

Paris



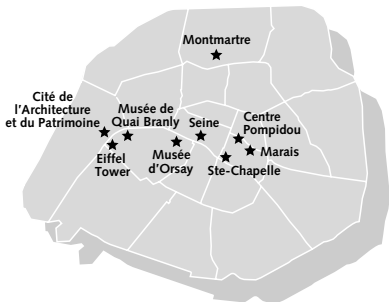
Paris has all but exhausted the superlatives that can reasonably be applied to any city. Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower have been described countless times, as have the Seine and the differences between the Left and Right Banks. But what writers have been unable to capture is the grandness and the magic of strolling along the city's broad avenues, which lead from impressive public buildings and exceptional museums to parks, gardens and esplanades.

With more famous landmarks than any other city in the world, the French capital evokes all sorts of expectations for first-time visitors: of grand vistas, of intellectuals discussing weighty matters in cafés, of romance along the Seine, of naughty nightclub revues, of rude people who won't speak English. If you look hard enough, you can probably find all of those. But another approach is to set aside the preconceptions of Paris that are so much a part of English-speaking culture, and to explore the city's avenues and backstreets as though the tip of the Eiffel Tower or the spire of Notre Dame weren't about to pop into view at any moment.

You'll soon discover (as so many others before you have) that Paris is enchanting almost everywhere, at any time, even 'in the summer, when it sizzles' and 'in the winter, when it drizzles', as Cole Porter put it. And you'll be back. Trust us.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Introduce yourself to one of Paris' new museums: the architecturally stunning (and content-rich) **Musée du Quai Branly** (p152) or the **Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine** (p152)
- Be stunned (and inspired) by the veritable wall of sublime stained glass in **Ste-Chapelle** (p145), one of the most beautiful houses of worship in Christendom
- Check out the stately *hôtels particuliers* (private mansions) in the **Marais** (p142) by day and the district's throbbing bars and clubs after dark
- Enjoy the collections and the spectacular rooftop views at the **Centre Pompidou** (p138), the world's most successful art and culture centre
- Marvel at the incomparable collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist art at the waterfront **Musée d'Orsay** (p151)
- Enjoy the views of the timeless **Seine** (p163) from the banks or on an evening cruise
- Go not to the top but the bottom of the **Eiffel Tower** (p152) and look up for a new take on the landmark that's more Parisian than Paris itself
- Relive the *oh-là-là* Paris of cancan and windmills on a walking tour of **Montmartre** (p161)



■ POPULATION: 2.177 MILLION

■ AREA: 105 SQ KM

HISTORY

In the 3rd century BC a tribe of Celtic Gauls known as the Parisii settled on what is now the Île de la Cité. Centuries of conflict between the Gauls and Romans ended in 52 BC, when Julius Caesar's legions crushed a Celtic revolt led by Vercingétorix. Christianity was introduced in the 2nd century AD, but Roman rule ended in the 5th century with the arrival of the Germanic Franks. In 508 Frankish king Clovis I united Gaul as a kingdom and made Paris his seat.

In the 9th century France was beset by Scandinavian Vikings, who raided the western coastal areas; within three centuries these 'Norsemen' (later known as Normans) started pushing towards Paris, which had risen so rapidly in importance that construction had begun on the cathedral of Notre Dame in the 12th century, the Louvre was built as a riverside fortress around 1200, the beautiful Ste-Chapelle was consecrated in 1248 and the Sorbonne opened its doors in 1253.

The incursions heralded the Hundred Years' War between Norman England and the Capetian rulers in Paris, eventually bringing the French defeat at Agincourt in 1415 and English control of the capital in 1420. In 1429 the 17-year-old Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc) rallied the French troops to defeat the English at Orléans. With the exception of Calais, the English were finally driven out of France in 1453.

The Renaissance helped Paris get back on its feet at the end of the 15th century, and many of the city's most famous buildings and monuments were erected at this time. But in less than a century Paris was again in turmoil, as clashes between Huguenot (Protestant) and Catholic groups increased. The worst such incident was the so-called St Bartholomew's Day massacre in 1572, in which 3000 Huguenots who had gathered in Paris to celebrate the wedding of Henri of Navarre (later King Henri IV) were slaughtered.

Louis XIV, also known as the Sun King, ascended the throne in 1643 at the age of five and ruled until 1715, virtually emptying the national coffers with his ambitious building and battling. His greatest legacy is the palace at Versailles, 21km southwest of Paris. The excesses of Louis XVI and his queen, Marie-Antoinette, in part led to an uprising of Parisians on 14 July 1789 and

the storming of the Bastille prison – kick-starting the French Revolution.

At first the Revolution was in the hands of moderates, but within a few years the so-called Reign of Terror, during which even the original patriots were guillotined, was in full swing. The unstable post-Revolutionary government was consolidated in 1799 under a young Corsican general named Napoleon Bonaparte, who declared himself First Consul. In 1804 he had the Pope crown him 'Emperor of the French' at Notre Dame and then went forward and conquered most of Europe. Napoleon's ambitions eventually brought about his defeat, first in Russia in 1812 and later at Waterloo in Belgium in 1815. He was exiled to a remote South Atlantic island, where he died in 1821.

France struggled under a string of mostly inept rulers until a coup d'état in 1851 brought Emperor Napoleon III to power. He oversaw the construction of a more modern Paris, with wide boulevards, sculpted parks and – not insignificant – a modern sewer system. Like his pugnacious uncle, however, Napoleon had a taste for blood, which led to his costly and unsuccessful war with Prussia in 1870. When the masses in Paris heard of their emperor's capture by the enemy, they took to the streets, demanding that a republic be declared. Despite its bloody beginnings, the Third Republic ushered in the glittering and very creative period known as the *belle époque* (beautiful age), celebrated for its graceful art-nouveau architecture and advances in the arts and sciences.

The defeat of Austria-Hungary and Germany in WWI, which regained Alsace and Lorraine for France (lost to Prussia in the previous century), was achieved at an unimaginable human cost; with 20% of all French males aged between 20 and 45 years killed. By the 1930s, however, Paris had become a centre for the artistic avant-garde and had established its reputation among freethinking intellectuals. This was all cut short by the Nazi occupation of 1940; Paris would remain under direct German rule until 25 August 1944.

After the war, Paris regained its position as a creative centre and nurtured a revitalised liberalism that reached a climax in the student-led uprisings of 1968. The Sorbonne was occupied, barricades were set up in the Latin Quarter and some nine million people nationwide were inspired to join in a general

FINDING YOURSELF IN PARIS

In Paris, when a building is put up in a location where they've run out of consecutive street numbers, a new address is formed by fusing the number of an adjacent building with the notation *bis* (twice), *ter* (thrice) or even *quater* (four times). Therefore, the street numbers 17bis and 89ter are the equivalent (more or less) of 17a and 89b in English.

The street doors (*portes cochères*) of most apartment buildings in Paris can be opened only if someone has given you the entry code (*digicode*), which is usually alphanumeric (eg 26A10) and changed periodically; the days of the concierges, who would vet every caller before allowing them in, are well and truly over. In some buildings the entry-code device is deactivated during the day but to get in (or out) you still have to push a button (usually marked *porte*) to release the electric catch.

The doors of many apartments are unmarked: the occupants' names are nowhere in sight and there isn't even an apartment number. To know which door to knock on, you'll usually be given cryptic instructions, such as *cinquième étage, premier à gauche* (5th floor, first on the left) or *troisième étage, droite, droite* (3rd floor, turn right twice).

strike that paralysed the country, which at one point almost led to civil war.

During the 1980s President François Mitterrand initiated several costly *grands projets*, a series of building projects that garnered widespread approval even when the results were popular failures. In the 1990s the baton passed to right-wing President Jacques Chirac, who won a second five-year term in 2002; in 2007 it was the turn of Chirac's get-tough Interior Minister, current president Nicolas 'Sarko' Sarkozy (see p47).

In May 2001, Bertrand Delanoë, a socialist with support from the Green Party, became Paris' – and a European capital's – first openly gay mayor. He was returned to power in the second round of voting in the elections of March 2008.

ORIENTATION

Central Paris is relatively small, covering an area of just under 87 sq km (or 105 sq km – 9.5km north to south by 11km east to west – if you include the Bois de Boulogne and the Bois de Vincennes). Within the 'oval' of central Paris, which Parisians call *intra-muros* (Latin for 'within the walls'), the Right Bank is north of the Seine, while the Left Bank is south of it.

Paris is quite an easy city to negotiate, but this chapter offers you three ways to find the addresses listed: by district, map reference and metro station.

Arrondissements

Paris is divided into 20 arrondissements (districts), which spiral out clockwise from the

centre like a conch shell. City addresses always include the number of the *arrondissement*, because streets with the same name exist in different districts.

In this chapter, *arrondissement* numbers are given after a street address using the usual French notation: 1er for *premier* (1st), 2e for *deuxième* (2nd), 3e for *troisième* (3rd) and so on. On some signs or commercial maps, you will see variations such as 2ème, 3ème etc and sometimes IIe, IIIe etc.


Maps

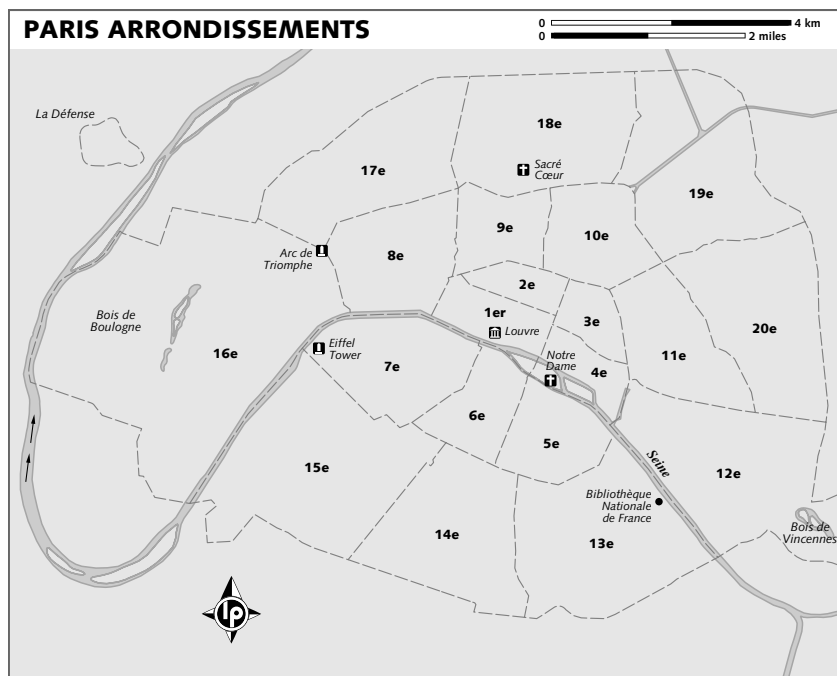
The most ubiquitous (and user-friendly) pocket-sized street atlas available is L'Indispensable's *Paris Pratique par Arrondissement* (€4.90), though the similar *Paris Utile* (€4.50) from Blay Foldex has its supporters. If you're looking for a sheet map, Lonely Planet's *Paris City Map* (€7.95) is handy, laminated and has four plans that cover the more popular parts of town, a street index and a metro map. More detailed is Michelin's *Paris Poche Plan* (No 50; €2.20).

The best place to find a full selection of maps is the Espace IGN (p953 and Map pp118–19).

Metro Stations

Paris has 373 metro stations, and there is always a station within 500m of wherever you need to go in Paris (see the Metro map, p12).

Thus all the offices, museums, hotels and restaurants that are mentioned here have the nearest metro stop written immediately after the street address and preceded by the  icon.



INFORMATION

Bookshops

Abbey Bookshop (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 46 33 16 24; www.abbeybookshop.net; 29 rue de la Parcheminerie, 5e; 📖 Cluny-La Sorbonne; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat) This mellow Canadian-owned bookshop not far from place St-Michel is celebrated for its free tea and coffee (sweetened with maple syrup) and good selection of new and used books.

Les Mots à la Bouche (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 78 88 30; www.motsbouche.com, in French; 6 rue Ste-Croix de la Bretonnerie, 4e; 📖 Hôtel de Ville; ☎ 11am-11pm Mon-Sat, 1-9pm Sun) 'On the Tip of the Tongue' is Paris' premier gay bookshop and stocks guides as well as some novels in English.

Librairie Ulysse (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 25 17 35; www.ulysses.fr; 26 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; 📖 Pont Marie; ☎ 2-8pm Tue-Fri) A delightful shop full of travel guides, maps and sage advice from well-travelled staff. The 20,000 back issues of *National Geographic* are not to be sniffed at.

Red Wheelbarrow Bookstore (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 48 04 75 08; www.theredwheelbarrow.com; 22 rue St-Paul, 4e; 📖 St-Paul; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat, 2-6pm Sun) This foreign-owned English-language bookshop has arguably the best selection of literature and 'serious reading' in Paris, and helpful, well-read staff.

Shakespeare & Company (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 96 50; 37 rue de la Bûcherie, 5e; 📖 St-Michel; ☎ 10am-11pm Mon-Sat, 11am-11pm Sun) Paris' most famous English-language bookshop has a varied collection of new and used books in English and is a charm to browse. There's a dusty old library on the 1st floor.

Tea & Tattered Pages (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 40 65 94 35; 24 rue Mayet, 6e; 📖 Duroc; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat, noon-6pm Sun) T&TP is by far the best and most comprehensive second-hand English-language bookshop in Paris, with some 15,000 volumes squeezed into two floors.

Village Voice (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 46 33 36 47; www.villagevoicebookshop.com; 6 rue Princesse, 6e; 📖 Mabillon; ☎ 2-8pm Mon, 10am-8pm Tue-Sat, 2-6pm Sun) With an excellent selection of contemporary North American fiction and European literature, lots of readings and helpful staff, Village Voice is a firm favourite.

Emergency

The numbers below are to be dialled in an emergency. See p113 for hospitals with 24-hour accident and emergency departments. For nationwide emergency numbers, see Telephone inside the front cover.

PARIS IN...

Two Days

If you've got only a couple of days in Paris (bad decision, that one) you should definitely join a **morning tour** (p163) and then concentrate on the most Parisian of sights and attractions: **Notre Dame** (p145), the **Louvre** (p138), the **Eiffel Tower** (p152) and the **Arc de Triomphe** (p153). In the late afternoon have a coffee or a pastis (aniseed-flavoured aperitif) on the **av des Champs-Élysées** (p153) and then make your way to **Montmartre** (p156) for dinner. The following day take in such sights as the **Musée d'Orsay** (p151), **Ste-Chapelle** (p145), **Conciergerie** (p145), **Musée National du Moyen Âge** (p147) and/or the **Musée Rodin** (p151). Have brunch on the **place des Vosges** (p142) and enjoy a night of mirth and gaiety in the **Marais** (p142).

Four Days

With another couple of days to look around the city, you should consider a **cruise** (p163) along the Seine or the Canal St-Martin and visit some place further afield – the **Cimetière du Père Lachaise** (p155), say, or **Parc de la Villette** (p157). On one of the two nights take in a concert, opera or ballet at the **Palais Garnier** (p155) or **Opéra Bastille** (p142), or a play at the **Comédie Française** (p194), and go on a bar and club crawl along **rue Oberkampf** (p190) in Ménilmontant. The **Bastille area** (p142) is another option for a night out.

A Week

If you have one week in the French capital, you can see a good many of the major sights listed in this chapter, visit places around Paris such as **La Défense** (p206) and **St-Denis** (p208), and leave Paris proper for a day or two of excursions: **Vaux-le-Vicomte** (p217) can be easily combined with **Fontainebleau** (p214), **Senlis** (p220) with **Chantilly** (p217) and, if you travel hard and fast, **Chartres** (p220) with **Versailles** (p211).

SOS Helpline (☎ 01 47 23 80 80, in English; 📞 3-11pm daily)

SOS Médecins (☎ 01 47 07 77 77, 24hr house calls 08 20 33 24 24; www.sosmedecins-france.fr)

Urgences Médicales de Paris (Paris Medical Emergencies; ☎ 01 53 94 94 94; www.ump.fr)

Internet Access

Wi-fi is widely available at midrange and top-end hotels in Paris (sometimes for free but more often for something like €5 per one-off connection) and occasionally in public spaces such as train stations and tourist offices. For a list of almost 100 free-access wi-fi cafés in Paris, visit www.cafes-wifi.com (in French).

If you don't have a laptop or access to wi-fi, Paris is awash in internet cafés with computers, and you'll probably find at least one in your immediate neighbourhood. Some of the biggest, best and/or most central:

Cyber Cube (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 56 80 08 08; www.cybercube.fr; 9 rue d'Odessa, 14e; 📍 Montparnasse Bien-venue; per 15/30min €1/2, per 5/10hr €30/40; 🕒 10am-10pm) This branch (there are three) is expensive, but convenient to the Gare Montparnasse.

Milk (☎ 08 20 00 10 00; www.milkclub.com; daytime per 1/2/3/5hr €4/7/9/12, night-time per 3/10hr €6/13;

🕒 24hr) Panthéon (Map pp130-1; 17 rue Soufflot, 5e; 📍 Luxembourg); Les Halles (Map pp126-7; 31 bd de Sébastopol, 1er; 📍 Les Halles) This chain of seven internet cafés is bright, buzzy and open round the clock.

Phon'net (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 05 10 73; 74 rue de Charonne, 11e; 📍 Charonne or Ledru Rollin; per 1/5/15/30hr €5/16/30/45; 🕒 10am-midnight)

Web 46 (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 40 27 02 89; 46 rue du Roi de Sicile, 4e; 📍 St-Paul; per 15/30/60min €2.50/4/7, per 5hr €29; 🕒 10am-11pm Mon-Fri, 10am-9pm Sat, noon-11pm Sun) Pleasant, very well-run café in the heart of the Marais.

Internet Resources

Lonely Planet's website (www.lonelyplanet.com) has many useful links. Other recommended English-language websites:

Go Go Paris! Culture! (www.gogoparis.com) Clubs, hang-outs, art gigs, dancing around town, food and drink.

Mairie de Paris (www.paris.fr) Your primary source of information about Paris, with everything from opening times to the latest statistics.

Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau (www.parisinfo.com) The official site of the city's tourist office.



Paris Digest (www.parisdigest.com) Useful for making pre-travel arrangements.



Paris Pages (www.paris.org) Good links to museums and cultural events pages.

Laundry



There's a *laverie libre-service* (self-service launderette) round every corner in Paris; your hotel or hostel can point you to one in the neighbourhood. Machines usually cost €3.50 to €4.50 for a small load (around 6kg) and €5.50 to €8 for a larger one (about 10kg). Drying costs €1 for 10 to 12 minutes.

GARE DU NORD, GARE DE L'EST & RÉPUBLIQUE

Laverie Libre-Service (Map pp120-1; 14 rue de la Corderie, 3e;  République or Temple;  8am-9pm)



Laverie SBS (Map pp120-1; 6 rue des Petites Écuries, 10e;  Château d'Eau;  7am-10pm)

LATIN QUARTER & JARDIN DES PLANTES

Laverie Libre-Service (Map pp130-1; 63 rue Monge, 5e;  Place Monge;  6.30am-10pm) Just south of the Arènes de Lutèce.



Laverie Libre-Service (Map pp130-1; 216 rue St-Jacques, 5e;  Luxembourg;  7am-10pm) Three blocks southwest of the Panthéon.

LOUVRE & LES HALLES

Laverie Libre-Service (Map pp126-7; 7 rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1er;  Louvre-Rivoli;  7.30am-10pm) Near the Centre International de Séjour BVI Paris-Louvre hostel.

MARAIS & BASTILLE



Laverie Libre-Service (Map pp126-7; 35 rue Ste-Croix de la Bretonnerie, 4e;  Hôtel de Ville;  7am-9pm)

Laverie Miele Libre-Service (Map pp132-3; 4 rue de Lappe, 11e;  Bastille;  7am-10pm)



MÉNILMONTANT & BELLEVILLE

C'Clean Laverie (Map pp120-1; 18 rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 11e;  Oberkampf;  7am-9pm)

MONTMARTRE & PIGALLE




Salon Lavoir Sidac (Map p136; 28 rue des Trois Frères, 18e;  Abbesses;  7am-8.50pm)

ST-GERMAIN, ODÉON & LUXEMBOURG

Julice Laverie (Map pp126-7; 56 rue de Seine, 6e;  Mabillon;  7am-11pm)

Media


There are no local English-language newspapers in Paris, although freebies such as the *Paris Times* (www.theparistimes.com) and *Paris Where* (www.wheremagazine.com) proliferate and are available at English-language bookshops, pubs and so on. *FUSAC* (short for *France USA Contacts*), a freebie issued every fortnight, consists of

hundreds of ads placed by companies and individuals. It can be found at the aforementioned places as well as at the **American Church in Paris** (Map pp124-5;  01 40 62 05 00; www.acparis.org; 65 quai d'Orsay, 7e;  Pont de l'Alma or Invalides;  reception 9am-noon & 1-10pm Mon-Sat, 2-7.30pm Sun), which functions as a community centre for English speakers and is an excellent source of information on au pair work, short-term accommodation etc.

Medical Services

DENTAL SURGERIES



For emergency dental care, contact either of the following:



Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière (Map pp134-5;  01 42 16 00 00; rue Bruant, 13e;  Chevaleret) This is the only dental hospital with extended hours – from 6.30pm to 10.30am. After 5.30pm use the emergency entrance (Map pp130-1) at 83 bd de l'Hôpital, 13e,  St-Marcel.



SOS Dentaire (Map pp130-1;  01 43 37 51 00; 87 bd de Port Royal, 14e;  Port Royal) This is a private dental office that also offers services when most dentists are off duty (8pm to 11pm weekdays, 9.45am to 11pm at the weekend).

HOSPITALS

There are some 50 *assistance publique* (public service) hospitals in Paris. Major hospitals in the city that have 24-hour accident and emergency departments include the following:




American Hospital of Paris (Map pp114-15;  01 46 41 25 25; www.american-hospital.org; 63 bd Victor Hugo, 92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine;  Pont de Levallois Bécon) Offers emergency 24-hour medical and dental care.




Hertford British Hospital (Map pp114-15;  01 46 39 22 22; www.british-hospital.org; 3 rue Barbès, 92300 Levallois-Perret;  Anatole France) A less-expensive private English-speaking option.




Hôpital Hôtel Dieu (Map pp126-7;  01 42 34 82 34; www.aphp.fr; 1 place du Parvis Notre Dame, 4e;  Cité) One of the city's main government-run public hospitals; after 8pm use the emergency entrance on rue de la Cité, 4e.

PHARMACIES

Some pharmacies with extended hours:

Pharmacie Bader (Map pp126-7;  01 43 26 92 66; 12 bd St-Michel, 5e;  St-Michel;  9am-9pm)

Pharmacie des Champs (Map pp118-19;  01 45 62 02 41; Galerie des Champs, 84 av des Champs-Élysées, 8e;  George V;  24hr)

Pharmacie des Halles (Map pp126-7;  01 42 72 03 23; 10 bd de Sébastopol, 4e;  Châtelet;  9am-midnight Mon-Sat, 9am-10pm Sun)

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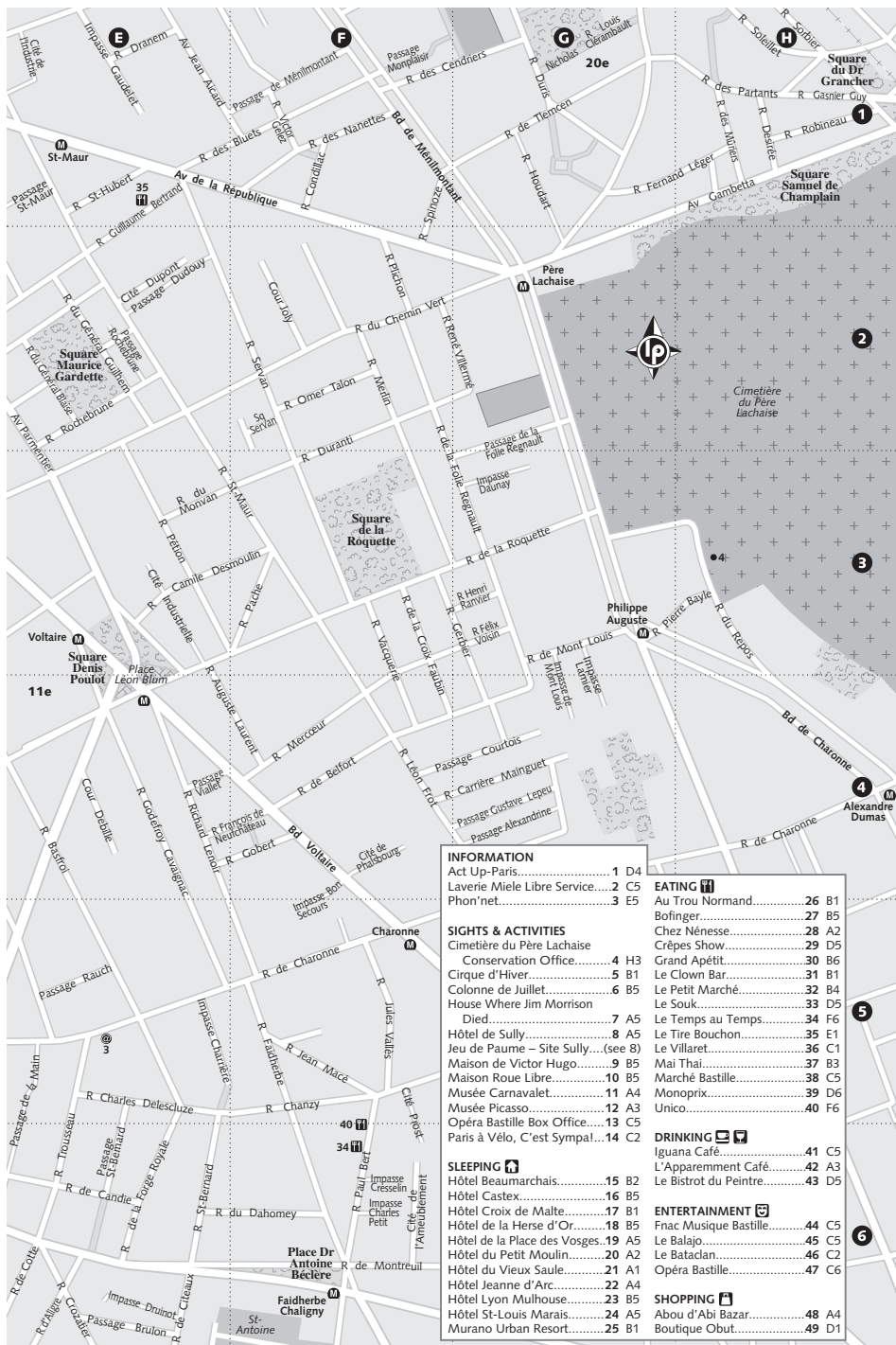
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Money

Post offices that have a Banque Postale can offer the best exchange rates in Paris, and they accept banknotes (commission €4.50) in various currencies as well as travellers cheques issued by Amex (no commission) or Visa (1.5%, minimum €4.50). *Bureaux de change* are usually faster and easier, open longer hours and give better rates than most banks. For general advice on exchanging money, see p955.

Post

Each *arrondissement* (p110) in Paris has its own five-digit postcode, formed by prefixing the *arrondissement* number with '750' or '7500' (eg 75001 for the 1er *arrondissement*, 75019 for the 19e). The only exception is the 16e, which has two postcodes: 75016 and 75116.

The **main post office** (Map pp126-7; www.laposte.fr; 52 rue du Louvre, 1er;  Sentier or Les Halles;  24hr), five blocks north of the eastern end of the Louvre, is open round the clock for basic services such as sending letters and picking up *poste restante* (or 'general delivery') mail (window No 11; €0.54 per letter). Other services, including currency exchange, are available only during regular business hours. Be prepared for long queues after 7pm. *Poste restante* mail not specifically addressed to a particular branch post office in Paris will be delivered here. There is a one-hour closure from 6.20am to 7.20am Monday to Saturday and from 6am to 7am on Sunday.

Toilets


The public toilets in Paris are signposted *toilettes* or *WC*. The tan-coloured, self-cleaning cylindrical toilets you see on Paris' pavements are open 24 hours and are free of charge. Look for the words *libre* ('free'; green-coloured) or *occupé* ('occupied'; red-coloured).

Café owners don't appreciate your using their facilities if you're not a paying customer. If you're desperate, try ducking into a fast-food place, a major department store or even a big hotel with a large lobby. There are free public toilets underground in front of Notre Dame Cathedral (Map pp126-7), near the Arc de Triomphe (Map pp118-19), east down the steps at Basilique du Sacré Cœur (Map p136), at the northwestern entrance to the Jardin des Tuileries (Map pp118-19) and in a few metro



stations. Check out the wonderful art-nouveau public toilets below place de la Madeleine, 8e (Map pp118-19), built in 1905.



In older cafés and bars, the amenities may consist of a *toilette à la turque* (Turkish-style toilet), which is what the French call a squat toilet.



Tourist Information

The main branch of the **Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau** (Office de Tourisme et de Congrès de Paris; Map pp118-19; ☎ 08 92 68 30 00; www.parisinfo.com; 25-27 rue des Pyramides, 1er;  Pyramides;  9am-7pm Jun-Oct, 10am-7pm Mon-Sat & 11am-7pm Sun Nov-May, closed 1 May) is about 500m northwest of the Louvre.

The bureau also maintains a handful of centres elsewhere in Paris, which are listed below (telephone numbers and websites are the same as for the main office). For details of the area around Paris, contact **Espace du Tourisme d'Île de France**, p206).

Anvers (Map p136; opp 72 bd de Rochechouart, 18e;  Anvers;  10am-6pm, closed Christmas Day, New Year's Day & 1 May)

Gare de Lyon (Map pp134-5; Hall d'Arrivée, 20 bd Diderot, 12e;  Gare de Lyon;  8am-6pm Mon-Sat, closed Sun & 1 May) In the mainline trains arrivals hall.

Gare du Nord (Map pp120-1; 18 rue de Dunkerque, 10e;  Gare du Nord;  8am-6pm, closed Christmas Day, New Year's Day & 1 May) Beneath the glass roof of the Île de France departures and arrivals area at the eastern end of the train station.

Syndicat d'Initiative de Montmartre (Map p136; ☎ 01 42 62 21 21; 21 place du Tertre, 18e;  Abbesses;  10am-7pm) This locally run tourist office and shop is in Montmartre's most picturesque square and is open year-round.

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Crime

In general Paris is a safe city, and random street assaults are rare. The so-called *Ville Lumière* (City of Light) is generally well lit, and there's no reason not to use the metro before it stops running at some time between 12.30am and just past 1am. As you'll notice, women *do* travel alone on the metro late at night in most areas, though not all who do so report feeling 100% comfortable.

Metro stations that are probably best avoided late at night include: Châtelet-Les Halles and its seemingly endless corridors; Château Rouge in Montmartre; Gare du Nord; Strasbourg St-Denis; Réaumur Sébastopol; and Montparnasse Bienvenüe.

VIEWINGS AT A DISCOUNT

The **Paris Museum Pass** (www.parismuseumpass.fr; 2/4/6 days €30/45/60) is valid for entry to some 38 venues in Paris – including the Louvre, Centre Pompidou, Musée d'Orsay and new Musée du Quai Branly and Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine. Outside the city limits but still within the Île de France region, it will get you into another 22 places, including the basilica at St-Denis (p208) and parts of the châteaux at Versailles (p211) and Fontainebleau (p214). The pass is available online as well as from the participating venues, branches of the Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau (p137), Fnac outlets (p191), RATP (Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens) information desks and major metro stations.

Bornes d'alarme (alarm boxes) are located in the centre of each metro/RER platform and in some station corridors.

Nonviolent crime such as pickpocketing and thefts from handbags and packs is a problem wherever there are crowds, especially crowds of tourists. Places to be particularly careful include Montmartre (especially around Sacré Cœur); Pigalle; the areas around Forum des Halles and Centre Pompidou; the Latin Quarter (especially the rectangle bounded by rue St-Jacques, bd St-Germain, bd St-Michel and quai St-Michel); below the Eiffel Tower; and on the metro during rush hour.

Litter

In theory Parisians can be fined more than €183 for littering (that includes cigarette butts), but we've never heard of anyone having to pay up. Don't be nonplussed if you see locals drop paper wrappings or other detritus along the side of the pavement, however; the gutters in every quarter of Paris are washed and swept out daily, and Parisians are encouraged to use them where litter bins are not available.

A much greater annoyance are all those dog droppings on the pavements. The Paris municipality has made valiant attempts in the past, most notably with the introduction of the *moto-crottes* (motorised pooper-scooters) in 1982. At one stage, the city was spending up to €11 million each year to keep the city's pavements free of *la pollution canine*, but the machines were abandoned in 2004 as both expensive and ineffective. Most recently, plastic-bag dispensers have been placed strategically throughout the city, but the campaign has met less-than-howling success; only 60% of dog owners admit to cleaning up after their pooches, which now number around 150,000 and produce 16 tonnes of dog poo daily.

Lost Property

All objects found anywhere across Paris – except those picked up on the trains or in train stations – are brought to the city's **Bureau des Objets Trouvés** (Lost Property Office; Map pp114-15; ☎ 08 21 00 25 25; www.prefecture-police-paris-interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/article/service_objets_trouves.htm; 36 rue des Morillons, 15e; M Convention; ☎ 8.30am-5pm Mon-Thu, 8.30am-4.30pm Fri), which is run by the Préfecture de Police. Since telephone inquiries are impossible, the only way to find out if a lost item has been located is to go there and fill in the forms in person.

Items lost on the **metro** (☎ 32 46; ☎ 7am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat & Sun) are held by station agents before being sent to the Bureau des Objets Trouvés.

Anything found on trains or in train stations is taken to the lost-property office (usually attached to the left-luggage office) of the relevant station. Telephone inquiries (in French) are possible:

Gare d'Austerlitz (☎ 01 53 60 71 98)

Gare de l'Est (☎ 01 40 18 88 73)

Gare de Lyon (☎ 01 53 33 67 22)

Gare du Nord (☎ 01 55 31 58 40)

Gare Montparnasse (☎ 01 40 48 14 24)

Gare St-Lazare (☎ 01 53 42 05 57)

SIGHTS

Paris' major sights are distributed more or less equally on the Right and Left Banks of the Seine. We start in the heart of the Right Bank in the area around the Louvre and Les Halles, which largely takes in the 1er and follows, more or less, the order of the arrondissements.

Louvre & Les Halles

The area around the Louvre in the 1er contains some of the most important sights for visitors in Paris. To the northeast, the mostly pedestrian zone between the Centre Pompidou and the Forum des Halles, with rue Étienne Marcel

to the north and rue de Rivoli to the south, is filled with people by day and by night, just as it was for the 850-odd years when part of it served as Paris' main marketplace, known as Les Halles.

