under the reign of several French monarchs. In the 14th century, Charles V converted the fortress from a military stronghold into a residence. In 1546, Francis I created an increased French Renaissance style. In 1682, Louis XIV built the Palace of Versailles as his residence, leaving the Louvre as a place to house and display the royal art collection. However, it wasn't until the French Revolution that the Louvre transformed into a public museum. In May 1791, the National Constituent Assembly declared it would be "a place for bringing together monuments of all the sciences and arts".</p> <p>The Louvre Pyramid is the large glass and metal pyramid designed by Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei. It serves as the main entrance to the Louvre Museum, completed in 1989, and has become a major landmark of the city.</p> <p>The weblink will take you to 10 Pieces to See at the Louvre Museum Behind the Masterpiece</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPge9W1emZI</p>
	<p>Jardin des Tuileries</p>	<p>With the Louvre behind you, you face the Jardin des Tuileries, with its meticulously landscaped gardens and elegant tree-lined pathways, a scene of timeless beauty. The Jardin des Tuileries in Paris has a rich history dating back to the Middle Ages when it was a large field of tile factories. In 1564, Catherine de Médici, widow of King Henri II, transformed the village into the Palais des Tuileries. Over the years, it became the residence of numerous French sovereigns including Henri IV, Louis XIV, and Napoléon Bonaparte. Louis XIV had the gardens beautifully redesigned in 1664 by the famous landscaper André Le Nôtre, which is still a model of French design to this day and you can see his bust at the opposite entrance by Place de la Concorde.</p> <p>During the reign of Napoléon III, the garden saw two identical buildings being constructed to house a 'real tennis' court and an orangery. Today, the orangery is the modern art museum – the Orangerie Museum – while the building housing real tennis has become the contemporary art museum – Jeu de Paume National Gallery. If you're a Monet-lover, the Orangerie Museum features a beautiful floor-to-ceiling, wrap-around water lilies painting by the artist.</p> <p>Suitably art themed, over the years, the garden has evolved to become a hub of the contemporary as well as the traditional sculptures, with works from the likes of Rodin, Henry Moore, Roy Lichtenstein, and many others. Look out for the Aristide Maillol's statues and Auguste Cain animal sculptures.</p> <p>Don't miss out on the fun of renting miniature boats and setting sail on the water.</p>	<p>https://parisjetaime.com/culture/jardin-des-tuileries-p3545</p>




	<p>Joan of Arc Statue</p>	<p>You will pass a magnificent golden statue of Jeanne d'Arc on horseback. She was a French peasant girl who lived during the 15th century and played an important role in the Hundred Years' War between France and England. Joan believed that she had received divine guidance from saints instructing her to support France's King Charles VII in his claim to the French throne and to help expel King Edward III and the English from France. King Edward III of England held significant lands in France, and due to his mother having been the daughter of King Philip IV of France, he also laid claim to the French crown.</p> <p>Impressed by her conviction and determination, Charles VII granted Joan an army. She led the French forces to several important victories, including breaking the Siege of Orléans in 1429. Sadly, Joan of Arc was betrayed and handed over to the English in 1430 and was ultimately found guilty of charges including heresy and cross-dressing. She was burned at the stake at the age of 19 in 1431. Joan of Arc was later canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church in 1920 and is recognized as a national heroine in France.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDR-8m3iVh8</p>
	<p>Rue Saint-Honoré</p>	<p>Famous for its upscale boutiques, rue Saint Honoré is named after a French bishop who is revered as the patron saint of bakers, pastry chefs, and confectioners. In fact, Louis XIV issued a decree in 1659, that every baker must observe the feast of Saint Honoré on 16th May! The St. Honoré cake, usually known by its French name gâteau St-Honoré, was invented in a bakery on Rue Saint-Honoré. It consists of a base of puff pastry topped with a ring of cream, complemented by small profiteroles dipped in caramelized sugar and attached side by side, topped with whipped cream using a unique St. Honoré piping tip!</p> <p>Notable House Numbers on rue Saint Honoré: Number 9: 14 May 1610, King Henri IV of France was assassinated by Catholic zealot François Ravaillac. Number 92: 15 January 1622, the playwright known as Molière was born here. Number 129 was where Louis Gaston Hebert, a founding pioneer of Canada, was born and lived prior to his journey with his wife and three children to New France in 1620. Numbers 146, 148, and 150: The remains of King Philip II are entombed. Numbers : 161-163: On 8 September 1429, Jeanne d'Arc was wounded at the Porte Saint-Honoré during an unsuccessful attack on Paris, at the time when it was held by the English.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjFr2wGZ8ME</p>
	<p>Garnier Paris Opera House</p>	<p>Although we do not take you all the way to the steps of Garnier Paris Opera House, you can appreciate the impact the building has on the rue de l'Opera. Known as Palais Garnier, it is an architectural masterpiece located in the heart of Paris. The opera house is a true symbol of grandeur and elegance, known for its opulent and ornate design.</p> <p>While the Phantom of the Opera by Gaston Leroux is a work of fiction, it is set in the Palais Garnier, which inspired much of the novel's fabled atmosphere. In the book, the opera house is presented as a mystery-filled labyrinth of dim corridors, secret passages, and hidden chambers, which surrounds the enigmatic, masked figure of the Phantom, who haunts the building, plotting his vengeance.</p> <p>As you approach the building, you will be greeted by a grand facade adorned with intricate sculptures and columns. The exterior is a blend of various architectural styles, combining elements of Baroque and Renaissance design. The attention to detail is evident in every aspect, from the majestic entrance gate to the stunning rooftop adorned with statues and gilded ornaments. Upon entering the opera house, you will see the grand staircase, designed with marble and adorned with stunning gilt decorations. Inside the auditorium is a sight to behold, with its dazzling chandelier hanging from the ceiling and majestic velvet seats. The ceiling itself is painted by Marc Chagall, depicting scenes from famous operas and ballets.</p>	<p>https://www.operadeparis.fr/</p>
	<p>Place Vendôme</p>	<p>Along with Place des Victoires, Place de la Concorde, Place des Vosges and Place Dauphine, it is one of the city's five royal squares. The beautiful Place Vendôme was commissioned by King Louis XIV and intended to be a monument to the glory of the French armies.</p> <p>Before becoming a central place in the contemporary era for jewellery, Place Vendôme was, with Rue de la Paix, the epicenter of Parisian elegance for half a century, boasting a number of couturiers and milliners.</p> <p>The Place Vendôme is a square with beautiful arcades adorned with horizontally ridged stonework, each featuring a unique keystone mask (known as mascarons) that alternate between grotesque and humorous. Above each arcade, you'll find wrought-iron balconies adorned with a gilded sunburst, a nod to King Louis XIV, the Sun King. While the square lacks greenery, it still exudes an enchanting atmosphere.</p> <p>Interestingly, certain addresses have fascinating histories. For instance, No.12 is where the celebrated composer Frédéric Chopin passed away in 1849 at the age of 39 - you can spot his plaque - while No. 1 was formerly the Embassy of the Republic of Texas and served as the spot for France's recognition of the independence of Texas before it became a state in 1845.</p> <p>The weblink will take you to Chopin's Nocturne op.9 No.2</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9E6b3swbnWg</p>



