

# Paris for First Timers

Planning a trip to the French capital? Here is your guide to an all-inclusive touristic experience, as well as some tips for the best photo spots.

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Paris is one of the top touristic cities and is always on someone's bucket list. But it's also huge, and there is a lot to see and do. So if you're there for the first time and want to cover all the must-sees in two or three days, you will have to go with a plan.



## The Tour Eiffel From All Angles

Nothing says Paris like the Tour Eiffel—and you want to make sure you get to enjoy the view from all angles. Start with a walk through Champs de Mars; the beautiful park will lead you to your destination, where you will enjoy the greenery and even a nice bain de soleil against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower. As you cross the park, you'll find yourself right at the bottom of the gigantic Tour.

Too close for your fancied Tour Eiffel profile pic?

Cross the bridge over the Seine to Jardin du Trocadero, where each spot is unique and every angle pictures a scenic view. Right ahead is the Palais de Chaillot, a magnificent building in itself. But you will have to give it your back to enjoy a great view of the famous Warsaw Fountain with the Eiffel Tower in the background. Close enough but not too close, and here you can definitely capture your perfect Eiffel Tower portrait.



## From Arc De Triomphe to the Luxor Obelisk, through the Champs Elysee

The Arc De Triomphe stands at the end of Paris's most famous street, the Champs-Élysées. You will spot your fellow tourists standing in line between the two car lanes to capture the perfect centered shot of the famous monument; you should probably spare a few minutes and wait in line too.

Once done, turn back and walk down the Champs-Élysées. You will probably adore every single store; but my advice is to take a tour inside the big jewelry shops like Cartier and enjoy another kind of fairytale scenery. Not only is everything on display breathtaking, but walking through these iconic shops is simply a joy in itself. Don't forget to try some of the Champs-Élysées' signature roasted chestnuts!

If you walk all the way down the street, and you probably will; you will pass by Jardin de Champs-Élysées, and eventually you will end up at Place de la Concorde. It is the largest square in the French capital and the location of our very own Luxor Obelisk.

After such a long walk, you deserve a treat. Pass by Le Macaron La Duree and enjoy a piece of heaven; signature macaroons that come in countless flavors.



## A Day at The Louvre



Start your day with a chilled walk through Jardin de Tuilerie; and make sure to take a few photos by the Louvre Pyramid before you go inside; once you do, you will never get enough. Before you know it, it is already dark outside.

The museum is super huge, but you should make sure to set your priorities straight. You will probably want to start by heading directly to the Italian paintings exhibition to see the famous Mona Lisa (heads-up: it is much smaller than you would have imagined. But just follow the crowd).

The Egyptian antiquities section is rather huge; from coffins to jewelry, sculptures and even pieces of Pharaonic walls. Don't get caught up, it might steal your whole day.

You also don't want to miss the Greek and Roman antiquities and sculptures sections; well, you can't really

miss them since they are HUGE. And make sure to see the Crown French jewels on display at The Gallerie D'Apollon. This specific gallery, as well as the whole museum, is a piece of art in itself. You might probably be tempted to look up at the beautifully carved and intricately decorated ceilings the whole time, but don't forget, you are not there to stare at the museum's pillars and high vaulted ceilings.

There is still much to see . . . and there is almost no way to cover the entire place on one go. But before you leave, make sure to go down to Floor-1 of the Pavillon d'Horloge, where you can see the ruins of the original fortress that became the Louvre and get to know more about the museum's history. Tip: Go on a Friday or a Wednesday and make good use of the extended opening hours.



## Church Tours

There are two places that you'd better not miss on your trip. The Sacré Coeur de Paris is one of the most beautiful churches you can find from both the inside and the outside; it is also located on top of hill Montmartre, the second highest point in Paris, and is your chance to enjoy panoramic views of the entire city. The place has completely different vibes in the mornings and the evenings, so it's worth going twice. Once inside the church, you should get yourself one of these golden coins with the photo of the Sacré Coeur, as it is always the best souvenir (and the cheapest). Tip: You don't have to climb the stairs all the way up; use your metro card to take the elevator.