MUSÉE DU LOUVRE

The vast Palais du Louvre was constructed as a fortress by Philippe-Auguste in the early 13th century and rebuilt in the mid-16th century for use as a royal residence. In 1793 the Revolutionary Convention turned it into the **Musée du Louvre** (Louvre Museum; Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 40 20 53 17; www.louvre.fr; 📍 Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre; permanent collections/permanent collections & temporary exhibitions €9/13, after 6pm Wed & Fri €6/11, permanent collections free for under 18yr & after 6pm Fri for under 26yr, admission free 1st Sun of month; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon, Thu, Sat & Sun, 9am-10pm Wed & Fri), the nation's first national museum.

The paintings, sculptures and artefacts on display in the Louvre Museum have been assembled by French governments over the past five centuries. Among them are works of art and artisanship from all over Europe and important collections of Assyrian, Etruscan, Greek, Coptic and Islamic art and antiquities. Traditionally the Louvre's *raison d'être* is to present Western art from the Middle Ages to about the year 1848 (at which point the Musée d'Orsay takes over), as well as the works of ancient civilisations that informed Western art.

When the museum opened in the late 18th century, it contained 2500 paintings and objets d'art; today some 35,000 are on display. The 'Grand Louvre' project, inaugurated by the late President Mitterrand in 1989, doubled the museum's exhibition space, and new and renovated galleries have opened in recent years devoted to objets d'art such as Sèvres porcelain and the crown jewels of Louis XV (room 66, 1st floor, Apollo Gallery, Denon Wing).

The Louvre may be the most actively avoided museum in the world. Daunted by the richness and sheer size of the place (the side facing the Seine is some 700m long, and it is said that it would take nine months just to glance at every piece of art here), both local people and visitors often find the prospect of an afternoon at a smaller museum far more inviting. Eventually, most people do their duty and come, but many leave overwhelmed, unfulfilled, exhausted and frustrated at having got lost on their way to da Vinci's *La Joconde*,

better known as *Mona Lisa* (room 6, 1st floor, Salle de la Joconde, Denon Wing). Your best bet – after checking out a few works you really want to see – is to choose a particular period or section of the Louvre and pretend that the rest is in another museum somewhere across town.

The most famous works from antiquity include the *Seated Scribe* (room 22, 1st floor, Sully Wing), the *Code of Hammurabi* (room 3, ground floor, Richelieu Wing) and that armless duo, the *Venus de Milo* (room 7, ground floor, Denon Wing) and the *Winged Victory of Samothrace* (opposite room 1, 1st floor, Denon Wing). From the Renaissance, don't miss Michelangelo's *The Dying Slave* (ground floor, Michelangelo Gallery, Denon Wing) and works by Raphael, Botticelli and Titian (1st floor, Denon Wing). French masterpieces of the 19th century include Ingres' *The Turkish Bath* (room 60, 2nd floor, Sully Wing), Géricault's *The Raft of the Medusa* (room 77, 1st floor, Denon Wing) and works by Corot, Delacroix and Fragonard (2nd floor, Denon Wing).

The main entrance and ticket windows in the Cour Napoléon are covered by the 21m-high **Pyramide du Louvre**, a glass pyramid designed by the Chinese-born American architect IM Pei. You can avoid the queues outside the pyramid or at the Porte des Lions entrance by entering the complex via the Carrousel du Louvre shopping centre entrance (Map pp126-7), at 99 rue de Rivoli, or by following the 'Musée du Louvre' exit from the Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre metro station. Buy your tickets in advance from the ticket machines in the Carrousel du Louvre or, for an extra €1.10, from the *billetteries* (ticket offices) of Fnac (see p191), online, or by ringing ☎ 08 92 68 36 22 or ☎ 08 25 34 63 46, and walk straight in without queuing. Tickets are valid for the whole day, so you can come and go as you please.

The Louvre is divided into four sections: the Sully, Denon and Richelieu Wings and the Hall Napoléon. **Sully** creates the four sides of the Cour Carrée (literally 'square courtyard') at the eastern end of the complex. **Denon** stretches along the Seine to the south; **Richelieu** is the northern wing along rue de Rivoli.

The split-level public area under the glass pyramid is known as the **Hall Napoléon** (🕒 9am-10pm Wed-Mon). The hall has an exhibition on the history of the Louvre; a bookshop; a restaurant;

AVOIDING MUSEUM FATIGUE

Warm-up exercises, half-hour breathers, a portable seat, bottled water and an energy snack... It might sound as if you're preparing for a trek in the Alps, but these are some of the recommendations for tackling Paris' more than 100 museums. And with almost three dozen major ones free of charge on at least one day of the week, the temptation to see more is huge.

Take the Louvre... Encompassing some 40 sq hectares, the museum has nine enormous departments spread over 60,000 sq metres of gallery space and more than eight million visitors a year, all elbowing each other to see what they want to see in a limited amount of time. It's hardly surprising that many people feel worn out before they've descended into the Cour Napoléon.

To avoid museum fatigue, wear comfortable shoes and make use of the cloakrooms. Be aware that standing still and walking slowly promote tiredness; sit down as often as you can. Reflecting on the material and forming associations with it causes information to move from your short- to long-term memory; your experiences will thus amount to more than a series of visual 'bites'.

Tracking and timing studies suggest that museum-goers spend no more than 10 seconds viewing an exhibit and another 10 seconds reading the label as they try to take in as much as they can before succumbing to exhaustion. To avoid this choose a particular period or section or join a guided tour of the highlights.

a café; auditoriums for concerts, lectures and films; and **CyberLouvre** (☎ 10am-5.45pm Wed-Mon), an internet research centre with online access to some 35,000 works of art. The centrepiece of the **Carrousel du Louvre** (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 16 47 10; www.carrouseldulouvre.com; 99 rue de Rivoli; ☎ 8am-11pm), the shopping centre that runs underground from the pyramid to the **Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel** (Map pp126-7) in the Jardin du Carrousel, is the glass **Pyramide Inversée** (*Inverted Pyramid*), also created by Pei.

Free English-language maps of the complex entitled *Louvre Plan/Information* are available at the circular information desk in the centre of the Hall Napoléon. Excellent publications to guide you if you are doing the Louvre on your own are *Destination Louvre: A Guided Tour* (€7.50), *Louvre: Guide to the Masterpieces* (€8) and the hefty, 475-page *Guide to the Louvre* (€17). An attractive and useful memento is the DVD entitled *Louvre: The Visit* (€26). All are available from the museum bookshop.

English-language guided tours (☎ 01 40 20 52 63) lasting 1½ hours depart from the area under the Grande Pyramide, marked 'Accueil des Groupes' (Reception for Groups), at 11am, 2pm and (sometimes) 3.45pm Monday to Saturday. Tickets cost €5 in addition to the cost of admission. Groups are limited to 30 people, so it's a good idea to sign up at least 30 minutes before departure time.

Self-paced audioguide tours in six languages with 1½ hours of commentary can be rented for €5 under the pyramid at the entrance to each wing.

JARDIN DES TUILERIES

Beginning just west of the Jardin du Carrousel, the formal, 28-hectare **Jardin des Tuileries** (Tuileries Garden; Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 40 20 90 43; M Tuileries or Concorde; ☎ 7am-9pm Apr, May & Sep, 7am-11pm Jun-Aug, 7.30am-7.30pm Oct-Mar) was laid out in its present form – more or less – in the mid-17th century by André Le Nôtre, who also created the gardens at Vaux-le-Vicomte (p217) and Versailles (p211). The Tuileries soon became the most fashionable spot in Paris for parading about in one's finery; today it is a favourite of joggers. It forms part of the banks of the Seine World Heritage Site listed in 1991.

The **Voie Triomphale** (Triumphal Way), also called the **Axe Historique** (Historic Axis), the western continuation of the Tuileries' east-west axis, follows the av des Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe and, ultimately, to the Grande Arche in the skyscraper district of **La Défense** (p206).

JEU DE PAUME & ORANGERIE

The **Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume** (Jeu de Paume National Gallery; Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 47 03 12 50; www.jeu-de-paume.org; 1 place de la Concorde, 1er; M Concorde; adult/senior, student & 13-18yr/under 13yr €6/3/free; ☎ noon-9pm Tue, noon-7pm Wed-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat & Sun) is housed in an erstwhile *jeu de paume* (real, or royal, tennis) court built in 1861 during the reign of Napoleon III in the northwestern corner of the Jardin des Tuileries. Once the home of a good part of France's national collection of Impressionist art, now housed across the Seine in the Musée d'Orsay (p151), the two-storey

Jeu de Paume stages innovative exhibitions of contemporary art. A new branch of the gallery, the Jeu de Paume-Site Sully, in the Hôtel de Sully (p143) in the Marais, concentrates on top-notch photography. A joint ticket to both galleries costs €8/4 adult/concession.

The **Musée de l'Orangerie** (Orangery Museum; Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 44 77 80 07; www.musee-orangerie.fr; Jardin des Tuileries, 1er; **M** Concorde; adult/senior, student & 13-18yr €6.50/4.50, admission free 1st Sun of month; ☎ 12.30-7pm Wed, Thu & Sat-Mon, 12.30-9pm Fri), in the southwestern corner of the Jardin des Tuileries, is, with the Jeu de Paume, all that remains of the once palatial Palais des Tuileries, which was razed during the Paris Commune in 1871. It exhibits important Impressionist works, including a series of Monet's *Decorations des Nymphéas* (Water Lilies) in two huge oval rooms purpose-built in 1927 on the artist's instructions, as well as works by Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, Renoir, Sisley, Soutine and Utrillo.

PLACE VENDÔME

The octagonal **place Vendôme** (Map pp118-19; **M** Tuileries or Opéra) and the arcaded and colonnaded buildings around it were constructed between 1687 and 1721. In March 1796 Napoleon married Josephine, Viscountess Beauharnais, in the building at No 3. Today, the buildings surrounding the square house the posh **Hôtel Ritz Paris** and some of the city's most fashionable boutiques. The 43.5m-tall **Colonne Vendôme** (Vendôme Column) in the centre of the square consists of a stone core wrapped in a 160m-long bronze spiral made from hundreds of Austrian and Russian cannons captured by Napoleon at the Battle of Austerlitz in 1805. The statue on top depicts Napoleon in classical Roman dress.

PALAIS ROYAL

To the north of place du Palais Royal and the Louvre lies the **Palais Royal** (Royal Palace; Map pp120-1; place du Palais Royal, 1er; **M** Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre), which briefly housed a young Louis XIV in the 1640s. Construction was begun in 1624 by Cardinal Richelieu, though most of the present neoclassical complex dates from the latter part of the 18th century. It now contains the governmental **Conseil d'État** (State Council) and is closed to the public.

The colonnaded building facing place André Malraux is the **Comédie Française** (p194), which was founded in 1680 and is the world's oldest national theatre.

Just north of the palace is the **Jardin du Palais Royal** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 47 03 92 16; 6 rue de Montpensier, 1er; ☎ 7.30am-10pm Apr & May, 7am-11pm Jun-Aug, 7am-9.30pm Sep, 7.30am-8.30pm Oct-Mar), a lovely park surrounded by 19th-century shopping arcades, including **Galerie de Valois** on the eastern side and **Galerie de Montpensier** to the west. Don't miss the zany, crownlike Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre **metro entrance** on the place du Palais Royal.

CENTRE POMPIDOU

Also known as the Centre Beaubourg, the **Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou** (Georges Pompidou National Centre of Art & Culture; Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 44 78 12 33; www.centrepompidou.fr; place Georges Pompidou, 4e; **M** Rambuteau) has amazed and delighted visitors since it was inaugurated in 1977, not just for its outstanding collection of modern art, but also for its radical architectural statement.

The **Forum du Centre Pompidou** (admission free; ☎ 11am-10pm Wed-Mon), the open space at ground level, has temporary exhibitions and information desks. The 4th and 5th floors of the centre house the **Musée National d'Art Moderne** (MNAM, National Museum of Modern Art; Map pp126-7; adult €10-12, senior & 18-25yr €8-10, admission free under 18yr, 6-9pm Wed for 18-25yr, 1st Sun of month for all; ☎ 11am-9pm Wed-Mon), France's national collection of art dating from 1905 onwards. About a third of the 50,000-plus works, including the work of the surrealists and cubists, as well as pop art and contemporary works, are on display.

The huge **Bibliothèque Publique d'Information** (BPI; ☎ 01 44 78 12 33; www.bpi.fr, in French; ☎ noon-10pm Mon & Wed-Fri, 11am-10pm Sat & Sun), which is entered from rue du Renard, takes up part of the 1st as well as the entire 2nd and 3rd floors of the centre. The 6th floor has two galleries for **temporary exhibitions**, the admission to which is usually included in the higher entrance fee. There are **cinemas** (adult/senior & 18-25yr €6/4) and other entertainment venues on the 1st floor and in the basement.

The **Atelier Brancusi** (Map pp126-7; 55 rue Rambuteau, 4e; admission free; ☎ 2-6pm Wed-Mon), west of the main building, contains some 160 examples of the work of Romanian-born sculptor Constantin Brancusi (1876-1957), as well as some of Brancusi's drawings, paintings and glass photographic plates.

West of the centre, place Georges Pompidou and the nearby pedestrian streets attract buskers, musicians, jugglers and mime artists, and

MUSEUMS: AN OPEN & SHUT CASE

Most museums in Paris close on Monday although more than a dozen (including the Louvre, Centre Pompidou, Musée Picasso and Musée National du Moyen Âge) are shut on Tuesday instead. It's important to remember that *all* museums and monuments in Paris shut their doors between 30 minutes and an hour before their actual closing times, which are the ones listed in this chapter. Therefore if we say a museum or monument closes at 6pm, don't count on getting in much later than 5.30pm, or even 5pm in some cases.

can be a lot of fun. South of the centre on place Igor Stravinsky, the fanciful mechanical fountains (Map pp126–7) of skeletons, hearts, treble clefs and a big pair of ruby-red lips are a delight.

FORUM DES HALLES

Les Halles, the city's main wholesale food market, occupied the area just south of the Église St-Eustache from the early 12th century until 1969, when it was moved to the southern suburb of Rungis. In its place, the unspeakably ugly **Forum des Halles** (Map pp126–7; ☎ 01 44 76 96 56; www.forum-des-halles.com; 1 rue Pierre Lescot, 1er; **M** Les Halles or Châtelet Les Halles; ☞ shops 10am–7.30pm), a huge underground shopping centre, was constructed in the glass-and-chrome style of the early 1970s. It is now (and finally) undergoing a major makeover, to be completed by 2010.

Atop the Forum des Halles is a popular **rooftop garden**. During the warmer months, street musicians, fire-eaters and other performers display their talents throughout the area, especially at **place du Jean du Bellay**, whose centre is adorned by a multitiered Renaissance fountain, the **Fontaine des Innocents**, erected in 1549. It is named after the Cimetière des Innocents, a cemetery on this site from which two million skeletons were disinterred and transferred to the Catacombes (p151) in the 14e after the Revolution.

ÉGLISE ST-EUSTACHE

One of the most beautiful churches in Paris and consecrated to an early Roman martyr who is the patron saint of hunters, the majestic **Église St-Eustache** (Map pp126–7; ☎ 01 42 36 31 05; www.st-eustache.org, in French; 2 impasse St-Eustache,

1er; **M** Les Halles; ☞ 9.30am–7pm Mon–Fri, 10am–7pm Sat, 9am–7.15pm Sun) is just north of the gardens above the Forum des Halles. Constructed between 1532 and 1637, St-Eustache is primarily Gothic, though a neoclassical facade was added on the western side in the mid-18th century. Inside, there are some exceptional Flamboyant Gothic arches holding up the ceiling of the chancel, although most of the interior ornamentation is Renaissance and even classical. The gargantuan organ above the west entrance, with 101 stops and 8000 pipes, is used for concerts (long a tradition here) and during High Mass on Sunday (11am and 6.30pm). There's an audioguide (€3 suggested donation) available.

Marais & Bastille

The Marais, the area of the Right Bank north of Île St-Louis in the 3e and 4e, was exactly what its name implies – ‘marsh’ or ‘swamp’ – until the 13th century, when it was converted to farmland. In the early 17th century, Henri IV built the place Royale (today's place des Vosges), turning the area into Paris' most fashionable residential district and attracting wealthy aristocrats who then erected their own luxurious *hôtels particuliers*. Today many of them are house museums and government institutions.

When the aristocracy moved from Paris to Versailles and Faubourg St-Germain during the late 17th and 18th centuries, the Marais and its townhouses passed into the hands of ordinary Parisians. The 110-hectare area was given a major facelift in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The Marais has become a much desired address in recent years, while remaining the centre of Paris' gay life and home to a long-established Jewish neighbourhood called the Pletzl.

Today, the Marais is one of the few neighbourhoods of Paris that still has most of its pre-Revolution architecture. Examples include the oldest house in Paris, the 13th-century house (Map pp120–1) at 3 rue Volta in the 3e, parts of which date back to 1292; the 15th-century house (Map pp126–7) at 51 rue de Montmorency in the 3e (dating back to 1407), which is now a restaurant, Auberge Nicolas Flamel (p178); and the 16th-century half-timbered houses (Map pp126–7) at 11 and 13 rue François Miron in the 4e.

After years as a run-down immigrant neighbourhood notorious for its high crime

rate, the contiguous Bastille district (11e and 12e) has undergone a fair degree of gentrification, largely due to the opening of the Opéra Bastille (p144) almost two decades ago. Though the area is not the hip nightlife centre it was through most of the 1990s, it still has quite a bit to offer after dark, with numerous pubs, bars and clubs lining rue de Lappe and rue de la Roquette.

HÔTEL DE VILLE

After having been gutted during the Paris Commune of 1871, Paris' **Hôtel de Ville** (City Hall; Map pp126-7; ☎ 39 75; www.paris.fr; place de l'Hôtel de Ville, 4e; 📍 Hôtel de Ville) was rebuilt in the neo-Renaissance style (1874-82). The ornate facade is decorated with 108 statues of noteworthy Parisians. There's a **Salon d'Accueil** (Reception Hall; 29 rue de Rivoli, 4e; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat), which dispenses copious amounts of information and brochures and is used for temporary exhibitions, usually with a Paris theme.

PLACE DES VOSGES

Inaugurated in 1612 as place Royale, **Place des Vosges** (Map pp132-3; 📍 St-Paul or Bastille) is an ensemble of three dozen symmetrical houses with ground-floor arcades, steep slate roofs and large dormer windows arranged around a large square. Only the earliest houses were built of brick; to save time and money, the rest were given timber frames and faced with plaster, which was then painted to resemble brick.

The author Victor Hugo lived at the square's Hôtel de Rohan-Guéméné from 1832 to 1848, moving here a year after the publication of *Notre Dame de Paris* (The Hunchback of Notre Dame). The **Maison de Victor Hugo** (Victor Hugo House; Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 72 10 16; www.musee-hugo.paris.fr, in French; permanent collections admission free, temporary exhibitions adult/14-26yr/senior & student/under 14yr €7.50/5.50/3.50/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) is now a municipal museum devoted to the life and times of the celebrated novelist and poet, with an impressive collection of his own drawings and portraits.

HÔTEL DE SULLY

Dating from the early 17th century, the aristocratic mansion called **Hôtel de Sully** (Map pp132-3; 62 rue St-Antoine, 4e; 📍 St-Paul) today houses the headquarters of the **Centre des Monuments Nationaux** (☎ 01 44 61 20 00; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; ☎ 9am-12.45pm & 2-6pm Mon-Thu, to 5pm Fri), the body responsible for many of France's historical

monuments; there are lots of brochures and information available. Here you'll also find the **Jeu de Paume-Site Sully** (☎ 01 42 74 47 75; www.jeudepaume.org; adult/senior, student & 13-18yr €5/2.50; ☎ noon-7pm Tue-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat & Sun), a branch of the more famous Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume (p140), with excellent rotating photographic exhibitions. Visiting both galleries costs €8/4. The Hôtel de Sully's two Renaissance-style courtyards alone are worth the trip here.

MUSÉE CARNAVALET

Also called the Musée de l'Histoire de Paris (Paris History Museum), the **Musée Carnavalet** (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 44 59 58 58; www.carnavalet.paris.fr, in French; 23 rue de Sévigné, 3e; 📍 St-Paul or Chemin Vert; permanent collections admission free, temporary exhibitions adult/senior & student/14-26yr/under 14yr €7/5.50/3.50/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) is housed in two *hôtels particuliers*. It charts the history of Paris from the Gallo-Roman period to modern times. Some of the nation's most important documents, paintings and objects from the French Revolution are here (rooms 101 to 113), as is Fouquet's magnificent art-nouveau jewellery shop from the rue Royale (room 142) and Marcel Proust's cork-lined bedroom from his apartment on bd Haussmann (room 147), in which he wrote most of the 7350-page *À la Recherche du Temps Perdu* (In Search of Lost Time).

MUSÉE PICASSO

One of Paris' best-loved art museums, the **Musée Picasso** (Picasso Museum; Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 71 25 21; www.musee-picasso.fr, in French; 5 rue de Thorigny, 3e; 📍 St-Paul or Chemin Vert; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €7.70/5.70/free, admission free 1st Sun of month; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Wed-Mon Apr-Sep, 9.30am-5.30pm Wed-Mon Oct-Mar), housed in the mid-17th-century Hôtel Salé, includes more than 3500 of the *grand maître's* engravings, paintings, ceramic works, drawings and sculptures. You can also see part of Picasso's personal art collection, which includes works by Braque, Cézanne, Matisse, Modigliani, Degas and Rousseau.

MUSÉE DES ARTS ET MÉTIERS

The oldest museum of science and technology in Europe, the **Musée des Arts et Métiers** (Arts & Crafts Museum; Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 53 01 82 00; www.arts-et-metiers.net, in French; 60 rue de Réaumur, 3e; 📍 Arts et Métiers; permanent collections admission free, temporary exhibitions adult/student & 6-18yr/under 5yr €5.50/3.50/free;

☞ 10am-6pm Tue, Wed & Fri-Sun, to 9.30pm Thu) is a must for anyone with an interest in how things work. Housed in the 18th-century priory of St-Martin des Champs, some 3000 instruments, machines and working models from the 18th to 20th centuries are displayed on three floors. Taking pride of place is Foucault's original pendulum, which he introduced to the world in 1855.

MUSÉE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE DU JUDAÏSME

Housed in the sumptuous, 17th-century Hôtel de St-Aignan, the **Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme** (Art & History of Judaism Museum; Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 53 01 86 60; www.mahj.org; 71 rue du Temple, 3e; 🕒 Rambuteau; adult/student & 18-26yr/under 18yr €6.80/4.50/free; ☞ 11am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm Sun) traces the evolution of Jewish communities from the Middle Ages to the present, with particular emphasis on the history of the Jews in France but also communities in other parts of Europe and North Africa. Exhibits include documents relating to the Dreyfus Affair (1894-1900) and works by Paris-based Jewish artists Chagall, Modigliani and Soutine. Temporary exhibitions cost an extra €5.50/4 and a combined ticket is €8.50/6.

MÉMORIAL DE LA SHOAH

Established in 1956, the Memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr has metamorphosed into the **Mémorial de la Shoah** (Shoah Memorial; Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 77 44 72; www.memorialdelashoah.org; 17 rue Geoffroy l'Asnier, 4e; 🕒 St-Paul; admission free; ☞ 10am-6pm Sun-Wed & Fri, 10am-10pm Thu) and documentation centre. The permanent collection and temporary exhibitions relate to the Holocaust and the German occupation of parts of France and Paris during WWII; the film clips of contemporary footage and interviews are heart-rending and the displays instructive and easy to follow. The actual memorial to the victims of the Shoah, a Hebrew word meaning 'catastrophe' and synonymous with the Holocaust, stands at the entrance, and there is a wall inscribed with the names of 76,000 men, women and children deported from France to Nazi extermination camps.

MAISON EUROPÉENNE DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

Housed in the overly renovated Hôtel Hénault de Cantorbe, dating from the early 18th century, the **Maison Européenne de la Photographie** (European House of Photography; Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 44 78 75 00; www

.mep-fr.org, in French; 5-7 rue de Fourcy, 4e; 🕒 St-Paul or Pont Marie; adult/senior & 8-25yr/under 8yr €6/3/free, admission free 5-7.45pm Wed; ☞ 11am-7.45pm Wed-Sun) has cutting-edge temporary exhibitions (usually retrospectives of single photographers) and a huge permanent collection on the history of photography and its connections with France. There are frequent showings of short films and documentaries on weekend afternoons.

PARIS HISTORIQUE

If you're interested in medieval Paris, **Paris Historique** (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 48 87 74 31; www.paris-historique.org, in French; 44-46 rue François Miron, 4e; 🕒 St-Paul; admission free; ☞ 11am-8pm Mon-Sat, 2-7pm Sun), the information centre for the Association for the Conservation and Appreciation of Historic Paris, should be on your tick list. It provides information, has a research library, organises exhibitions and leads guided tours (adult/student and child €9/4) of the area at 2pm or 2.30pm Monday to Saturday.

PLACE DE LA BASTILLE

The Bastille, built during the 14th century as a fortified royal residence, is probably the most famous monument in Paris that no longer exists; the notorious prison – the quintessential symbol of royal despotism – was demolished by a Revolutionary mob on 14 July 1789 and all seven prisoners were freed. **Place de la Bastille** (Map pp132-3; 🕒 Bastille) in the 11e and 12e, where the prison once stood, is now a very busy traffic roundabout.

In the centre of the square is the 52m-high **Colonne de Juillet** (July Column), whose shaft of greenish bronze is topped by a gilded and winged figure of Liberty. It was erected in 1833 as a memorial to those killed in the street battles that accompanied the July Revolution of 1830; they are buried in vaults under the column. It was later consecrated as a memorial to the victims of the February Revolution of 1848.

OPÉRA BASTILLE

Paris' giant 'second' opera house, the **Opéra Bastille** (Map pp132-3; ☎ 0892899090; www.opera-de-paris.fr, in French; 2-6 place de la Bastille, 12e; 🕒 Bastille), designed by the Canadian architect Carlos Ott, was inaugurated on 14 July 1989, the 200th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille. It has three theatres, including the 2700-seat main auditorium. There are 1¼-hour **guided tours** (☎ 01 40 01 19 70; adult/senior, student & 11-25 yr/under 11 yr €11/9/6), which usually depart at

CARA BLACK interviewed by Steve Fallon

Cara Black is the author of a best-selling murder-by-arrondissement series set in Paris and featuring the intrepid, half-French, half-American sleuth Aimée Leduc.

A Francophile from California... How does that work? Francophilia goes way back. I had French nuns in school, my uncle studied under Georges Braque on the GI Bill after the war, and in 1971, while travelling through Paris, I went to rue du Bac and knocked on the door of my favourite writer, (two-time Prix Goncourt winner) Romain Gary. He invited me to his café for an espresso and a cigar. We both had both.

Ah, smoke – but fire? All this murder and darkness in the City of Light? That all came about much later, in 1993. I was walking around the place des Vosges and remembered a visit to Paris almost a decade before when I stayed with my friend Sarah. She had taken me on a tour of the pregritified Marais and shown me the ancient abandoned building where her Jewish mother had hidden during the war and from where the rest of the family had been deported to Auschwitz. The idea for my first book, *Murder in the Marais*, came to me on the plane going home.

Does your research get down and dirty? I crawl under buildings, explore restrooms in old cafés, visit ghost metro stations, go down into the city sewers and even the tunnels under the Palais Royal. I interview police – I'm one of only two American women writers to have spent time in the Préfecture – and private detectives. Some of them have become friends and I take them to dinner.

Now we're cooking! What's on the menu? Murder most fowl? Steak saignant ('bleeding', or rare)? Anything but the *écrivisse* (freshwater crayfish) that come from the Seine. They feed on corpses. I discovered that while researching *Murder on the Île Saint-Louis*. One restaurant was still selling them.

Why are you always Right and not Left? How about murder in the sexy 6e or the louche Latin Quarter? I don't write about the Paris of tourists, where people wear berets and carry baguettes. I'm not really comfortable on the Left Bank. I feel better where my friends live – the Marais, Belleville, Montmartre. I understand these places better.

I wish I could... Tie a scarf the way French women do.

I wish I hadn't... Buried Baudelaire in Père Lachaise cemetery. He's actually in Montparnasse.

I'll always come back to Paris for... Hot chocolate at Ladurée, bicycle rides along the Canal St-Martin, the old stones of the place des Vosges, and the ghosts. Paris is full of ghosts and they communicate. You only need listen.

Cara Black (www.carablack.com) divides her time between Paris and San Francisco. Her latest novel is Murder in the Rue de Paradis.

1.15pm Monday to Saturday. Tickets go on sale 10 minutes before departure at the **box office** (130 rue de Lyon, 12e; ☎ 10.30am-6.30pm Mon-Sat).

The Islands

Paris' twin set of islands could not be more different. Île de la Cité (Map pp126–7) is bigger, full of sights and very touristed (though very few people actually live here). Île St-Louis (Map pp126–7) is residential and much quieter, with just enough boutiques and restaurants – and a legendary ice-cream maker (p181) – to attract visitors.

ÎLE DE LA CITÉ

The site of the first settlement in Paris, around the 3rd century BC, and later the Roman town of Lutèce (Lutetia), the Île de la Cité

remained the centre of royal and ecclesiastical power even after the city spread to both banks of the Seine during the Middle Ages. The buildings on the middle part of the island were demolished and rebuilt during Baron Haussmann's great urban renewal scheme of the late 19th century.

Notre Dame Cathedral

The **Cathédrale de Notre Dame de Paris** (Cathedral of Our Lady of Paris; Map pp126–7; ☎ 01 42 34 56 10; www.cathedraledeparis.com; place du Parvis Notre Dame, 4e; 📄 Cité; audioguide €5; ☎ 7.45am-6.45pm) is the true heart of Paris; in fact, distances from Paris to all parts of metropolitan France are measured from **place du Parvis Notre Dame**, the square in front of Notre Dame. A bronze star, set in the pavement across from the main entrance,

marks the exact location of **point zéro des routes de France** (point zero of French roads).

Notre Dame, the most visited site in Paris, with 10 million people crossing its threshold each year, is not just a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture but has also been the focus of Catholic Paris for seven centuries. Constructed on a site occupied by earlier churches – and, a millennium before that, a Gallo-Roman temple – it was begun in 1163 and largely completed by the mid-14th century. Architect Eugène Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc carried out extensive renovations in the mid-19th century. The cathedral is on a very grand scale; the interior alone is 130m long, 48m wide and 35m high and can accommodate more than 6000 worshippers.

Notre Dame is known for its sublime balance, although if you look closely you'll see many minor asymmetrical elements introduced to avoid monotony, in accordance with standard Gothic practice. These include the slightly different shapes of each of the three main portals, whose statues were once brightly coloured to make them more effective as a *Biblia pauperum* – a 'Bible of the poor' to help the illiterate understand the Old Testament stories, the Passion of the Christ and the lives of the saints. One of the best views of Notre Dame is from **square Jean XXIII**, the lovely little park behind the cathedral, where you can see the mass of ornate **flying buttresses** that encircle the chancel and support its walls and roof.

Inside, exceptional features include three spectacular **rose windows**, the most renowned of which is the 10m-wide one over the western facade above the 7800-pipe organ, and the window on the northern side of the transept, which has remained virtually unchanged since the 13th century. The central choir, with its carved wooden stalls and statues representing the Passion of the Christ, is also noteworthy. There are free 1½-hour guided tours of the cathedral in English at noon on Wednesday and Thursday and at 2.30pm on Saturday.

The **trésor** (treasury; adult/3-12yr/student €3/1/2; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat, 1-6pm Sun), in the south-eastern transept, contains artwork, liturgical objects, church plate and first-class relics – some of them of questionable origin. Among these is the Ste-Couronne, the 'Holy Crown' – purportedly the wreath of thorns placed on Jesus' head before he was crucified – which was brought here in the mid-13th century. It is exhibited between 3pm and 4pm on

the first Friday of each month, 3pm to 4pm every Friday during Lent and 10am to 5pm on Good Friday.

The entrance to the **tours de Notre Dame** (Notre Dame towers; ☎ 01 53 10 07 02; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; rue du Cloître Notre Dame; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €7.50/4.80/free, admission free 1st Sun of the month Oct-Mar; ☎ 10am-6.30pm daily Apr-Jun & Sep, 9am-7.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-11pm Sat & Sun Jul & Aug, 10am-5.30pm daily Oct-Mar), which can be climbed, is from the **North Tower**, to the right and around the corner as you walk out of the cathedral's main doorway. The 422 spiralling steps bring you to the top of the west facade, where you'll find yourself face to face with many of the cathedral's most frightening gargoyles, the 13-tonne bell Emmanuel (all the cathedral's bells are named) in the **South Tower**, and a spectacular view of Paris.

Ste-Chapelle

The most exquisite of Paris' Gothic monuments, **Ste-Chapelle** (Holy Chapel; Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 53 40 60 97; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; 4 bd du Palais, 1er; ☒ Cité; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €6.50/4.50/free, admission free 1st Sun of month Oct-Mar; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb) is tucked away within the walls of the **Palais de Justice** (Law Courts). The 'walls' of the **upper chapel** are sheer curtains of richly coloured and finely detailed **stained glass**, which bathe the chapel in extraordinary coloured light on a sunny day. Built in just under three years (compared with nearly 200 years for Notre Dame), Ste-Chapelle was consecrated in 1248. The chapel was conceived by Louis IX to house his personal collection of holy relics (now kept in the treasury of Notre Dame).

A joint ticket with the Conciergerie (below) costs adult/18 to 25 years €11.50/9.

Conciergerie

Built as a royal palace in the 14th century for the concierge of the Palais de la Cité, the **Conciergerie** (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 53 40 60 97; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; 2 bd du Palais, 1er; ☒ Cité; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €8/6/free, admission free 1st Sun of month Oct-Mar; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb) was the main prison during the Reign of Terror (1793-94) and was used to incarcerate alleged enemies of the Revolution before they were brought before the Revolutionary Tribunal in the Palais de Justice next door. Among the 2700 prisoners held in the *cachots* (dungeons) here before being sent in tumbrils to the guillotine were Queen Marie-Antoinette (see a reproduction of her cell) and, as the Revolution

began to turn on its own, the radicals Danton, Robespierre and, finally, the judges of the Tribunal themselves.

The Gothic 14th-century **Salle des Gens d'Armes** (Cavalrymen's Hall) is a fine example of the Rayonnant Gothic style. It is the largest surviving medieval hall in Europe. The **Tour de l'Horloge** (clock tower; cnr bd du Palais & quai de l'Horloge) has held a public clock aloft since 1370.

A joint ticket with Ste-Chapelle (p145) costs adult/18 to 25 years €11.50/9.

Pont Neuf

The sparkling-white stone spans of Paris' oldest bridge, **Pont Neuf** (Map pp126-7; **M** Pont Neuf) – literally 'New Bridge' – have linked the western end of the Île de la Cité with both banks of the Seine since 1607, when King Henri IV inaugurated it by crossing the bridge on a white stallion. The seven arches, best seen from the river, are decorated with humorous and grotesque figures of barbers, dentists, pickpockets, loiterers etc.