	<p>The Vendôme Column</p>	<p>The Vendôme Column is a 44-meter tall column located in the Place Vendôme. It was erected in 1810 by order of Napoleon Bonaparte to commemorate the victory of the Grande Armée over the Austrian and Russian troops in Austerlitz* in 1805. The column is made of bronze and rests on a white marble pedestal adorned with bas-reliefs of war motifs.</p> <p>The Vendôme Column is modeled after Trajan's column in Rome, and features a spiral bas-relief depicting scenes from Napoleon's campaigns in Egypt and Italy. The column is topped with a statue of Napoleon in military attire.</p> <p>*The Battle of Austerlitz, also known as the Battle of the Three Emperors, took place on December 2, 1805, near the town of Austerlitz in the Austrian Empire, which is now known as Slavkov u Brna in the Czech Republic. This significant engagement was part of the Napoleonic Wars and is considered one of Napoleon's greatest victories. The battle featured the Emperor Napoleon I and his Grande Armée facing off against a larger Austro-Russian army. Despite being outnumbered, Napoleon's strategic genius and bold tactics led to a decisive victory for the French forces and affirmed French military hegemony in continental Europe for much of the following decade.</p> <p>The weblink takes you to Austerlitz: The Battle That Made Napoleon A Military Legend by History Hit</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDxck_cuRbg</p>
	<p>Place de la Concorde</p>	<p>During the turbulent years of the French Revolution, Place de la Concorde had a tumultuous history. Initially known as Place Louis XV, it featured a statue of the monarch until the revolutionaries removed it and replaced it with the guillotine, renaming the square Place de la Revolution.</p> <p>The square became infamous as the site for the execution of over 1,300 individuals, including notable figures like Marie Antoinette, as well as leading revolutionaries such as Danton and Robespierre, during the dark period known as the Reign of Terror.</p> <p>In 1836, King Louis Philippe enhanced the square's grandeur by installing a majestic 3,300-year-old Egyptian obelisk at its center. This ancient gift from the Egyptian government, adorned with hieroglyphics recalling the reign of pharaoh Ramesses II, once graced the entrance of the Luxor Temple. The obelisk's pedestal intriguingly features carvings detailing the complex machinery used to transport it from Egypt to France, while in 1998, the French government added a gold pyramid cap to the obelisk's summit, replacing its original missing cap, believed to have been pilfered in the 6th century BC.</p> <p>The Place de la Concorde is adorned with two magnificent fountains known as the Fontaines des Mers and Fontaines des Fleuves, which translates to Fountains of the Seas and Rivers. These fountains flank the obelisk.</p> <p>To the south of the obelisk is the Fontaine des Mers. It represents the seas that border France and features sculptural elements depicting mythical sea creatures such as tritons and naiads.</p> <p>On the north side of the obelisk is the Fontaine des Fleuves. This fountain pays homage to the great rivers of France and showcases allegorical figures symbolizing concepts related to rivers, such as agriculture, industry, and river navigation. Six triton and naiad figures also grace the basin of this fountain.</p> <p>The present-day square serves as the finishing point for the prestigious Tour de France bicycle race.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvRO3_ZpwOM</p>
	<p>Promenade du Cours de la Reine</p>	<p>The Promenade du Cours de la Reine - the promenade of the queen - is a charming tree-lined walkway along the Seine River. This walk was created by Queen Marie de Medici in 1618. Historically, the Promenade du Cours de la Reine was a favoured spot for royal walks and gatherings during the 17th and 18th centuries, frequented by aristocrats and nobility. Today, it retains its elegant ambiance and several unique statues.</p> <p>The entrance of the gardens is graced by a statue of Albert I of Belgium. The monument was created in gratitude for the role of the king during the Great War and in homage to his tragic death in a climbing accident in Marche-les-Dames.</p> <p>The monument of the robed man commemorates the memory of one and a half million Armenian victims of the genocidal massacres ordered by the Ottoman government from 1915 to 1918. The massacres aimed to eliminate the Armenian population from the Ottoman Empire and were characterised by deliberate policies and actions such as deportation, forced labour, starvation, and mass killings. The empire's leadership perceived the Armenians were spying and sabotaging the regime, leading to a belief that the Armenian population posed a risk to the empire's stability and security.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56RENGyhcmQ</p>



	<p>Pont Alexandre III</p>	<p>You will pass the magnificent Pont Alexandre III. When Paris was competing against Los Angeles to host the 2024 Olympics, Paris turned the bridge into a sports event and installed diving boards on the Alexandre III bridge! An architectural marvel that exudes the grandeur of the Beaux-Arts style, the bridge is named after Tsar Alexander III of Russia as a symbol of the Franco-Russian Alliance, with its construction completed in 1896, marked by the laying of the foundation stone by his son, Nicholas II.</p> <p>The meticulous engineering of the bridge is remarkable, as it was ingeniously designed to preserve the unobstructed view of the renowned Champs-Élysées and Les Invalides. Adorned with opulent Art Nouveau lamps, cherubs, nymphs, and winged horses at each end, the Pont Alexandre III effortlessly captivates the eye with so much to see. The gilt-bronze statues are called 'Fames'. On the Right Bank, you will find the Renommée des Sciences ("Fame of the Sciences") and the Renommée des Arts ("Fame of the Arts"). On the Left Bank lies the Renommée du Commerce ("Fame of Commerce") and the Renommée de l'Industrie ("Fame of Industry").</p> <p>If you can see them, the nymph reliefs that adorn the arches over the Seine, serve as memorials to the Franco-Russian Alliance, with the Nymphs of the Neva proudly bearing the arms of Imperial Russia, while the Nymphs of the Seine hold the emblem of Paris. As a testament to the political bond, the Trinity Bridge in Saint Petersburg, created by Gustave Eiffel, was conceived as a tribute to the Franco-Russian Alliance on Russian soil.</p> <p>Notable modern moments on the bridge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In the 1985 James Bond film A View to a Kill, Bond comes to a halt at the bridge then jumps from the bridge onto a boat. -In the 1998 film Ronin, arms dealers meet under the bridge on the Right Bank. -In the 2006 The Sopranos episode ""Cold Stones"", Carmela Soprano and her friend Rosalie Aprile take a walk over the bridge. -In the 2011 film Midnight in Paris, the bridge recurs in multiple scenes, including the final one. -Adele's music video for the song ""Someone Like You"" was shot on the bridge. -In the 2016 Bollywood film Befikre, the song ""Nashe si Chadh Gayi"" was filmed on the river bank by the bridge. -The 2018 film Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald, Newt-Scamander captures an escaped magical creature on the bridge. Can you remember which one? -In the 2020 Netflix Original TV series Emily in Paris, the French marketing firm where Emily works use the bridge for a perfume ad with their client, Maison L'Avant. <p>The weblink will take you to the James Bond clip from A View to a Kill - Paris Chase</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dq601ztZ4mQ</p>
	<p>Grand Palais</p>	<p>The Grand Palais is an art nouveau hall with a domed glass roof, built in 1900, hosting exhibitions and cultural events. For the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, it will host the fencing and taekwondo events.</p> <p>During World War I, the Palais transformed into a significant military hospital, where local artists who were not deployed to the front line were commissioned to embellish hospital rooms and create moulds for prosthetic limbs.</p> <p>Throughout the Occupation of France in World War II, the Nazis repurposed the Palais for their operations. Initially, it served as a truck depot, and later, it housed two notorious Nazi propaganda exhibitions.</p> <p>Following the footsteps of the Parisian resistance, the Grand Palais became a stronghold during the Liberation of Paris. The pivotal moment came on August 23, 1944, when an audacious act of resistance led to an exchange of fire between the advancing German forces and the defiant individuals within the Palais. The resilience of the resistance triggered a tank attack by the Germans, resulting in a fire that engulfed the building in thick black smoke over the next 48 hours. After the Liberation, American military parked their jeeps in the nave.</p>	<p>https://www.grandpalais.fr/fr</p>