While at Montmartre, you should also check the Wall of Love adorned with 311 "I love you" phrases in 250 different languages.

The Notre Dame Cathedral is another magnificent landmark; an architectural masterpiece and the most visited monument in



Paris. First, stand back and enjoy the charm of this architectural gem, from the iconic façade to the sharply pointed spires and the beautifully decorated portals. Then, get closer and admire the meticulous details of Notre Dame's famous gargoyles, statues and carvings. Before you step inside, put your sneakers on and climb the stairs to the top of the 69-meter-high monument. It is a long way and the spiral staircase is quite narrow, but the panoramic view from the tower makes the 387 steps entirely worth it. Once you are back down there, catch your breath while contemplating the sheer enormity of the church's interior. The colorful stained glass windows are like nothing you could have ever seen; and each corner of this Gothic masterpiece is a piece of art.

After this long day, enjoy a unique "experience of chocolate" at Boutique Lindt Paris near the Opera House. We would recommend the Chocolate Bomb, but it is actually all about the magical chocolate atmosphere.



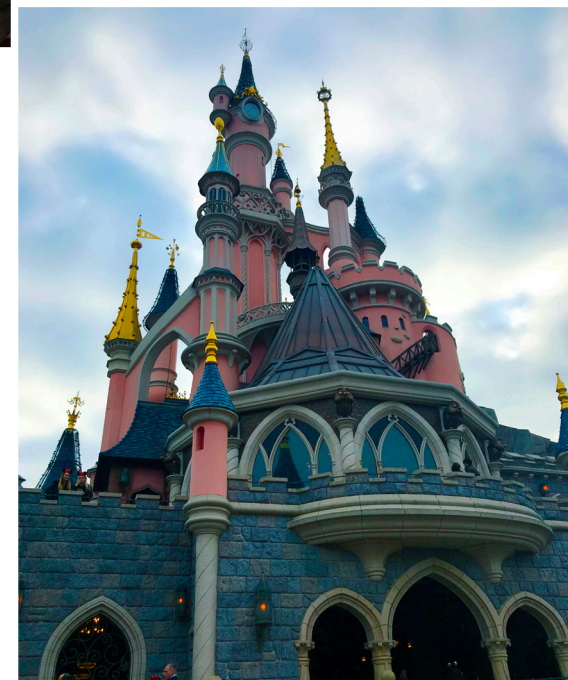
## Chateau de Versailles: A day as a Royal

It may be far, but it is very much worth it. Chateau de Versailles is one of the largest and most stunning castles in the world. First of all, pose for one perfect Instagram photo in front of the luxurious grand entrance of the castle. Then, just like you did with the Louvre, set your priorities straight or you are never going to want to leave! You want to see the King and Queen's Grand Apartments, getting a glimpse of where royalty slept, ate, and received guests. Be ready for an overdose of luxury, gold, iconic paintings, and lots of WOW. The Queen's bedroom is especially glamorous, with the original décor from the time of Marie-Antoinette. You should also take a tour through the History of French museum; and try to find the huge murals from the time of the French campaign in Egypt.

Make sure that the tour doesn't take too long, because you will need a few hours to walk through the huge garden of the palace and enjoy amazing landscape and picturesque fountains with unbelievable, artistic details.



## Disney Land: Where Magic Gets Real



No matter how old you are, you should save a day for this enchanting experience. Get the two parks ticket and enjoy a day of endless fun.

Find Mickey's house and the princesses' castle, and endure the long line for a picture or two (Yes, you do want to do that). Then, go on a delightful musical boat ride at FantasyLand as you listen to hundreds of traditionally dressed dolls from the seven continents singing to the inspiring tones of "It's a Small World." Follow the tunes of oriental

music to the enchanted passage of Aladdin and enjoy the thrill with the Pirates of the Caribbean, as the boat splashes into the water and takes you to the one and only Captain Jack Sparrow.

And don't miss the chance to live a unique experience as a rat in the gigantic kitchen of Chef Gusteau. Join Remi and the fellow rats as they run for their lives on the kitchen floor.

Make sure you stick around for the final show. The Disney Illuminations spectacle is such a breathtaking experience.