ÎLE ST-LOUIS

The smaller of the Seine's two islands, Île St-Louis is just downstream from the Île de la Cité. In the early 17th century, when it was actually two uninhabited islets called Île Notre Dame (Our Lady Isle) and Île aux Vaches (Cows Island), a building contractor and two financiers worked out a deal with Louis XIII to create one island out of the two and build two stone bridges to the mainland. In exchange they would receive the right to subdivide and sell the newly created real estate. This they did with great success, and by 1664 the entire island was covered with fine new and airy houses facing the quays and the river.

Today, the island's 17th-century, grey-stone houses and the shops that line the streets and quays impart a village-like, provincial calm. The only sight as such, the French baroque **Église St-Louis en l'Île** (Map pp126-7; 19bis rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; **M** Pont Marie; ☞ 9am-noon & 3-7pm Tue-Sun), was built between 1664 and 1726.

Latin Quarter & Jardin des Plantes

The centre of Parisian higher education since the Middle Ages, the Latin Quarter is so called because conversation between students and professors until the Revolution was in Latin. It still has a large population of students and academics affiliated with the Sorbonne (now part of the University of Paris system), the Collège

de France, the École Normale Supérieure and other institutions of higher learning, though its near monopoly on Parisian academic life is not what it was. To the southeast, the Jardin des Plantes, with its tropical greenhouses and Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, offers a bucolic alternative to the chalkboards and cobblestones.

MUSÉE NATIONAL DU MOYEN ÂGE

The **Musée National du Moyen Âge** (National Museum of the Middle Ages; Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 53 73 78 00; www.musee-moyenage.fr; 6 place Paul Painlevé, 5e; **M** Cluny-La Sorbonne or St-Michel; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €7.50/5.50/free, admission free 1st Sun of month; ☞ 9.15am-5.45pm Wed-Mon) is housed in two structures: the **frigidarium** (cooling room) and other remains of Gallo-Roman baths dating from around AD 200, and the late-15th-century **Hôtel de Cluny**, considered the finest example of medieval civil architecture in Paris.

The spectacular displays at the museum include statuary, illuminated manuscripts, weapons, furnishings, and objets d'art made of gold, ivory and enamel. But nothing compares with *La Dame à la Licorne* (The Lady with the Unicorn), a sublime series of late-15th-century tapestries from the southern Netherlands now hung in circular room 13 on the 1st floor. Five of them are devoted to the senses, while the sixth is the enigmatic *À Mon Seul Désir* (To My Sole Desire), a reflection on vanity.

SORBONNE

Paris' most renowned seat of learning, the **Sorbonne** (Map pp130-1; 12 rue de la Sorbonne, 5e; **M** Luxembourg or Cluny-La Sorbonne) was founded in 1253 by Robert de Sorbon, confessor to Louis IX, as a college for 16 impoverished theology students. Today, the Sorbonne's main complex (bounded by rue de la Sorbonne, rue des Écoles, rue St-Jacques and rue Cujas) and other buildings in the vicinity house most of the 13 autonomous universities that were created when the University of Paris was reorganised after violent student protests in 1968. Parts of the complex are undergoing extensive renovation, scheduled to be completed in 2015.

PANTHÉON

The domed landmark now known simply as the **Panthéon** (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 44 32 18 00; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; place du Panthéon, 5e; **M** Luxembourg; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €7.50/4.80/free, admission free 1st

PARIS BREATHE

Now a well-established operation, 'Paris Respire' (Paris Breathes) kicks motorised traffic off certain streets at certain times to let pedestrians, cyclists, in-line skaters and other nonmotorised cruisers take over and, well, breathe. While it drives its usual traffic jams and pollution to other spots in the city instead, it makes Sundays very pedal-pleasurable.

The following tracks are off limits to cars on Sunday and public holidays. For updates on exact routes and detailed maps see www.velo.paris.fr.

- **By the Seine** From quai des Tuileries, 1e, to Pont Charles de Gaulle, 12e, on the Right Bank; and on the Left Bank from the eastern end of quai Branly near Pont d'Alma, 7e, to quai Anatole France, 7e (from 9am to 5pm Sundays).
- **Latin Quarter, 5e** Rue de Cluny and from place Marcelin Berthelot by the Sorbonne to the rue Mouffetard market via rue de Lanneau, rue de l'École Polytechnique and rue des Descartes (from 10am-6pm Sundays).
- **Bastille, 11e** Rue de la Roquette and surrounding streets (from 10am to 6pm Sundays in July and August).
- **Montmartre & Pigalle** All the streets in Montmartre, 18e, encircled by rue Caulaincourt, rue de Clignancourt, bd de Rochechouart and bd de Clichy (from 11am to 7pm April to August, from 11am to 6pm September to March), as well as rue des Martyrs, 9e (from 10am to 1pm Sundays).
- **Canal St-Martin, 10e** The area around quai de Valmy and quai de Jemmapes, 10e (from 10am to 6pm Sundays in winter, to 8pm in summer); in July and August yet more streets running south from quai de Jemmapes become car-free.
- **Bois de Boulogne** (from 9am to 6pm Saturdays and Sundays) and **Bois de Vincennes** (from 9am to 6pm Sundays).
- **Jardin du Luxembourg, 6e** Immediate surrounding streets, including parts of rue Auguste Comte, rue d'Assas, bd St-Michel and rue des Chartreux (from 10am to 6pm Sundays March to November).

Sun of month Oct-Mar; ☎ 10am-6.30pm Apr-Sep, to 6.15pm Oct-Mar) was commissioned around 1750 as an abbey church dedicated to Ste Geneviève, but because of financial and structural problems it wasn't completed until 1789 – not a good year for churches to open in France. Two years later, the Constituent Assembly converted it into a secular mausoleum for the *grands hommes de l'époque de la liberté française* (great men of the era of French liberty).

The Panthéon is a superb example of 18th-century neoclassicism, but its ornate marble interior is gloomy in the extreme. The 80-odd permanent residents of the crypt include Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Victor Hugo, Émile Zola, Jean Moulin and Nobel Prize winner Marie Curie, whose remains were moved here in 1995 – the first woman to be interred here.

JARDIN DES PLANTES

Paris' 24-hectare **Jardin des Plantes** (Botanical Garden; Map pp130-1 & Map pp134-5; ☎ 01 40 79 56 01, 01 40 79 54

79; 57 rue Cuvier & 3 quai St-Bernard, 5e; M Gare d'Austerlitz, Censier Daubenton or Jussieu; ☎ 8am-5.30pm, to 8pm in summer) was founded in 1626 as a medicinal herb garden for Louis XIII. Here you'll find the Eden-like **Jardin d'Hiver** (Winter Garden; Map pp130-1), which is also called the **Serres Tropicales** (Tropical Greenhouses), renovated in 2008; the **Jardin Alpin** (Alpine Garden; Map pp130-1; weekend admission adult/4-15yr/under 4yr €1/0.50/free; ☎ 8am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 1-5pm Sat & Sun Apr-Oct), with 2000 mountain plants; and the gardens of the **École de Botanique** (Map pp130-1; admission free; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri), which is where students of the School of Botany 'practise'.

The **Ménagerie du Jardin des Plantes** (Botanical Garden Zoo; adult/4-15yr/under 4yr €7/5/free; ☎ 9am-5pm), a medium-size (5.5-hectare, 1000 animals) zoo in the northern section of the garden, was founded in 1794. During the Prussian siege of Paris in 1870, most of the animals were eaten by starving Parisians.

A two-day combined ticket covering all the Jardin des Plantes sights, including all

the sections of the Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, costs €20/15.

MUSÉE NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

Created by a decree of the Revolutionary Convention in 1793, the **Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle** (National Museum of Natural History; Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 40 79 30 00; www.mnhn.fr, in French; 57 rue Cuvier, 5e; M Censier Daubenton or Gare d'Austerlitz) was the site of important scientific research during the 19th century. It is housed in several different buildings along the southern edge of the Jardin des Plantes.

A highlight for kids, the museum's **Grande Galerie de l'Évolution** (Great Gallery of Evolution; 36 rue Geoffroy St-Hilaire, 5e; adult/4-13yr/under 4yr €8/6/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon) has some imaginative exhibits on evolution and humankind's effect on the global ecosystem, spread over four floors and 6000 sq metres of space. Rare specimens of endangered and extinct species dominate the **Salle des Espèces Menacées et des Espèces Disparues** (Hall of Threatened and Extinct Species) on level 2, while the **Salle de Découverte** (Room of Discovery) on level 1 houses interactive exhibits for kids.

To the south, the **Galerie de Minéralogie et de Géologie** (Mineralogy & Geology Gallery; 36 rue Geoffroy St-Hilaire; adult/4-13yr/under 4yr €7/5/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Mon) has an amazing exhibition of giant natural crystals and a basement display of jewellery and other objects made from minerals. Displays on comparative anatomy and palaeontology (the study of fossils) fill the **Salle d'Anatomie Comparée et de Paléontologie** (Map pp134-5; 2 rue Buffon; adult/4-13yr/under 4yr €6/4/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Mon).

INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE

Set up by France and 20 Arab countries to promote cultural contacts between the Arab world and the West, the **Institut du Monde Arabe** (Institute of the Arab World; Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 40 51 38 38; www.imarabe.org, in French; 1 place Mohammed V, 5e; M Cardinal Lemoine or Jussieu) is housed in a critically praised building (1987) that successfully mixes modern and traditional Arab and Western elements.

The **museum** (adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €5/4/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun), spread over three floors and entered via the 7th floor, displays 9th- to 19th-century art and artisanship from all over the Arab world, as well as instruments from astronomy and other fields of scientific endeavour in which Arab technology once

led the world. Temporary exhibitions (enter from quai Saint Bernard) charge a separate fee; combined tickets are usually available for around €13/11.

MOSQUÉE DE PARIS

With its striking 26m-high minaret, the central **Mosquée de Paris** (Paris Mosque; Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 45 35 97 33; www.mosquee-de-paris.org; 2bis place du Puits de l'Ermitte, 5e; M Censier Daubenton or Place Monge; adult/senior & 7-25yr/under 7yr €3/2/free; ☎ 9am-noon & 2-6pm Sat-Thu) was built in 1926 in the ornate Moorish style. Visitors must be modestly dressed and remove their shoes at the entrance to the prayer hall. The complex includes a North African-style **salon de thé** (tearoom) and restaurant (p182) and a **hammam** (☎ 01 43 31 38 20; admission €15; ☎ men 2-9pm Tue & 10am-9pm Sun, women 10am-9pm Mon, Wed, Thu & Sat, 2-9pm Fri), a traditional Turkish-style bathhouse.

St-Germain, Odéon & Luxembourg

Centuries ago the Église St-Germain des Prés and its affiliated abbey owned most of today's 6e and 7e. The neighbourhood around the church began to develop in the late 17th century, and these days it is celebrated for its heterogeneity. Cafés such as Café de Flore and Les Deux Magots (p189) were favourite hang-outs of postwar Left Bank intellectuals and the birthplaces of existentialism.

ÉGLISE ST-GERMAIN DES PRÉS

Paris' oldest church, the Romanesque **Église St-Germain des Prés** (Church of St Germanus of the Fields; Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 55 42 81 33; 3 place St-Germain des Prés, 6e; M St-Germain des Prés; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Sat, 9am-8pm Sun) was built in the 11th century on the site of a 6th-century abbey and was the dominant church in Paris until the arrival of Notre Dame.

It has since been altered many times, but the **Chapelle de St-Symphorien**, to the right as you enter, was part of the original abbey and is the final resting place of St Germanus (AD 496-576), the first bishop of Paris. The bell tower over the western entrance has changed little since 990, although the spire only dates from the 19th century.

ÉGLISE ST-SULPICE

Lined with 21 side chapels inside, the Italianate **Église St-Sulpice** (Church of St Sulpicius; Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 46 33 21 78; place St-Sulpice, 6e; M St-Sulpice; ☎ 7.30am-7.30pm) was built between 1646 and

1780. The facade, designed by a Florentine architect, has two rows of superimposed columns and is topped by two towers. The neo-classical decor of the vast interior is influenced by the Counter-Reformation.

The frescos in the **Chapelle des Sts-Anges** (Chapel of the Holy Angels), first to the right as you enter, depict Jacob wrestling with the angel (to the left) and Michael the Archangel doing battle with Satan (to the right) and were painted by Eugène Delacroix between 1855 and 1861.

The monumental 20m-tall organ loft dates from 1781. Listen to it in its full glory during 10.30am Mass on Sunday or the occasional Sunday afternoon organ concert, usually starting at 4pm.

JARDIN DU LUXEMBOURG

When the weather is fine, Parisians of all ages come flocking to the formal terraces and chestnut groves of the 23-hectare **Jardin du Luxembourg** (Luxembourg Garden; Map pp130-1; M Luxembourg; ☎ 7.30am to 8.15am–5pm to 10pm according to the season) to read, relax and sunbathe. There are a number of activities for children here, and in the southern part of the garden you'll find urban **orchards** as well as the honey-producing **Rucher du Luxembourg** (Luxembourg Apiary).

The **Palais du Luxembourg** (Luxembourg Palace; rue de Vaugirard, 6e), at the northern end of the garden, was built for Marie de Médicis, Henri IV's consort; it has housed the **Sénat** (Senate), the upper house of the French parliament, since 1958. There are **guided tours** (☎ reservations 01 44 54 19 49; www.senat.fr; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €8/6/free) of the interior, usually at 10.30am one Saturday a month, but you must book by the preceding Tuesday.

The **Musée du Luxembourg** (Luxembourg Museum; ☎ 01 42 34 25 95; www.museeduluxembourg.fr; 19 rue de Vaugirard, 6e; M Luxembourg or St-Sulpice; adult/10-25yr/under 10yr €11/9/free; ☎ 10.30am-10pm Mon & Fri, 10.30am-7pm Tue-Thu & Sat, 9am-7pm Sun) opened at the end of the 19th century in the orangery of the Palais du Luxembourg as an exhibition space for living artists. It hosts prestigious temporary art exhibitions; admission prices vary depending on the exhibit.

Montparnasse

After WWI, writers, poets and artists of the avant-garde abandoned Montmartre on the Right Bank and crossed the Seine,

shifting the centre of artistic ferment to the area around bd du Montparnasse. Chagall, Modigliani, Léger, Soutine, Miró, Kandinsky, Picasso, Stravinsky, Hemingway, Ezra Pound and Cocteau, as well as such political exiles as Lenin and Trotsky, all used to hang out in the cafés and brasseries for which the quarter became famous. Montparnasse remained a creative centre until the mid-1930s. Today, especially since the construction of the Gare Montparnasse complex, there is little to remind visitors of the area's bohemian past except the now very touristed restaurants and cafés.

TOUR MONTPARNASSE

A steel-and-smoked-glass eyesore built in 1974, the 210m-high **Tour Montparnasse** (Montparnasse Tower; Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 45 38 52 56; www.tourmontparnasse56.com; rue de l'Arrivée, 15e; M Montparnasse Bienvenue; adult/student & 16-20yr/7-15yr/under 7yr €9.50/6.80/4/free; ☎ 9.30am-11.30pm daily Apr-Sep, 9.30am-10.30pm Sun-Thu, 9.30am-11pm Fri & Sat Oct-Mar) affords spectacular views over the city – a view, we might add, that does not take in this ghastly oversized lipstick tube. A lift takes you up to the 56th-floor enclosed **observatory**, with exhibition centre, video clips, multimedia terminals and Paris' highest café. You can finish your visit with a hike up the stairs to the **open-air terrace** on the 59th floor, but arm yourself with the multilingual guide *Paris Vu d'En Haut* (Paris Seen from the Top; €3), available from the ticket office, to know what you're looking at.

CIMETIÈRE DU MONTPARNASSE

The **Cimetière du Montparnasse** (Montparnasse Cemetery; Map pp124-5; bd Edgar Quinet & rue Froidevaux, 14e; M Edgar Quinet or Raspail; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-6pm Sat, 9am-6pm Sun mid-Mar–early Nov, 8am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5.30pm Sat, 9am-5.30pm Sun early Nov–mid-Mar) received its first 'lodger' in 1824. It contains the tombs of such illustrious personages as the poet Charles Baudelaire, writer Guy de Maupassant, playwright Samuel Beckett, sculptor Constantin Brancusi, painter Chaim Soutine, photographer Man Ray, industrialist André Citroën, Captain Alfred Dreyfus of the infamous Dreyfus Affair, actor Jean Seberg, philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, writer Simone de Beauvoir and the crooner Serge Gainsbourg. Maps showing the location of the tombs are available free from the **conservation office** (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 44 10 86 50; 3 bd Edgar Quinet, 14e).

CATACOMBES

In 1785 it was decided to solve the hygiene and aesthetic problems posed by Paris' overflowing cemeteries by exhuming the bones and storing them in the tunnels of three disused quarries. One ossuary created in 1810 is now known as the **Catacombes** (☎ 01 43 22 47 63; Map pp114-15; www.catacombes.paris.fr, in French; 1 av Colonel Henri Roi-Tanguy, 14e; 🚶 M Denfert Rochereau; adult/14-26yr/under 14yr €7/3.50/free; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue-Sun), which can be visited. After descending 20m (130 steps) from street level, visitors follow 1.7km of underground corridors in which the bones and skulls of millions of former Parisians are neatly stacked along the walls. During WWII these tunnels were used as a headquarters by the Resistance; so-called *cataphiles* looking for cheap thrills are often caught roaming the tunnels at night (there's a fine of €60).

The route through the Catacombes begins at a small, dark-green belle-époque-style building in the centre of a grassy area of av Colonel Henri Roi-Tanguy. The exit is at the top of 83 steps on rue Remy Dumoncelet (🚶 M Mouton Duvernet), 700m to the southwest.

Faubourg St-Germain & Invalides

Paris' most fashionable neighbourhood during the 18th century was Faubourg St-Germain in the 7e, the area between the Seine and rue de Babylone 1km south. Some of the most interesting mansions, many of which now serve as embassies, cultural centres and government ministries, are along three streets running east to west: rue de Lille, rue de Grenelle and rue de Varenne. The **Hôtel Matignon** (Map pp124-5; 57 rue de Varenne, 7e) has been the official residence of the French prime minister since the start of the Fifth Republic in 1958. Here you'll find the richly endowed Musée d'Orsay, home to France's large collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist art, and the Hôtel des Invalides, containing, among other things, the earthly remains of Napoleon Bonaparte.

MUSÉE D'ORSAY

Facing the Seine from quai Anatole France, the **Musée d'Orsay** (Orsay Museum; Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 40 49 48 14; www.musee-orsay.fr; 62 rue de Lille, 7e; 🚶 M Musée d'Orsay or Solférino; adult/18-30yr/under 18yr €8/5.50/free, admission free 1st Sun of the month; 🕒 9.30am-6pm Tue, Wed & Fri-Sun, 9.30am-9.45pm Thu) is housed in a former train station (1900). It displays France's national collection of paintings, sculptures, objects d'art and other works produced between

the 1840s and 1914, including the fruits of the Impressionist, post-Impressionist and art-nouveau movements.

Many visitors to the museum go straight to the upper level (lit by a skylight) to see the famous **Impressionist paintings** by Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Sisley, Degas and Manet and the **post-Impressionist works** by Cézanne, van Gogh, Seurat and Matisse, but there's also lots to see on the ground floor, including some early works by Manet, Monet, Renoir and Pissarro. The middle level has some superb **art-nouveau rooms**.

English-language tours (☎ information 01 40 49 48 48; admission fee plus €7.50/5.70), lasting 1½ hours, include the 'Masterpieces of the Musée d'Orsay' tour, departing at 11.30am Tuesday to Saturday. The 1½-hour **audioguide tour** (€5), available in six languages, points out around 80 major works. Tickets are valid all day, so you can leave and re-enter the museum as you please. The reduced entrance fee of €5.50 applies to everyone after 4.15pm (6pm on Thursday). Those visiting the Musée Rodin the same day save €2 with a combined ticket (€12).

MUSÉE RODIN

One of our favourite cultural attractions in Paris, the **Musée Rodin** (Rodin Museum; Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 44 18 61 10; www.musee-rodin.fr; 79 rue de Varenne, 7e; 🚶 M Varenne; adult/18-25yr permanent collections or temporary exhibitions plus garden €6/4, both exhibitions plus garden €9/7, garden only €1, admission free under 18yr & 1st Sun of month; 🕒 9.30am-5.45pm Tue-Sun Apr-Sep, 9.30am-4.45pm Tue-Sun Oct-Mar) is both a sublime museum and one of the most relaxing spots in the city, with a lovely **garden**, full of sculptures and shade trees, in which to rest. Rooms on two floors of this 18th-century residence display extraordinarily vital bronze and marble sculptures by Rodin, including casts of some of his most celebrated works: *The Hand of God*, *The Burghers of Calais* (*Les Bourgeois de Calais*), *Cathedral*, that perennial crowd-pleaser *The Thinker* (*Le Penseur*) and the incomparable *The Kiss* (*Le Baiser*). There are also some 15 works by Camille Claudel (1864-1943), sister of the writer Paul Claudel and Rodin's mistress.

HÔTEL DES INVALIDES

The **Hôtel des Invalides** (Map pp124-5; 🚶 M Varenne or La Tour Maubourg) was built in the 1670s by Louis XIV to provide housing for some 4000 *invalides* (disabled war veterans). On 14 July 1789 a mob forced its way into the building and,

after some fierce fighting, seized 32,000 rifles before heading on to the prison at Bastille and the start of the French Revolution.

North of the *Hôtel des Invalides*' main courtyard, in the so-called **Cour d'Honneur**, is the **Musée de l'Armée** (Army Museum; Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 44 42 38 77; www.invalides.org; 129 rue de Grenelle, 7e; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €8/6/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Sep, 10am-5pm Oct-Mar, closed 1st Mon of month), which holds the nation's largest collection on the history of the French military.

To the south are the **Église St-Louis des Invalides** (Map pp124-5), once used by soldiers, and the **Église du Dôme** (Map pp124-5), whose sparkling dome (1677-1735) is visible throughout the city. The *Église du Dôme* received the remains of Napoleon in 1840, and the very extravagant **Tombeau de Napoléon 1er** (Napoleon I's Tomb; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Sep, 10am-5pm Oct-Mar, closed 1st Mon of month), in its centre, consists of six coffins that fit into one another rather like a Russian stacking doll.

Eiffel Tower Area & 16e Arrondissement

The very symbol of Paris, the Eiffel Tower, is surrounded by open areas on both banks of the Seine, which take in both the 7e and 16e, the most chichi (and snobby) part of the capital. It's not everyone's *tasse de thé* (cup of tea), but there are several outstanding sights and museums in this part of the Right Bank. The architecturally impressive (and fully loaded) Musée du Quai Branly (p153) is the newly acquired feather in the cap of this area.

TOUR EIFFEL

When it was built for the 1889 Exposition Universelle (World Fair), marking the centenary of the Revolution, the **Tour Eiffel** (Eiffel Tower; Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 44 11 23 23; www.tour-eiffel.fr; ☒ Champ de Mars-Tour Eiffel or Bir Hakeim; ☎ lifts 9am-midnight mid-Jun-Aug, 9.30am-11pm Sep-mid-Jun, stairs 9am-midnight mid-Jun-Aug, 9.30am-6pm Sep-mid-Jun) faced massive opposition from Paris' artistic and literary elite. The 'metal asparagus', as some Parisians snidely called it, was almost torn down in 1909 but was spared because it proved an ideal platform for the transmitting antennas needed for the new science of radio-telegraphy. It welcomed two million visitors the first year it opened and more than three times that number – 6.9 million in 2007 – make their way to the top each year.

The Eiffel Tower, named after its designer, Gustave Eiffel, is 324m high, including the TV

antenna at the tip. This figure can vary by as much as 15cm, however, as the tower's 7300 tonnes of iron, held together by 2.5 million rivets, expand in warm weather and contract when it's cold.

Three levels are open to the public. The lifts (in the east, west and north pillars), which follow a curved trajectory, cost €4.80 to the 1st platform (57m above the ground), €7.80 to the 2nd (115m) and €12 to the 3rd (276m). Children aged three to 11 pay €2.50, €4.30 or €6.70, respectively. If you are strong of thigh and lung you can avoid the lift queues by taking the stairs (€4/3.10 over/under 25 years) in the south pillar to the 1st and 2nd platforms.

PALAIS DE CHAILLOT

The **Palais de Chaillot** (Chaillot Palace; Map pp124-5; 17 place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre, 16e; ☒ Trocadéro) was built for the 1937 World Exhibition held here. Its two curved and colonnaded wings and the terrace in between them afford an exceptional panorama of the Jardins du Trocadéro, the Seine and the Eiffel Tower.

The palace's western wing contains two interesting museums. The **Musée de l'Homme** (Museum of Mankind; ☎ 01 44 05 72 72; www.mnhn.fr; 17 place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre, 16e; adult/4-16yr & student/under 4yr €7/5/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon & Wed-Fri, to 6pm Sat & Sun), straight ahead as you enter, focuses on human development, ethnology, population and population growth. The **Musée de la Marine** (Maritime Museum; ☎ 01 53 65 69 69; www.musee-marine.fr, in French; 17 place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre, 16e; adult/student & 18-25yr/under 18yr €6.50/4.50/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon), to the right of the main entrance, examines France's naval adventures from the 17th century until today.

In the palace's eastern wing is the new **Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine** (☎ 01 58 51 52 00; www.citechaillot.fr, in French; 1 place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre, 16e; adult/student & 18-25yr/under 18yr €8/5/free; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon, Wed & Fri-Sun, to 9pm Thu), a mammoth 23,000 sq metres spread over three floors devoted to French architecture and heritage. Exhibits include 350 wood and plaster casts of cathedral portals, columns and altars originally created for the 1878 Exposition Universelle.

JARDINS DU TROCADERO

Spreading out below the Palais de Chaillot and fronting the Eiffel Tower are the **Jardins du Trocadéro** (Trocadero Gardens; Map pp124-5; ☒ Tro-

cadéro), whose fountains and statue garden are grandly illuminated at night. They are named after a Spanish stronghold near Cádiz that was captured by the French in 1823.

On the eastern side of the Jardins du Trocadéro is **CineAqua** (☎ 01 40 69 23 23; www.cineaqua.com; 2 av des Nations Unies, 16e; adult/13-17yr/3-12yr/under 3yr €19.50/15.50/12.50/free; ☎ 10am-8pm), Europe's newest and most ambitious aquarium, with 500 species 'tanked' in more than 3500 sq metres of space.

MUSÉE DU QUAI BRANLY

Housed in architect Jean Nouvel's impressive new structure of glass, wood and turf along the Seine, the long-awaited **Musée du Quai Branly** (Quai Branly Museum; Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 56 61 70 00; www.quai-branly.fr; 37 quai Branly, 7e; M Pont de l'Alma or Alma-Marceau; adult/student & 18-25yr/under 18yr €8.50/6/free, admission free after 6pm Sat for 18-25yr, 1st Sun of month for all; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue, Wed & Sun, to 9pm Thu-Sat) introduces the art and cultures of Africa, Oceania, Asia and the Americas through innovative displays, film and musical recordings. The anthropological explanations are kept to a minimum; what is displayed here is meant to be viewed as art. A day pass allowing entry to the temporary exhibits as well as the permanent collection costs adult/concession €13/9.50; an audioguide is €5.

MUSÉE GUIMET DES ARTS ASIATIQUES

France's foremost repository for Asian art, the **Musée Guimet des Arts Asiatiques** (Guimet Museum of Asian Art; Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 56 52 53 00; www.museeguemet.fr; 6 place d'Éna; M Éna; permanent collections admission free, temporary exhibitions adult €6.50-8.50, senior, student & 18-25yr €4.50-6; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon) has sculptures, paintings, objets d'art and religious articles from Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Tibet, Cambodia, China, Japan and Korea. Part of the original collection – Buddhist paintings and sculptures brought to Paris in 1876 by collector Émile Guimet – is housed in the **Galleries du Panthéon Bouddhique du Japon et de la Chine** (Buddhist Pantheon Galleries of Japan & China; Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 47 23 61 65; 19 av d'Éna; M Éna; admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon) in the sumptuous Hôtel Heidelberg a short distance to the north. Don't miss the wonderful **Japanese garden** (☎ 1-5pm Wed-Mon) here.

FLAMME DE LA LIBERTÉ

A replica of the one topping New York's Statue of Liberty, the bronze **Flamme de la Liberté** (Flame of Liberty Memorial; Map pp118-19; place

de l'Alma, 8e; M Alma-Marceau) was placed in this square southeast of the Musée Guimet in 1987 on the centenary of the launch of the *International Herald Tribune* newspaper as a symbol of friendship between France and the USA. When, on 31 August 1997 in the place d'Alma underpass below, Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed in a devastating car accident, along with her companion, Dodi Fayed, and their chauffeur, Henri Paul, the Flame of Liberty became something of a memorial to her; for five years it was decorated with flowers, photographs, graffiti and personal notes. It was renovated and cleaned in 2002 and, this being the age of short (or no) memories, apart from a bit of sentimental graffiti on a wall nearby, there are no longer any reminders of the tragedy that happened so close by and that had so much of the Western world in grief.

MUSÉE DES ÉGOUTS DE PARIS

The **Musée des Égouts de Paris** (Paris Sewers Museum; Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 53 68 27 81; place de la Résistance, 7e; M Pont de l'Alma; adult/student & 6-16yr/under 6yr €4.20/3.40/free; ☎ 11am-5pm Sat-Wed May-Sep, 11am-4pm Sat-Wed Oct-Dec & Feb-Apr) is a working museum whose entrance – a rectangular maintenance hole topped with a kiosk – is across the street from 93 quai d'Orsay, 7e. Raw sewage flows beneath your feet as you walk through 480m of odoriferous tunnels, passing artefacts illustrating the development of Paris' wastewater disposal system. It'll take your breath away, it will.

Étoile & Champs-Élysées

A dozen avenues radiate out from place de l'Étoile – officially called place Charles de Gaulle – and first among them is the av des Champs-Élysées. This broad boulevard, whose name refers to the 'Elysian Fields' where happy souls dwelt after death, according to the ancient Greeks, links place de la Concorde with the Arc de Triomphe. Symbolising the style and joie de vivre of Paris since the mid-19th century, the avenue is scuzzy in parts but remains a popular tourist destination.

Some 400m north of av des Champs-Élysées is rue du Faubourg St-Honoré (8e), the western extension of rue St-Honoré. It is home to some of Paris' most renowned couture houses, jewellers, antique shops and the 18th-century **Palais de l'Élysée** (Map pp118-19; cnr rue du Faubourg St-Honoré & av de Marigny, 8e; M Champs-Élysées Clemenceau), the official residence of the French president.

ARC DE TRIOMPHE

Located 2km northwest of place de la Concorde in the middle of place Charles de Gaulle (or place de l'Étoile), the **Arc de Triomphe** (Triumphal Arch; Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 55 37 73 77; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; 📍 Charles de Gaulle-Étoile; viewing platform adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €9/6.50/free, admission free 1st Sun of month Nov-Mar; 🕒 10am-11pm Apr-Sep, to 10.30pm Oct-Mar) is the world's largest traffic roundabout. It was commissioned by Napoléon in 1806 to commemorate his imperial victories but remained unfinished when he started losing battles and then entire wars. It was not completed until 1836. Since 1920, the body of an **Unknown Soldier** from WWI, taken from Verdun in Lorraine, has lain beneath the arch; his fate and that of countless others is commemorated by a **memorial flame** that is rekindled each evening around 6.30pm.

From the **viewing platform** on top of the arch (50m up via 284 steps and well worth the climb) you can see the dozen broad avenues – many of them named after Napoleonic victories and illustrious generals (including the ultra-exclusive av Foch, which is Paris' widest boulevard) – radiating towards every part of the city. Tickets to the viewing platform of the Arc de Triomphe are sold in the underground passageway that surfaces on the even-numbered side of av des Champs-Élysées. It is the only sane way to get to the base of the arch and is not linked to nearby metro tunnels.

GRAND & PETIT PALAIS

Erected for the 1900 World Exposition, the **Grand Palais** (Great Palace; Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 44 13 17 17, reservations 08 92 68 46 94; www.grandpalais.fr; 3 av du Général Eisenhower, 8e; 📍 Champs-Élysées Clemenceau; with/without booking adult €11/10, student & 13-25yr €10/8, under 13yr free; 🕒 10am-10pm Fri-Mon & Wed, to 8pm Thu) now houses the **Galerias Nationales du Grand Palais** beneath its huge art-nouveau glass roof. Special exhibitions, among the biggest the city stages, last three or four months here.

The **Petit Palais** (Little Palace; Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 53 43 40 00; www.petitpalais.paris.fr, in French; av Winston Churchill, 8e; 📍 Champs-Élysées Clemenceau; permanent collections admission free, temporary exhibitions adult/senior & student/14-26yr/under 14yr €9/6.50/4.50/free; 🕒 10am-6pm Wed-Sun, 10am-8pm Tue), which was also built for the 1900 fair, is home to the **Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris**, the Paris municipality's Museum of Fine Arts, which contains medieval and Renaissance objects d'art, tapestries, drawings and 19th-century French painting and sculpture.

PALAIS DE LA DÉCOUVERTE

Inaugurated during the 1937 Exposition Universelle and thus the world's first interactive museum, the **Palais de la Découverte** (Palace of Discovery; Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 56 43 20 21; www.palais-decouverte.fr, in French; av Franklin D Roosevelt, 8e; 📍 Champs-Élysées Clemenceau; adult/senior, student & 5-18yr/under 5yr €7/4.50/free; 🕒 9.30am-6pm Tue-Sat, 10am-7pm Sun) is a fascinating place to take kids, with hands-on exhibits on astronomy, biology, medicine, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, physics and earth sciences. The **planetarium** (admission €3.50) usually has four shows a day in French at 11.30am, 2pm, 3.15pm and 4.30pm; ring or consult the website for current schedules.

Concorde & Madeleine

The cobblestone expanses of 18th-century place de la Concorde are sandwiched between the Jardin des Tuileries and the parks at the eastern end of av des Champs-Élysées. Delightful place de la Madeleine is to the north. Both are in the 8e arrondissement.

PLACE DE LA CONCORDE

The 3300-year-old pink granite **obelisk** with the gilded top in the middle of **Place de la Concorde** (Map pp118-19; 📍 Concorde) once stood in the Temple of Ramses at Thebes (today's Luxor) and was given to France in 1831 by Muhammad Ali, viceroy and pasha of Egypt. The **female statues** adorning the four corners of the square represent France's eight largest cities.

In 1793 Louis XVI's head was lopped off by a guillotine set up in the northwest corner of the square, near the statue representing Brest. During the next two years, a guillotine built near the entrance to the Jardin des Tuileries was used to behead 1343 more people, including Marie-Antoinette and, six months later, the Revolutionary leaders Danton and Robespierre. The square, laid out between 1755 and 1775, was given its present name after the Reign of Terror in the hope that it would be a place of peace and harmony.