	<p>Hôtel des Invalides</p>	<p>On the opposite side of the river, you get the magnificent view of Les Invalides with its golden dome.</p> <p>Les Invalides, a vast complex of 17th-century buildings and courtyards, was originally constructed as a home for disabled veterans and a place of worship. Over time, certain parts of it were repurposed to serve as museums and tombs, including the final resting place of Napoleon I.</p> <p>The vision for Les Invalides was set by King Louis XIV, who sought to honour the soldiers who fought in his wars. The buildings dedicated to the care and housing of veterans were completed in a remarkably short span of five years by 1676. However, the architect faced difficulties when designing the church intended to serve both the residents and the king.</p> <p>Ultimately, the nave of the church was transformed into the soldiers' chapel, known as the Église des Soldats. Inside, the walls were adorned with enemy banners captured by victorious French armies. Architect Jules Hardouin-Mansart, renowned for his work on the Palace of Versailles, was enlisted to design the royal chapel, which became the Dome Church or Église du Dôme. The exterior of the dome was enveloped in gleaming gold leaf, while the interior showcased a magnificent fresco by Charles de La Fosse, depicting the esteemed Louis IX (St. Louis) presenting his sword to Christ. These two chapels were connected by an oval sanctuary accessible to all. This unique hybrid church was dedicated to Louis IX, the revered soldier-king of France.</p> <p>In the 19th century, the floor of the Dome Church was removed, and the crypt was transformed into the tomb of Napoleon I. The tomb, featuring a stunning red porphyry sarcophagus was not completed until 1861, four decades after his death! Within the Dome Church, you will also find the resting places of Napoleon's son, Napoleon II, as well as his brothers Joseph and Jérôme Bonaparte, alongside several esteemed marshals and generals of the French army. Additionally, the Cave of Governors (Caveau des Gouverneurs), located in the crypt of the soldiers' chapel, holds the remains of various notable individuals, including Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle, the composer of the French national anthem, "La Marseillaise" and Ferdinand Foch, Marshal of France Supreme Allied Commander on the Western Front during the First World War.</p> <p>Inside the complex, you will find the Musée de l'Armée, which showcases a vast collection of military artifacts, including weapons, uniforms, and other historical items. It offers insight into the military history of France.</p>	<p>https://www.musee-armee.fr/es/home.html</p>
	<p>Pont de L'Alma</p>	<p>At the Pont de l'Alma, you will turn right, to cross the road towards the Liberty Flame. Before you do, if you look over the side of the Pont de l'Alma, you will see a Zouave on one of the pillars. The Zouave represents a member of a light-infantry corps in the French army, originally formed of Algerians and long retaining their North African style of uniform. Le Zouave du Pont de L'Alma is one of four sculptures representing the troops who participated in the Crimean War.</p> <p>The Zouave statue has a unique Parisien job. It has gained recognition for its role as an informal flood marker. During periods of high water levels, the Seine River may rise to reach the feet of the Zouave statue, providing a visual indication of the severity of flooding!</p> <p>The Pont de l'Alma was named to commemorate the Battle of Alma, a significant event in the Crimean War, which took place in 1854. During this battle, the Ottoman-Franco-British alliance achieved victory over the Russian army, and the bridge was subsequently named in honour of this triumph.</p> <p>The Battle of Alma occurred as part of the larger Crimean War, which was sparked by a combination of geopolitical tensions and rivalries in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Ottoman Empire, supported by France and Britain, sought to defend their interests in the region against Russian expansionist ambitions of Tsar Nicholas I. The battle at Alma was a result of the allied forces' objective to establish control and prevent Russian advances into the Crimean Peninsula.</p> <p>For reference, a few 100meters further along this road you will find the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. A museum for major 20th-century art & contemporary exhibitions in eastern wing of Palais de Tokyo.</p> <p>The weblink takes you to Episode de la série Frères d'Armes de Rachid Bouchareb et Pascal Blanchard © Tessalit Productions /Les BDM / INA / Pathé Gaumont Archives - 2014</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF0TPAGw9Ks</p>






	<p>Flame of Liberty</p>	<p>The Flame of Liberty, known as the "Flamme de la Liberté" is a full-sized replica of the flame from the torch of the Statue of Liberty. It is a gold-leaf-covered sculpture made of gilded copper, standing approximately 3.5 meters tall on a grey-and-black pedestal. It was presented to the city in 1989 by the International Herald Tribune to commemorate the newspaper's 100th anniversary and to honour the restoration work on the Statue of Liberty. It has also become the unofficial Princess Diana memorial.</p> <p>The Statue of Liberty in New York was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, and the metal framework was built by Gustave Eiffel. The statue was conceived to commemorate the Franco-American alliance during the American Revolution and celebrate the ideals of freedom and democracy. The statue was gifted to the United States by France in 1886 as a gesture of friendship and was dedicated as a symbol of freedom and democracy for the world.</p> <p>Where you stand at the Liberty Flame is now called the 'Place Diana'. It is named after Diana, Princess of Wales, as a tribute to her humanitarian work and her ties to France. Diana visited Paris on numerous occasions and had a special connection to the city. The square is located close to the Pont de l'Alma tunnel where she tragically lost her life in a car accident on August 31, 1997.</p> <p>You are also standing at one corner of 'The Golden Triangle' in Paris, also known as "Le Triangle d'Or". This triangle is formed by three famous avenues: Avenue Montaigne, Avenue George V, and the Champs-Élysées, all renowned for their high-end fashion boutiques, luxury hotels, upscale restaurants, and prestigious art galleries. The Golden Triangle is a symbol of elegance, luxury, and opulence in Paris.</p> <p>The weblink will show you to how the Statue of Liberty got across the Atlantic in 350 pieces! Image credit: Sam Nabi</p>	<p>https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/france-gives-statue-of-liberty-to-united-states-friendship</p>
	<p>Champs-Élysées</p>	<p>At the top of Avenue George V, you arrive on the Champs-Élysées, one of the most iconic avenues in the world. Originally consisting of fields and kitchen gardens for the Tuileries Palace, it was transformed into a grand avenue in the 17th century by André Le Nôtre, the gardener of King Louis XIV. The avenue was extended several times in the following centuries, reaching its modern length in 1710. In the 19th century, under the reign of Napoleon III, Paris underwent a reconstruction that included the Champs-Élysées. By this time, the avenue had become fashionable and lined with trees and elegant townhouses.</p> <p>The Champs-Élysées has witnessed numerous military parades throughout its history. Notably, German troops held victory parades in 1871 to celebrate the Imperial German Army's victory in the Franco-Prussian War and during the Fall of France on 14 July 1940. The avenue also saw the Allied victory in World War I in 1919, as well as the parades of Free French and American forces after the liberation of Paris, with the French 2nd Armored Division and US 28th Infantry Division both marching down the Champs-Élysées in 1944. Today, it sees the finish of the Tour de France cycling race, as well as the annual Bastille Day military parade.</p> <p>The name "Champs-Élysées" translates from French as "Elysian Fields", which in Greek mythology refers to a paradise for heroes.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7B4CLQGxHml</p>
	<p>Arc de Triomphe</p>	<p>The arch commands attention and evokes a sense of grandeur and romanticism. Standing atop the Arc de Triomphe offers a breathtaking view of Paris, showcasing the city's iconic landmarks and Haussmann boulevards. Imagine 30 years of meticulous construction to bring this colossal triumphal arch to life! As the brainchild of Napoleon I, the Arc de Triomphe stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of France.</p> <p>It has seen Napoleon I, Louis XVIII, Charles X and France's last king, Louis-Philippe, be part of the build. However, on July 29, 1836, the Arc de Triomphe was rather (un)triumphantly inaugurated with only 11 individuals witnessing the unveiling! A grand celebration was planned, but an unexpected fear of an attack against King Louis-Philippe forced a last-minute cancellation. The Arc inscribed 30 decisive battles of the Revolution and the Empire, 96 military feats and 384 generals.</p> <p>As nightfall descended, a public crowd gathered before the brilliantly illuminated Arc de Triomphe, adorned with 700 flickering gaslights. The scene was likely nothing short of captivating.</p> <p>However, the aftermath of the subdued inauguration brought forth a wave of dissent and challenges. The unveiled names on the pillars sparked controversy, leading to protests and demands for additions of the heroes and battles that had been omitted. In response, the government and the architect agreed to promptly add 128 generals' names and acknowledging 172 overlooked battles, with more periodic additions made over the years until 1895.</p> <p>Every year, the Arc de Triomphe becomes the focal point for the celebrations of French National Day, as well as the exhilarating finale of the renowned Tour de France - a thrilling homage to athleticism and triumph.</p> <p>IMAGE: © Reproduction Philippe Berthé / Centre des monuments nationaux</p>	<p>https://www.paris-arc-de-triomphe.fr/</p>