PLACE DE LA MADELEINE

Ringed by fine-food shops, the **place de la Madeleine** (Map pp118-19; 📍 Madeleine) is 350m north of place de la Concorde at the end of rue Royale. The square is named after the 19th-century neoclassical church in its centre, the **Église de Ste-Marie Madeleine** (Church of St Mary Magdalene; ☎ 01 44 51 69 00; www.eglise-lamadeleine

.com, in French; place de la Madeleine, 8e; ☎ 9.30am–7pm). Constructed in the style of a Greek temple, what is now simply called 'La Madeleine' was consecrated in 1842 after almost a century of design changes and construction delays. It is surrounded by 52 Corinthian columns standing 20m tall, and the marble and gilt interior is topped by three sky-lit cupolas. You can hear the massive organ being played at Mass at 11am and 7pm on Sunday.

Opéra & Grands Boulevards

Place de l'Opéra (Map pp118–19) is the site of Paris' world-famous (and original) opera house. It abuts the Grands Boulevards, the eight contiguous 'Great Boulevards' – Madeleine, Capucines, Italiens, Montmartre, Poissonnière, Bonne Nouvelle, St-Denis and St-Martin – that stretch from elegant place de la Madeleine in the 8e eastwards to the more plebeian place de la République in the 3e, a distance of just under 3km.

The Grands Boulevards were laid out in the 17th century on the site of obsolete city walls and served as a centre of café and theatre life in the 18th and 19th centuries, reaching the height of fashion during the belle époque. North of the western end of the Grands Boulevards is bd Haussmann (8e and 9e), the heart of the commercial and banking district and known for some of Paris' most famous department stores, including Galeries Lafayette and Le Printemps (p197).

PALAIS GARNIER

One of the most impressive monuments erected in Paris during the 19th century, the **Palais Garnier** (Garnier Palace; Map pp118–19; ☎ 08 92 89 90 90; place de l'Opéra, 9e; 🎫 Opéra) stages operas, ballets and classical-music concerts. In summer it can be visited on English-language **guided tours** (☎ 08 25 05 44 05; <http://visites.operadeparis.fr>; adult/senior/10–25yr €12/10/6; 🕒 11.30am & 2.30pm daily Jul & Aug, 11.30am & 2.30pm Wed, Sat & Sun Sep–Jun).

Palais Garnier houses the **Musée de l'Opéra** (Map pp118–19; ☎ 08 92 89 90 90, 01 40 01 24 93; adult/senior, student & 10–25yr/under 10yr €8/5/free; 🕒 10am–5pm Sep–Jun, to 6pm Jul & Aug), which contains three centuries' worth of costumes, backdrops, scores and other memorabilia.

Included in the admission to the museum is a self-paced visit to the opera house itself – as long as there's not a daytime rehearsal or matinee scheduled, in which case it closes at 1pm.

COVERED ARCADES

There are several **passages couverts** (covered shopping arcades) off bd Montmartre (9e), and walking through them is like stepping back into the sepia-toned Paris of the early 19th century. The **passage des Panoramas** (Map pp120–1; 11 bd Montmartre & 10 rue St-Marc, 2e; 🎫 Grands Boulevards), which was opened in 1800 and received Paris' first gas lighting in 1817, was expanded in 1834 with the addition of four other interconnecting passages: Feydeau, Montmartre, St-Marc and Variétés. The arcades are open till about midnight daily.

On the northern side of bd Montmartre, between Nos 10 and 12, is **passage Jouffroy** (Map pp120–1; 🎫 Grands Boulevards), which leads across rue de la Grange Batelière to **passage Verdeau** (Map pp120–1).

Both contain shops selling antiques, old postcards, used and antiquarian books, gifts, pet toys, imports from Asia and the like. These arcades are open until 10pm.

MUSÉE GRÉVIN



Inside passage Jouffroy, the **Musée Grévin** (Grévin Museum; Map pp120–1; ☎ 01 47 70 85 05; www.grevin.com; 10 bd Montmartre, 9e; 🎫 Grands Boulevards; adult/senior & student/6–14yr/under 6yr €18.50/16/11/9.50; 🕒 10am–6.30pm Mon–Fri, to 7pm Sat & Sun) has some 300 wax figures that look more like caricatures than characters, but where else do you get to see Marilyn Monroe, Charles de Gaulle and Spiderman face to face, or the real death masks of French Revolutionary leaders? The admission charge is positively outrageous and just keeps a-growin' every year.

Ménilmontant & Belleville

A solidly working-class *quartier* (neighbourhood) with little to recommend it until just a few years ago, Ménilmontant in the 11e now boasts a surfeit of restaurants, bars and clubs.


On the other hand, Belleville (20e), home to large numbers of immigrants, especially Muslims and Jews from North Africa and Vietnamese and ethnic Chinese from Indochina, remains for the most part unpretentious and working-class. **Parc de Belleville** (Map pp120–1; 🎫 Couronnes), which opened in 1992 a few blocks east of bd de Belleville, occupies a hill almost 200m above sea level amid 4.5 hectares of greenery and offers superb views of the city. Paris' most famous necropolis lies just to the south of the park.

CIMETIÈRE DU PÈRE LACHAISE

The world's most visited graveyard, **Cimetière du Père Lachaise** (Père Lachaise Cemetery; Map pp114-15; www.pere-lachaise.com;  Philippe Auguste, Gambetta or Père Lachaise;  8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-6pm Sat, 9am-6pm Sun mid-Mar-early Nov, 8am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5.30pm Sat, 9am-5.30pm Sun early Nov-mid-Mar) opened its one-way doors in 1804. Its 69,000 ornate, even ostentatious, tombs form a verdant, 44-hectare open-air sculpture garden.

Among the 800,000 people buried here are the composer Chopin, the playwright Molière, the poet Apollinaire; the writers Balzac, Proust, Gertrude Stein and Colette; the actors Simone Signoret, Sarah Bernhardt and Yves Montand; the painters Pissarro, Seurat, Modigliani and Delacroix; the chanteuse Édith Piaf; the dancer Isadora Duncan; and even those immortal 12th-century lovers, Abélard and Héloïse, whose remains were disinterred and reburied here together in 1817 beneath a neo-Gothic tombstone.

Particularly frequented graves are those of **Oscar Wilde**, interred in division 89 in 1900, and 1960s rock star **Jim Morrison**, who died in an apartment at 17-19 rue Beautreillis, 4e, in the Marais in 1971 and is buried in division 6.




Père Lachaise has five entrances, two of which are on bd de Ménilmontant. Maps indicating the location of noteworthy graves are available free from the **conservation office** (Map pp132-3;  01 55 25 82 10; 16 rue du Repos, 20e) in the southwestern corner of the cemetery.

13e Arrondissement & Chinatown

The 13e begins a few blocks south of the Jardin des Plantes in the 5e and has undergone a true renaissance with the advent of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF), the high-speed Météor metro line (No 14) and the ZAC Paris Rive Gauche project, the massive redevelopment of the old industrial quarter along the Seine. Add to that the stunning new footbridge, Passerelle Simone de Beauvoir, linking the BNF with Parc de Bercy and Docks en Seine, a 20,000-sq-metre riverside warehouse being transformed into a state-of-the-art cultural and design centre, and you've got a district on the upswing. The stylishness of the neighbouring 5e extends to the av des Gobelins, while further south, between av d'Italie and av de Choisy, the succession of Asian restaurants, stalls and shops in the capital's Chinatown gives


passers-by the illusion of having imperceptibly changed continents.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

Rising up from the banks of the Seine are the four glass towers of the controversial, €2 billion **Bibliothèque Nationale de France** (National Library of France; Map pp114-15;  01 53 79 53 79, 01 53 79 40 41; www.bnf.fr; 11 quai François Mauriac, 13e;  Bibliothèque; temporary exhibitions adult/student 18-26yr from €7/5, under 18yr free;  10am-7pm Tue-Sat, 1-7pm Sun), which was conceived by the late president François Mitterrand as a 'wonder of the modern world' and opened in 1988.

No expense was spared to carry out a plan that many said defied logic. While many of the books and historical documents were shelved in the sun-drenched, 23-storey, 79m-high towers – shaped like half-open books – readers sat in artificially lit basement halls built around a light well 'courtyard' of 140 50-year-old pines, trucked in from the countryside. The towers have since been fitted with a complex (and expensive) shutter system, but the basement is prone to flooding from the Seine. The national library contains around 12 million tomes stored on some 420km of shelves and can accommodate 2000 readers and 2000 researchers. Temporary exhibitions (use Entrance E) revolve around 'the word', focusing on everything from storytelling to bookbinding. Using the study library costs €3.30/20/35 per day/two weeks/year, while the research library costs €7/53 per three days/year.

Montmartre & Pigalle

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries the bohemian lifestyle of Montmartre in the 18e attracted a number of important writers and artists, including Picasso, who lived at the studio called **Bateau Lavoisier** (Map p136; 11bis Émile Goudeau;  Abbesses) from 1908 to 1912. Although the activity shifted to Montparnasse after WWI, Montmartre retains an upbeat ambience that all the tourists in the world couldn't spoil.

Only a few blocks southwest of the tranquil residential streets of Montmartre is lively, neon-lit Pigalle (9e and 18e), one of Paris' two main sex districts (the other, which is *much* more low-rent, is along rue St-Denis and its side streets north of Forum des Halles in the 1er). But Pigalle is more than just a sleazy red-light district; there are plenty of

trendy nightspots, including clubs and cabarets, here as well. South of Pigalle, the district known as Nouvelle Athènes (New Athens), with its beautiful Greco-Roman architecture and private gardens, has long been favoured by artists.

The easiest way to reach the top of the Butte de Montmartre (Montmartre Hill) is via the RATP's sleek funicular (p203).

BASILIQUE DU SACRÉ CŒUR

Perched at the very top of the Butte de Montmartre, the **Basilique du Sacré Cœur** (Basilica of the Sacred Heart; Map p136; ☎ 01 53 41 89 00; www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.com; place du Parvis du Sacré Cœur, 18e; 🕒 **M** Anvers; 🕒 6am-10.30pm) was built from contributions pledged by Parisian Catholics as an act of contrition after the humiliating Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. Construction began in 1873, but the basilica was not consecrated until 1919.

Some 234 spiralling steps lead you to the basilica's **dome** (admission €5; 🕒 9am-7pm Apr-Sep, 9am-6pm Oct-Mar), which affords one of Paris' most spectacular panoramas; they say you can see for 30km on a clear day.

PLACE DU TERTRE

Half a block west of the **Église St-Pierre de Montmartre** (Map p136), which once formed part of a 12th-century Benedictine abbey, is **place du Tertre** (Map p136; 🕒 **M** Abbesses), once the main square of the village of Montmartre. These days it's filled with cafés, restaurants, tourists and rather obstinate portrait artists and caricaturists who will gladly do your likeness. Whether it looks even remotely like you is another matter.

CIMETIÈRE DE MONTMARTRE

The most famous cemetery in Paris after Père Lachaise, **Cimetière de Montmartre** (Montmartre Cemetery; Map p136; 🕒 **M** Place de Clichy; 🕒 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-6pm Sat, 9am-6pm Sun mid-Mar-early Nov, 8am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5.30pm Sat, 9am-5.30pm Sun early Nov-mid-Mar) was established in 1798. It contains the graves of writers Émile Zola, Alexandre Dumas and Stendhal; composer Jacques Offenbach; artist Edgar Degas; film director François Truffaut; and dancer Vaslav Nijinsky - among others. The entrance closest to the Butte de Montmartre is at the end of av Rachel, just off bd de Clichy or down the stairs from 10 rue Caulaincourt. Maps showing the location of the tombs are available free from

the **conservation office** (☎ 01 53 42 36 30; 20 av Rachel, 18e) at that entrance.

MUSÉE DE MONTMARTRE

One-time home to painters Renoir, Utrillo and Raoul Dufy, the **Musée de Montmartre** (Montmartre Museum; Map p136; ☎ 01 49 25 89 39; www.museedemontmartre.fr; 12 rue Cortot, 18e; 🕒 **M** Lamarck Caulaincourt; adult/senior, student & 10-25yr/under 10yr €7/5.50/free; 🕒 11am-6pm Tue-Sun) displays paintings, lithographs and documents, mostly relating to the area's rebellious and bohemian/artistic past, in a 17th-century manor house, the oldest structure in the quarter. It also stages exhibitions of artists still living in the *quartier*. There's an excellent bookshop here that also sells small bottles of the wine produced from grapes grown in the Clos Montmartre (p161).

DALÍ ESPACE MONTMARTRE

More than 300 works by Salvador Dalí (1904-89), the flamboyant Catalan surrealist printmaker, painter, sculptor and self-promoter, are on display at the **Dalí Espace Montmartre** (Dalí Exhibition Space Montmartre; Map p136; ☎ 01 42 64 40 10; www.daliparis.com; 11 rue Poulbot, 18e; 🕒 **M** Abbesses; adult/senior/student & 8-26 yr/under 8yr €10/7/6/free; 🕒 10am-6.30pm), a surrealist-style basement museum just west of place du Tertre. The collection includes Dalí's strange sculptures (most in reproduction), lithographs, many of his illustrations, and furniture (including the famous 'lips' sofa).

MUSÉE DE L'ÉROTISME

The **Musée de l'Érotisme** (Museum of Erotic Art; Map p136; ☎ 01 42 58 28 73; 72 bd de Clichy, 18e; 🕒 **M** Blanche; adult/student €8/5; 🕒 10am-2am) tries to put some 2000 titillating statues and stimulating sexual aids and fetishist items from days gone by on a loftier plane, with erotic art - both antique and modern - from four continents spread over seven floors. But most of the punters know why they are here.

La Villette

The Buttes Chaumont, the Canal de l'Ourcq and especially the Parc de la Villette, with its wonderful museums and other attractions, create the winning trifecta of the 19e arrondissement. One new development that will bring in the crowds like never before is the **Philharmonie de Paris** (Map pp114-15; Parc de la Villette; Porte de Pantin), the ambitious new home of the Orchestre de Paris designed by Jean

Nouvel, now under construction and scheduled to open in 2012.

PARC DE LA VILLETTE

The whimsical, 35-hectare **Parc de la Villette** (La Villette Park; Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 04 03 75 75; www.villette.com; 📍 Porte de la Villette or Porte de Pantin), which opened in 1993 in the city's far northeastern corner, stretches from the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie south to the Cité de la Musique. Split into two sections by the Canal de l'Ouercq, the park is enlivened by shaded walkways, imaginative street furniture, a series of themed gardens for kids and fanciful, bright-red pavilions known as *folies*. It is the largest open green space in central Paris and has been called 'the prototype urban park of the 21st century'.

CITÉ DES SCIENCES ET DE L'INDUSTRIE

At the northern end of Parc de la Villette, the huge **Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie** (City of Science & Industry; Map pp114-15; ☎ 08 92 69 70 72, reservations 01 40 05 80 00; www.cite-sciences.fr; 30 av Corentin Cariou, 19e; 📍 Porte de la Villette; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sat, to 7pm Sun) has all sorts of high-tech exhibits. Free attractions include the following:

Aquarium (level -2; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sat, to 7pm Sun)

Carrefour Numérique (level -1; 🕒 noon-7.45pm Tue, to 6.45pm Wed-Sun) Internet centre.

Cité des Métiers (level -1; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, noon-6pm Sat) Information about trades, professions and employment.

Médiathèque (levels 0 & -1; 🕒 noon-7.45pm Tue, to 6.45pm Wed-Sun) Multimedia exhibits dealing with childhood, the history of science, and health.

A free and useful map/brochure in English called *The Keys to the Cité* is available from the information counter at the main entrance to the complex.

The huge, rather confusingly laid-out **Explora** (adult/7-25yr/under 7yr €8/6/free) exhibitions are on levels 1 and 2 and look at everything from space exploration and automobile technology to genetics and sound. Tickets are valid for a full day and allow you to enter and exit at will.

The **Planétarium** (admission €3, 3-7yr free; 🕒 11am-5pm Tue-Sun) on level 1 has six shows a day on the hour (except at 1pm) on a screen measuring 1000 sq metres.

The highlight of the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie is the brilliant **Cité des Enfants**

(Children's Village; level 0), whose colourful and imaginative hands-on demonstrations of basic scientific principles are divided into two sections: for two- to seven-year-olds, and for five- to 12-year-olds. In the first, kids can explore, among other things, the conduct of water (waterproof ponchos provided), a building site, and a maze. The second allows children to build toy houses with industrial robots, and stage news broadcasts in a TV studio. A third section has a special exhibition called *Ombres et Lumières* (Shadows and Light) devoted largely to the five-to-12 age group.

Visits to Cité des Enfants lasting 1½ hours begin four times a day: at 9.45am, 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.15pm Tuesday to Friday, and at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Saturday and Sunday. Each child (€6) must be accompanied by an adult (admission free; maximum two adults per family). During school holidays, book two or three days in advance by phone or via the internet.

CITÉ DE LA MUSIQUE

On the southern edge of Parc de la Villette, the **Cité de la Musique** (City of Music; Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 44 84 44 84; www.cite-musique.fr; 221 av Jean Jaurès, 19e; 📍 Porte de Pantin; 🕒 noon-6pm Tue-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun) is a striking triangular-shaped concert hall whose brief is to bring nonelitist music from around the world to Paris' multi-ethnic masses. In the same complex, the **Musée de la Musique** (Music Museum; adult/senior, student & 18-25yr/under 18yr €7/3.40/free) displays some 900 rare musical instruments out of a collection of 4500 warehoused, and you can hear many of them being played through the earphones included in the admission cost.

Outside the Walls: Beyond Central Paris

Two of the city's most important recreational areas lie just 'outside the walls' of central Paris. To the southeast and the southwest are the 'lungs' of Paris, the Bois de Vincennes and the Bois de Boulogne.

BOIS DE VINCENNES

In the southeastern corner of Paris, the **Bois de Vincennes** (Vincennes Wood; Map pp114-15; bd Poniatowski, 12e; 📍 Porte de Charenton or Porte Dorée) encompasses some 995 hectares. Most of it, however, is just outside the bd Périphérique.

On the wood's northern edge, **Château de Vincennes** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 48 08 31 20; www.chateau

METRO STOPS WORTH STOPPING BY *Jumpbean*

Abbesses (Line 12) Brightly painted murals may ease your journey up the lengthy staircase to the height of Montmartre.

Arts Et Metiers (Line 11) Exposed oversize metal piping turns this station into a Jules Verne submarine.

Bastille (Line 1) Though the ancient prison no longer exists, the tumult of the uprising it sparked lives on in the unfinished mural depicting scenes from the French Revolution.

Concorde (Line 12) Here under the infamous location of the guillotine, lettered tiles on the wall spell out the French translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Liège (Line 13) Mosaic tiles evoke the pastoral ambience of the old Flemish city.

Line 14 Paris' newest metro line called the *Météor* is a journey of its own. Sit in the front car of the fully automated train to watch the eerie depths of the Paris subway system whiz by.



Louvre-Rivoli (Line 1) The museum experience starts from the subway station. Step out of the subway car into the belly of the Louvre. Egyptian artefacts greet you in the yellow gloom of a pyramid's interior.

Palais Royal-Musée Du Louvre (Line 7) The street-level entrance is decorated with bulbous coloured shapes that shine gaudily at the Louvre's northern wall.

Tuileries (Line 1) Bright murals display the varied history of the city's central park.




Varenne (Line 13) The romance of Rodin's statues graces the platforms at the station closest to his former atelier.

What's your recommendation?
www.lonelyplanet.com/france




-vincennes.fr; av de Paris, 12e;  Château de Vincennes;  10am-6pm May-Aug, 10am-5pm Sep-Apr) is a *bona fide* royal château with massive fortifications and a moat. The château grounds can be strolled for free, but the 52m-high dungeon (1369), a prison during the 17th and 18th centuries, and the Gothic Chapelle Royale (Royal Chapel) can be visited only by guided tour (adult/18 to 25 years/under 18 years €7.50/4.80/free); call ahead for tour times.

South of the château, **Parc Floral de Paris** (Paris Floral Park; Map pp114-15;  39 75, 08 20 00 75 75; www.parcfloraldeparis.com, in French; rte du Champ de Manoeuvre, 12e;  Château de Vincennes; adult/7-18yr €3/1.50;  9.30am-5pm, to 8pm in summer) is a vast green space with a butterfly garden, nature library, and kids' play areas; it hosts some excellent open-air concerts in summer. At its eastern edge, the **Jardin d'Agronomie Tropicale** (Garden of Tropical Agronomy;  01 43 94 73 33; 45bis av de la Belle Gabrielle;  Nogent-sur-Marne;  11.30am-5.30pm Sat & Sun) is a vestige of the 1907 Exposition Coloniale, one of two 'world's fairs' held in Paris (the other was in 1931) to introduce metropolitan France to its colonies, their products and peoples.

The well-managed, 15-hectare **Parc Zoologique de Paris** (Paris Zoological Park; Map pp114-15;  01 44 75 20 10; www.mnhn.fr, in French; 53 av de St-Maurice, 12e;  Porte Dorée; admission €5, under 4yr free;  9am-6pm Mon-Sat, to 6.30pm Sun Apr-Sep, 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, to 5.30pm Sun Oct-Mar), just east of Lac Daumesnil and also known as the Zoo du Bois de Vincennes, is home to some 600 animals.

Fish and other sea creatures from around the globe make their home at the **Aquarium Tropical** (Tropical Aquarium; Map pp114-15;  01 53 59 58 60; www.palais-portedoree.org, in French; Palais de la Porte Dorée, 293 av Daumesnil, 12e;  Porte Dorée; adult/4-25yr/under 4yr €5.70/4.20/free;  10am-5.15pm Tue-Fri, to 7pm Sat & Sun) on the western edge of Bois de Vincennes.

It was established in 1931 in one of the few buildings left from the Exposition Coloniale of that year.

In the same building is the compelling **Cité Nationale de l'Histoire de l'Immigration** (National City of the History of Immigration;  01 53 59 58 60; www.histoire-immigration.fr; Palais de la Porte Dorée, 293 av Daumesnil, 12e;  Porte Dorée; adult/18-26yr during exhibition periods €5.50/3.50, non-exhibition periods €3/2, under 18yr free;  10am-5.30pm Tue-Fri, to 7pm Sat & Sun), which documents immigration to France through a series of informative historical displays.

BOIS DE BOULOGNE

On the western edge of Paris just beyond the 16e, the 845-hectare **Bois de Boulogne** (Boulogne Wood; Map pp114-15; bd Maillot, 16e;  Porte Maillot) owes its informal layout to Baron Haussmann, who was inspired by Hyde Park in London. Be warned that the Bois de Boulogne becomes a distinctly adult playground after dark, especially along the allée de Longchamp, where male, female and transvestite prostitutes cruise for clients.

The wood's enclosed **Parc de Bagatelle** (☎ 39 75, 08 20 00 75 75; ☎ 9.30am-5pm, to 8pm in summer), in the northwestern corner, is renowned for its beautiful gardens surrounding the 1775 **Château de Bagatelle** (Bagatelle Palace; Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 40 67 97 00; route de Sèvres à Neuilly, 16e; adult/student & 7-18yr/under 7yr €3/1.50/free; ☎ 9am-6pm Apr-Sep, 9am-5pm Oct-Mar).

The **Jardin des Serres d'Auteuil** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 40 71 75 23; av de la Porte d'Auteuil, 16e; M Porte d'Auteuil; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-5pm, to 8pm in summer), opened in 1898, is a garden with impressive conservatories at the southeastern end of the Bois de Boulogne.

The 20-hectare **Jardin d'Acclimatation** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 40 67 90 82; av du Mahatma Gandhi; M Les Sablons; adult/3-18yr/under 3yr €2.70/1.35/free; ☎ 10am-7pm Jun-Sep, 10am-6pm Oct-May), a kids-oriented amusement park whose name is another term for 'zoo' in French, includes the high-tech **Exploradôme** (☎ 01 53 64 90 40; www.exploradome.com, in French; adult/4-18yr/under 4yr €5/3.50/free), a tented structure devoted to science and the media.

The southern part of the wood has two horse-racing tracks, the **Hippodrome de Longchamp** (Map pp114-15) for flat races and the Hippodrome d'Auteuil (p196) for steeplechases. The Stade Roland Garros (p196), home of the French Open tennis tournament, is also here.

Rowing boats (☎ 01 42 88 04 69; per hr €10; ☎ 10am-6pm mid-Mar-mid-Oct) can be hired at **Lac Inférieur** (M Av Henri Martin), the largest of the wood's lakes and ponds. They sometimes open at the weekend in winter. **Paris Cycles** (☎ 01 47 47 76 50; per hr €5; ☎ 10am-7pm mid-Apr-mid-Oct) hires out bicycles at two locations in the Bois de Boulogne: on **av du Mahatma Gandhi** (M Les Sablons), across from the Porte Sablons entrance to the Jardin d'Acclimatation, and near the **Pavillon Royal** (M Av Foch) at the northern end of Lac Inférieur.

ACTIVITIES

The best single source of information on sports in Paris is the Salon d'Accueil (Reception Hall) of the Mairie de Paris at the **Hôtel de Ville** (Map pp126-7; ☎ 39 75, 08 20 00 75 75; www.sport.paris.fr; 29 rue de Rivoli, 4e; M Hôtel de Ville; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat).

Cycling

A lot more Parisians are pedal-pushing nowadays thanks to **Vélib'** (p201). For imaginative and unusual cycling itineraries suggested by Parisians, subscribe to Vélib's monthly online newsletter (www.velib.paris.fr).

Paris now counts some 370km of bicycle lanes running throughout the city, as well as a dedicated lane running parallel to about two-thirds of the bd Périphérique encircling the capital. On Sundays and holidays, large sections of road are reserved for pedestrians, cyclists and skaters under a scheme called 'Paris Respire' (Paris Breathes; p148).

Before you set out, get hold of a copy of the free booklet *Paris à Vélo* (Paris by Bicycle), published by the Mairie de Paris. More detailed is *Paris de Poche: Cycliste et Piéton* (Pocket Paris: Cyclist and Pedestrian; €3.50), sold in bookshops.

Maison Roue Libre (☎ 08 10 44 15 34; www.rouelibre.fr; ☎ 9am-7pm Feb-Oct, 10am-6pm Wed-Sun Nov & Jan; Forum des Halles Map pp126-7; Forum des Halles, 1 passage Mondétour, 1er; M Les Halles; Bastille Map pp132-3; 37 bd Bourdon, 4e; M Bastille), sponsored by RATP, the city's public transport system, is the best place to rent a bicycle in Paris. Bicycles cost €4/10/15/28 per hour/half-day/day/weekend and include insurance, helmet and baby seat. The deposit is €150, and you need some form of ID.

Other outfits that rent bicycles and offer guided bicycle tours:

Fat Tire Bike Tours (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 56 58 10 54; www.fattirebiketoursparis.com; 24 rue Edgar Faure, 15e; M La Motte Piquet Grenelle; per hr/day/weekend/week €2.50/15/25/50; ☎ 9am-6pm)

Gepetto et Vélos (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 54 19 95; www.gepetto-et-velos.com, in French; 59 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, 5e; M Cardinal Lemoine; per half-day/day/weekend/week €7.50/14/23/50; ☎ 9am-1pm & 2-7.30pm Tue-Sat, 10am-1pm & 2-7pm Sun)

Paris à Vélo, C'est Sympa! (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 48 87 60 01; www.parisvelosympa.com, in French; 22 rue Alphonse Baudin, 11e; M St-Sébastien Froissart; per half-day/day/weekend/week €10/13/25/60; ☎ 9.30am-1pm & 2-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm & 2-7pm Sat & Sun Apr-Oct, 9.30am-1pm & 2-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm & 2-6pm Sat & Sun Nov-Mar)

Swimming

Paris has almost 40 swimming pools that are open to the public; check with the **Mairie de Paris** (☎ 39 75, 08 20 00 75 75; www.paris.fr) for the one nearest you. Most are short-length pools, and finding a free lane for lengths can be nigh on impossible. Opening times vary widely; avoid Wednesday afternoon and weekends, when kids off from school take the plunge. The entry cost for most municipal pools is €2.60/21.50 for single ticket/carnet of 10 tickets.

WALKING TOUR

Montmartre, from the French words for hill (*mont*) and martyr, has been a place of legend ever since St Denis was executed here in about AD 250 and began his headless journey on foot to the village north of Paris that still bears his name (p208). In recent times the Montmartre of myth has been resurrected by music, books and especially films like *Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain* (*Amélie*; 2002), which presented the district in various shades of rose, and *Moulin Rouge* (2001), which also made it pretty but gave it a bit more edge.

For centuries Montmartre was a simple country village filled with the *moulins* (mills) that supplied Paris with its flour. When it was incorporated into the capital in 1860, its

picturesque charm and low rents attracted painters and writers – especially after the Commune uprising of 1871, which began here. The late 19th and early 20th centuries were Montmartre's heyday, when Toulouse-Lautrec drew his favourite cancan dancers and Picasso, Braque and others introduced cubism to the world.

After WWI such creative activity shifted to Montparnasse, but Montmartre retained an upbeat ambience. The real attractions here, apart from the great views from the Butte de Montmartre (Montmartre Hill), are the area's little parks and steep, winding cobblestone streets, many of whose houses seem about to be engulfed by creeping vines and ivy.

In English-speaking countries, Montmartre's mystique of unconventionality has been magnified by the supposed notoriety of places like the Moulin Rouge, a nightclub on the edge of the Pigalle district that was founded in 1889 and is known for its scantily clad – *oh là là!* – chorus girls. The garish nightlife that Toulouse-Lautrec loved to portray has spread along bd de Clichy, and Pigalle has become decidedly sleazy, though it's pretty tame stuff overall.

WALK FACTS

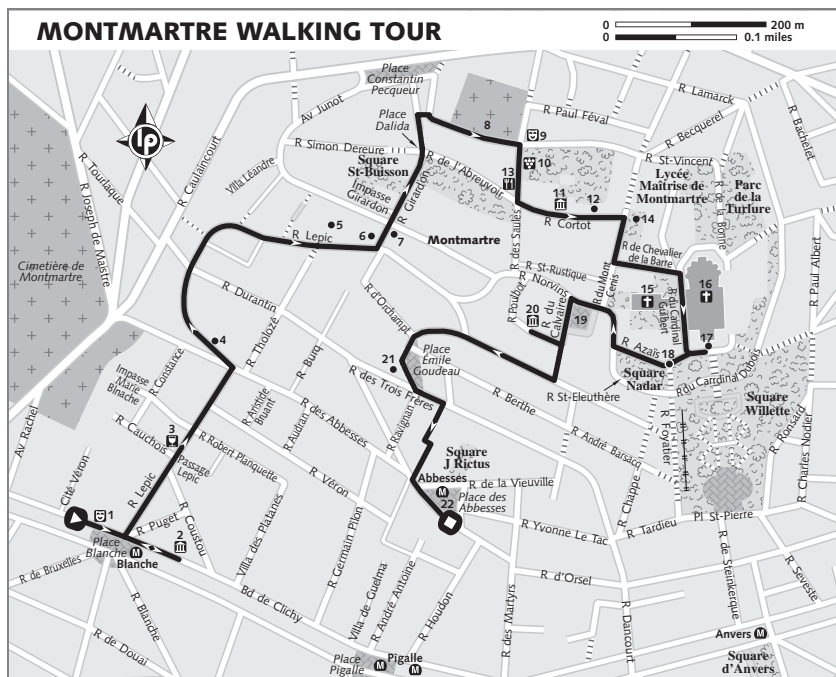
Start **M** Blanche

Finish **M** Abbesses

Distance 2.5km

Duration 2½ hours

Fuel Stop La Maison Rose



Begin the walk at the Blanche metro station. Diagonally opposite to the left is the legendary **Moulin Rouge (1)**; p195) beneath its trademark red windmill, while appropriately located to the right is the **Musée de l'Érotisme (2)**; p157), an institution that likes to portray itself as educational rather than titillating. Walk up rue Lepic and halfway up on the left you'll find the **Café des Deux Moulins (3)**; ☎ 0142 54 90 50; 15 rue Lepic, 18e; ☞ 7am-2am), where our heroine Amélie worked in the eponymous film. Follow the curve to the west (left); Théo van Gogh owned the **house at No 54 (4)**, and his brother, the artist Vincent, stayed with him on the 3rd floor from 1886 to 1888.

Further along rue Lepic are Montmartre's famous twinned windmills. The better-known **Moulin de la Galette (5)** was a popular open-air dance hall in the late 19th century and was immortalised by Pierre-Auguste Renoir in his 1876 tableau *Le Bal du Moulin de la Galette* (Dance at the Moulin de la Galette). About 100m to the east, at the corner of rue Girardon is the **Moulin Radet (6)**. Confusingly, it's now a restaurant called *Le Moulin de la Galette*.

Turn left into place Marcel Aymé and you'll see a curious sculpture of a man emerging from a stone wall – the **Passe-Muraille statue (7)**. It's by the late actor Jean Marais and portrays Dutilleul, the hero of Marcel Aymé's short story *Le Passe-Muraille* (The Walker through Walls) who awakes one fine morning to discover he can do just what he's shown doing here.

Continue straight (north) along rue Girardon, cross through leafy square St-Buisson (Holy Bush) and past the charmingly named allée des Brouillards (Fog Path) and descend the stairs from place Dalida into rue St-Vincent; on the other side of the wall is **Cimetière St-Vincent (8)**, final resting place of the great and the good, including Maurice Utrillo (1883–1955), known as 'the painter of Montmartre'. Just over rue des Saules is the celebrated cabaret **Au Lapin Agile (9)**; p192), whose name seems to suggest a 'nimble rabbit' but actually comes from *Le Lapin à Gill*, a mural of a rabbit jumping out of a cooking pot by caricaturist André Gill, which can still be seen on the western exterior wall.

Turn right (south) onto rue des Saules. Just opposite the cabaret is the **Clos Montmartre (10)**, a small vineyard dating from 1933 whose 2000 vines produce an average 850 bottles of wine each October, which is then auctioned

off for charity in the 18e. You can buy sample bottles of the hooch at the **Musée de Montmartre (11)**; p157) at 12 rue Cortot, the first street on the left after the vineyard. Further along at No 6 is the **house of Eric Satie (12)**, where the celebrated composer lived from 1892 to 1898. A great place for a bite to eat is **La Maison Rose (13)**; p187), the quintessential Montmartre bistro and subject of an eponymous lithograph by Utrillo.

Turn right (south) on to rue du Mont Cenis – the attractive **water tower (14)** just opposite dates from the early 20th century – and then left onto rue de Chevalier de la Barre, which will lead you past the back of **Église St-Pierre de Montmartre (15)**; p157), which was built on the site of a Roman temple to Mercury and did time as a Temple of Reason under the Revolution and as a clothing factory during the Commune. The entrance to the **Basilique du Sacré Cœur (16)**; p157), and the stunning vista over Paris from **place du Parvis du Sacré Cœur (17)** are just a few steps to the south.

From the basilica follow rue Azaïs west past the upper station of the **funicular (18)**; p714) and then rue Norvins north into **place du Tertre (19)**; p157), arguably the most touristy place in all of Paris but buzzy and still fun. Just off the southwestern side of the square is rue Poulbot, leading to the **Dali Espace Montmartre (20)**; p157), surprisingly the only 'art' museum on the Butte. From place du Calvaire take the steps – actually called rue du Calvaire – into rue Gabrielle, turning right (west) to reach place Émile Goudeau. At No 11b is the so-called **Bateau Lavoir (21)**, where Kees Van Dongen, Max Jacob, Amedeo Modigliani and Pablo Picasso once lived in an old piano factory later used as a laundry. It was dubbed the 'Laundry Boat' because of the way it swayed in a strong breeze. Picasso painted his seminal *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)* (1907) here. Originally at No 13, the real Bateau Lavoir burned down in 1970 and was rebuilt in 1978.

Take the steps down from place Émile Goudeau and follow rue des Abbesses south into place des Abbesses, where you can't miss the **metro station (22)** entrance designed by Hector Guimard.

PARIS FOR CHILDREN

Paris abounds in places that will delight children. There's almost always a special child's entry rate to attractions (though ages of eligibility may vary), and many museums organise educational,

fun-packed *ateliers enfants* (kids workshops) for children aged four or six and upwards. For details about the mother of all kids' destinations, Disneyland Resort Paris, see p210.

The national daily newspaper *Libération* produces an English-language translation of its popular bimonthly supplement *Paris Mômes* (www.parismomes.fr) called *Paris with Kids*. It has listings and other useful information aimed at kids up to age 12; focusing on the 'unusual' is its philosophy.

The weekly entertainment magazine *L'Officiel des Spectacles* (p190) lists *gardes d'enfants* (babysitters) available in Paris. For more ideas of things to see and do with kids, see the 'Kid Travel' itinerary on p28.

TOURS

Bicycle

Fat Tire Bike Tours (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 5658 1054; www.fat-tirebiketoursparis.com; 24 rue Edgar Faure, 15e; 🚲 La Motte Picquet Grenelle; 🕒 office 9am-6pm) offers four-hour English-language tours of the city (adult/student €24/22) year-round, except during the second half of January, starting at 11am daily. There is an additional tour at 3pm from April to October. Night bicycle tours (adult/student €28/26) depart at 7pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from mid-February to mid-March and in November, and at the same time daily from mid-March to October. A day-and-night combination tour costs €48/44. Tours depart from opposite the Eiffel Tower's South Pillar at the start of the Champ de Mars; just look for the yellow signs. Costs include the bicycle and, if necessary, rain gear.

Boat

Based on the Right Bank just east of the Pont de l'Alma, **Bateaux Mouches** (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 25 96 10; www.bateauxmouches.com, in French; Port de la Conférence, 8e; 🚢 Alma Marceau; adult/senior & 4-12yrs/under 4yr €9/4/free; 🕒 mid-Mar-mid-Nov), the most famous riverboat company in Paris, runs 1000-seat tour boats, the biggest on the Seine. From April to September, cruises (70 minutes) depart eight times a day between 10.15am and 3.15pm and then every 20 minutes till 11pm. They depart 10 times a day between 10.15am and 9pm the rest of the year. Commentary is in French and English.

If you prefer to see Paris from one of its canals, **Paris Canal Croisières** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 40 96 97; www.pariscanal.com; Bassin de la Villette, 19-21 quai de la Loire, 19e; 🚢 Jaurès; adult/senior & 12-25yrs/

4-11yr/under 4yr €17/14/10/free) has daily 2½-hour cruises departing from quai Anatole France, 7e, just northwest of the Musée d'Orsay (Map pp124-5), for Bassin de la Villette, 19e, via the charming Canal St-Martin and Canal de l'Ourcq. Departures are at 9.30am from quai Anatole France and at 2.30pm from Bassin de la Villette.

Bus

In season, RATP's **Balabus** (☎ 32 46; www.ratp.fr; €1.40 or 1 metro/bus ticket; 🕒 departures 12.30-8pm from La Défense, 1.30pm from Gare de Lyon Sun Apr-Sep) follows a 50-minute route to/from Gare de Lyon (Map pp134-5) and La Défense (Map p206) that passes by many of central Paris' most famous sights. Buses depart about every 20 minutes.

L'Open Tour (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 66 56 56; www.pariscityrama.com; 13 rue Auber, 9e; 🚗 Havre Caumartin or Opéra; 1 day adult/4-11yr/under 4yr €26/13/free, 2 consecutive days €29/13/free) runs open-deck buses along four circuits (central Paris, 2¼ hours; Montmartre-Grands Boulevards, 1¼ hours; Bastille-Bercy, one hour; and Montparnasse-St-Germain, one hour). You can jump on and off at more than 50 stops. Schedules vary but buses depart roughly every 10 to 15 minutes from 9.30am to 7pm April to October and every 25 to 30 minutes from 9.45am to 6pm November to March.

Walking


Paris Walks (☎ 01 48 09 21 40; www.paris-walks.com; adult/student under 21/under 15yr from €10/8/5) has English-language tours of several different districts, including Montmartre at 10.30am on Sunday and Wednesday (leaving from 🚗 Abesses; Map p136) and the Marais at 10.30am on Tuesday and at 2.30pm on Sunday (departing from 🚗 St-Paul; Map pp126-7). There are other tours focusing on people and themes, such as Hemingway, medieval Paris, the Latin Quarter, fashion, the French Revolution and even chocolate.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



Innumerable festivals, cultural and sporting events and trade shows take place in Paris throughout the year; weekly details appear in *Pariscope* and *L'Officiel des Spectacles* (p190). You can also find them listed under 'What's On' on the website of the Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau (www.paris.info.com).


The following abbreviated list gives you a taste of what to expect throughout the year.

January & February

Festival des Musiques du Nouvel An (www.parisparade.com) The New Year Music Festival, relatively subdued after the previous night's shenanigans (opposite), with marching and carnival bands, dance acts and so on, takes place on the afternoon of New Year's Day at the Palais de Chaillot ( Trocadéro).

Fashion Week (www.pretparis.com) Prêt-à-Porter, the ready-to-wear fashion salon that is held twice a year in late January and again in September, is a must for fashion buffs and is held at the Parc des Expositions at Porte de Versailles, 15e ( Porte de Versailles).


Chinese New Year (www.paris.fr) Dragon parades and other festivities are held in late January or early February in Paris' two Chinatowns: the smaller in the 3e, taking in rue du Temple, rue au Maire and rue de Turbigo ( Temple or Arts et Métiers), and the larger and flashier one in the 13e between porte de Choisy, porte d'Ivry and bd Masséna ( Porte de Choisy, Port d'Ivry or Tolbiac).

Salon International de l'Agriculture (www.salon-agriculture.com) A 10-day international agricultural fair with lots to eat and drink, including dishes and wine from all over France. Held at the Parc des Expositions at Porte de Versailles in the 15e ( Porte de Versailles) from late February to early March.

March & April

Banlieues Bleues (www.banlieuesbleues.org, in French) 'Suburban Blues' jazz and blues festival is held in March and April in the northern suburbs of Paris, including St-Denis (p208), and attracts big-name talent.

Printemps du Cinéma (www.printempsducinema.com, in French) Cinemas across Paris welcome spring by offering filmgoers a unique entry fee of €3.50 over three days (usually Sunday, Monday and Tuesday) sometime around 21 March.


Foire du Trône (www.foiredutrone.com, in French) Huge funfair with 350 attractions is held on the Pelouse de Reuilly of the Bois de Vincennes ( Porte Dorée) for eight weeks from late March to mid-May.

Marathon International de Paris (www.parismarathon.com) The Paris International Marathon, usually held on the first Sunday in April, starts on the av des Champs-Élysées, 8e, and finishes on av Foch, 16e. The Semi-Marathon de Paris is a half-marathon held in early March; see the marathon website for details.

May & June


Nuit des Musées (www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr, in French) Key museums across Paris throw open their doors at 6pm for one Saturday night in mid-May on 'Museums Night' and don't close till late.

French Tennis Open (www.frenchopen.org) The glitzy Internationaux de France de Tennis – the Grand Slam – takes place from late May to mid-June at Stade Roland


Garros ( Porte d'Auteuil) at the southern edge of the Bois de Boulogne in the 16e.

Fête de la Musique (www.fetedelamusique.fr, in French) A national music festival welcoming in summer on Midsummer's Night (21 June) that caters to a wide range of tastes with jazz, reggae, classical etc; features both staged and impromptu live performances all over the city.

Gay Pride March (www.gaypride.fr, in French) A colourful, Saturday-afternoon parade held in late June through the Marais to Bastille celebrates Gay Pride Day, with various bars and clubs sponsoring floats, and participants dressing in some eye-catching costumes.

Paris Jazz Festival (www.parcfloraldeparis.com; www.paris.fr) Free jazz concerts every Saturday and Sunday afternoon in June and July in Parc Floral de Paris ( Château de Vincennes).

July & August

Bastille Day (www.paris.fr) Paris is the place to be on 14 July, France's national day. Late on the night of the 13th, *bals des sapeurs-pompiers* (dances sponsored by Paris' fire brigades, who are considered sex symbols in France) are held at fire stations around the city. At 10am on the 14th, there's a military and fire-brigade parade along av des Champs-Élysées, 8e, accompanied by a fly-past of fighter aircraft and helicopters. In the evening a huge display of *feux d'artifice* (fireworks) is held at around 11pm on the Champ de Mars, 7e ( École Militaire).

Paris Plages (www.paris.fr) 'Paris Beaches', one of the most unique and successful city recreational events in the world, sees three waterfront areas transformed into sand-and-pebble 'beaches', complete with sun beds, beach umbrellas, atomisers, lounge chairs and palm trees, for four weeks from mid-July to mid-August.

Tour de France (www.letour.fr) Since 1975 the last stage of the world's most prestigious cycling event has ended with a race up av des Champs-Élysées on the 3rd or 4th Sunday of July.

September & October

Jazz à La Villette (www.villette.com, in French) Super 10-day jazz festival in early September has sessions in Parc de la Villette, at the Cité de la Musique and in surrounding bars ( Porte de la Villette or Porte de Pantin).

Festival d'Automne (www.festival-automne.com) The Autumn Festival of arts – including painting, music, dance and theatre – is held in venues throughout the city from mid-September to December.

European Heritage Days (www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr, in French) As done elsewhere in Europe on the third weekend in September, Paris opens doors to buildings (eg embassies, government ministries, corporate offices – even the Palais de l'Élysée) normally off limits to outsiders.

Nuit Blanche (www.paris.fr) 'White Night' is when Paris becomes 'the city that doesn't sleep', with museums across

town joining bars and clubs and staying open till the very wee hours on the first Saturday and Sunday of October.

November & December

Africolor (www.africolor.com, in French) African music festival held in venues in the suburbs surrounding Paris from late November to late December.

Jumping International de Paris (www.salon-cheval.com) The annual International Showjumping Competition in the first half of December forms part of the Salon du Cheval at the Parc des Expositions at Porte de Versailles in the 15e (M Porte de Versailles), with some of the best showjumpers in the world testing their limits.

Christmas Eve Mass Celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve at many Paris churches, including Notre Dame (M Cité).

New Year's Eve Bd St-Michel (5e), place de la Bastille (11e), the Eiffel Tower (7e) and especially av des Champs-Élysées (8e) are the places to be to welcome in the new year.

SLEEPING

Paris has a very wide choice of accommodation options that cater for all budgets. When calculating accommodation costs in Paris, assume you'll spend from €20 per person per night in a hostel and at least €40 for a washbasin-equipped double in a budget hotel, more if you want your own shower. Communal toilets are standard. Bear in mind that you may be charged extra (up to €3) to use communal showers in budget hotels. If you can't go without your daily ablutions, it can be a false economy staying at such places.

Midrange hotels in Paris offer some of the best value for money of any European capital. Rooms in hotels at this level always have bathroom facilities; all rooms listed in this section have showers or baths unless noted otherwise. These hotels charge between about €70 and €160 for a double and generally offer excellent value, especially at the higher end.

Top-end places run the gamut from tasteful and discreet boutique hotels to palaces with more than 100 rooms. Prices start at €160 a night for two people and can reach the GNP of a medium-sized Latin American republic.

Breakfast – usually a simple continental affair of bread, croissants, butter, jam and coffee or tea, though American-style breakfast buffets are becoming more popular – is served at most hotels with two or more stars and usually costs around €8. A light breakfast is included in the price of a bed or room at most hotels.

Like most cities and towns in France, Paris levies a *taxe de séjour* (tourist tax) of between

€0.20 (camping grounds, unclassified hotels) to €1.50 (four-star hotels) per person per night on all forms of accommodation.

Accommodation Services

The Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau (p137), notably the Gare du Nord branch, can find you a place to stay for the night of the day you stop by and will make the booking for free. The only catch is that you have to use a credit card to reserve a room. Be warned: the queues can be very long in the high season.

Two agencies that can arrange bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Paris and get good reviews from readers are **Alcôve & Agapes** (☎ 01 44 85 06 05; www.bed-and-breakfast-in-paris.com) and **Good Morning Paris** (☎ 01 47 07 44 45; www.goodmorningparis.fr). Expect to pay anything from €65 for a double.

If you're interested in renting a furnished flat for anything from a night to a month, consult one of the many agencies listed under the heading 'Furnished Rentals' in the 'Hotels & Accommodation' section of the Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau's website (www.paris.info.com).

Louvre & Les Halles

The very central area encompassing the Musée du Louvre and the Forum des Halles, effectively the 1er and a small slice of the 2e, is more disposed to welcoming top-end travellers, but there are some decent midrange places to choose from and the main branch of a popular hostel can also be found here.

Both airports are linked to nearby metro station Châtelet-Les Halles by the RER (Réseau Express Régional regional train service; p203).

BUDGET

Centre International de Séjour BVJ Paris-Louvre

(Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 53 00 90 90; www.bvjhotel.com; 20 rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1er; M Louvre-Rivoli; dm/d €28/60; ☎ ☒) This modern 200-bed hostel run by the Bureau des Voyages de la Jeunesse (Youth Travel Bureau) has doubles and bunks in a single-sex room for four to 10 people. Guests must be aged 18 to 35. Rooms are accessible from 2.30pm on the day you arrive. There are no kitchen facilities, and showers are in the hallway. There is usually space in the morning, even in the summer, so stop by as early as you can. Internet access is available for €1 for 10 minutes.

CAMPING IN PARIS

Camping du Bois de Boulogne (Bois de Boulogne Camping Ground; Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 45 24 30 00; www.campingparis.fr; 2 allée du Bord de l'Eau, 16e; sites low/mid/high season €11/15.20/16.80, with vehicle, tent & 2 people €24/28.60/31.90, first-time booking fee €14) The only camping ground within the Paris city limits, measures 7 hectares and lies along the Seine at the far western edge of the Bois de Boulogne, opposite Île de Puteaux. With upwards of 435 camping pitches and almost two dozen bungalows, it gets very crowded in the summer, but there's usually space for a small tent. More than 50 fully equipped caravans accommodating four to five people are also available for rent; rates – €57 to €102 – depend on the size and the season.

Porte Maillot metro station (Map pp118–19), 4.5km to the northeast through the wood, is linked to the site by RATP bus 244, which runs from 5.40am to 10pm, with slightly different hours at the weekend and in July and August; alight at Les Moulins-Camping stop. From April to October the campground runs a **shuttle bus** (€1.80; ☎ 8.45am–12.15pm & 6.30pm–midnight) from the Porte Maillot metro station. In July and August the shuttle departs every half-hour throughout the day.

Hôtel de Lille (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 33 33 42; www.hotelde lille.net; 8 rue du Pélican, 1er; M Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre; s €35-38, d €43-50, tr €65-75; ☒) This old-fashioned but spotlessly clean 13-room hotel is down a quiet side street in a 17th-century building. A half-dozen of the rooms have just washbasin and bidet (communal showers cost €3), while the rest have showers as well.

TOP END

Le Relais du Louvre (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 40 41 96 42; www.relaisdulouvre.com; 19 rue des Prêtres St-Germain l'Auxerrois, 1er; M Pont Neuf; s €108, d & tw €165-198, tr €212, ste €237-430; ☎ ☒) If you are someone who likes style but in a traditional sense, choose this lovely 21-room hotel just west of the Louvre and south of the Église St-Germain l'Auxerrois. The 10 rooms facing the street and the church are on the petite side; if you are looking for something more spacious, ask for one of the five rooms ending in a '2' and looking on to the garden/patio.

Marais & Bastille

Despite massive gentrification in recent years, there are some fine hostels here and the choice of lower-priced one- and two-star hotels remains excellent. East of Bastille, the relatively untouristed 11e is generally made up of unpretentious, working-class areas and is a good way to see the 'real' Paris up close. Two-star comfort here is less expensive than in the Marais. There are quite a few top-end hotels in the heart of the lively Marais as well as in the vicinity of the elegant place des Vosges.

BUDGET

Auberge de Jeunesse Jules Ferry (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 43 57 55 60; www.fuaj.fr; 8 bd Jules Ferry, 11e; M République or Goncourt; dm/d €21/42; ☎ ☒ ☒) This 'official' hostel three blocks east of place de la République is somewhat institutional and the rooms could use a refit, but the atmosphere is fairly relaxed. The 99 beds are in two- to six-person rooms, which are locked between 10.30am and 2pm for housekeeping, but there is no curfew. You'll have to pay an extra €2.90 per night if you don't have an HI card or equivalent (€11/17 for those under/over 26).

Maison Internationale de la Jeunesse et des Étudiants (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 74 23 45; www.mije.com; dm/s/d/tr €29/47/68/90; ☒ ☒) The MIJE runs three hostels in attractively renovated 17th- and 18th-century *hôtels particuliers* in the heart of the Marais, and it's difficult to think of a better budget deal in Paris. Costs are the same for all three; there are single-sex, shower-equipped dorms with four to eight beds per room, as well as singles, doubles/twins and triples. Rooms are closed from noon to 3pm, and the curfew is 1am to 7am. The maximum stay is seven nights. You can make reservations at any of the three MIJE hostels listed below by calling the central switchboard or emailing; they'll hold you a bed till noon. During the summer and other busy periods, there may not be space after mid-morning. There's an annual membership fee of €2.50.

MIJE Le Fauconnier (11 rue du Fauconnier, 4e; M St-Paul or Pont Marie) This 125-bed hostel is two blocks south of MIJE Le Fourcy.

MIJE Le Fourcy (6 rue de Fourcy, 4e; M St-Paul) The largest of the three branches, with 180 beds. There's a

cheap eatery here called Le Restaurant, with a three-course menu (fixed-price meal) including a drink for €10.50.

MIJE Maubuisson (12 rue des Barres, 4e; Hôtel de Ville or Pont Marie) The pick of the three in our opinion, this 99-bed place is half a block south of the *mairie* (town hall) of the 4e.

Hôtel Rivoli (Map pp126-7; 01 42 72 08 41; 44 rue de Rivoli or 2 rue des Mauvais Garçons, 4e; Hôtel de Ville; s €35-55, d €44-55, tr €70) Long an LP favourite, the Rivoli is forever cheery but not as dirt cheap as it once was, with 20 basic, somewhat noisy rooms. The cheaper singles and doubles have washbasins only but showers are free. The front door is locked from 2am to 7am. Reception is on the 1st floor.

Hôtel de Nevers (Map pp120-1; 01 47 00 56 18; www.hoteldenevers.com; 53 rue de Malte, 11e; Oberkampf; s €39, d €45-55, tr €75-87;) This 32-room budget hotel around the corner from place de la République, and within easy walking distance of the nightlife of both the Marais and Ménilmontant, is excellent value. Those with allergies may think twice about staying here, though: there are three cats on hand to greet you. Rooms at the low end of the scale share bathing facilities.

Hôtel de la Herse d'Or (Map pp132-3; 01 48 87 84 09; www.hotel-herse-dor.com; 20 rue St-Antoine, 4e; Bastille; s/d €45/60, d/tr with shower €76/96;) This friendly place just west of place de la Bastille has 35 serviceable rooms off a long stone corridor. It's very basic and very cheap; the lower-priced rooms have washbasins only. Though there's wi-fi, those without laptops can check emails at an internet station in the lobby (€2 for 15 minutes). And, just in case you wondered, *herse* in French is not 'hearse' but 'portcullis'. So let's just call it the 'Golden Gate Hotel'.

Grand Hôtel du Loiret (Map pp126-7; 01 48 87 77 00; hotelduloiret@hotmail.com; 8 rue des Mauvais Garçons, 4e; Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul; s €50-80, d €50-90, tr/q €100/110;) This 27-room budget hotel in the heart of gay Marais is very popular with young male travellers, not just because it is within easy walking distance of just about everything after dark but because it sits – or does it lie? – on the 'Street of the Bad Boys'. Seven of the rooms have neither shower nor bath or toilet but share facilities off the corridors and are a steal at €50. Internet access costs a whopping €3 for 15 minutes.

MIDRANGE

Hôtel Jeanne d'Arc (Map pp132-3; 01 48 87 62 11; www.hoteljeannedarc.com; 3 rue de Jarente, 4e; St-Paul; s €60-97, d €84-97, tr/q €116/146;) This cosy, 36-room hotel

near lovely place du Marché Ste-Catherine has almost a country feel to it and is a great little base for your peregrinations among the museums, bars and restaurants of the Marais. But everyone knows about it, so book well in advance. Wheelchair access available.

Hôtel Lyon Mulhouse (Map pp132-3; 01 47 00 91 50; www.1-hotel-paris.com; 8 bd Beaumarchais, 11e; Bastille; s €65-90, d €78-110, tr €110-130;) A former post house from where carriages would set out for Lyon and Mulhouse in Alsace, this place has 40 quiet and comfortable (though not particularly special) rooms. Place de la Bastille and the delightful market on bd Richard Lenoir (see the boxed text, p179) are just around the corner.

Hôtel du Septième Art (Map pp126-7; 01 44 54 85 00; www.paris-hotel-7art.com; 20 rue St-Paul, 4e; St-Paul; s €65, d €90-145;) This themed hotel on the south side of rue St-Antoine is a fun place for film buffs (*le septième art*, or 'the seventh art', is what the French call cinema), with a black-and-white-movie theme throughout, right down to the tiled floors and bathrooms. The 23 guestrooms spread over five floors (no lift) are sizeable and quite different from one other. A single with just washbasin is €65.

Hôtel Sévigné (Map pp126-7; 01 42 72 76 17; www.le-sevigne.com; 2 rue Malher, 4e; St-Paul; s €67, d & tw €80-91, tr €107;) This hotel in the heart of the Marais and named after the celebrated 17th-century writer the Marquise de Sévigné is excellent value for its location and price. The hotel's 29 rooms, spread over six floors and accessible by lift, are basically but comfortably furnished.

Hôtel de Nice (Map pp126-7; 01 42 78 55 29; www.hoteldenic.com; 42bis rue de Rivoli, 4e; Hôtel de Ville; s/d/tr €80/110/135) This is an especially warm, family-run place with 23 comfortable rooms, some of which have balconies high above busy rue de Rivoli. Every square inch of wall space is used to display old prints, and public areas and guestrooms are full of Second Empire-style furniture, Indian carpets and lamps with fringed shades. Reception is on the 1st floor.

Hôtel de la Place des Vosges (Map pp132-3; 01 42 72 60 46; www.hotelpacedesvosges.com; 12 rue de Birague, 4e; Bastille; r €90-95, ste €150;) This superbly situated 17-room hotel is an oasis of tranquility due south of sublime place des Vosges. The public areas are quite impressive and the rooms warm and cosy. A tiny lift serves the 1st to 4th floors but it's stairs only from the ground floor and to the 5th floor. A suite on

the top floor has choice views and can accommodate up to four people.

Grand Hôtel Malher (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 60 92; www.grandhotelmalher.com; 5 rue Malher, 4e; M St-Paul; s €95-120, d €115-140, ste €170-185; ☑) This welcoming establishment run by the same family for three generations has a small but pretty courtyard at the back. The 31 guestrooms are of a decent size, and the bathrooms modern and relatively capacious. Room 1 and 2 open on to the courtyard. Wheelchair access available.

Hôtel St-Louis Marais (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 48 87 87 04; www.saintlouismarais.com; 1 rue Charles V, 4e; M Sully Morland; s €99, d & tw €115-140, tr/ste €150/160; ☑) This especially charming hotel in a converted 17th-century convent is more Bastille than Marais but still within easy walking distance of the latter. Wooden beams, terracotta tiles and heavy brocade drapes tend to darken the 19 rooms but certainly add to the atmosphere. Be aware that there are four floors here but no lift.

Hôtel Castex (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 72 31 52; www.cas texhotel.com; 5 rue Castex, 4e; M Bastille; s/d/ste €120/150/220; ☑ ☑) Equidistant from Bastille and the Marais, the 30-room Castex has modernised but retains some of its 17th-century elements, including a vaulted stone cellar used as a breakfast room, terracotta floor tiles and Toile de Jouy wallpaper. Try to get one of the independent rooms (1 and 2) off the lovely patio; room 3 is a two-room suite or family room.

Hôtel de la Bretonnerie (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 48 87 77 63; www.bretonnerie.com; 22 rue Ste-Croix de la Bretonnerie, 4e; M Hôtel de Ville; r €125-160, ste €185-210; ☑) This is a very charming upper midrange place in the heart of the Marais nightlife area dating from the 17th century. The decor of each of the 22 guestrooms and seven suites is unique, and some rooms have four-poster and canopy beds. Three 'duplex' suites on two levels are huge and can easily accommodate three or four people.

Hôtel Caron de Beaumarchais (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 34 12; www.carondebeaumarchais.com; 12 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e; M St-Paul; r €125-162; ☑ ☑ ☑) Decorated like an 18th-century private house – contemporary with Beaumarchais, who wrote *Le Mariage de Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro) at No 47 of the same street – this themed hotel has to be seen to be believed. The museumlike lobby, with its prized 18th-century pianoforte, gaming tables, gilded mirrors, and candelabras, sets the tone of the place. Downsides: the 19 guestrooms are on the smallest side, and the welcome is never very warm.

TOP END

ourpick **Hôtel St-Merry** (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 78 14 15; www.hotelmaraiss.com; 78 rue de la Verrerie, 4e; M Châtelet; d & tw €160-230, tr €205-275, ste €335-407; ☑) The interior of this small hostelery, with beamed ceilings, remade church pews and confessionals, and wrought-iron candelabra, is a goth's wet dream and just the place for the Dracula in you who yearns to breathe free. The 11 rooms and one suite of this hotel, by far our favourite medieval number in the Marais, are in the one-time presbytery of the attached Église St-Merry. So very close are both structures that two flying buttresses straddle the double bed of room 9; the possibilities for in-house gymnastics are endless. Some rooms are on the smallish side – although room 11 is larger than most; room 20 is a suite with eye-popping furnishings and room 12 has a bed board formed of ancient church furnishings and a large table. On the downside: there is no lift connecting the postage-stamp lobby with the four upper floors, no mod cons to speak of (except for recently introduced wi-fi) and no air-conditioning in a hotel that gets quite warm in summer.

Hôtel du Petit Moulin (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 74 10 10; www.hoteldupetitmoulin.com; 29-31 rue de Poitou, 3e; M Filles du Calvaire; r €180-280, ste €350; ☑ ☑) This scrumptious boutique hotel in what was once a bakery was designed from top to bottom by Christian Lacroix. It features 17 completely different rooms – from medieval and rococo Marais, sporting exposed beams and dressed in toile de Jouy wallpaper, to a more modern *quartier* with contemporary murals and heart-shaped mirrors just this side of kitsch. 'The Little Mill' is a wonderful new addition to the northern end of the Marais. Wheelchair access available.

The Islands

The smaller of the two islands in the middle of the Seine, Île St-Louis, is by far the more romantic, and it has a string of excellent top-end hotels. It's an easy walk from central Paris. Oddly enough, the only hotel of any sort on the Île de la Cité is a budget one.

BUDGET

Hôtel Henri IV (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 54 44 53; 25 place Dauphine, 1er; M Pont Neuf or Cité; s & d €52-76, tr €76) This decrepit place, with 15 worn rooms, is popular for its location, location and – above all else – location on the very tip of the Île de la Cité. It

would be impossible to find something this romantic at such a price elsewhere; just don't stay in bed too long. All rooms have showers and are quite large. Book well in advance.

TOP END

Hôtel St-Louis (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 46 34 04 80; www.hotel-saint-louis.com; 75 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; **M** Pont Marie; r €140-155, ste €220; ☺ ☑ ☒) One of several hotels lining posh rue St-Louis en l'Île, this place has 19 appealing but unspectacular rooms, though the public areas are lovely. The breakfast room in the basement dates from the early 17th century.

Hôtel de Lutèce (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 23 52; www.paris-hotel-lutece.com; 65 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; **M** Pont Marie; s €150, d €170-189, tr €205-225; ☺ ☑ ☒) An exquisite hotel and more country than city, the Lutèce has an enviable spot on delightful Île St-Louis, and 23 comfortable, tastefully decorated and recently renovated rooms. The lobby/salon, with its ancient fireplace, wood panelling and antique furnishings, sets the welcoming and cosy tone of the whole place.

Latin Quarter & Jardin des Plantes

The northern section of the 5e close to the Seine has been popular with students and young people since the Middle Ages, though there is relatively little budget accommodation left in the area.

There are dozens of attractive two- and three-star hotels in the Latin Quarter, including a cluster near the Sorbonne and another group along the lively rue des Écoles. Midrange hotels in the area are very popular with visiting academics, so rooms are hardest to find when conferences and seminars are scheduled (usually from March to June and in October). In general this part of the city offers better value among top-end hotels than the neighbouring 6e does. The Luxembourg and Port Royal RER stations are linked to both airports by RER and Orlyval.

BUDGET

Young & Happy Hostel (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 47 07 47 07; www.youngandhappy.fr; 80 rue Mouffetard, 5e; **M** Place Monge; dm/d €23/52; ☑ ☒) Although slightly frayed, this is a friendly spot in the centre of the Latin Quarter. It's popular with a slightly older crowd nowadays. The rooms are closed from 11am to 4pm, but the reception remains open; there is no curfew. Beds are in rather cramped rooms for two to eight people, with

washbasins. In summer the best way to get a bed is to stop by at about 8am. Internet access costs €2 for half an hour.

Centre International de Séjour BVJ Paris-Quartier Latin (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 29 34 80; www.bvjhotel.com; 44 rue des Bernardins, 5e; **M** Maubert Mutualité; dm/s/d €28/42/64; ☑ ☒) This hostel on the Left Bank is a sister branch of the Centre International de Séjour BVJ Paris-Louvre (p165) and has all the same rules. There are 100 beds in singles, doubles and single-sex dorm rooms for four to 10 people. All of the rooms here have showers and telephones.

Hôtel Esmeralda (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 54 19 20; fax 01 40 51 00 68; 4 rue St-Julien le Pauvre, 5e; **M** St-Michel; s €35-95, d €85-95, tr/q €110/120) Tucked away in a quiet street with full views of Notre Dame (choose room No 12!), the Esmeralda has been everyone's secret 'find' for years now, so book well in advance. At these prices and location, the 19 guestrooms – the three cheapest singles have washbasin only – are no great shakes, so expect little beyond the picture postcard through the window. Be advised that there is no lift and some rooms share a toilet.

Port Royal Hôtel (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 31 70 06; www.hotelportroyal.fr; 8 bd de Port Royal, 5e; **M** Les Gobelins; s €41-89, d €52.50-89) It's hard to imagine that this 46-room hotel, owned and managed by the same family for three generations, still only bears one star. The spotless and very quiet rooms overlook a small glassed-in courtyard (eg No 15) or the street (No 14), but we especially like room No 11, with its colourful bed frame and pretty bathroom. Rooms at the lower end of the scale have washbasins only. Wheelchair access available.

Hôtel Gay-Lussac (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 54 23 96; hotel.gay-lussac@dub-internet.fr; 29 rue Gay Lussac, 5e; **M** Luxembourg; s/d with washbasin €50/60, s/d with shower €60/70, s/d/tr/q with shower & toilet €65/78/98/110; ☑ ☒) The Gay-Lussac, a 35-room threadbare hotel with a certain amount of character in the southern part of the Latin Quarter, has entered the modern age with a website, wi-fi throughout and a lick of paint. Though the single rooms are small, the others are very large indeed and have high ceilings. Furnishings are very basic, but the staff are friendly and helpful.

MIDRANGE

Hôtel Cluny Sorbonne (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 54 66 66; www.hotel-cluny.fr; 8 rue Victor Cousin, 5e; **M** Luxembourg; d €70-95, q €130-150; ☑ ☒) This hotel, surrounded by the prestigious buildings of the Sorbonne, is where

the poet Arthur Rimbaud dallied in 1872. It has 23 rooms that could do with an upgrade, but the cheery yellow lobby and equally cheery staff make up for that. One of the choicest rooms is No 63, a quad with memorable views of the college and the Panthéon.

Hôtel de l'Espérance (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 47 07 10 99; www.hoteldesesperance.fr; 15 rue Pascal, 5e; M Censier Daubenton; s €71-80, d €80-90; ♿ ☑ ☒) Just a couple of minutes' walk south of lively rue Mouffetard, the 'Hotel of Hope' is a quiet and immaculately kept 38-room place with faux antique furnishings and a warm welcome from the charming couple who own it. Some of the larger rooms have two double beds. Wheelchair access available.

Hôtel des 3 Collèges (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 54 67 30; www.3colleges.com; 16 rue Cujas, 5e; M Luxembourg; s €78-120, d €96-140, tr €130-160; ♿ ☑ ☒) Under new (and enthusiastic) management, this 44-room hotel is a pleasant and reasonably priced place to stay by the Sorbonne. Furnishings in the smallish rooms are simple – white with splashes of pastel – and some rooms share a toilet. But we love room No 63, with its beamed ceiling and three sun-splashed windows.

Familia Hôtel (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 54 55 27; www.familiahotel.com; 11 rue des Écoles, 5e; M Cardinal Lemoine; s incl breakfast €86, d & tw €103-124, tr €161-173, q €184; ♿ ☑) This very welcoming and well-situated family-run hotel has attractive sepia murals of Paris' landmarks in 21 of its 30 rooms. Eight rooms have little balconies, from which you can catch a glimpse of Notre Dame. By far the choicest rooms, which carry a premium, are Nos 61, 62 and 65 (the last has a four-poster bed). We love the flower-bedecked windows, lovely parquet floors and complimentary buffet breakfast.

Hôtel Minerve (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 26 26 04; www.parishotelinminerve.com; 13 rue des Écoles, 5e; M Cardinal Lemoine; s incl breakfast €90-125, d €106-136, tr €156-158; ♿ ☑) This 54-room hotel in two buildings is owned by the same family that runs the Familia Hôtel (p169). It has a reception area decked out in oriental carpets and antique books, and we love the frescos of French monuments and reproduction 18th-century wall-papers. Some 10 rooms have small balconies, eight have views of Notre Dame and two have tiny courtyards that are swooningly romantic. The breakfast buffet is complimentary.

Hôtel St-Jacques (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 44 07 45 45; www.hotel-saintjacques.com; 35 rue des Écoles, 5e; M Maubert

Mutualité; s €92, d €105-137, tr €168; ♿ ☑ ☒) This very stylish 38-room hotel has balconies that overlook the Panthéon. Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant, who filmed some scenes of *Charade* here in the 1960s, would appreciate the mod cons that now complement the original 19th-century details (trompe l'œil ceilings, iron staircase etc). Wheelchair access available.