	<p>Avenue Kléber</p>	<p>Follow Avenue Kléber in a straight line from the Place Charles de Gaulle to the Place du Trocadéro-et-du-11-Novembre. It is an scenic route that boasts the grandeur of Paris architecture which we are all familiar with. There are many cafes along here, especially as you get nearer to Trocadero so a good place to recharge.</p> <p>The avenue is named after Jean-Baptiste Kléber, a French general known for his military victories during the French Revolutionary Wars in Egypt.</p> <p>His fate was less peaceful. While enjoying a stroll through a garden of the palace of Alfi Bika in Cairo, an assailant disguised as a beggar launched a sudden and vicious attack, targeting his heart, stomach, left arm, and right cheek. The assailant then fled but he was promptly apprehended, still clutching the dagger.</p> <p>Retribution came swiftly as the assassin faced a grizzly fate, with his right arm being seared off and then impaled in public, lasting several hours. The macabre story continues as the assassin's skull was eventually transported to France, becoming an educational tool for French phrenologists who claimed it bore the tell-tale signs of "crime".</p> <p>General Kléber's heart is preserved in an urn at Les Invalides, and his name is immortalised on the iconic Arc de Triomphe.</p> <p>The weblink will take you to a short extract about the fascination of Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign</p>	<p>https://youtube.com/shorts/LOW1lv7KaPs?si=AcdwArcjISl3Kiqm</p>
	<p>The Trocadéro</p>	<p>Imagine a majestic 'palace' overlooking the hill towards the Eiffel Tower, blending Moorish and neo-Byzantine influences. The Trocadéro Palace, built to its unique design during the 1878 Exposition Universelle was originally intended as a temporary marvel for the event, this grand structure defied expectations and stood for over sixty years! However, as time marched on, the building faced criticism for its distinct style, gradual deterioration, and the disappointing acoustics of its main hall - a space once filled with music now abandoned by orchestras seeking better acoustics. The Trocadéro Palace met its fate in 1935 when it was dismantled and partly rebuilt to create the Palais de Chaillot. Today, the Palais de Chaillot is known for its two large wings that flank the esplanade, which offers magnificent views of the Eiffel Tower and the surrounding area. It is also home to several major cultural institutions, including museums and theatres.</p> <p>It was on the front terrace of the palace where Adolf Hitler was captured in a photograph during his brief visit to the city in 1940, with the iconic Eiffel Tower towering in the background. Fast forward to May 8, 1945, and the same spot played witness to the U.S. Army in Paris jubilantly celebrating the triumphant victory on Victory in Europe (VE) Day.</p> <p>The name "Trocadéro" can be traced back to the Trocadéro fort in the Spanish port of Cadiz. The French expeditionary corps seized the Trocadéro fort on August 31, 1823. The campaign was orchestrated by King Louis XVIII of France to reinstate King Ferdinand VII to his rightful Spanish throne.</p> <p>The image shows original Palais du Trocadéro, built for the 1878 World's Fair. The weblink will take you to further information about opening times and events.</p>	<p>https://parisjetaime.com/culture/palais-de-chaillot-p1655</p>
	<p>Champs de Mars</p>	<p>Paris is full of parks. Some are royal parks, some are hidden, and some are perfect for a stroll. Let's explore the Champ de Mars.</p> <p>Originally, the Champ de Mars was used for market gardening, where locals grew fruits, vegetables, and flowers for the local market. However, the area proved challenging for farming due to its less fertile soil. The construction of the École Militaire in 1765 was the first step toward the redesign of the Champ de Mars as we see it today. In 1783, Jacques Charles and the Robert brothers accomplished launching the world's first hydrogen-filled balloon from this very spot. Imagine the excitement and awe as they soared into the sky, paving the way for the future of aviation.</p> <p>Fast forward to Bastille Day, July 14th, 1790, a significant turning point in the French Revolution. The Champ de Mars served as the backdrop for the inaugural "Federation Day" celebration, marking one year since the historic storming of the Bastille prison. This event has now become known as Bastille Day, a national holiday in celebration of liberty and unity.</p> <p>However, history also witnessed a sombre moment one year later on July 17th, 1791 where the Champ de Mars became the site of a massacre. A crowd of demonstrators were advocating for a referendum on the king's abdication and the establishment of a republic. The protests were largely peaceful, but Jean Sylvain Bailly, the first mayor of Paris, in an effort to maintain order, ordered the national guard to disperse the crowd. However, the soldiers of the National Guard, under the command of Marquis de Lafayette, opened fire. This incident marked a major turning point in the French Revolution and led to the deaths of as many as 50 individuals. Jean Sylvain Bailly eventually also fell victim to the revolution he helped shape. Bailly was arrested and charged with treason and was ultimately sentenced to death at the guillotine on November 12, 1793.</p> <p>Jean Sylvain Bailly (1736-1793) was a renowned astronomer including computing the orbit for Halley's Comet and for his writings on the four satellites of Jupiter.</p> <p>Today, the Champ de Mars embraces a more lively atmosphere and you can find a delicious Creperie and Kiosk in the park - yum!</p>	<p>https://parisjetaime.com/eng/article/beautiful-gardens-woods-paris-region-a1091</p>



	<p>Eiffel Tower</p>	<p>The Eiffel Tower is the enduring symbol of Paris, towering height of 1,063 feet. Completed in the late 19th century and initially met with skepticism, the Eiffel Tower quickly rose to claim its rightful place as a cornerstone of the Parisian skyline. It was designed for the 1889 Exposition Universelle, marking the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. Work began on the 26th January 1887 and finished on the 31st March 1889 – 2 years, 2 months and 5 days. The first level is located about 57 metres above the ground, where you can enjoy views of the city through glass floor sections, and learn about the tower's history and construction at the Gustave Eiffel Pavilion. There are also shops, cafes and a restaurant. The second level, situated at a height of around 115 metres, provides a spectacular panorama of Paris.</p> <p>For the most thrilling experience, visitors can ascend to the topmost viewing platform. At this level of the Eiffel Tower is the not-so-secret, 'secret apartment'. Designed by Gustave Eiffel for entertaining guests and conducting atmospheric and astronomical experiments. Measuring around 100 square meters, it features a workshop, living area, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and, of course, a piano! Restored now, visitors from the observation deck can see it through a glass partition.</p> <p>Initial critical commentary before it was finished :</p> <p>"this truly tragic street lamp" (Léon Bloy), "this belfry skeleton" (Paul Verlaine), "this mast of iron gymnasium apparatus, incomplete, confused and deformed" (François Coppée), "this high and skinny pyramid of iron ladders, this giant ungainly skeleton upon a base that looks built to carry a colossal monument of Cyclops, but which just peters out into a ridiculous thin shape like a factory chimney" (Maupassant), "a half-built factory pipe, a carcass waiting to be fleshed out with freestone or brick, a funnel-shaped grill, a hole-riddled suppository" (Joris-Karl Huysmans).</p>	<p>https://ticket.toureiffel.paris/en</p>
	<p>Monument to Human Rights</p>	<p>This is an unmissable installation of bronze statues and stone columns marking the 200th anniversary of the 1789 revolution. It is adorned with various beautiful symbolic elements that represent the principles and values of human rights and it is worth taking time to explore them. It can make you feel like Indiana Jones deciphering clues!</p> <p>We'll do our best to describe the major features but do take the time to look at and feel the inscriptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The external facades are adorned with texts and 12 stones inlaid with bronze seals, one for each of the European Community member states in 1989; - Two bronze obelisks covered with a profusion of finely detailed symbols and texts, including that of the 1789 French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen; - A statue of a man wearing holding several documents in his hands; - A statue of a man inviting you to read the texts carved on the obelisks; - A statue of a woman with a child wearing a hat made of newspaper with the chronology of the events of 1989; <p>On the southwest façade (closest to the Champ de Mars) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A recognisable triangle frequently used by Freemasons to evoke human thought (you'll spot many triangles throughout); - Text carved into the stone commemorating the bicentennial of the French 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen; - A sundial <p>On the northeast facade :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A bronze door framed by two columns with images of historical documents; - An oculus located above the door represents an Ouroboros, a circular serpent symbol representing eternal cycles or self-reflection. <p>The weblink takes you to descriptions of the symbols. The clip is in French but it shows the intricate details of the monument.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFn5Y9_5I3g</p>

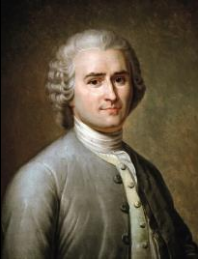



	<p>The École Militaire</p>	<p>The École Militaire in Paris is a vast complex of buildings that house various military training facilities. It was founded following the conclusion of the War of the Austrian Succession in 1748. After enduring significant losses in the war and recognising a lack of preparedness in the royal regiments, Marshal Maurice de Saxe, a seasoned leader in the French army, proposed the creation of a royal military school to King Louis XV. This school aimed to train 500 young cadets from diverse family backgrounds, an idea supported by influential figures such as financier Joseph Pâris Duverney and the Marquise de Pompadour, the King's official chief mistress - both offering funding through bursaries. In 1756, the institution opens with 200 cadets but struggles financially. By 1760, the King abandons the grand vision and opts for a more modest version.</p> <p>In 1787, just seven years after its completion, the school closes. During the French Revolution, the site is abandoned and ransacked. Nearly a century later, in 1878, the buildings are reopened as the École Supérieure de Guerre, which continues to operate today.</p> <p>*The War of the Austrian Succession was a European conflict fought between 1740 and 1748, involving most of Europe's major powers and centred around the question of Maria Theresa's succession to the Austrian Habsburg crown. It resulted in a series of related conflicts, including England's King George's War in North America and primarily in Central Europe, the Austrian Netherlands, Italy, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Mediterranean. After everything, Maria Theresa was confirmed as Austrian ruler!</p> <p>The weblink will take you to 'Beyond the Crown: Louis XV's Controversial Reign'. "A glorious costumed romp through the most scandalous years of the Palace of Versailles, telling the story of Louis XV, one of history's greatest libertines. Louis ruled for almost 60 years. As a military leader he was popular and successful, but he then led France into the disastrous Seven Year War with Britain. As his Empire dwindled and his treasury emptied, Louis amused himself with a series of scandalous love affairs, fathering at least 30 illegitimate children, survived an assassination attempt and for many years effectively shared power with his favourite mistress – the glamorous and brilliant Madame Pompadour."</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhkeNM0Md1U</p>
	<p>Memorial of Notables</p>	<p>Plaques in Paris are unique in that some record where events took place that have connotations with the Occupation or Liberation of the city from the Third Reich.</p> <p>This plaque represents the third roundup that the Nazi regime deemed necessary for deportation. On December 12, 1941, this operation was led directly by the occupying forces, but controversially with assistance of French police. It was a more limited action than the two previous ones in that, on that day, only 743 people were arrested. But the operation is no less important because, for the first time, these are "notables". Professional people - lawyers, doctors, engineers, writers - who had French nationality. Arrested in "retaliation for a series of anti-German attacks", these men were transferred to the Compiègne camp and then to Auschwitz. Among those arrested were the novelist Jean-Jacques Bernard, the entrepreneur Natan Darty and the writer Maurice Goudekot.</p> <p>Previously, two roundups had taken place in Paris. The first one occurred in the spring of 1941 and targeted 6,494 foreign Jewish men between the ages of 18 and 60. These individuals received a deceptive invitation to attend a "situation examination" but were actually arrested. The second roundup happened on August 20-21, 1941, shortly after the German offensive in Russia began. It was justified by propaganda as a response to alleged communist agitation. This roundup resulted in the arrest of 4,232 men.</p> <p>The plaque reads: On December 12, 1941, the German military police, assisted by the French police, arrested 743 French Jewish personalities, mostly veterans and liberal professions, and grouped them in the "Commander Bossus" ride at the Military School. The 743 were interned in the German camp of Royallieu in Compiègne, where some died of starvation and cold. On March 27, 1942, most of the 743 were deported by the first convoy from France to Auschwitz, where they were murdered. Let us not forget these victims of racial hatred.</p>	<p>https://www.cheminsdememoire.gouv.fr/fr/les-grandes-rafles-de-juifs-en-france</p>
	<p>Jardin du Luxembourg</p>	<p>The Jardin du Luxembourg, also known as the Luxembourg Gardens, has been voted the most beautiful garden in Europe and is sure to captivate your heart. Within its enchanting grounds, you will discover an orchard featuring over 500 ancient varieties of pear and apple trees, a remarkable collection of orchids, and an array of 102 statues and monuments, including the iconic Médicis fountain. The garden's rich history and ongoing evolution are a testament to the indomitable spirit of Marie de Medici, who acquired the Petit Luxembourg in 1612. This former simple townhouse, comprised of three wings, was previously owned by François, Duke of Piney-Luxembourg, a close friend of the royal couple. Before her acquisition, Queen Marie would frequently seek solace in the tranquility of this charming place with her young children. The future Dauphin Louis found joy in playing and hunting within the gardens owned by the duke. The Jardin du Luxembourg offers a picturesque and historically significant experience, steeped in beauty, culture, and horticultural wonders.</p> <p>Unsurprisingly, given its proximity to the Sorbonne, the Luxembourg Garden is adorned with statues of famous writers that gracefully oversee visitors. Verlaine, presides over the carnations and tulip beds, and Charles Baudelaire is coddled in the shade of a chestnut tree. Nearby, José-Maria de Heredia and the Countess of Ségur stand vigil over the English garden.</p> <p>Venturing further into the garden, one encounters the figures of Leconte de Lisle, George Sand, Stendhal, Flaubert, Sainte-Beuve, Montesquieu, and Stefan Zweig - whose 'World of Yesterday' is a must read, preferably in this garden! The majority of these statues date from the 19th century, depicting the luminaries of the era while symbolising the connection between art and the Luxembourg Garden.</p> <p>Alongside the literary figures, one can find painters such as Delacroix, Ingres, and Millet, as well as celebrated musicians including Beethoven, Chopin, and Massenet. Spanning the east and west terraces, the ensemble of twenty statues known as Reines de France et Femmes Illustres (Queens of France and famous women) was commissioned in the 1840s as a response to a complaint about the impropriety of nude statues in the garden.</p> <p>Many of these remarkable women hailed from noble lineages, with notable exceptions such as Clémence Isaure, responsible for reviving a poetry competition known as Les Jeux Floraux at the end of the 15th century, and Laure de Noves, muse of Francesco Petrarca, (a scholar and poet of the early Italian Renaissance and one of the earliest humanists. Petrarch's rediscovery of Cicero's letters is often credited with initiating the 14th-century Italian Renaissance). The decision to assemble an entirely feminine group was an audacious choice for the period, adding a layer of boldness to the garden's artistic tapestry.</p> <p>Enjoy the Gardens!</p>	<p>https://jardin.senat.fr/</p>



	<p>Deportation Martyrs Memorial</p>	<p>The Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation is a memorial dedicated to the memory of over 200,000 individuals who were deported from Vichy France to Nazi concentration camps during World War II. It overlooks the water and the park is accessible to walk through. As you approach the Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation for the first time, you will find a quiet atmosphere among the rustling trees. The entrance, marked by a narrow, dark passageway, symbolises the sense of confinement experienced by those who were deported. Once inside, you will find yourself in a dimly lit underground space, with natural light filtering in through small openings near the ceiling. The space is quiet, inviting you to reflect. Along the walls, you will see inscriptions memorialising the names of concentration camps and the numbers of those who perished. On either side of the crypt, two small galleries contain earth from the different camps and ashes brought back from the cremation sites, enshrined in triangular urns. There are also poems by Robert Desnos, Louis Aragon, Paul Eluard, Jean-Paul Sartre and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry inscribed.</p> <p>As you move through the memorial, you will encounter a central apse with an eternal flame, a symbol of remembrance. A stylized sculpture of deported figures, known as "The Unknown Deportee," stands as a representation of the anonymous victims who lost their lives. The Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation is not just a physical monument, but a place of profound reflection and remembrance. It offers visitors a poignant and moving experience.</p> <p>*Please note some visitors, especially younger ones, may find the museum upsetting.</p> <p>Free admission Weekly opening hours Opening times: open every day except Monday From 1 October to 31 March: 10 am to 5 pm From 1 April to 30 September: 10 am to 7 pm Grounds and crypt: Free admission daily</p>	<p>https://www.cheminsdememoire.gouv.fr/en/memorial-des-martyrs-de-la-deportation</p>
	<p>Le Marais District</p>	<p>We briefly dip you into the Marais district but we recommend you spend time exploring this exciting area further.</p> <p>The Marais, meaning 'Marsh' is an historic area having once been the aristocratic district. It lost its fashionable status in the late 18th century, with only minor nobles remaining, and abandoned entirely by the nobility after the French Revolution. After a long period of decay, the district has undergone transformation in recent years and is now once again amongst the more fashionable areas of Paris, known for its art galleries, upscale restaurants and museums among the maze-like streets. One of the most notable aspects of the Marais is its connection to the Jewish community. Once the nobility departed, it became a commercial area. Now with historic synagogues and the oldest food market in Paris, the Marché des Enfants Rouges, adding to the vibrant tapestry of the neighbourhood.</p> <p>At 400 years in business, Marché des Enfants Rouges at 39 rue de Bretagne is the oldest covered market in Paris. Choose from Japanese bento boxes, crepes, and Moroccan couscous. The market was created in 1615 by Louis XIII to supply food to the increasingly fashionable and wealthy neighbourhood. Metro: Saint-Sébastien–Froissart.</p> <p>Located at 5 rue de Thorigny is the Musée Picasso Paris housing an exceptional collection of over 5,000 works.</p> <p>Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature on 62 rue des Archives, explores the relationship between man and the natural world.</p> <p>Does the queue at the Louvre put you off? Try the Musée Carnavalet – Museum of the History of Paris on 23 Rue de Sévigné. Rarely crowded and has many fascinating permanent exhibits as well as a pretty garden to relax in. Access to the permanent galleries are free!! Closed on Mondays.</p> <p>Are you a literary fan? Go directly into one of the most charming, hidden museums in Paris. The Victor Hugo Museum is located where he once lived and wrote on 6 Place des Vosges, 75004. Learn about his life and loves, including the 1,000 love letters Hugo he wrote many were to his long-time mistress, actress Juliette Drouet. Entrance is free. Closed Monday.</p> <p>The Centre Georges Pompidou, France's national Museum of Modern Art, is widely considered one of the world's most important cultural institutions. The building was completed in 1977 by Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers.</p> <p>Image Creator: olrat Credit: Getty Images</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7ek8Lhu6BQ</p>