Hôtel des Grandes Écoles (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 26 79 23; www.hotel-grandes-ecoles.com; 75 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, 5e; M Cardinal Lemoine or Place Monge; d €110-135, tr €125-155; ☒) This wonderful and very welcoming hotel just north of place de la Contrescarpe has one of the loveliest situations in the Latin Quarter, tucked away in a courtyard off a medieval street with its own garden. Choose a room in one of three buildings; our favourites are those in the garden annexe, especially the five that are on the ground floor and have direct access to the garden (Nos 29 to 33). Wheelchair access available.

TOP END

Select Hôtel (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 46 34 14 80; www.selecthotel.fr; 1 place de la Sorbonne, 5e; M Cluny-La Sorbonne; d €139-175, tw €155-175, tr €179-189, ste €212; ♿ ☑ ☒) Smack dab in the heart of the student-filled Sorbonne area, the Select is a very Parisian, art-deco mini-palace, with an atrium and cactus-strewn winter garden, an 18th-century vaulted breakfast room and 67 stylish (though small) rooms.

Hôtel de Notre Maître Albert (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 79 00; www.hotel-paris-notredame.com; 19 rue Maître Albert, 5e; M Maubert Mutualité; s/d €155/165; ☑) Hidden down a quiet side street of the Latin Quarter but just paces from the Seine, this hotel has some lovely public areas (we adore the tapestry in the lobby, and the oriental carpets), but the 34 rooms, most of which look to rooftops out back and line long narrow corridors, are less impressive.

Hôtel La Demeure (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 37 81 25; www.hotellademeureparis.com; 51 bd St-Marcel, 13e; M Gobelins; s/d/ste €165/202/290; ♿ ☑ ☒) This self-proclaimed *hôtel de caractère*, owned and operated by a charming father-and-son team, is just a bit away from the action at the bottom of the 5e. But the refined elegance of its 43 rooms, the almost 'clubby' public areas and the wraparound balconies of the corner rooms make it worth going that extra distance. Famed for those extra touches, the suite has an iPod, and the modern red fireplace in the lobby actually works.

St-Germain, Odéon & Luxembourg

The well-heeled St-Germain-des-Prés is a delightful area to stay in but has very little in the way of budget places to stay.

What you will find on offer here in that category is competitively priced with other areas, though. On the other hand, there are some excellent midrange hotels in this neighbourhood.

MIDRANGE

Hôtel de Nesle (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 54 62 41; www.hotel.denesleparis.com; 7 rue de Nesle, 6e; M Odéon or Mabillon; s €55-85, d €75-100) The Nesle is a relaxed, colourfully decorated hotel with 20 rooms, half of which are painted with murals taken from (mostly French) literature. What is by far its greatest asset, though, is the huge back garden accessible from the 1st floor, with pathways, trellis and even a small fountain. Room 12 looks onto it.

Hôtel du Dragon (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 45 48 51 05; www.hoteldudragon.com; 36 rue du Dragon, 6e; M Sévres Babylone; s/d €95/115; ☎ ☒ ☓) There's no lift at this five-storey hotel, just a rickety-looking old wooden staircase that leads to the 28 brightly coloured rooms. The bedside lamps are on the low-budget side, and we could live without the faux-fur bed coverings. But the bathrooms are large and up to date, and the piano lounge and tiny back patio are just made for relaxing.

Hôtel du Globe (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 35 50; www.hotel-du-globe.fr; 15 rue des Quatre Vents, 6e; M Odéon; s €95-140, d €115-150, ste €180; ☎ ☒ ☓) The Globe is an eclectic caravanserai with 14 small but completely renovated rooms just south of the bd St-Germain. Some of the rooms are verging on the minuscule, and there is no lift (you ascend the four floors via a very narrow staircase). Still, we're suckers for armour – there are at least two full sets here – and canopy beds (go for room 43).

Hôtel du Lys (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 97 57; www.hotelduly.com; 23 rue Serpente, 6e; M Odéon; s/d/tr €100/120/140) This 22-room hotel situated in what was a *hôtel particulier* in the 17th century has been owned and operated by the same family for six decades. We love the beamed ceiling and the chinoiserie wallpaper in the lobby; rooms to go for include the blue-toned No 13, with its striped ceiling and two windows, or the darker (but more atmospheric) No 14 in terracotta and with rustic old furniture.

TOP END

Hôtel des Marronniers (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 25 30 60; www.hotel-marronniers.com; 21 rue Jacob, 6e; M St-Germain des Prés; s €115-181, d & tw €161-181, tr/q €216/256; ☎ ☒ ☓) At the end of a small courtyard 30m from the main street, the 'Chestnut Trees' has 37 cosy rooms and a delightful conservatory opening on to a back garden. From the 3rd floor up, rooms ending in 1, 2 or 3 look on to the garden; the rooms on the two uppermost floors – the 5th and the 6th – have pretty views over the courtyard and the roofs of central Paris.

Hôtel d'Angleterre (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 60 34 72; www.hotel-dangleterre.com; 44 rue Jacob, 6e; M St-Germain des Prés; s incl breakfast €100-255, d €200-265, ste €285-320; ☎ ☒ ☓) The 'England Hotel' is a beautiful 27-room property in a quiet street close to busy bd St-Germain and the Musée d'Orsay. Guests breakfast in the courtyard of this former British Embassy, where the Treaty of Paris ending the American Revolution was signed and where Hemingway once lodged. Duplex suite No 51 at the top has beamed ceiling and No 12 a four-poster bed. Breakfast is included in room rates.

Montparnasse

Just east of Gare Montparnasse, the mammoth train station that also houses the Montparnasse Bienvenue metro station, there are a number of budget and lower-end midrange places on rue Vandamme and rue de la Gaité – though the latter street is rife with sex shops and peep shows. Gare Montparnasse is served by Air France buses from both airports. Place Denfert Rochereau is also linked to both airports by Orlybus, Orlyval and RER.

BUDGET

Celtic Hôtel (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 43 20 93 53; hotel.celtic@wanadoo.fr; 15 rue d'Odessa, 14e; M Edgar Quinet; s €45-56, d €63-70, tr €80) A cheapie of the old school and still resisting a website, this 29-room hotel is an old-fashioned place with a small modern lift and an up-to-date reception area. The cheaper singles are pretty bare and even the doubles and triples with shower are not exactly *tout confort* (with all the mod cons), but the Gare Montparnasse is only 200m away.

Hôtel de Blois (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 45 40 99 48; www.hotel.deblois.com; 5 rue des Plantes, 14e; M Mouton Duvernet; s €55-75, d €59-80, tw €58-66, tr €70-85; ☎ ☒ ☓) This 25-room establishment just off the av du Maine has been completely overhauled and is now a very

pleasant, very affordable one-star hotel just south of Gare Montparnasse. Rooms, smallish but fully equipped, have shower or bath, but some share use of the toilet in the hallway.

MIDRANGE

Hôtel Delambre (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 43 20 66 31; www.hoteldelambre.com; 35 rue Delambre, 14e; 📍 Montparnasse; r €80-115, ste €150-160; ♿ 📺 📺) This attractive 30-room hotel just east of the Gare Montparnasse takes wrought-iron as a theme and uses it both in functional pieces (bed, lamps, shelving) and decorative items throughout. Room 7 has its own little terrace, while Nos 1 and 2 open on to a small private courtyard. Wheelchair access available.

TOP-END

Hôtel Aviatc (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 53 63 25 50; www.aviatic.fr; 105 rue de Vaugirard, 6e; 📍 Montparnasse Bienvenue; r €149-270, ste €310-355; ♿ 📺 📺) This 42-room hotel with charming, almost Laura Ashley-style decor and a delightful art-deco canopied entrance has been in the business since 1856, so it must be doing something right. The tiny 'winter garden' is a breath of fresh air (literally). Some rooms face the street and some the quieter (and no less light) courtyard.

Faubourg St-Denis & Invalides

The 7e is a lovely arrondissement in which to stay, but apart from the northeastern section – the area east of Invalides and opposite the Louvre – it's fairly quiet and away from all the action.

MIDRANGE

Hôtel du Champ-de-Mars (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 45 51 52 30; www.hotelduchampdemars.com; 7 rue du Champ de Mars, 7e; 📍 École Militaire; s/d/tw/tr €84/90/94/112; ♿ 📺 📺) This charming 25-room hotel in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower is on everyone's wish list, so book a good month or two in advance. The attractive shop-front entrance leads to a colourful lobby done up in yellow and charcoal. Rooms on the lower floors can be downright cupboardlike, though; go up higher and you might earn a glimpse of Mademoiselle Eiffel herself.

Mayet Hôtel (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 47 83 21 35; www.mayet.com; 3 rue Mayet, 6e; 📍 Duroc; s incl breakfast €95-120, d €120-140, tr €160; ♿ 📺 📺) Light-hearted and loads of fun, this 23-room boutique hotel with drippy murals and a penchant for oversize clocks and primary colours, has

good-sized rooms and bathrooms, most with tubs. It offers excellent value and complimentary breakfast too.

Hôtel Lindbergh (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 45 48 35 53; www.paris-hotel-lindbergh.com; 5 rue Comel, 7e; 📍 Sèvres Babylone; d €98-160, tr €156-180, q €166-190; ♿) We still haven't figured out why this 26-room *hôtel de charme* (charming hotel) is totally kitted out in Charles Lindbergh photos and memorabilia, but it works. We also like the room number plates on the doors with little Paris landmarks, the ample-sized bathrooms and the friendly staff.

Hôtel Muguet (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 47 05 05 93; www.hotelmuguet.com; 11 rue Chevert, 7e; 📍 La Tour Maubourg; s/d/tr €103/135/180; ♿ 📺 📺) This hotel strategically placed between Invalides and the Eiffel Tower has 48 generously sized rooms that have been recently renovated. Room 63 is bathed in light and takes in the Église du Dôme (p151). No 62 has a mansard ceiling but wins the lottery with views of the Eiffel Tower. The glassed-in breakfast room opens on to a delightful courtyard garden.

Étoile & Champs-Élysées

This area has some of Paris' finest hotels as well as a couple of real trendsetters.

MIDRANGE

Hôtel Alison (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 65 54 00; www.hotelalison.com; 21 rue de Surène, 8e; 📍 Madeleine; s €80-165, d €112-165, tw €135-145, tr €165, ste €204-290; ♿) This excellent-value 34-room midrange hotel, just west of place de la Madeleine, attracts with the bold colours of its carpets and furnishings and modern art in the lobby. Prices depend on whether rooms have bath or shower, as well as the view. Double No 37, for example, looks on to rue Surène, while more-expensive room 31 overlooks a leafy patio.

TOP END

Hôtel Le A (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 56 99 99; www.paris-hotel-a.com; 4 rue d'Artois, 8e; 📍 St-Philippe du Roule; r €355-431, ste €485-640; ♿ 📺 📺) The 26-room 'A' (think 'list') is an uberstylish minimalist hotel that doesn't have any of the attitude that generally goes with the concept. White, black and grey predominate and help frame the fabulous contemporary art by painter Fabrice Hybert. The airy spaces (the breakfast area and bar are in a glassed-in courtyard), fireplace, and books in the lobby for guests' use are welcome, but rooms are on the petite side.

Clichy & Gare St-Lazare

These areas have some excellent midrange hotels. The better deals are away from Gare St-Lazare, but there are several places along rue d'Amsterdam beside the station worth checking out.

BUDGET

Style Hôtel (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 45 22 37 59; fax 01 45 22 81 03; 8 rue Ganneron, 18e; **M** La Fourche; s & d €35-50, tr/q €57/67) This 36-room hotel just north of place de Clichy and west of Cimetière de Montmartre is a bit rough around the edges (rough wooden floors, old runner carpets in the hallways) but is loaded with character and the welcome is always charming. There's a lovely double courtyard, but no lift. The cheapest singles and doubles are equipped with washbasin only.

Hôtel Eldorado (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 45 22 35 21; www.eldoradohotel.fr; 18 rue des Dames, 17e; **M** Place de Clichy; s €35-57, d & tw €68-80, tr €80-90) This bohemian place is one of Paris' greatest finds: a welcoming, somewhat well-run place with 23 colourfully decorated rooms in a main building on a quiet street and in an annexe with a private garden at the back. Cheaper-category singles have washbasin only.

MIDRANGE

New Orient Hôtel (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 45 22 21 64; www.hotelneworient.com; 16 rue de Constantinople, 8e; **M** Europe; s €89-115, d €106-115, tw €115-140, tr & q €150; ☎ ☎ ☎) This 30-room nonsmoking hotel is in a neighbourhood of the 8e north of Gare St-Lazare that seems to have only shops that sell musical instruments and/or sheet music. The place has a lot of personality, especially in the common areas. Some rooms (eg twin room No 7 and double No 8) have little balconies.

Hôtel Langlois (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 48 74 78 24; www.hotel-langlois.com; 63 rue St-Lazare, 9e; **M** Trinité; s €105-120, d & tw €120-140, ste €180; ☎ ☎) Built in 1870, this 27-room hotel has managed to retain its charming belle-époque look and feel. The hotel's rooms and suites (eg Nos 11 and 15) are unusually large for a smallish hotel in Paris. Room 64 has wonderful views of the rooftops of Montmartre.

Opéra & Grands Boulevards

The avenues around blvd Montmartre are popular for their nightlife area and it's a lively area in which to stay. It's very convenient for

shopping as this is where you'll find Paris' premium department stores.

MIDRANGE

Hôtel Chopin (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 47 70 58 10; www.hotelchopin.fr; 46 passage Jouffroy, entrance at 10 blvd Montmartre, 9e; **M** Grands Boulevards; s €50-78, d €81-92, tr €109) Dating back to 1846, the 36-room Chopin is down one of Paris' most delightful 19th-century *passages couverts* (p155). It may be a little faded around the edges, but it's still enormously evocative of the belle époque. The cheapest singles have washbasin only.

Hôtel Vivienne (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 33 13 26; www.hotel-vivienne.com; 40 rue Vivienne, 2e; **M** Grands Boulevards; s €60-114, d & tw €75-114; ☎ ☎) This stylish 45-room hotel is amazingly good value for Paris. While the rooms are not huge, they have all the mod cons, some have little balconies and the public areas are bright and cheery.

Hôtel Peletier-Haussmann-Opéra (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 46 79 53; www.peletieropera.com; 15 rue Le Peletier, 9e; **M** Richelieu Drouot; s €70-90, d €80-100, tr €86-110; ☎) This is a pleasant, 26-room hotel just off blvd Haussmann and close to the big department stores. There are attractive packages available at weekends, depending on the season. Internet access costs €2 for 15 minutes.

Hôtel Victoria (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 47 70 20 01; www.hotelvictoria.free.fr; 2bis Cité Bergère, 9e; **M** Grands Boulevards; s/d/tr €71/77/93) This 107-room old-style hotel in a quiet alleyway just off the Grands Boulevards is a good choice if you're looking for central budget accommodation on the Right Bank. The rooms are generally unexceptional but of a good size and the welcome is warm.

Hôtel Favart (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 97 59 83; www.hotel-paris-favart.com; 5 rue Marivaux, 2e; **M** Richelieu Drouot; s €100-130, d €130-160, tr €140-180, q €155-200; ☎ ☎ ☎) With 37 rooms facing the Opéra Comique, the Favart is a stylish art-nouveau hotel that feels like it never let go of the belle époque. We like the prints on the walls in the lobby and the dramatic wrought-iron staircase leading up to the 1st floor. Wheelchair access available.


Gare du Nord, Gare de l'Est & République

The areas east and northeast of the Gare du Nord and Gare de l'Est have always had a more than ample selection of hotels, and there is also a hostel within striking distance. At the same time, there are quite a few two- and three-star places around the

train stations in the 10e that are convenient if you are catching an early-morning train to London or want to crash immediately upon arrival. Place de la République is convenient for the nightlife areas of Ménilmontant.

Gare du Nord is linked to Charles de Gaulle airport by RER and RATP bus 350 and to Orly airport by Orlyval. Bus 350 to/from Charles de Gaulle airport also stops right in front of the Gare de l'Est.


BUDGET

Peace & Love Hostel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 46 07 65 11; www.paris-hostels.com; 245 rue La Fayette, 10e; **M** Jaurès or Louis Blanc; dm/d €25/60; ) This modern-day hippy hang-out is a groovy though chronically crowded hostel with beds in 21 small-ish, shower-equipped rooms for two to four people. There's a great kitchen and eating area, but most of the action seems to revolve around the ground floor bar (open till 2am), which has more than two dozen types of beer. Internet access starts at €1 for 15 minutes.

Sibour Hôtel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 46 07 20 74; www.hotel-sibour.com; 4 rue Sibour, 10e; **M** Gare de l'Est; s €40-55, d €45-65, tr/q €80/110) This friendly place has 45 well-kept rooms, including some old-fashioned ones – the cheapest singles and doubles – with washbasins only. Hall showers cost €3. Some of the rooms look down on to pretty Église de St-Laurent. Note the trompe l'œil mural in the breakfast room.



Hôtel La Vieille France (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 45 26 42 37; la.vieille.france@wanadoo.fr; 151 rue La Fayette, 10e; **M** Gare du Nord; s €48, d €75-85, tr €120; ) The 'Old France' is an upbeat, 34-room place with relatively spacious and pleasant rooms, though with the Gare du Nord so close it's bound to be somewhat noisy. Singles have washbasins only, but hall showers are free.

MIDRANGE




Nord-Est Hôtel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 47 70 07 18; hotel.nord.est@wanadoo.fr; 12 rue des Petits Hôtels, 10e; **M** Poissonnière; s/d/tr/q €65/75/110/145; ) This unusual 30-room hotel, charmingly located on the 'Street of Little Hotels', is set away from the street and fronted by a small terrace. It is convenient to both the Gare du Nord and the Gare de l'Est. Internet access costs an outrageous €8/12 for 30/60 minutes.

Grand Hôtel de Paris (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 46 07 40 56; grand.hotel.de.paris@gofornet.com; 72 bd de Strasbourg, 10e; **M** Gare de l'Est; s/d/tr/q €80/86/105/122) The

Grand Hôtel de Paris is a well-run establishment just south of the Gare de l'Est. It has 49 soundproofed rooms and a tiny lift. The quads are especially spacious; try room 53. Room 33 has a small balcony.

Hôtel Français (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 40 35 94 14; www.hotelfrancais.com; 13 rue du 8 Mai 1945, 10e; **M** Gare de l'Est; s €94-101, d €99-106, tr €134-141;   ) This two-star hotel facing the Gare de l'Est has 72 attractive, almost luxurious and very quiet rooms, some of which have balconies. The place has recently been freshened up; we love the new mock-café breakfast area.



TOP END

Kube Hôtel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 05 20 00; www.kube.hotel.com; 1-5 passage Ruelle, 18e; **M** La Chapelle; s €250, d €300-400, ste €500-750;   ) The theme at this ubertrendy boutique hotel is, of course, three-dimensional square – from the glassed-in reception box in the entrance courtyard and the cube-shaped furnishings in the 41 guestrooms to the ice in the cocktails at the celebrated Ice Kube (p190) bar.




Ménilmontant & Belleville

The Ménilmontant nightlife district is an excellent area in which to spend the evening, but the selection of accommodation in all price ranges is somewhat limited, especially in the budget category.

MIDRANGE

Hôtel Croix de Malte (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 48 05 09 36; www.hotelcroixdemalte-paris.com; 5 rue de Malte, 11e; **M** Oberkampf; s €75-85, d €85-95;  ) With its glassed-in courtyard sporting a giant jungle mural, this cheery hotel will have you thinking you're in the tropics, not Paris. The 40 rooms are in two little buildings, only one of which has a lift.

Hôtel Beaumarchais (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 53 36 86 86; www.hotelbeaumarchais.com; 3 rue Oberkampf, 11e; **M** Filles du Calvaire; s €75-90, d €110-130, tr €170-190;  ) This brighter-than-bright 31-room boutique hotel, with its emphasis on sunbursts and bold primary colours, is just this side of kitsch. But it makes for a different Paris experience and fits in with its surroundings very well indeed. The rooms are of a decent size; the best are Nos 2 and 3, a triple and a double facing the courtyard.

Hôtel Vieux Saule (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 72 01 14; www.hotelvieuxsaule.com; 6 rue de Picardie, 3e; **M** Filles du Calvaire; s €120, d €140-160, tr €180;   ) The

flower-bedecked 'Old Willow Tree', a 28-room hostelry in the northern Marais bordering Ménilmontant, is something of a find because of its slightly unusual location. The hotel has a small sauna, there is a tranquil little 'garden' on display behind glass off the lobby, and breakfast is served in the 16th-century vaulted cellar.


TOP END


Murano Urban Resort (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 71 20 00; www.muranoresort.com; 13 bd du Temple, 3e; **M** Filles du Calvaire; s €360, d €440-650, ste €750-1200; ♿    ) This 52-room hotel's subtitle, 'Urban Resort', suggests that you should come, kick off your shoes and sink your toes in the hotel's figurative sand. And with public areas like a new spa with heated pool, a glass-roofed courtyard restaurant, a cool jazz and DJ bar, and guestrooms that allow you to change their colour scheme, that's easily accomplished.


Gare de Lyon, Nation & Bercy

The neighbourhood around the Gare de Lyon has a few budget hotels as well as an independent hostel.

BUDGET

Blue Planet Hostel (Map pp134-5; ☎ 01 43 42 06 18; www.hostelblueplanet.com; 5 rue Hector Malot, 12e; **M** Gare de Lyon; dm €21;  ) This 43-room hostel is very close to Gare de Lyon – convenient if you're heading south or west at the crack of dawn. Dorm beds are in rooms for two to four people. The hostel closes between 11am and 3pm, but there's no curfew. Internet access costs €3 for 30 minutes.

Hôtel Le Cosy (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 43 43 10 02; www.hotel-cosy.com; 50 av de St-Mandé, 12e; **M** Picpus; s €40-65, d €50-99; ♿  ) This family-run budget hotel immediately southeast of place de la Nation positively oozes charm. The 28 rooms, though basic – the cheapest singles and doubles have washbasins only – are all different, decorated in original artwork and with hardwood floors. If feeling flush, choose one of four 'VIP' rooms in the courtyard annexe, especially No 3 or 4 on the 1st floor.

Hôtel du Printemps (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 43 43 62 31; www.hotel-paris-printemps.com; 80 bd de Picpus, 12e; **M** Picpus; s €50, d €60, tw €65-70, tr €75-80, q €88; ) It may not be in the centre of the action, but the 38-room 'Spring Hotel' offers excellent value for its standard and location just steps from place de la Nation. What's more, there's an in-house

bar open day and night. Singles have showers but share a toilet; doubles have everything.



Montmartre & Pigalle


Montmartre, encompassing the 18e and the northern part of the 9e, is one of the most charming neighbourhoods in Paris. There is a bunch of top-end hotels in the area, and the attractive midrange places on rue Aristide Bruant are generally less full in July and August than in spring and autumn.

The flat area around the base of the Butte Montmartre has some surprisingly good budget deals. The lively, ethnically mixed area east of Sacré Cœur can be a bit rough; some say it's prudent to avoid Château Rouge metro station at night. Both the 9e and the 18e have a fine hostel.

BUDGET

Woodstock Hostel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 48 78 87 76; www.woodstock.fr; 48 rue Rodier, 9e; **M** Anvers; dm/d €19/44 Oct-Mar, €22/50 Apr-Sep;  ) Woodstock is just down the hill from raucous Pigalle in a quiet, residential quarter. Dorm beds are in rooms for four to six people, and each room has washbasin only; showers and toilets are off the corridor. Rooms are closed from 11am to 3pm, and the (enforced) curfew is at 2am. The eat-in kitchen down the steps from the patio is fully loaded. Internet access is available for €2 for 30 minutes; wi-fi is free.

Le Village Hostel (Map p136; ☎ 01 42 64 22 02; www.villagehostel.fr; 20 rue d'Orsel, 18e; **M** Anvers; dm/d/tr €24/60/81;  ) A fine 25-room hostel with beamed ceilings and views of Sacré Cœur, this one. Dormitory beds are in rooms for four to six people and all rooms have showers and toilets. Kitchen facilities are available, and there's a popular bar too. Rooms are closed between 11am and 4pm for cleaning, but there is no curfew. Internet access is available for €1/3.50 per 15/60 minutes.

Hôtel Bonséjour Montmartre (Map p136; ☎ 01 42 54 22 53; www.hotel-bonsejour-montmartre.fr; 11 rue Burg, 18e; **M** Abbesses; s €33-40, d €44-55, tr €58-65; ) At the top of a quiet street in Montmartre, the 'Good Stay' is a perennial budget favourite. It's a simple place – no lift, linoleum or parquet floors – but welcoming, comfortable, very clean and getting a protracted (and much needed) facelift. Some rooms (Nos 14, 23, 33, 43 and 53) have little balconies attached, and at least one room (No 55) offers a fleeting glimpse of Sacré Cœur. Hall showers cost €2.

MIDRANGE

Hôtel Utrillo (Map p136; ☎ 01 42 58 13 44; www.hotel-paris-utrillo.com; 7 rue Aristide Bruant, 18e; **M** Abbesses or Blanche; s €73, d & tw €83-88, tr €105; ☑) This friendly 30-room hotel, named for the 'painter of Montmartre', Maurice Utrillo (1883-1955), and decorated in primary colours, has a few extras such as a little leafy courtyard in back and a small sauna. Wheelchair access available.

Hôtel des Arts (Map p136; ☎ 01 46 06 30 52; www.arts-hotel-paris.com; 5 rue Tholozé, 18e; **M** Abbesses or Blanche; s €75-95, d & tw €95-105, tr €160; ☑) The 'Arts Hotel' is a friendly and attractive 50-room place convenient to both place Pigalle and Montmartre. Towering over it is the old-style windmill Moulin de la Galette. The resident canine is very friendly.

Hôtel Regyn's Montmartre (Map p136; ☎ 01 42 54 45 21; www.hotel-regyns-paris.com; 18 place des Abbesses, 18e; **M** Abbesses; s €79-89, d & tw €91-111, tr €117-131; ☑ ☒) This 22-room hotel is a good choice if you want to stay in old Montmartre and not break the bank. It's just opposite the Abbesses metro station, and some of the rooms have views out over Paris.

Hôtel du Moulin (Map p136; ☎ 01 42 64 33 33; www.hotelmoulin.com; 3 rue Aristide Bruant, 18e; **M** Abbesses or Blanche; s/d/tr €83/88/106; ☑) There are 27 good-sized rooms with toilet and bath or shower in both a main building and a garden annex at this quiet little hotel. The Korean family that owns the place is very kind. Check out their fun website.

Hôtel Résidence des 3 Poussins (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 53 32 81 81; www.les3poussins.com; 15 rue Clauzel, 9e; **M** St-Georges; s/d €137/152, 1- or 2-person studio €187, 3- or 4-person studio €222; ☑ ☒) The 'Hotel of the Three Chicks' is a lovely property due south of place Pigalle with 40 rooms, half of which are small studios with their own cooking facilities. This place positively exudes style, and the back patio is a delightful place in the warmer months for breakfast or a drink. Wheelchair access available.

TOP END

Terrass Hôtel (Map p136; ☎ 01 46 06 72 85; www.terrass-hotel.com; 12 rue Joseph de Maistre, 18e; **M** Blanche; r €260-325, ste €355-375; ☑ ☒ ☒) This very sedate and stylish hotel at the southeastern corner of Montparnasse Cemetery has 92 spacious and well-designed rooms and suites, an excellent restaurant and bar, and some of the best views in town. For the ultimate Parisian experience, choose double room 608 for stunning views of

the Eiffel Tower and Panthéon, or room 802, which has its own private terrace.

EATING

When it comes to food, Paris has everything...and nothing. As the culinary centre of the most aggressively gastronomic country in the world, the city has more 'generic French', regional, and ethnic restaurants than any other place in France. But *la cuisine parisienne* (Parisian cuisine) is a poor relation of that extended family known as *la cuisine des provinces* (provincial cuisine). That's because those greedy country cousins have consumed most of what was once on Paris' own plate, claiming it as their own. Today very few French dishes except maybe *vol-au-vent* (light pastry shell filled with chicken or fish in a creamy sauce), *potage St-Germain* (thick green pea soup), onion soup, the humble pig's trotters and *gâteau Paris-Brest*, a ring-shaped cake filled with praline and topped with flaked almonds and icing sugar, are associated with the capital.

That said, over the years certain foreign dishes have become as Parisian as pig's trotters (see p75). The *nems* and *pâtés impériaux* (spring or egg rolls) and *pho* (soup noodles with beef) of Vietnam, the *couscous* and *tajines* of North Africa, the *boudin antillais* (West Indian blood pudding) from the Caribbean and the *yassa* (meat or fish grilled in onion and lemon sauce) of Senegal are all eaten with relish throughout the capital. Indian, Chinese and Japanese food are also very popular non-French cuisines in Paris. In fact, foreign food is what Paris does better than any other city in the country.

One of Paris' largest concentrations of foreign restaurants is squeezed into a labyrinth of narrow streets in the 5e arrondissement across the Seine from Notre Dame. The Greek, North African and Middle Eastern restaurants between rue St-Jacques, bd St-Germain and bd St-Michel, including rue de la Huchette, attract mainly foreigners, often under the mistaken impression that this little maze is the whole of the famous 'Latin Quarter'. But you'd be far better off looking elsewhere for ethnic food: bd de Belleville in the 20e for Middle Eastern; nearby rue de Belleville in the 19e for Asian (especially Thai and Vietnamese); rue du Faubourg St-Denis in the 10e for Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi; and Chinatown in the 13e for

FAST-FOOD & CHAIN RESTAURANTS

American fast-food chains have busy branches all over Paris, as does the local hamburger chain **Quick** (www.quick.fr, in French). In addition, a number of local chain restaurants have outlets around Paris with standard menus. They are definitely a cut above fast-food outlets and can be good value in areas such as along the av des Champs-Élysées, where restaurants tend to be bad value.

The ever popular Italian-ish bistro-restaurant chain **Bistro Romain** (www.bistroromain.fr, in French; starters €4.90-17.10, pasta €13.30-16.40, mains €14.30-19.40, menus €12.50-33.60; ☎ 11am-midnight Sun-Thu, 11am-1am Fri & Sat), with 14 branches in Paris proper, is surprisingly upmarket for its price category. The **Champs-Élysées Bistro Romain** (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 43 59 93 31; 122 av des Champs-Élysées, 8e; 🚇 George V), one of a pair along the city's most famous thoroughfare, is a stone's throw from the Arc de Triomphe.

Buffalo Grill (www.buffalo-grill.fr; starters €4.20-10, mains €9.70-20.20, menus from €9.10; ☎ 11am-11pm Sun-Thu, 11am-midnight Fri & Sat) counts nine branches in Paris, including the **Gare du Nord Buffalo Grill** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 40 16 47 81; 9 bd de Denain, 10e; 🚇 Gare du Nord). Not surprisingly, the emphasis here is on grills and steak – everything from Canadian buffalo burgers (€10.50) to a huge entrecôte 'cowboy steak' (€17.60).

The ever-expanding **Hippopotamus** (www.hippopotamus.fr, in French; starters €4.80-9.90, mains €11.50-24.50, menus €15.50-29.50; ☎ 11.45am-12.30am Sun-Thu, to 1am Fri & Sat) chain, which has 20 branches in Paris proper, specialises in solid, steak-based meals. Three of the outlets stay open to 5am daily, including the **Opéra Hippopotamus** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 47 42 75 70; 1 bd des Capucines, 2e; 🚇 Opéra).

Léon de Bruxelles (www.leon-de-bruxelles.com, in French; starters €5.30-9.90, mains €10.50-16, menus €11.20-15.90; ☎ 11.45am-11pm) focuses on one thing and one thing only: *moules* (mussels). Meal-size bowls of the meaty bivalves, served with chips and bread, start at just over €10. There are nine Léons in Paris, including **Les Halles Léon de Bruxelles** (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 36 18 50; 120 rue Rambuteau, 1er; 🚇 Châtelet-Les Halles).

Chinese, especially av de Choisy, av d'Ivry and rue Baudricourt.

Louvre & Les Halles

The area between Forum des Halles (1er) and the Centre Pompidou (4e) is filled with scores of trendy restaurants, but few of them are particularly good and they mostly cater to tourists, both foreign and French. Streets lined with places to eat include rue des Lombards, the narrow streets north and east of Forum des Halles and pedestrians-only rue Montorgueil, a market street and probably your best bet for something quick.

Those in search of Asian food flock to rue Ste-Anne and other streets of Paris' so-called Japantown, which is just west of the Jardin du Palais Royal. There are also some good-value restaurants serving other Asian cuisine in the area.

FRENCH

Le Petit Mâchon (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 60 08 06; 158 rue St-Honoré, 1er; 🚇 Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre; starters €7-12.50, mains €14-22; ☎ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) An upbeat bistro with Lyon-inspired specialities convenient to the Louvre. Try the

saucisson de Lyon (Lyon sausage) studded with pistachios.

Le Grand Colbert (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 86 87 88; 2-4 rue Vivienne, 2e; 🚇 Pyramides; starters €10-21.50, mains €19.50-30, lunch menus €32-39, dinner menus €39; ☎ noon-3am) This former workers' *café* transformed into a fin-de-siècle showcase is more relaxed than many similarly restored restaurants and a convenient spot for lunch if visiting the *passages couverts* or cruising the streets late at night (last orders: 1am).

Chez la Vieille (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 60 15 78; 1 rue Bailleul, 1er; 🚇 Louvre-Rivoli; starters €15-21, mains €18-25, lunch menus €23; ☎ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner to 9.45pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri) Seating 'At the Old Lady's' is on two floors, but don't expect a slot on the more rustic ground floor; that's reserved for regulars. The small menu reflects the size of the place but is universally sublime.

AMERICAN

Joe Allen (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 36 70 13; 30 rue Pierre Lescot, 1er; 🚇 Étienne Marcel; starters €7.50-10.30, mains €15.50-26, lunch menus €13.90-22.50, dinner menus €18-22.50; ☎ noon-1am) An institution in Paris since 1972, Joe Allen is a little bit of New York in Paris. There's an excellent brunch (€19.50 to

€23.50) from noon to 4pm at the weekend. Ribs (€17) are a speciality.

ASIAN

Higuma (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 58 62 49 22; 163 rue St-Honoré, 1er; **M** Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre; dishes €7-12.50, menus €10-€11.50; ☺ lunch & dinner) This very authentic, no-nonsense Japanese noodle shop offers incredible value, particularly for its location opposite the Comédie Française. Try the *gyoza* (dumplings) and the fried noodles with pork and vegetables.

Djakarta Bali (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 45 08 83 11; 9 rue Vauvilliers, 1er; **M** Louvre Rivoli; starters €10.50-14.50, mains €11-22; ☺ dinner Tue-Sun) Run by the progeny of an Indonesian diplomat exiled when President Sukarno was overthrown in 1967, this place specialises in *rijstafel* (€20 to €45), 'rice table' feasts of between seven and 10 courses that just won't stop coming.