	<p>Notre-Dame de Paris</p>	<p>This masterpiece of medieval construction was built over centuries, with its construction starting in 1163 and continuing well into the 14th century.</p> <p>The Gothic cathedral was a <i>liber pauperum</i>, a "poor people's book", covered with sculptures vividly illustrating biblical stories, for the vast majority of parishioners who were illiterate. The exterior was decorated with sculptures of grotesques or monsters. These included the gargoyle, the chimera, a mythical hybrid creature which usually had the body of a lion and the head of a goat, and the Strix, a creature resembling an owl or bat, which was said to eat human flesh. They were part of the visual message that threatened those who did not follow the teachings of the church. The gargoyles, which were added in about 1240, had a more practical purpose. They were simply used as rain spouts, and lots of them!</p> <p>Stepping inside, the grandeur of the interior, with its towering columns, magnificent vaulted ceilings, and elegant stained glass windows, are all illuminated by the soft glow of candlelight. The cathedral boasts three exquisite rose windows. The west rose window, created around 1225, is the smallest and oldest of the three. While none of the original glass remains, the window contains a dominating portrayal of the Madonna and Child at its centre. The south rose window, also known as the "midday rose," was given by King Louis IX of France and was constructed around 1250. Noteworthy for its stunning stained glass depicting scenes from the life of Christ, these windows are among the masterpieces of Gothic art. The addition of chapels around the cathedral's nave in the 13th century led to a darkening of the building's interior. Consequently, the high windows were enlarged to allow more light to enter.</p> <p>Notre-Dame currently has ten bells, all with a godparent formally bestowed a name on the bell. The two largest bells, Emmanuel and Marie, are mounted in the south tower. The eight others; Gabriel, Anne Geneviève, Denis, Marcel, Étienne, Benoît-Joseph, Maurice, and Jean-Marie; are mounted in the north tower. In addition to accompanying regular activities at the cathedral, the bells have also rung to commemorate events of national and international significance, such as the armistice of 11 November 1918, the liberation of Paris, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the September 11 attacks. During the French Revolution, most of the cathedral's bells were removed and melted down. During the 19th-century restoration, four new bells were made for the north tower. These were replaced in 2012 with nine as part of the cathedral's 850th anniversary celebration.</p> <p>Coronations: Notre-Dame was the location of the coronation of numerous French monarchs, including Henry VI of England in 1431 and Napoleon I in 1804.</p> <p>Weddings: The cathedral has been the setting for various royal weddings, such as King James V of Scotland with Madeleine of Valois in 1537; the marriage of Mary, Queen of Scots to Francois, Dauphin of France in 1558 and in 1625, the proxy wedding of King Charles I of England and Henrietta Maria of France takes place on the steps of Notre Dame.</p> <p>Funerals: Many important figures have had their funerals at Notre Dame, such as Cardinal Richelieu in 1642 (of Alexandre Dumas' Three Musketeers fame), and Charles de Gaulle in 1970.</p> <p>Revolution: During the French Revolution, Notre Dame was desecrated and turned into a Temple of Reason as part of the de-Christianization campaign.</p> <p>Napoleon Bonaparte's crowning as Emperor: In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned as Emperor of the French at Notre Dame, with Pope Pius VII in attendance.</p> <p>Victor Hugo's novel: The cathedral was immortalized in Victor Hugo's famous novel "The Hunchback of Notre-Dame," bringing it worldwide fame and contributing to its preservation.</p>	<p>https://notredame-deparis.fr/</p>
	<p>Point Zero of France</p>	<p>In the square outside Notre-Dame Cathedral see if you can find the small geographic marker which represents the starting point from which all distances from Paris are measured.</p>	
<p>MUSEUMS OFF THE ROUTE</p>			
	<p>Musée du Luxembourg</p>	<p>Established in 1750, it was originally created to display works from the French royal collections, making it France's first public museum. Its creation marked an important moment in the democratization of art, as it allowed the general public to view works that were previously reserved for the aristocracy.</p> <p>The museum was initially housed in a wing of the Luxembourg Palace, which had been commissioned by Marie de Médicis, the widow of King Henry IV, in the early 17th century. For much of the 19th century, it served as a space for showcasing contemporary art. Many now-renowned artists, including Delacroix, David, and Manet, had their works exhibited here when they were still emerging figures in the art world.</p> <p>By the early 20th century, the museum's role shifted. From 1937, its collection was transferred to other institutions, such as the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay, and the Musée du Luxembourg began to focus on hosting temporary exhibitions. This transformation allowed it to remain a dynamic venue, presenting both historic retrospectives and cutting-edge contemporary works.</p>	<p>https://museeduluxembourg.fr/fr</p>
	<p>Rodin Museum</p>	<p>Discover an emblematic selection of masterpieces and documents from Auguste Rodin's collections, which show the richness and diversity of the collections of the Rodin Museum, created in 1919 by the sculptor himself. The Rodin Museum houses his most famous sculptures, including The Thinker, The Kiss, and The Gates of Hell. Set in the elegant Hôtel Biron, a historic mansion surrounded by lush gardens, the museum allows you to experience Rodin's art in an intimate setting.</p>	<p>https://www.musee-rodin.fr/en</p>
	<p>Musée de l'Homme</p>	<p>Dominating the Trocadéro, this museum is considered one of the leading anthropology museums in the world, with collections of more than two million artifacts including the Posseidonion and the engraved rib bone of a woolly mammoth, believed to be over 10,000 years old. The museum also features a "Great Story of Humankind" installation, which traces the evolution of humanity from Homo erectus to modern-day humans.</p>	<p>https://www.museedelhomme.fr/</p>

	<p>National Marine Museum</p>	<p>The Musée National de la Marine, established in 1827 by King Charles X, is one of the world's oldest maritime museums. It was originally created to house models of French naval ships and has since expanded to include a vast collection celebrating France's naval history. Located in the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, the museum offers stunning views of the Eiffel Tower. Its grand halls are filled with ship models, maritime instruments, and historical artifacts, providing a comprehensive look at French naval heritage.</p> <p>Focus on Naval Innovation and Exploration</p> <p>The museum showcases the evolution of naval technology, from ancient ships to modern submarines, and highlights France's contributions to maritime exploration. It also includes artifacts from legendary naval figures, such as Admiral Nelson and Napoléon Bonaparte.</p>	<p>https://www.musee-marine.fr/nos-musees/paris.html</p>
	<p>Palace of Versailles</p>	<p>Prepare to be transported back in time to the lavish and opulent world of French royalty. The story of the Palace of Versailles begins in the 17th century when King Louis XIV decided to transform his father's hunting lodge into a magnificent palace that could symbolise the power and prestige of the French monarchy. Over the years, the palace evolved into a grandiose complex of buildings, gardens, and fountains, showcasing the pinnacle of Baroque architecture and design.</p> <p>One of the most famous elements of the Palace of Versailles is the Hall of Mirrors, a stunning gallery adorned with 357 mirrors that reflect the palace's opulence. This hall was the setting for significant historical events, including the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, marking the end of World War I.</p> <p>The palace's vast and meticulously landscaped gardens are another highlight for tourists to explore. Designed by landscape architect André Le Nôtre, who designed the Jardin de Tuileries in Paris, the gardens feature manicured lawns, intricate flowerbeds, grand fountains, and beautiful sculptures. Try to find the Hameau de la Reine, a rustic retreat built for Marie-Antoinette in 1783 near the Petit Trianon, which served as a private cottage where she enjoyed dressing up in simple shepherdess attire and could escape the formalities of court life.</p> <p>Court life at the Palace of Versailles was quite crowded, with a large number of people present on a daily basis. Depending on the day, estimates suggest that there could be anywhere between 3,000 and 10,000 individuals in attendance! With so individuals come infrastructure problems. Versailles might have looked beautiful but hygiene and cleanliness wasn't what it is today. The issue of bad smells was exacerbated by the presence of cesspools and the use of chamber pots by courtiers. The Royal Family had slightly more sophisticated arrangements, with a specialised room containing a toilet chair but waste disposal was a challenge, leading to the unsanitary practice of throwing chamber pots out of windows.</p> <p>Versailles had public toilets as well for all those who worked there, but they were inadequate in number and upkeep. Some of these public toilets were in deplorable conditions, leading to complaints from residents. The inefficiency of waste disposal systems led to leaks and blockages, causing inconvenience and health hazards throughout the palace. The prestige of living at Versailles was so significant that many individuals chose it over more spacious accommodations in town or their own hôtels and chateaux. For instance, while someone like Madame de Montespan had an entire apartment, some noble ladies had rooms as small as a closet, which they might have shared with another woman. These rooms lacked the lavish decorations of painted ceilings, gilded doors, and expensive wall-hangings. Nonetheless, simply by virtue of being in Versailles, a Duchesse found would reside in a broom-chamber sized room beneath the roof, enduring extreme heat in summer and biting cold in winter.</p> <p>Rooms that boasted large windows were the most coveted, despite their tendency to become freezing in winter; at least they allowed some natural light in. Conversely, ground-floor and attic-level rooms proved exceedingly dark. In the 18th century, Versailles faced a colossal rat infestation, which was due by inadequate renovations. These rodents infiltrated virtually every corner of the palace, feasting on accessible food sources. Whole colonies of rats also took up residence beneath the floors of Versailles' kitchens, storage rooms, and inner courtyards. Naturally, with such a high occupancy rate (of people and rats!), diseases could spread rapidly at Versailles. The palace teemed with bacteria, in part due to infrequent washing of both hands and bodies. As a result, outbreaks of smallpox or measles could quickly escalate beyond control, resulting in the swift shuttering of entire wings and evacuation of residents in a bid to contain the spread of disease.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2hoQMmXeyk</p>
	<p>Palace of Versailles</p>	<p>Palace of Versailles</p> <p>HOW TO GET THERE:</p> <p>You can take the RER C line to Versailles Château Rive Gauche station, which is located within walking distance of the palace entrance. The journey takes approximately 30-40 minutes depending on your starting point in Paris.</p>	

	<p>Sacré Coeur & Montmartre</p>	<p>As you cross the road from the Liberty Flame to the Le Grand Corona, turn your gaze to the right and you will get a straightshot view of the Sacré Coeur Basilica.</p> <p>The Sacré Coeur is a magnificent white-domed basilica located on top of the Montmartre hill. It's a popular destination because of its stunning architecture and panoramic views. The Basilica's construction began in 1875 and was completed in 1914. Its unique style of architecture is a mix of Romanesque and Byzantine elements, with intricate details and beautiful mosaics that adorn the walls and ceilings. You can take a funicular and climb up the dome for incredible views of the city.</p> <p>The area around the Sacré Coeur in Montmartre has historically been a magnet for artists, attracting a bohemian and creative community to its charming streets and picturesque squares inspiring numerous painters, writers, and musicians. Among them were Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pablo Picasso, and Vincent van Gogh - what a crowd!</p> <p>One specific location in this area that has been closely associated with artists is Place du Tertre, a historic square located just a stone's throw away from the Sacré Coeur Basilica. This square dates back to the 12th century and, in more recent times, has been a renowned gathering place for artists, where they display and sell their works to tourists and locals alike. Especially during the period of La Belle Époque, from 1880 to 1914, painters were inspired by the Montmartre atmosphere. Despite the passage of time, Montmartre remains a popular Parisian neighbourhood, celebrated for both its quaint hilly streets and historical significance. While the enchantment of the belle époque era has waned, retracing the steps of these great artists offers a glimpse into that magical past.</p> <p>The weblink will take you to 'Walk in Great Artists' Footsteps - Montmartre' for more insights into the lives of painters in this area. Image: Ivan PC</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=4OCAZjepFs0</p>
<p>PEOPLE & STORIES</p>			
	<p>The Louvre & Da Vinci Code</p>	<p>Experience the Louvre like you're in the movie! If you're a fan of the Da Vinci Code, then a visit to the Louvre could be just the adventure you've been waiting for! You can retrace the steps of the film's investigators by taking a Louvre tour that feature in the plot. The museum has selected 10 works and locations for you to discover for yourself.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uncover the Arago Medallion - On the staircase leading to the Winged Victory of Samothrace, the Arago medallion guided Robert Langdon following an invisible path, representing the Paris meridian known as the "Rose Line" in the book. 2. Explore The Virgin on the Rocks - This work by Leonardo da Vinci is believed to hold a hidden secret. The positioning of the Virgin's hand holds the key to the reason behind the murder of Sophie Neveu's grandmother. 3. The Virgin and Child with St. Anne - Psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud believed that Leonardo da Vinci's painting concealed the form of a vulture, a theory utilized in the Da Vinci Code to support the novel's plot. 4. Interpret Noli Me Tangere - According to the discoveries in the novel, Leonardo da Vinci's Noli Me Tangere illustrates a hidden episode in history related to the events in the Bible that led to a different perception of Mary Magdalene. 5. Unveil the Secrets of Death of the Virgin - Although the painting is a subject of various interpretations, the draped curtain, matching the Virgin's robe, is thought to symbolize Caravaggio's depiction of the ascension of Jesus' mother. 6. Decode The Mona Lisa - The world-famous painting is central to the crime thriller. The mysteries surrounding the painting are logically explained during the investigation: what does Mona Lisa's smile, the position of her hands, and the landscape represent? 7. Interpret The Wedding at Cana - Characters are positioned in such a way that serves as the basis for an intriguing interpretation in the novel. 8. Uncover Hera of Samos - According to Dan Brown, every myth contains a sacred feminine. The absence of a goddess figure in the Bible and Christian tradition is a key to a dark secret in the Da Vinci Code. 9. Explore the Inverted Pyramid - According to Robert Langdon's discoveries, the Inverted Pyramid points to a mysterious secret. 10. The Salon Carré - A key location in the film and one of the most emblematic rooms in the Louvre Museum. It was the setting where the novel's antagonist was held. <p>The weblink will take you to the final scene of the Da Vinci Code; The video is used under the Fair use clause of The United States Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 107, and is intended for educational purposes.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsFG6Atx5M</p>