VEGETARIAN

Saveurs Végét'halles (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 40 41 93 95; 41 rue des Bourdonnais, 1er; **M** Châtelet; starters & salads €4.80-9.80, mains €11.20-17.20, lunch menus €9.80-15.30, dinner menus €15.30; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) This strictly vegan eatery offers quite a few mock-meat dishes such as *poulet végétal aux champignons* ('chicken' with mushrooms) and *escalope de seitan* (wheat gluten 'escalope'). No alcohol is served.

QUICK EATS

Scoop (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 60 31 84; 154 rue St-Honoré, 1er; **M** Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre; dishes €10.90-16.90; ☺ 11am-7pm) This American-style ice-cream parlour has been making quite a splash for its excellent wraps, burgers, tarts and soups and central, very fashionable location. Sunday brunch (11.30am to 4pm) includes pancakes with maple syrup.

SELF-CATERING

There are several supermarkets around Forum des Halles, including the **Franprix Les Halles** (Map pp126-7; 35 rue Berger, 1er; **M** Châtelet; ☺ 8.30am-9.50pm Mon-Sat) and the **Franprix Châtelet** (Map pp126-7; 16 rue Bertin Poirée, 1er; **M** Châtelet; ☺ 8.30am-8pm Mon-Sat).

Marais & Bastille

The Marais, filled with small restaurants of every imaginable type, is one of Paris' premier neighbourhoods for eating out. In the direction of place de la République there's a decent selection of different ethnic cuisines. If you're

looking for authentic Chinese food but can't be bothered going all the way to Chinatown in the 13e or Belleville in the 20e, check out any of the small noodle shops and restaurants along rue Au Maire, 3e (Map pp126-7; **M** Arts et Métiers), which is southeast of the Musée des Arts et Métiers. The kosher and kosher-style restaurants along rue des Rosiers, 4e (Map pp126-7; **M** St-Paul), the so-called Pletzl, serve specialities from North Africa, Central Europe and Israel. Many are closed on Friday evening, Saturday and Jewish holidays. Takeaway falafel and *shawarma* (kebabs) are available at several places along the street.

Bastille is another area chock-a-block with restaurants, some of which have added a star or two to their epaulettes in recent years. Narrow rue de Lappe and rue de la Roquette, 11e (Map pp132-3), just east of place de la Bastille, may not be as hip as they were a dozen years ago, but they remain popular streets for nightlife and attract a young, alternative crowd.

FRENCH

Le Trumilou (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 77 63 98; 84 quai de l'Hôtel de Ville, 4e; **M** Hôtel de Ville; starters €4.50-13, mains €15-22, menus €16.50 & €19.50; ☺ lunch & dinner) This no-frills bistro is a Parisian institution in situ for over a century. If you're looking for an authentic menu from the early 20th century and prices (well, almost) to match, you won't do better than this. The *confit aux pruneaux* (duck with prunes) and the *ris de veau grand-mère* (veal sweetbreads in mushroom cream sauce) are particularly good.



Robert et Louise (Map pp126-7; 01 42 78 55 89; 64 rue Vieille du Temple, 3e; **M** St-Sébastien Froissart; starters €6-13, mains €12-18, lunch menus €12; ☺ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) This 'country inn', complete with its red gingham curtains, offers delightful, simple and inexpensive French food, including *côte de bœuf* (side of beef, €40 for two), which is cooked on an open fire and prepared by the original owners' daughter and her husband. It's a jolly, truly Rabelaisian evening.



L'Ambassade d'Auvergne (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 31 22; 22 rue du Grenier St-Lazare, 3e; **M** Rambuteau; starters €8-16, mains €14-22, lunch menus €20-28, dinner menus €28; ☺ lunch & dinner) The 100-year-old 'Auvergne Embassy' is the place to go if you're really hungry; the sausages and hams of this region are among the best in France, as are the lentils from Puy and the sublime *clafoutis*, a custard and cherry tart baked upside down like a *tarte Tatin* (caramelised apple pie).



TO MARKET, TO MARKET



Paris counts about 70 *marchés découverts* (open-air markets) that pop up in public squares around the city two or three times a week and another dozen or so *marchés couverts* (covered markets) that keep more regular hours: 8am to 1pm and 3.30pm or 4pm to 7pm or 7.30pm from Tuesday to Saturday (till lunchtime on Sunday). Completing the picture are numerous independent *rues commerçantes*, pedestrian streets where shops set up outdoor stalls. To find out when there's a market near your hotel or hostel, ask the staff or anyone who lives in the neighbourhood.



The following are favourite Paris markets rated according to the variety of their produce, their ethnicity and the neighbourhood. They are the *crème de la crème*.



Marché Bastille (Map pp132-3; bd Richard Lenoir, 11e;  Bastille or Richard Lenoir;  7am-2.30pm Tue & Sun) Stretching as far north as Richard Lenoir metro station, this is arguably the best open-air market in Paris with many more different national cuisines than ever before.



Marché Beauvau (Map pp134-5; place d'Aligre, 12e;  Ledru Rollin;  8am-1pm & 4-7.30pm Tue-Sat, 8am-1pm Sun) This covered market is a colourful Arab and North African enclave just a stone's throw from the Bastille.

Marché Belleville (Map pp120-1; bd de Belleville btwn rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud & rue du Faubourg du Temple, 11e & 20e;  Belleville or Couronne;  7am-2.30pm Tue & Fri) This market offers a fascinating entry into the large, vibrant communities of the *quartiers de l'est* (eastern neighbourhoods), home to immigrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.



Marché Grenelle (Map pp124-5; bd de Grenelle btwn rue de Lourmel & rue du Commerce, 15e;  La Motte-Picquet Grenelle;  7am-2.30pm Wed & Sun) Below an elevated railway and surrounded by stately Haussmann boulevards and art-nouveau apartment blocks, the Grenelle market attracts a well-heeled clientele.



Marché St-Quentin (Map pp120-1; 85 bd de Magenta, 10e;  Gare de l'Est;  8am-1pm & 3.30-7.30pm Tue-Sat, 8.30am-1pm Sun) This iron-and-glass covered market built in 1866 is a maze of corridors lined mostly with gourmet and upmarket food stalls.



Rue Cler (Map pp124-5; rue Cler, 7e;  École Militaire;  8am-7pm Tue-Sat, 8am-noon Sun) This commercial street market is a breath of fresh air in the sometimes stuffy 7e and can almost feel like a party at the weekend, when the whole neighbourhood turns out en masse to squeeze and pinch, pay and cart away.


Rue Montorgueil (Map pp120-1; rue Montorgueil btwn rue de Turbigo & rue Réaumur, 2e;  Les Halles or Sentier;  8am-7.30pm Tue-Sat, 8am-noon Sun) This buzzy market is the closest market to Paris' 700-year-old wholesale market, Les Halles, which was moved from this area to the southern suburb of Rungis in 1969.

Rue Mouffetard (Map pp130-1; rue Mouffetard around rue de l'Arbalète;  Censier Daubenton;  8am-7.30pm Tue-Sat, 8am-noon Sun) Rue Mouffetard is the city's most photogenic market street – the place where Parisians send tourists (travellers go to Marché Bastille).

Le Petit Marché (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 72 06 67; 9 rue de Béarn, 3e;  Chemin Vert; starters €8-11, mains €15-25, lunch menus €14;  lunch & dinner) This great little bistro just up from the place des Vosges attracts a mixed crowd with its hearty cooking and friendly service. The salad starters are popular, as is the *brochette d'agneau aux épices doux* (spicy lamb brochette).

Bofinger (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 72 87 82; 5-7 rue de la Bastille, 4e;  Bastille; starters €8-18.50, mains €15.50-31.50, lunch menus €24-31.50, dinner menus €31.50;  lunch & dinner to 12.30am) Founded in 1864, Bofinger is reputedly the oldest brasserie in Paris and specialties include Alsatian-inspired dishes such as *choucroute* (sauerkraut with assorted meats; €18 to €20) and seafood dishes. Its polished art-nouveau brass, glass and mirrors are all stunning.

L'Alivi (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 48 87 90 20; 27 rue du Roi de Sicile, 4e;  St-Paul or Bastille; starters €9-16, mains €15-23, lunch menus €17-29, dinner menus €25-29;  lunch & dinner) The ingredients at this rather fashionable Corsican restaurant are always fresh and refined, with Brocciu cheese, *charcuterie* and basil featuring strongly on the menu. Try the Leccia wine with any dish to experience fully the pleasures of what the French call *l'île de beauté* (the beautiful island).

Auberge Nicolas Flamel (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 71 77 78; 51 rue de Montmorency, 3e;  Rambuteau or Arts et

Métiers; starters €9.50, mains €16.50, lunch menus €18.50-45, dinner menus €31-45; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) This charming restaurant with higgledy-piggledy rooms on two floors was once the residence of celebrated alchemist and writer Flamel (1330-1417) and is the oldest building extant in Paris. Expect dishes that are correct but not earth-moving – duck foie gras, lamb cooked in a *tajine* and so on.

Le Temps au Temps (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 43 79 63 40; 3 rue Paul Bert, 11e; 🍴 Faidherbe Chaligny; menus €30; ☺ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) This tiny place with about 10 tables has a very exciting three-course menu that changes daily; some of the dishes have been inspired by the *cuisine récréative* (entertaining cuisine) of the great Catalan chef Ferran Adria. You're much more likely to get a seat at lunch.

NORTH AFRICAN & MIDDLE EASTERN

404 (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 74 57 81; 69 rue des Gravilliers, 3e; 🍴 Arts et Métiers; starters €7-9, couscous & tajines €14-24, lunch menu €17, brunch menu €21; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner daily, brunch 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) As comfortable a Maghreb (North African) caravaner as you'll find in Paris, the 404 not only has excellent couscous and *tajines* but superb grills (€12 to €22). You'll love the *One Thousand and One Nights* decor, but the tables are set too close to one another.

Le Souk (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 49 29 05 08; 1 rue Keller, 11e; 🍴 Ledru Rollin; starters €7.50-13, mains €16-21, menus €20-27; ☺ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) We like coming here almost as much for the decor as for the food – from the clay pots overflowing with spices on the outside to the exuberant but never kitsch Moroccan interior. And the food? As authentic as the decoration, notably the duck *tajine* and vegetarian couscous.

VEGETARIAN

Grand Apétit (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 40 27 04 95; 9 rue de la Cerisaie, 4e; 🍴 Bastille or Sully Morland; soups €3-4, dishes €5-11; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner to 9pm Mon-Wed) This simple place near Bastille offers light fare such as miso soup and cereals, as well as strength-building *bols garnis* (bowls of rice and mixed vegetables) and *assiettes* (platters) for those with a well, 'Big Appetite'.

La Victoire Suprême du Cœur (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 40 41 95 03; 27-31 rue du Bourg Tibourg, 4e; 🍴 Châtelet; starters & salads €4-10, mains €14-17, menus €10.50-13.50; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, brunch 11am-5pm Sun) A welcome addition to the hubbub of the Marais, this Indian-inspired vegan restaurant serves

mock-meat dishes as well as *thalis*, a sampling tray of Indian goodies, for €15. For drinks try the mango lassi or spiced tea. Weekend brunch is €21.

OTHER CUISINES

Unico (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 43 67 68 08; 15 rue Paul Bert, 11e; 🍴 Faidherbe Chaligny; starters €6.50-11, mains €20-26, lunch menus €19; ☺ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) This very trendy, very orange Argentine *parillada* (steakhouse) has taken over an old butcher and put a modern (well, sort of 1970s, but it works) spin on it. It's all about meat here – especially the barbecued *entrecôte* (rib steak) with chunky *frites* (chips).

Le Petit Dakar (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 44 59 34 74; 6 rue Elzévir, 3e; 🍴 St-Paul; starters €7, mains €13-15, lunch menus €15; ☺ lunch Tue-Sat, dinner Tue-Sun) Some people think this is the most authentic Senegalese restaurant in Paris, and with the delightful CSAO Boutique & Gallery just up the road, it does feel like a bit of West Africa has fallen onto a quiet Marais street.

Mai Thai (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 72 18 77; 24bis rue St-Gilles, 3e; 🍴 Chemin Vert; starters €8-11, mains €13-15, lunch menus €13.50; ☺ lunch & dinner) This rather stylish place, done up in warm tones of orange, red and yellow and with Buddha figures scattered around, has gained a loyal following that comes for such *classiques de la cuisine du Siam* (classics of the cuisine of Siam) as chicken cooked with sacred basil and the unusual spicy Thai sausages.

Sardegna a Tavola (Map pp134-5; ☎ 01 44 75 03 28; 1 rue de Cotte, 12e; 🍴 Ledru Rollin; starters & pasta €10-26, mains €16-22; ☺ lunch Tue-Sat, dinner Mon-Sat) 'Sardinia at the Table' will introduce you to a little known but delightful Italian cuisine. Try the *poëlon* (pot) of mixed seafood cooked with parsley, tomatoes and garlic and the distinctly Sardinian spaghetti with *bottarga* (cured mullet roe) cooked with oil, garlic, parsley and red pepper flakes.

QUICK EATS

Crêpes Show (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 47 00 36 46; 51 rue de Lappe, 11e; 🍴 Ledru Rollin; crêpes & galettes €3-9.80, lunch menus €8.90; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner to 1am Sun-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat) Head for this unpretentious little restaurant for sweet crêpes and savoury buckwheat *galettes*. There are lots of vegetarian choices, including great salads from around €5.

L'As de Felafel (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 48 87 63 60; 34 rue des Rosiers, 4e; 🍴 St-Paul; dishes €5-7; ☺ noon-midnight Sun-Thu, noon-5pm Fri) This has always been our

favourite place for deep-fried balls of chick-peas and herbs (€6.50). It's always packed, particularly at weekday lunch, so avoid those times if possible.

Breakfast in America (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 40 21; 4 rue Malher, 4e; 🕒 M St-Paul; meals €6.50-12; 🕒 8.30am-11.30pm) This American-style diner, complete with red banquettes and Formica surfaces, is as authentic as you'll find outside the US of A. Breakfast, served all day and with free coffee refills, starts at €6.50, and there are generous burgers, chicken wings and fish and chips.

SELF-CATERING

Markets in the Marais and Bastille area include the incomparable (and open-air) **Marché Bastille** (p179).

In the Marais, there are a number of food shops and Asian delicatessens on the odd-numbered side of rue St-Antoine, 4e (Map pp132-3), as well as several supermarkets. Closer to Bastille there are food shops along rue de la Roquette (Map pp132-3; 🕒 M Voltaire or Bastille) towards place Léon Blum.

Supermarkets include the following:

Franprix Marais (Map pp126-7; 135 rue St-Antoine, 4e; 🕒 M St-Paul; 🕒 9am-9pm Mon-Sat); Hôtel de Ville (Map pp126-7; 87 rue de la Verrerie, 4e; 🕒 M Hôtel de Ville; 🕒 9.30am-9pm Mon-Sat)

Monoprix Marais (Map pp126-7; 71 rue St-Antoine, 4e; 🕒 M St-Paul; 🕒 9am-9pm Mon-Sat); Bastille (Map pp132-3; 97 rue du Faubourg St-Antoine, 11e; 🕒 M Ledru Rollin; 🕒 9am-9.45pm Mon-Sat).

The Islands

Famed more for its ice cream than dining options, Île St-Louis is a pricey place to eat, although there are a couple of fine places worth a brunch or lunchtime munch. As for Île de la Cité, forget it – eating spots are almost nonexistent and what's there is *touriste* city.

FRENCH

Les Fous de L'Île (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 25 76 67; 33 rue des Deux Ponts, 4e; 🕒 M Pont Marie; starters €6.50-9, mains €14, lunch menus €15-25, dinner menus €19-25; 🕒 noon-11pm Tue-Sat, noon-7pm Sun) Innovative café-style dishes served from an open kitchen into a relaxed but arty setting ensure that this friendly, down-to-earth *salon de thé* and restaurant is always busy. It moonlights as an exhibition space.

Brasserie de l'Île St-Louis (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 54 02 59; 55 quai de Bourbon, 4e; 🕒 M Pont Marie; starters €10-15, mains €17.50; 🕒 6pm-1am Thu, noon-midnight

Fri-Tue) Established in 1870, this brasserie enjoys a spectacular location on the Seine and serves standard brasserie favourites such as *choucroute garnie* (Alsatian dish of sauerkraut with sausage and other prepared meats), *jarret* (veal shank) and *onglet de bœuf* (prime rib of beef).

QUICK EATS

Berthillon (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 54 31 61; 31 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; 🕒 M Pont Marie; ice cream €2-5.40; 🕒 10am-8pm Wed-Sun) Berthillon is to ice cream what Château Lafite Rothschild is to wine. While the fruit flavours (eg cassis) produced by this celebrated *glacier* (ice-cream maker) are justifiably renowned, the chocolate, coffee, *marrons glacés* (candied chestnuts), *Agenaise* (Armagnac and prunes), *noisette* (hazelnut) and *nougat au miel* (honey nougat) are even richer. Choose from among 70 flavours.

SELF-CATERING

On Île de St-Louis, there are a couple of *fromageries* (cheese shops) along rue St-Louis en l'Île, as well as the small supermarket **Le Prestige d'Alimentation** (67 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; 🕒 8am-10pm Wed-Mon) and **Boulangerie St-Louis** (80 rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e).

Latin Quarter & Jardin des Plantes

From cheap-eat student haunts to chandelier-lit palaces loaded with history, the 5e has something to suit every budget and culinary taste. Rue Mouffetard is famed for its food market and food shops; while its side streets, especially pedestrianised rue du Pot au Fer, cook up some fine budget dining.

FRENCH

Le Petit Pontoise (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 29 25 20; 9 rue de Pontoise, 5e; 🕒 M Maubert Mutualité; starters €8-13.50, mains €15-25; 🕒 lunch & dinner) This charming bistro offers a blackboard menu of seasonal delights. Regular dishes to look out for include old-fashioned classics like *rognons de veau à l'ancienne* (calf's kidneys), *boudin campagnard* (black pudding) and sweet apple *purée* or roast quail with dates.

Perraudin (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 46 33 15 75; 157 rue St-Jacques, 5e; 🕒 M Luxembourg; starters €10-20, mains €15-30, lunch menus €19-29, dinner menus €29; 🕒 lunch & dinner Mon-Fri) Perraudin is a traditional French restaurant that hasn't changed much since 1910 when it first opened its doors. If you fancy classics such as *bœuf bourguignon* (beef

marinated and cooked in young red wine with mushrooms, onions, carrots and bacon), *gigot d'agneau* (leg of lamb), *confit de canard* (preserved duck leg cooked very slowly in its own fat) or *flamiche* (leek pie from northern France), try this reasonably priced and atmospheric (if somewhat frayed) place.

L'AOC (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 54 22 52; 14 rue des Fossés St-Bernard, 5e; **M** Cardinal Lemoine; meals around €35; ☎ lunch & dinner Tue-Sat) The concept here is AOC (Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée), meaning everything has been reared or made according to strict guidelines designed to protect a product unique to a particular village, town or area. The result? Only the best! Rare is the chance to taste *porc noir de Bigorre*, a type of black piggie bred in the Pyrénées.

NORTH AFRICAN & MIDDLE EASTERN

Kootchi (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 44 07 20 56; 40 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, 5e; **M** Cardinal Lemoine; mains €12, lunch menus €9.50-15.50, dinner menus €12.50-15.50; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) The welcome at this Afghan caravanserai is warm and the food, warming. Specialties include *qhaboli palawo* (veal 'stew' with nuts and spices); *dogh* (a drink not unlike salted Indian lassi); and traditional halva perfumed with rose and cardamom. Vegetarians keen to spice up their culinary life should plump for *borani palawo* (a spicy vegetable stew) as a main course.

La Mosquée de Paris (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 31 38 20; 39 rue Geoffroy St-Hilaire, 5e; **M** Censier Daubenton or Place Monge; mains €13.50-25; ☎ lunch & dinner) The central Mosque of Paris (p147) has an authentic restaurant serving 11 types of couscous (€13 to €25) and 10 *tajines* (€15.50 to €17). There's also a North African-style **tearoom** (☎ 9am-11.30pm) where you can enjoy peppermint tea (€2) and *pâtisseries orientales* (oriental pastries; €2).

VEGETARIAN

Les Cinq Saveurs d'Ananda (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 29 58 54; 72 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, 5e; **M** Cardinal Lemoine; dishes €13.90-14.90, menus €26.90; ☎ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) Set back from place de la Contrescarpe, this bright semivegetarian (it serves fish) restaurant is extremely popular among health-food lovers. All ingredients are fresh and guaranteed 100% organic. Decor is simple, refined and stylish.

QUICK EATS

Le Foyer du Vietnam (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 45 35 32 54; 80 rue Monge, 5e; **M** Place Monge; starters €3-6, mains €6-8.50, menus €8.20-12.20; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) The

little 'Vietnam Club' is a favourite meeting spot among the capital's Vietnamese community and serves simple one-dish meals in medium and large portions. Try the 'Saigon' or 'Hanoi' soup (noodles, soy beans and pork flavoured with lemongrass, coriander and chives). Students can fill up for €7.

Sushi Wasabi (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 44 07 06 88; 86 bd St-Germain, 5e; **M** Maubert Mutualité; sushi €8-9.50, lunch menus €7; ☎ 11.30am-10.30pm) It's hardly five-star, but at these prices who cares? This cheap and cheerful Japanese *traiteur* (caterer) serves pre-prepared sushi, *maki*, *futo-maki* etc and a good choice of hot meals to a quick-eat crowd.

Le Baba Bourgeois (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 44 07 46 75; 5 quai de la Tourneille, 5e; **M** Cardinal Lemoine or Pont Marie; mains €15-20; ☎ lunch & dinner Wed-Sat, 11.30am-5pm Sun) This contemporary eating and drinking space slap bang on the Seine with a pavement terrace facing Notre Dame is a former architect's studio. Its imaginative *tartines* (open-face sandwiches), terrines, *tartes salées* (savoury tarts) and salads make for a simple, stylish bite any time of day. Sunday offers a splendid all-day buffet brunch, *à volonté* (as much as you can eat).

SELF-CATERING

Place Maubert, 5e, becomes the lively food market **Marché Maubert** (Map pp126-7) on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. There's a particularly lively food market set out along **rue Mouffetard** (p179). On place Monge is the much smaller market, **Marché Monge** (Map pp130-1; place Monge, 5e; **M** Place Monge; ☎ 7am-2pm Wed, Fri & Sun).

Supermarkets in the area include the following:

Champion (Map pp130-1; 34 rue Monge, 5e; **M** Place Monge; ☎ 8.30am-9pm Mon-Sat)

Ed l'Épicier (Map pp130-1; 37 rue Lacépède, 5e; **M** Place Monge; ☎ 9am-1pm & 3-7.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-7.30pm Sat)

Franprix (Map pp130-1; 82 rue Mouffetard, 5e; **M** Censier Daubenton or Place Monge; ☎ 8.30am-8.50pm Mon-Sat)

Monoprix (Map pp130-1; 24 bd St-Michel, 5e; **M** St-Michel; ☎ 9am-midnight Mon-Sat)

St-Germain, Odéon & Luxembourg

Rue St-André des Arts (Map pp126-7; **M** St-Michel or Odéon) is lined with restaurants, including a few situated down the covered cour du Commerce Saint André. You'll find that there are lots of eateries between Église St-Sulpice and Église St-Germain des Prés

as well, especially along rue des Canettes, rue Princesse and rue Guisarde. Carrefour de l'Odéon (Map pp126-7, M Odéon) has a cluster of lively bars, cafés and restaurants. Place St-Germain des Prés itself is home to celebrated cafés such as Les Deux Magots and Café de Flore (p189), as well as the equally celebrated Brasserie Lipp.

FRENCH

Polidor (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 95 34; 41 rue Monsieur le Prince, 6e; M Odéon; starters €4.50-17, mains €11-22, menus €22-32; ☎ lunch & dinner to 12.30am Mon-Sat, to 11pm Sun) A meal at this quintessentially Parisian *crémierier-restaurant* is like taking a quick trip back to Victor Hugo's Paris – the restaurant and its decor date from 1845 – but everyone knows about it and it's pretty touristy. Specialities include *bœuf bourguignon* (€11), *blanquette de veau* (veal in white sauce; €15) and the most famous *tarte Tatin* (€8) in Paris.

Bouillon Racine (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 44 32 15 60; 3 rue Racine, 6e; M Cluny-La Sorbonne; starters €7.50-14.50, mains €15.50-28, lunch menus €14.90-29, dinner menus €29; ☎ lunch & dinner) This 'soup kitchen' built in 1906 to feed city workers is an art-nouveau palace. Oh, and the food? Wholly classic, inspired by age-old recipes such as roast snails, *caille confite* (preserved quail) and lamb shank with liquorice. Finish off your foray into gastronomic history with an old-fashioned sherbet.

Chez Allard (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 48 23; 41 rue St-André des Arts; M St-Michel; starters €8-20, mains €25, menus €25-34; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) One of our favourite places on the Left Bank is this positively charming bistro where the staff couldn't be kinder and more professional – even during its enormously busy lunchtime – and the food is superb. Try 12 snails, some *cuisse de grenouilles* (frogs' legs) or *un poulet de Bresse* (France's most legendary chicken, from Burgundy) for two. Enter from 1 rue de l'Éperon.

Brasserie Lipp (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 45 48 53 91; 151 bd St-Germain, 6e; M St-Germain des Prés; starters €10-15, mains €15.50-25; ☎ noon-2am) The Lipp is a wood-panelled café-brasserie (1880) where politicians rub shoulders with intellectuals, editors and media moguls, and waiters in black waistcoats, bow ties and long white aprons serve such brasserie favourites as *choucroute garnie* (sauerkraut with sausage and other prepared meats) and *jarret de porc aux lentilles* (pork knuckle with lentils).

ASIAN

Indonesia (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 25 70 22; 12 rue de Vaugirard, 6e; M Luxembourg; mains €9-15, lunch menus €11.50-25, dinner menus €18-25; ☎ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner daily) One of only a couple of Indonesian restaurants in town, this unimaginatively named eatery has all the old favourites – from an elaborate, nine-dish *rijstafel* (rice with side dishes) to *lumpia* (a type of spring roll), *rendang* (beef cooked in peanut and chilli sauce) and *gado gado* (vegetable salad with peanut sauce). Traditional decor, incense, and the gentle rhythm of the gamelan orchestra create a convincingly Indonesian atmosphere.

Yen (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 45 44 11 18; 22 rue St-Benoît, 6e; M St-Germain des Prés; mains €20-25, lunch menus €30-55, dinner menus €55; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) This Japanese eatery – the last word in minimalism, with its light-wood and charcoal-grey slate floor – is a favourite of resident Japanese and knowledgeable Parisian *gaijin* (non-Japanese). It has a real flair for *soba* (Japanese noodles) and tempura, and you shouldn't leave without trying the aubergine in miso.

QUICK EATS

Bar à Soupes et Quenelles Giraudet (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 25 44 44; 5 rue Princesse, 6e; M Mabillon; meals from €7.50; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon, 10am-5pm & 7-11.30pm Tue-Fri, 10am-11.30pm Sat) This soup and dumpling bar serves excellent soups that are packed with unusual combinations – pear and lychee, chestnut or cardoon maybe? – and traditional Lyonnais-style *quenelles* (pike-perch dumplings) topped with a sauce of your choice.

Cosi (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 46 33 35 36; 54 rue de Seine, 6e; M Odéon; sandwich menus €9-11; ☎ noon-11pm) With sandwich names like Stonker, Tom Dooley and Naked Willi, Cosi (which, incidentally, is of New Zealand origin) could easily run for Paris' most imaginative sandwich maker. Classical music playing in the background and homemade Italian bread, still warm from the oven, only adds to Cosi's natural sex appeal.

SELF-CATERING

With the Jardin du Luxembourg nearby, this is the perfect area for putting together a picnic lunch. There is a large cluster of food shops on **rue de Seine** and **rue de Bucy**, 6e (Map pp126-7; M Mabillon). The renovated and covered **Marché St-Germain** (Map pp126-7; 4-8 rue Lobineau, 6e; M Mabillon; ☎ 8.30am-1pm & 4-7.30pm Tue-Sat,

8.30am-1pm Sun), just north of the eastern end of Église St-Sulpice, has a huge array of produce and prepared food. Nearby supermarkets include the following:

Champion (Map pp126-7; 79 rue de Seine, 6e; **M** Mabilon; ☎ 1-9pm Mon, 8.40am-9pm Tue-Sat, 9am-1pm Sun)

Monoprix (Map pp126-7; 50 rue de Rennes, 6e; **M** St-Germain des Prés; ☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Sat)

Montparnasse

Since the 1920s the area around bd du Montparnasse has been one of the city's premier avenues for enjoying that most Parisian of pastimes: sitting in a café and checking out the scenery on two legs. Many younger Parisians, however, now consider the area somewhat démodé and touristy, which it is to a certain extent, and avoid it.

Montparnasse offers all types of eateries, especially traditional crêperies, because Gare Montparnasse is where Bretons arriving in Paris to look for work would disembark (and apparently venture no further). There are several at 18 and 20 rue d'Odessa (Map pp124-5) alone and another half-dozen or so around the corner on rue du Montparnasse.

FRENCH

La Coupole (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 43 20 14 20; 102 bd du Montparnasse, 14e; **M** Vavin; starters €6.50-20, mains €12.50-35, lunch menus €24.50-31.50, dinner menus €31.50; ☎ 8am-1am Sun-Thu, to 1.30am Fri & Sat) This 450-seat brasserie, which opened in 1927, has mural-covered columns painted by such artists as Brancusi and Chagall. Its dark-wood paneling and indirect lighting have hardly changed since the days of Sartre, Soutine, Man Ray and Josephine Baker. You can book for lunch, but you'll have to queue for dinner (and then there's always breakfast).

La Cagouille (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 43 22 09 01; 10 place Constantin Brancusi, 14e; **M** Gaité; starters €11-15, mains €18-33, menus €26-42; ☎ lunch & dinner) Chef Gérard Allemandou, one of the best seafood cooks (and cookbook writers) in Paris, gets rave reviews for his fish and shellfish dishes at this café-restaurant opposite 23 rue de l'Ouest. The menus here are exceptionally good value.

Le Dôme (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 43 35 25 81, 01 43 35 23 95; 108 bd du Montparnasse, 14e; **M** Vavin; starters €12.50-25, mains €29-56; ☎ lunch & dinner to 12.30am) An art-deco extravaganza dating from the 1930s, Le Dôme is a monumental place for a meal, with the emphasis on the freshest of oysters, shellfish and fish dishes such as *sole meunière* (sole

sautéed in butter and garnished with lemon and parsley).

SELF-CATERING

Opposite the Tour Montparnasse there's the outdoor **Boulevard Edgar Quinet Food Market** (Map pp124-5; bd Edgar Quinet; ☎ 7am-2pm Wed & Sat). Supermarkets convenient to the area include the following:

Atac (Map pp124-5; 55 av du Maine, 14e; **M** Gaité; ☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Sat)

Inno (Map pp124-5; 29-31 rue du Départ, 14e; **M** Montparnasse Bienvenue; ☎ 9am-9.50pm Mon-Fri, 9am-8.50pm Sat)

Étoile & Champs-Élysées

With few exceptions, eateries lining the touristy 'Avenue of the Elysian Fields' offer little value for money. However, restaurants in the surrounding areas can be excellent.

FRENCH

L'Étoile Verte (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 43 80 69 34; 13 rue Brey, 17e; **M** Charles de Gaulle-Étoile; starters €9-13, mains €13-22, lunch menus €14-18, dinner menus €18, menus with wine €25; ☎ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner daily) When one of us was a student in Paris (back when the glaziers were still installing the stained glass at Ste-Chapelle), this was the place for both Esperanto speakers (a green star is their symbol) and students in search of old French classics: onion soup, snails, rabbit. That may have changed a bit, but the lunch menu is still a great deal for this neighbourhood.

L'Ardoise (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 96 28 18; 28 rue du Mont Thabor, 1er; **M** Concorde or Tuileries; menus €33; ☎ lunch Tue-Sat, dinner Tue-Sun) This is a little bistro with no menu as such (*ardoise* means 'blackboard', which is all there is), the food – such as hare in black pepper and beef fillet with morels – is superb, and the three-course set menu offers excellent value. It's touristy, though.

ASIAN

Dragons Élysées (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 89 85 10; 11 rue de Berri, 8e; **M** George V; starters €8-12, mains €15-22; lunch menus €13.50-40, dinner menus €40; ☎ lunch & dinner) This mostly Chinese restaurant is a novelty. Below the tables and chairs perched on different levels and scattered about a large dining room is a glass floor below which various types of goldfish cavort. If you enjoy watching your dinner in action, then this is the place for you.

SELF-CATERING

Place de la Madeleine (M Madeleine) is the luxury food centre of one of the world's food capitals. Rue Poncelet and rue Bayen have some excellent food shops, including the incomparable **Fromagerie Alléosse** (p198). Supermarkets include the following:

Franprix Madeleine (Map pp118-19; 12 rue de Surène, 8e; M Madeleine; ☎ 8.30am-8pm Mon-Sat)

Monoprix Champs-Élysées (Map pp118-19; 62 av des Champs-Élysées, 8e; M Franklin D Roosevelt; ☎ 9am-midnight Mon-Sat)

Opéra & Grands Boulevards

The neon-lit bd Montmartre (M Grands Boulevards or Richelieu Drouot) and nearby sections of rue du Faubourg Montmartre (neither of which are anywhere near the neighbourhood of Montmartre) form one of the Right Bank's most animated café and dining districts. A short distance to the north there's a large selection of kosher Jewish and North African restaurants on rue Richer, rue Cadet and rue Geoffroy Marie, 9e, south of metro Cadet.

FRENCH

Chartier (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 47 70 86 29; 7 rue du Faubourg Montmartre, 9e; M Grands Boulevards; starters €2.20-12.40, mains €6.50-16, menus with wine €20; ☎ lunch & dinner) A real gem for the budget traveller, Chartier is justifiably famous for its 330-seat belle-époque dining room, virtually unaltered since 1896, and its excellent-value menu. Reservations are not accepted and lone diners will have to share a table.

Le Roi du Pot au Feu (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 47 42 37 10; 34 rue Vignon, 9e; M Havre Caumartin; starters €5-7, mains €17-20, menus €24-29; ☎ noon-10.30pm Mon-Sat) The typical Parisian bistro atmosphere adds to the charm of the 'King of Hotpots', but what you really want to come here for is a genuine *pot au feu*, a stockpot of beef, root vegetables and herbs stewed together, with the stock served as an entree and the meat and vegetables as the main course. No bookings.