	<p>Jean-Jacques Rousseau</p>	<p>Jean-Jacques Rousseau was an influential philosopher, writer, and composer of the 18th century and had a significant connection with Paris. He moved to there in 1742, where he met and became friends with Denis Diderot, the editor of the Encyclopédie and other Enlightenment thinkers. While in Paris, Rousseau became involved in the intellectual and cultural life of the city, which influenced his thinking and his work. Additionally, some of Rousseau's most significant works, such as "The Social Contract," were published in Paris, which emphasised the idea that a legitimate government should be based on the general will of its citizens.</p> <p>Rousseau's political philosophy argued for the sovereignty of the people, advocating for direct democracy and the idea that political power should reside with the citizens rather than an absolute monarch. His ideas on political freedom and equality strongly influenced the French Revolution.</p> <p>Beyond his political views, his focus on the individual and emotions contributed to the rise of the Romantic movement in art and literature, challenging the rationalism of the Enlightenment. All of which have shaped views that can be identified today.</p> <p>The weblink will take you to The School of Life's bitesize clip on POLITICAL THEORY by Jean-Jacques Rousseau.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81KfDXTTtXE</p>
	<p>Lafayette</p>	<p>Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette (1757 - 1834), was a prominent French nobleman and military officer who held an influential role in both French and American history.</p> <p>Lafayette's role in the American Revolution was significant, as he played a crucial part in supporting the American colonists in their fight against the British. Born in 1757, Marquis de Lafayette, a French aristocrat, volunteered to serve in the Continental Army, becoming a close ally of George Washington. Lafayette's enthusiasm and military prowess quickly caught the attention of General Washington, and the two formed a strong bond. However, Lafayette continued to be deeply involved in the political upheavals of France.</p> <p>Upon return, during the French Revolution, Lafayette played a significant role in advocating for moderate reforms while helping to establish a constitutional monarchy. As a nobleman himself and a veteran of the American Revolution, Lafayette was initially welcomed by the revolutionaries, but his popularity waned once he attempted to steer the new government towards a constitutional monarchy. Lafayette's skills and experience as a military officer helped the revolutionaries secure several victories in the early stages of the conflict. Despite his initial popularity, Lafayette's moderate reforms subsequently fell out of favour with the revolutionaries. In 1791, he fled France after being accused of treason by the radical Jacobin government.</p> <p>Lafayette was the author of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen in 1789 and a staunch opponent of slavery.</p> <p>"The Marquis de Lafayette was far from perfect. He was sometimes vain, naive, immature, and egocentric. But he consistently stuck to his ideals, even when doing so endangered his life and fortune. Those ideals proved to be the founding principles of two of the world's most enduring nations, the United States and France. That is a legacy that few military leaders, politicians, or statesmen can match." - Marc Leepson, American journalist, historian, and author.</p> <p>The weblink takes you to 5 Things You Should Know about the Marquis de Lafayette</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXeMGyBsHqA</p>
	<p>Louis Vuitton</p>	<p>Louis Vuitton, born into a family of carpenters, lost both his mother and father at a young age. After leaving his home in Jura at the age of 13, Vuitton journeyed to Paris, where he arrived in 1837. In Paris, during the Industrial Revolution, he apprenticed under trunk maker Monsieur Marechat and quickly gained recognition for his skill among the fashionable elite. Vuitton's career took a significant turn when he was hired as a personal trunk maker and packer for Empress Eugenie, the wife of Napoleon III, leading him to establish relationships with elite and royal clients that sustained his success throughout his life.</p> <p>Additionally, Vuitton designed the world's first pick-proof lock, which kept registered lock patterns at his workrooms in case another key was needed.</p> <p>The weblink will take you to a history of the life of Louis Vuitton.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6j_9Sjxlp0</p>
	<p>Givenchy</p>	<p>Count Hubert James Marcel Taffin de Givenchy was a French aristocrat and renowned fashion designer. He founded the luxury fashion and perfume house of Givenchy in 1952, gaining international recognition and leaving a lasting impact on the fashion industry. One of the factors that contributed to Givenchy's fame was his close association with the actress Audrey Hepburn. Givenchy designed many of Hepburn's most memorable on-screen and off-screen looks, including the iconic black dress she wore in the film "Breakfast at Tiffany's". Givenchy's collaboration with Hepburn not only elevated his profile but also cemented his status as a leading fashion designer of his time.</p> <p>Addressed as 'Monsieur' by his staff, Givenchy always wore a white lab coat as his atelier uniform. At his final runway show, the tailors and dressmakers all wore white lab coats as a tribute. Less known was his collaboration with Ford Motor Company where they produced a Givenchy Edition of the Continental Mark series between 1976 to 1983. It's no surprise that many of these cars have become collectors items.</p> <p>Givenchy's clientele extended beyond Audrey Hepburn and included other notable figures in the worlds of film, politics, and high society, including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Grace Kelly, Elizabeth Taylor, and Princess Grace of Monaco. If you love your fashion and you love timeless elegance look out for the discreet Givenchy headquarters located next to the George V café.</p> <p>Image: By Larry Bessel, Los Angeles Times</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD8yW68TgGs</p>

	<p>Yves Saint Laurent</p>	<p>Yves Saint Laurent was born in 1936 in Oran, Algeria to French parents. He grew up with a love for creating intricate paper dolls and began designing dresses for his family in his early teens. At 18, he moved to Paris and enrolled in design school and eventually under the tutelage of Christian Dior. "Dior fascinated me," Saint Laurent later recalled. "I couldn't speak in front of him. He taught me the basis of my art. Whatever was to happen next, I never forgot the years I spent at his side." Dior died of a heart attack in 1957 at only 52, and Saint Laurent found himself, at age 21, the head designer of the House of Dior.</p> <p>In 1960, Yves Saint Laurent was drafted into the French Army during the Algerian War. The owner of the House of Dior had wanted to replace him after a season failure and his conscription facilitated his replacement. However, his military service was short-lived, lasting only 20 days due to the distress caused by bullying from fellow soldiers. He learned of his dismissal from Dior while in hospital, which further worsened his condition. He was given psychoactive medication and electroshock therapy, which he later attributed to his struggles with mental health and addictions. Upon his return Saint Laurent sued Dior for breach of contract and won and he set up YSL which was to become the fashion empire it is today.</p> <p>In the 1960s, Saint Laurent popularised fashion trends with the most famous classic tuxedo suit for women, Le Smoking (1966) and the shoulder pads that would dominate the 1980s. Changes in the social and fashion appetites of women inspired many of his designs and Saint Laurent is often said to have been responsible for making it acceptable for women to wear trousers. Democratising fashion, Saint Laurent was the first French couturier to come out with a prêt-à-porter range (ready-to-wear), designing two haute couture and two prêt-à-porter collections every year. However, this did have an impact on his health.</p> <p>Saint Laurent became the first living fashion designer to be honoured by the Metropolitan Museum of Art with a solo exhibition, he was awarded Commander of the Légion d'Honneur and rank of Grand officier de la Légion d'honneur.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gb9VcSECg5g</p>
	<p>A (very) brief overview of the French Revolution</p>	<p>"In 1789 France was the powerhouse of Europe. It had the continent's biggest population, a large overseas empire and had become the hub of the Enlightenment. But the country was to be transformed and engulfed by a fierce revolution, a 10-year struggle of profound social and political upheaval that would have a lasting impact on the world. It would create shockwaves across the globe, ending the Bourbon monarchy. Though it degenerated into a bloodbath during the Reign of Terror, the French Revolution helped to shape modern democracies by exposing the power inherent in the will of the people. Many of its values are still used today.</p> <p>So how did this monumental series of events come about? How did they escalate into the scenes of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette's execution that we conjured up today? Who were the key, influential figures, like Maximilien De Robespierre, Georges Danton, Louis de Saint Just and Jean-Jacques Rousseau?</p> <p>In this video, History Hit covers the main causes of the French Revolution, exploring how economic hardships, political injustices and cultural shifts converged to ignite one of the most seismic uprisings in history... and gave rise to one man - his name, Napoleon Bonaparte" - History Hit</p> <p>The French Revolution involved numerous individuals who played significant roles in shaping its course and outcomes. Some of the prominent figures include:</p> <p>Maximilien Robespierre: Robespierre was a leading figure in the revolution and a key proponent of the Reign of Terror. He advocated for radical political and social reforms, and his influence extended to the enforcement of revolutionary policies.</p> <p>Louis XVI: King Louis XVI ruled France during the early years of the revolution. His reign was marked by economic troubles and political discontent, eventually leading to his deposition and execution in 1793.</p> <p>Georges Danton: Danton was a prominent revolutionary leader known for his powerful oratory skills. He played a vital role in mobilizing the masses and was one of the key figures in the early stages of the revolution.</p> <p>Jean-Paul Marat: Marat was a radical journalist and politician. His newspaper, "L'Ami du peuple" (The Friend of the People), became a platform for advocating revolutionary ideals and inciting the public against perceived enemies of the revolution.</p> <p>Napoleon Bonaparte: While Napoleon emerged later in the revolution and eventually became Emperor, his rise to power was intricately linked to the instability and transformative nature of the revolution itself. Napoleon's military prowess enabled him to solidify his rule and spread revolutionary ideals across Europe.</p>	<p>To understand some of the main points, we recommend this easy to understand, 25 minute video resource. Below are some notable figures whose names you might recognise from paintings, monuments or stories</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJEbiiYDIkE</p>