Aux Deux Canards (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 47 70 03 23; 8 rue du Faubourg Poissonnière, 10e; M Bonne Nouvelle; starters €5-14.50, mains €16-25, lunch menus €20; ☎ lunch Tue-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat) The name of this bistro – 'At the Two Ducks' – reflects much of the menu (there's everything from foie gras to à l'orange), but you'll find starters as diverse as mussels with leek and a salad of Jerusalem artichoke and sheep's cheese.

ourpick Bistrot du Sommelier (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 65 24 85; www.bistrot dusommelier.com; 97 bd Haussmann, 8e; M St-Augustin; starters €14-25, mains €22-32, lunch menus €32 & €39, incl wine €45 & €54, dinner menus incl wine €65, €80 & €110; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri) This is the place in Paris to head for if you are as serious about wine as you are about food. The whole point of this attractive eatery is to match wine with food, and owner Philippe Faure-Brac, one of the world's foremost sommeliers (p145) and a prolific author, is at hand to help. The best way to sample his wine-and-food pairings is on Friday, when a three-course tasting lunch with wine is €45 and a five-course dinner with wine is €70. The food, prepared by chef Jean-André Lallican, is hearty bistro fare, and surprisingly, not all the wines are French.

SELF-CATERING

Both av de l'Opéra and rue de Richelieu have several supermarkets, including a large one in the basement of **Monoprix Opéra** (Map pp118-19; 21 av de l'Opéra, 2e; M Pyramides; ☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Fri, 9am-9pm Sat).

Gare du Nord, Gare de l'Est & République

These areas offer all types of food but most notably Indian and Pakistani, which can be elusive elsewhere in Paris. There's a cluster of traditional brasseries and bistros around the Gare du Nord.

FRENCH

Julien (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 47 70 12 06; 16 rue du Faubourg St-Denis, 10e; M Strasbourg St-Denis; starters €6.90-17, mains €16.70-39, menus €21.50-31.50; ☎ lunch & dinner to 1am) In the less-than-salubrious neighbourhood of St-Denis, Julien offers brasserie food that you wouldn't cross town for, but – *sacrebleu* – the decor and the atmosphere: it's an art-nouveau extravaganza perpetually in motion and a real blast to the past. Service is always excellent here, and you'll feel welcome at any time of day.

Le Chaland (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 40 05 18 68; 163 quai de Valmy, 10e; M Louis Blanc; starters €7, mains €13-14, lunch menus €11.50; ☎ lunch & dinner to 11.30pm Mon-Fri, to 2am Sat & Sun) 'The Barge' is a pleasant *café du quartier* serving rock-solid favourites like *blanquette de veau* and *tartes salées* with the occasional leap into the 21st century with gigantic salads. It's one of the more approachable (and affordable) eateries on the Canal St-Martin.

Hôtel du Nord (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 40 40 78 78; 102 quai de Jemmapes, 10e; **M** Jacques Bonsergent; starters €7-14.50, mains €15-22, lunch menus €13.50; ☎ lunch & dinner) On the opposite bank of the Canal St-Martin, this wonderful place is the setting for the eponymous 1938 film starring Louis Jouvet and Arletty, and the dining room and bar at the vintage venue feel as if they were stuck in a time warp, with their art-deco posters, zinc counter and old piano. The food is *correct* (adequate) if not mind-blowing; stick with basics like the jumbo hamburger (€16) and its trimmings and you'll be fine.

QUICK EATS

Krishna Bhavan (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 05 78 43; 2 rue Cail, 10e; **M** La Chapelle; dishes €1.50-7.50, menus €10.50; ☎ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) This is about as authentic an Indian vegetarian canteen as you'll find in an area that is rapidly overtaking Faubourg St-Denis as Paris' Little India. If in doubt as to what to order, ask for a *thali* (€7.50), a circular steel tray of samosas, dosas and other wrapped goodies.

Passage Brady (Map pp120-1; 46 rue du Faubourg St-Denis & 33 bd de Strasbourg, 10e; **M** Château d'Eau; ☎ lunch & dinner daily) This derelict covered arcade, which could easily be in Calcutta, has dozens of incredibly cheap Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi cafés offering excellent-value lunches (meat curry, rice and a tiny salad €5 to €9.50; chicken or lamb biryani €10.50 to €14.50; *thalis* €7 to €9.50). Dinner menus are from €12.50 to €24, but it must be said that most of the eateries here offer subcontinental food *à la française*.

SELF-CATERING

A covered market in this area is the extravagant **Marché St-Quentin** (p179).

Rue du Faubourg St-Denis (Map pp120-1; 10e, mStrasbourg St-Denis or Château d'Eau), which links bd St-Denis and bd de Magenta, is one of the cheapest places in Paris to buy food, especially fruit and vegetables; the shops at Nos 23, 27-29 and 41-43 are laden with produce. The street has a distinctively Middle Eastern air, and quite a few of the groceries offer Turkish, North African and subcontinental specialities.

There are two Franprix supermarkets convenient to the area:

Franprix Faubourg St-Denis (Map pp120-1; 7-9 rue des Petites Écuries, 10e; **M** Château d'Eau; ☎ 9am-8.20pm Mon-Sat)

Franprix Magenta (Map pp120-1; 57 bd de Magenta, 10e; **M** Gare de l'Est; ☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Sat)

Ménilmontant & Belleville

In the northern section of the 11e and into the 19e and 20e arrondissements, rue Oberkampf and its extension, rue de Ménilmontant (Map pp120-1), are popular with diners and denizens of the night, though rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, running parallel to the north, is stealing some of their glory these days. Rue de Belleville and the streets running off it are dotted with Chinese, Southeast Asian and a few Middle Eastern places; bd de Belleville has some kosher couscous restaurants, most of which are closed on Saturday.

FRENCH

Chez Nénesse (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 78 46 49; 17 rue Saintonge, 3e; **M** Filles du Calvaire; starters €4-16, mains €10-18; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri) The atmosphere at Chez Nénesse, an oasis of simplicity and good taste, is 'old Parisian café' and the dishes are prepared with fresh, high-quality ingredients. Lunchtime starters are €4 and plats du jour (daily specials) are €10 to €12.

Au Trou Normand (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 48 05 80 23; 9 rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 11e; **M** Oberkampf; starters €6-9.50, mains €8.50-14.50, lunch menus €12.50-15; ☎ lunch & dinner) Even under a younger and more dynamic team 'The Norman Hole' remains the bargain-basement *cafétéria* of the 11e arrondissement. In keeping with the surrounds, the dishes served are simple and portions fairly generous.

Le Tire Bouchon (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 47 00 43 50; 5 rue Guillaume Bertrand, 11e; **M** St-Maur; starters €7-19, mains €15-18, lunch menus €12-25, dinner menus €17-25; ☎ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat) 'The Corkscrew' is a mock old-style bistro close to the flashy rue Oberkampf with a dozen tables arranged around a polished wooden bar. The *cassoulet confit* (casserole or stew with beans and meat) and *millefeuille de dorade* (sea bream in flaky pastry) will tickle your taste buds.

Le Clown Bar (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 43 55 87 35; 114 rue Amélot, 11e; **M** Filles du Calvaire; starters €7.50-10.50, mains €15-18, weekday/weekend lunch menus €15/18, dinner menus €25; ☎ lunch & dinner to 1am Mon-Sat) A wonderful wine bar-cum-bistro next to the Cirque d'Hiver, the Clown Bar is like a museum, with its painted ceilings, mosaics on the wall, lovely zinc bar and circus memorabilia that touches on one of our favourite themes: the evil clown. The food is simple and unpretentious traditional French.

Le Villaret (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 43 57 89 76; 13 rue Ternaux, 11e; **M** Parmentier; starters €8.50-20, mains €18-35, lunch menus €23-28; ☎ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat) An

excellent neighbourhood bistro serving very rich food, Le Villaret has diners coming from across Paris to sample the house specialities. Tasting menus can range from €50.

ASIAN

New Nioullaville (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 40 21 96 18; 32 rue de l'Orillon, 11e; 📍 Belleville or Goncourt; starters €4.90-7.50, mains €9.80-19.50, menus €7-14; 🕒 lunch & dinner to 1am) This cavernous, 400-seat place tries to please all of the people all of the time. As a result the food is a bit of a mishmash – dim sum sits next to beef satay, as do scallops with black bean alongside Singapore noodles. Order carefully and you should be able to approach some authenticity.

Osssek Garden (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 48 07 16 35; 14 rue Rampon, 11e; 📍 Oberkampf; starters €5-14, barbecues €16-18, lunch menus €9.50-12.50) This Korean place not far from place de la République has excellent barbecues as well as *bibimbap* (€12 to €18) – rice served in a sizzling pot topped with thinly sliced beef (or other meat) and cooked and preserved vegetables, then bound by a raw egg and flavoured with chilli-laced soybean paste.

Asianwok (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 43 57 63 24; 63 rue Oberkampf, 11e; 📍 Parmentier; dishes €13.80-15.20, menus €18.50; 🕒 lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) We can't get enough of the wonderful stir-fries, big salads and ample platters served at this pan-Asian eatery that opened recently in an old vintage bar-café along trendy rue Oberkampf.

SELF-CATERING

Supermarkets in the area include **Franprix Jules Ferry** (Map pp120-1; 28 bd Jules Ferry, 11e; 📍 République or Goncourt; 🕒 8.30am-9pm Tue-Sun) and a **Franprix Jean-Pierre Timbaud** (Map pp120-1; 23 rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 11e; 📍 Oberkampf; 🕒 8.30am-9pm Mon-Sat, 9am-1.30pm Sun).

13e Arrondissement & Chinatown

With the new Simone de Beauvoir footbridge (p156) making Bercy footsteps away from the 13e, foodies are hot-footing it to Paris' Chinatown in search of authentic Asian food: av de Choisy, av d'Ivry and rue Baudricourt are the streets. Another wonderful district for an evening out is the Butte aux Cailles area (Map pp114-15), just southwest of place d'Italie. It's chock-a-block with interesting addresses.

FRENCH

Chez Gladines (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 45 80 70 10; 30 rue des Cinq Diamants, 13e; 📍 Corvisart; starters €5-10, mains

€8.50-11.50; 🕒 lunch & dinner to midnight Sun-Tue, to 1am Wed-Sat) This lively Basque bistro in the heart of the Buttes aux Cailles quarter serves enormous 'meal-in-a-bowl' salads (€6.80 to €9), as well as traditional Basque specialities such as *pipérade* (omelette with tomatoes and peppers) and *poulet basque* (chicken cooked with tomatoes, onions, peppers and white wine).

Le Temps des Cérises (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 45 89 69 48; 18-20 rue de la Butte aux Cailles, 13e; 📍 Corvisart or Place d'Italie; starters €8-10, mains €10-21, lunch menus €14.50-22.50, dinner menus €22.50; 🕒 lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat) 'The Time of Cherries' (ie 'days of wine and roses' to English speakers), an easygoing restaurant run by a workers' cooperative for three decades, offers faithfully solid fare in a quintessentially Parisian atmosphere. Buy the *coton-bio* (organic cotton) T-shirt upon departure.

ASIAN

La Chine Masséna (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 45 83 98 88; 18 av de Choisy, 13e; 📍 Porte de Choisy; soups & starters €4.10-11, mains €6.10-14) This enormous restaurant specialises in Cantonese and Chiu Chow cuisine. The dim sum here is especially good, and wait staff still go around with trolleys calling out their wares.

QUICK EATS

Fil'OfFromage (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 53 79 13 35; 12 rue Neuve Tolbiac, 13e; 📍 Bibliothèque; sandwiches €4.50-7, menus €14.50-15.50; 🕒 10am-7.30pm Mon-Wed, to 10.30pm Thu-Sat) This new *fromagerie* serves lunches and light meals throughout the day six days a week. Everything here involves cheese, including the *assiette froide* (cold plate) of three cheeses, three cold meats and salad and the *poêlons* (pots) of warm cheese.

Montmartre & Pigalle

The 18th arrondissement, where you will find Montmartre and the northern half of place Pigalle, thrives on crowds and little else. When you've got Sacré Cœur, place du Tertre and its portrait artists, and Paris literally at your feet, who needs decent restaurants? But that's not to say everything is a write-off in this well-trodden tourist area. You just have to pick and choose a bit more carefully.

FRENCH

Chez Toinette (Map p136; ☎ 01 42 54 44 36; 20 rue Germain Pilon, 18e; 📍 Abbesses; starters €6-9, mains €15-20; 🕒 dinner Tue-Sat) The atmosphere of this convivial

restaurant, which has somehow managed to keep alive the tradition of old Montmartre in one of the capital's most touristy neighbourhoods, is rivalled only by its fine cuisine. Game lovers in particular won't be disappointed.

Le Café Qui Parle (Map p136; ☎ 01 46 06 06 88; 24 rue Caulaincourt, 18e; M Lamarck Caulaincourt or Blanche; starters €7-14, mains €13.50-20, menus €12.50-17; ☺ lunch & dinner Thu-Tue) 'The Talking Café' offers inventive, reasonably priced dishes prepared by owner-chef Damian Mœuf amid comfortable surroundings. We love the art on the walls. Brunch (€15) is served from 10am on Saturday and Sunday.

La Maison Rose (Map p136; ☎ 01 42 57 66 75; 2 rue de l'Abreuvoir, 18e; M Lamarck Caulaincourt; starters €7.20-13, mains €14.50-16.50, menus €16.50; ☺ lunch & dinner daily Mar-Oct, lunch & dinner to 9pm Thu-Mon Nov-Feb). Looking for the quintessential Montmartre bistro in a house that was the subject of a lithograph by Maurice Utrillo? Head for the tiny 'Pink House' just north of place du Tertre. It's not so much about food here but rather location, location, location.

La Mascotte (Map p136; ☎ 01 46 06 28 15; 52 rue des Abbesses, 18e; M Abbesses; starters €8.50-11.50, mains €19-25, lunch menus €19.50-35, dinner menus €35; ☺ lunch & dinner) The 'Mascot' is a small, unassuming spot much frequented by regulars who can't get enough of its seafood and regional cuisine. The big terrace is a delight in the warmer months.

SELF-CATERING

Towards place Pigalle there are lots of grocery stores, many of them open until late at night; try the side streets leading off bd de Clichy (eg rue Lepic). Heading south from bd de Clichy, rue des Martyrs, 9e (Map pp120-1), is lined with food shops almost all the way to metro Notre Dame de Lorette. Supermarkets in the area include the following:

8 à Huit (Map p136; 24 rue Lepic, 18e; M Abbesses; ☺ 8.30am-10.30pm Mon-Sat)

Ed l'Épicier (Map p136; 6 bd de Clichy, 18e; M Pigalle; ☺ 9am-9pm Mon-Sat)

DRINKING

In a country where eating and drinking are as inseparable as cheese and wine, it's inevitable that the line between bars, cafés and bistros is blurred at best. Practically every place serves food of some description, but those featured in this section are favoured, first and foremost, as happening places to drink – be it alcohol, coffee or tea.

Drinking alcohol here has never been cheap, but happy hour – sometimes extending to as late as 9pm – has brought the price of a pint of beer, a glass of wine or a cocktail down to pricey, rather than extortionate, levels. Bear in mind that drinking in Paris essentially means paying the rent for the space you are occupying. So it costs more sitting at tables than it does to stand, more on a fancy square than a backstreet, more in the 8e than in the 18e.

Louvre & Les Halles

Le Fumoir (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 92 00 24; 6 rue de l'Amiral Coligny, 1er; M Louvre-Rivoli; ☺ 11am-2am) The 'Smoking Room' is a huge, very stylish colonial-style bar-café just opposite the Louvre. It's a fine place to sip top-notch gin from quality glassware while nibbling on olives; during happy hour (6pm to 8pm) cocktails, usually €8.50 to €11, drop to €6.

L'Imprévu (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 78 23 50; 9 rue Quincampoix, 4e; M Rambuteau; ☺ 1pm-2am Sun, noon-2am Tue-Sat) 'The Unexpected', something of an oasis in the busy Les Halles area, is a relatively inexpensive and gay-friendly bar, with mismatched furniture and a relaxed charm. It's popular with students.

Marais & Bastille

Au Petit Fer à Cheval (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 47 47; 30 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e; M Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul; ☺ 9am-2am) The original horseshoe-shaped zinc counter (1903) leaves little room for much else here, but nobody seems to mind at this tiny and very genial bar overflowing with friendly regulars enjoying a drink or a sandwich (simple meals are served from noon to 1am).

Iguana Café (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 40 21 39 99; 15 rue de la Roquette, 11e; M Bastille; ☺ 3pm-5am) A contemporary, two-level backlit café-pub whose clientele is slipping progressively from 30-somethings to early-20s punters. We love the red, black and silver decor on two levels, and there's a DJ at the weekend, with themed nights twice a month.

La Perle (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 69 93; 78 rue Vieille du Temple, 3e; M St-Paul or Chemin Vert; ☺ 6am-2am Mon-Fri, 8am-2am Sat & Sun) This is where *bobos* (bohemian bourgeois types) come to slum it over *un rouge* (glass of red wine) until the DJ arrives and things liven up. We like the (for real) distressed look of the place and the locomotive over the bar.

L'Apparement Café (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 48 87 12 22; 18 rue des Coutures St-Gervais, 3e; 📄 M St-Sébastien Froissart; ☎ noon-2am Mon-Sat, 12.30pm-midnight Sun) Tucked not so 'apparently' behind the Musée Picasso at a merciful distance from the Marais shopping hordes, this tasteful haven looks and feels like a private living room, with wood panelling, leather sofas, scattered parlour games and dog-eared books.

Le Bistrot du Peintre (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 47 00 34 39; 116 av Ledru-Rollin, 11e; 📄 M Bastille; ☎ 8am-2am) This lovely belle-époque bistro and wine bar, with its 1902 art-nouveau bar, elegant terrace and spot-on service, is on our apéritif A-list – and that of local artists, *bobos* and local celebs.

Le Loir dans la Théière (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 90 61; 3 rue des Rosiers, 4e; 📄 M St-Paul; ☎ 9.30am-7pm) The cutesy-named 'Dormouse in the Teapot' is a wonderful old space filled with retro toys, comfy couches and scenes of *Through the Looking Glass* on the walls. It serves up to a dozen different types of tea, excellent sandwiches and desserts like apple crumble (€8.50 to €12) and brunch at the weekend. Best time to find a table is about 4pm.

Le Pick Clops (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 40 29 02 18; 16 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e; 📄 M Hôtel de Ville or St-Paul; ☎ 7am-2am Mon-Sat, 8am-2am Sun) This retro café-bar – all shades of blue and lit by neon – has Formica tables, ancient bar stools and plenty of mirrors. Attracting a friendly flow of locals and passers-by, it's a great place for morning or afternoon coffee, or that last drink. Try the rum punch.

Latin Quarter & Jardin des Plantes

Le Piano Vache (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 46 33 75 03; 8 rue Laplace, 5e; 📄 M Maubert Mutualité; ☎ noon-2am Mon-Fri, 9pm-2am Sat & Sun) Just down the hill from the Panthéon, the 'Mean Piano' is covered in old posters and couches and drenched in 1970s and '80s rock ambience. Effortlessly underground and a huge favourite with students, it has bands and DJs playing mainly rock, plus some goth, reggae and pop.

Le Pub St-Hilaire (Map pp130-1; www.pubsthilaire.com; 2 rue Valette, 5e; 📄 M Maubert Mutualité; ☎ 11am-2am Mon-Thu, 11am-4am Fri, 4pm-4am Sat, 3pm-midnight Sun) 'Buzzing' fails to do justice to the pulsating vibe inside this student-loved pub. Generous happy hours last several hours, and a trio of pool tables, board games, music on two floors and various gimmicks to rev up the party crowd (a metre of

cocktails, 'be your own barman', etc) keep the place packed.

St-Germain, Odéon & Luxembourg

La Palette (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 68 15; 43 rue de Seine, 6e; 📄 M Mabillon; ☎ 8am-2am Mon-Sat) In the heart of 6e gallery land, this fin-de-siècle café and erstwhile stomping ground of Cézanne and Braque attracts a grown-up set of fashion people and local art dealers.

Le 10 (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 66 83; 10 rue de l'Odéon, 6e; 📄 M Odéon; ☎ 5.30pm-2am) A local institution, this cellar pub groans with students, smoky ambience and cheap sangria. Posters adorn the walls, and an eclectic selection emerges from the jukebox – everything from jazz and the Doors to *chansons françaises* (traditional French songs; p192).

Le Comptoir des Canettes (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 79 15; 11 rue des Canettes, 6e; 📄 M Mabillon; ☎ noon-2am Tue-Sat) In situ since 1952, a faithful local following pours into this cellar: a stuffy, atmospheric tribute to downtrodden romanticism complete with red tablecloths, melting candles and nostalgic photos of musicians.

Les Deux Magots (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 45 48 55 25; www.lesdeuxmagots.fr; 170 bd St-Germain, 6e; 📄 M St-Germain des Prés; ☎ 7am-1am) This erstwhile literary haunt dates from 1914, although it's best known as the hang-out of Sartre, Hemingway, Picasso and André Breton. Everyone has to sit on the terrace here at least once and have a coffee or the famous hot chocolate served in porcelain jugs.

Montparnasse

The most popular places to while away the hours over a drink or coffee in Montparnasse are large café-restaurants like **La Coupole** (p184) and **Le Dôme** (p184) on bd du Montparnasse.

Cubana Café (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 40 46 80 81; 47 rue Vavin, 6e; 📄 M Vavin; ☎ 11am-3am Sun-Wed, 11am-5am Thu-Sat) The perfect place to have cocktails and tapas (€3.70 to €7.10) before carrying on to the clubs of Montparnasse. A post-work crowd sinks into the comfy leather armchairs beneath oil paintings of everyday life in Cuba.

Le Rosebud (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 43 35 38 54; 11bis rue Delambre, 14e; 📄 M Edgar Quinet or Vavin; ☎ 7pm-2am) Like the sleigh of that name in *Citizen Kane*, Rosebud harkens to the past. Enjoy an expertly mixed champagne cocktail or whisky sour amid the quiet elegance of polished wood and aged leather.

Opéra & Grands Boulevards

De la Ville Café (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 48 24 48 09; 34 bd de Bonne Nouvelle, 10e; M Bonne Nouvelle; ☎ 11am-2.30am) This one-time brothel has an alluring, slightly confused mix of restored history (original mosaic tiles, distressed walls) and modern design. DJs play most nights, making it a quality 'before' venue for warming up before heading for the clubs.

Harry's New York Bar (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 61 71 14; 5 rue Daunou, 2e; M Opéra; ☎ 10.30am-4am) One of the most popular American-style bars in the interwar years, Harry's manages to evoke a golden past without feeling like a museum piece. Lean upon the bar where F Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway once drank and gossiped, and have the expert, white-smocked gentlemen prepare you a killer martini or the house creation: the Bloody Mary. The Cuban mahogany interior was brought over from a Manhattan bar in 1911. There's a basement piano bar with light jazz open in the evening.

Gare du Nord, Gare de l'Est & République

Ice Kube (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 05 20 00; 1-5 passage Ruelle, 18e; M La Chapelle; ☎ 7pm-1.30am Wed-Sat, 2-11pm Sun) Every city worth its, err, salt has got to have an ice bar nowadays, and this *temple de glace* (ice temple) on the first floor of the *très boutique* Kube Hotel (p174) is the French capital's first. The temperature is set at -20°C, there are down jackets on loan and the bar is a shimmering block of carved ice.

ourpick Motown Bar (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 46 07 09 79; 81-83 bd de Strasbourg, 10e; M Gare de l'Est; ☎ 24hr except 1am-6pm Tue & Wed) This almost-24-hour place – it's open continuously except for two daytime gaps at the start of the week – is the venue of choice in the wee hours when you have a thirst and a few bob in your pocket but, alas, no friends. You can drink at almost any time of day and eat (mains €7.50 to €11.50) until 11pm; live singers croon on certain nights. There's a warm and festive feel, and the friendly staff and patrons will make Billy-No-Mates feel like he's got a friend or two.

Ménilmontant & Belleville

L'Autre Café (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 40 21 03 07; 62 rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 11e; M Parmentier; ☎ 8am-2am) A young mixed crowd of locals, artists and party-goers remains faithful to this quality café with its long bar, spacious seating areas,

relaxed environment, reasonable prices and art-exhibition openings.

On Cherche Encore (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 49 20 79 56; 2 rue des Goncourt, 11e; M Goncourt; ☎ 11am-4pm Mon, 11am-2am Tue-Fri, noon-2am Sat) This relaxed, modern loft-style bar-café is trying to do it all and succeeding. The DJ spins quality tunes (electro, house and funk) from Thursday to Saturday, which leads to some quality mingling. The corner terrace is positioned for all-afternoon sun and is worth pouncing on.

Montmartre & Pigalle

La Fourmi (Map p136; ☎ 01 42 64 70 35; 74 rue des Martyrs, 18e; M Pigalle; ☎ 8am-2am Mon-Thu, 8am-4am Fri & Sat, 10am-2am Sun) A Pigalle stayer, 'The Ant' hits the mark with its lively yet unpretentious atmosphere. The decor is hip but not overwhelming, the zinc bar is long and inviting, the people laid-back, and the music mostly rock.

Le Dépanneur (Map p136; ☎ 01 44 53 03 78; 27 rue Pierre Fontaine, 9e; M Blanche; ☎ 10am-2am Mon-Thu, 24hr Fri-Sun) An American-style diner-cum-bar with postmodern frills and almost 24-hour service, 'The Repairman' has plenty of tequila and fancy cocktails (£7.50) and DJs after 11pm from Thursday to Saturday.

ENTERTAINMENT

A night on the town in Paris can mean anything from sipping Champagne on the Champs-Élysées or opening unmarked doorways in search of a new club in the *banlieues* (suburbs) to enjoying a Puccini production in the over-the-top surrounds of the Palais Garnier. From jazz cellars to comic theatres; garage beats to go-go dancers; avant-garde artists' squats to world-class symphonies, both home-grown and on tour, this is the place with entertainment choices to suit all budgets and tastes.

Listings

It's virtually impossible to sample the richness of Paris' entertainment scene without first studying *Pariscope* (€0.40) or *Officiel des Spectacles* (€0.35), both of which are in French, come out on Wednesday and are available at newsstands everywhere in the city. Rock, jazz, world and *chansons* (traditional French songs) are among the many genres covered by *Les Inrockuptibles* (www.lesinrocks.com, in French; €3), a national music zine with a strong (inevitably) Paris bias and great soirée and concert listings.

Of the surfeit of various French-language freebies, *À Nous Paris* (www.anous.fr/paris, in French) is among the most informed and posts its contents online; click 'Lieux Branchés' (Trendsetters) to find in-vogue bars, clubs and restaurants of the moment. The pocket-sized booklet *LYLO* (short for Les Yeux, Les Oreilles meaning 'eyes and ears'; www.lylo.fr, in French), freely available at bars and cafés, is a fortnightly low-down on the live music, concert and clubbing scene.

Booking Agencies

Buy tickets for concerts, theatre performances and other cultural events at *billetteries* (ticket offices) in **Fnac** (☎ 08 92 68 36 22; www.fnacspectacles.com, in French) or **Virgin Megastores** (☎ 08 25 12 91 39; www.virginmega.fr, in French). Both accept reservations by phone and the internet, and most credit cards. Tickets generally cannot be returned or exchanged unless a performance is cancelled.

Fnac Champs-Élysées (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 53 53 64 64; 74 av des Champs-Élysées, 8e; **M** Franklin D Roosevelt; ☎ 10am-midnight Mon-Sat, noon-midnight Sun)

Fnac Forum des Halles (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 40 41 40 00; Forum des Halles shopping centre, Level 3, 1-7 rue Pierre Lescot, 1er; **M** Châtelet-Les Halles; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat)

Fnac Musique Bastille (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 43 42 04 04; 4 place de la Bastille, 12e; **M** Bastille; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat)

Virgin Megastore Barbès (Map p136; ☎ 01 56 55 53 70; 15 bd Barbès, 18e; **M** Barbès Rochechouart; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon-Sat)

Virgin Megastore Champs-Élysées (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 49 53 50 00; 52-60 av des Champs-Élysées, 8e; **M** Franklin D Roosevelt; ☎ 10am-midnight Mon-Sat, noon-midnight Sun)

Virgin Megastore Galerie du Carrousel du Louvre (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 44 50 03 10; 99 rue de Rivoli, 1er; **M** Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon & Tue, to 9pm Wed-Sun)

DISCOUNT TICKETS

On the day of a performance, **Kiosque Théâtre Madeleine** (Map pp118-19; opp 15 place de la Madeleine, 8e; **M** Madeleine; ☎ 12.30-8pm Tue-Sat, 12.30-4pm Sun) sells tickets at half price plus a commission of about €3. Seats available are almost always the most expensive ones in the stalls or 1st balcony. There's also **Kiosque Théâtre Montparnasse** (Map pp124-5; parvis Montparnasse, 15e; **M** Montparnasse Bienvenüe) in Montparnasse between Gare Montparnasse and Tour Montparnasse, open the same hours.

The French-language websites www.billetreduc.com, www.ticketac.com and www.webguichet.com all have online discounts.

Live Music

ROCK, POP & INDIE

There's rock, pop and indie at bars, cafés and clubs around Paris, and a number of venues regularly host acts by international performers. It's often easier to see big-name Anglophone acts in Paris than in their home countries. The most popular stadiums or other big venues for international acts are the **Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy** (Map pp134-5; ☎ 08 92 39 01 00; www.bercy.fr, in French; 8 bd de Bercy, 12e; **M** Bercy) in Bercy; the **Stade de France** (Map p209; ☎ 08 92 70 09 00; www.stadedefrance.fr, in French; rue Francis de Pressensé, ZAC du Cornillon Nord, St-Denis La Plaine; **M** St-Denis-Porte de Paris) in St-Denis; and **Le Zénith** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 08 90 71 02 07; www.le-zenith.com, in French; 211 av Jean Jaurès, 19e; **M** Porte de Pantin) at the Cité de la Musique in the Parc de la Villette, 19e. The most central venue (last seen: Material Girl Madge) is **L'Olympia** (Map pp118-19; ☎ 08 92 68 33 68; www.olympiahall.com; 28 bd des Capucines, 9e; **M** Opéra).

La Cigale (Map p136; ☎ 01 49 25 89 99; www.lacigale.fr; 120 bd de Rochechouart, 18e; **M** Anvers or Pigalle; admission €25-60) Now classed as a historical monument, this music hall dates from 1887 but was redecorated 100 years later by Philippe Starck. Having welcomed artists from Jean Cocteau to Sheryl Crow, today it prides itself on its avant-garde program, with rock and jazz concerts.

La Java (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 02 20 52; www.la-java.fr; 105 rue du Faubourg du Temple, 10e; **M** Goncourt; admission €5-24; ☎ 7.30pm-3am Tue-Thu, 11pm-6am Fri & Sat) The dance hall (1922) where Édith Piaf got her first break now reverberates with the sound of live salsa and other Latin music. From 8pm or 9pm until midnight there are concerts, including world music. Afterwards, DJs usually bring in a festive crowd dancing to electro, house, disco and Latin.

L'Élysée-Montmartre (Map p136; ☎ 01 44 92 45 47; www.elyseemontmartre.com; 72 bd de Rochechouart, 18e; **M** Anvers; admission €15-45) A huge old music hall with a great sound system, this is one of the better venues in Paris for one-off rock and indie concerts. It opens for concerts at 6.30pm and hosts club events and big-name DJs at 11.30pm on Friday and Saturday.

Le Bataclan (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 43 14 00 30; www.bataclan.fr, in French; 50 bd Voltaire, 11e; **M** Oberkampf or St-Ambroise; admission €20-45) Built in 1864, this

excellent small concert hall was Maurice Chevalier's debut venue in 1910 and today draws some French and international acts. It also masquerades as a theatre and dance hall.

CLASSICAL

The city hosts dozens of orchestral, organ and chamber-music concerts each week. In addition to the theatres and concert halls listed below, Paris' beautiful churches have much-celebrated organs and can be wonderful places to hear music. Many concerts don't keep to any fixed schedule, but are simply advertised on posters around town. Admission fees vary, but are usually from €20 for adults and half that for students.

Théâtre du Châtelet (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 40 28 28 40; www.chatelet-theatre.com, in French; 1 place du Châtelet, 1er; M Châtelet; concert tickets €10-60, opera €10-90, ballet €10-55; box office ☎ 11am-7pm) This central venue hosts concerts as well as operas, ballets and theatre performances. Tickets go on sale 14 days before the performance date; subject to availability, anyone aged under 26 or over 65 can get reduced-price tickets from 15 minutes before curtain time. The Sunday concerts at 11am (adult/under 26 year €23/12) are a popular fixture. There are no performances in July and August.

Salle Pleyel (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 56 13 13; www.sallepleyel.fr; 252 rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, 8e; M Termes; concert tickets €10-85; ☎ box office noon-7pm Mon-Sat, to 8pm on day of performance) Dating from the 1920s, this highly regarded hall hosts many of Paris' finest classical music recitals and concerts, including those by the celebrated Orchestre de Paris (www.orchestredeparis.com, in French).

JAZZ & BLUES

After WWII, Paris became Europe's most important jazz centre, and, niche as the style has since become, the city's best clubs and cellars still lure international stars – as does the wonderful Paris Jazz Festival (p164), in the Parc Floral, and Banlieues Bleues (p164), a jazz festival held in March and early April in St-Denis and other Parisian suburbs.

Le Baiser Salé (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 33 37 71; www.lebaisersale.com, in French; 58 rue des Lombards, 1er; M Châtelet; admission free-€20) 'The Salty Kiss' is one of several jazz clubs on the same street. The *salle de jazz* (jazz hall) on the 1st floor has concerts of traditional jazz, Afro and Latin jazz, and jazz fusion. Combining big names and unknown artists, it is known for its relaxed vibe and its

gift for discovering new talents. Music starts at 7pm and again at 10pm.

Le Caveau de la Huchette (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 26 65 05; www.caveaudealahuchette.fr; 5 rue de la Huchette, 5e; M St-Michel; admission Sun-Thu/Fri & Sat €11/13; ☎ 9.30pm-2.30am Sun-Wed, to 4am Thu-Sat) Housed in a medieval *caveau* (cellar) that was used as a courtroom and torture chamber during the Revolution, this club is where virtually all the jazz greats have played since the end of WWII. It's touristy, but the atmosphere can often be more electric than at the more serious jazz clubs. Sessions start at 10pm.

New Morning (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 45 23 51 41; www.newmorning.com in French; 7-9 rue des Petites Écuries, 10e; M Château d'Eau; admission €15-21; ☎ 8pm-2am) This is a highly regarded auditorium with excellent acoustics that hosts big-name jazz concerts as well as blues, rock, funk, salsa, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian music. Concerts take place three to seven nights a week at 9pm, with the second set ending at about 1am.

FRENCH CHANSONS

When French music comes to mind, most people hear accordions and *chansonniers* (cabaret singers) such as Édith Piaf, Jacques Brel, Georges Brassens and Léo Ferré. But although you may stumble upon buskers performing *chansons françaises* or playing *musette* (accordion music) in the market, it can sometimes be difficult to catch traditional French music in a more formal setting in Paris. Try these venues to hear it in traditional and modern forms.

Au Lapin Agile (Map p136; ☎ 01 46 06 85 87; www.au-lapin-agile.com; 22 rue des Saules, 18e; M Lamarck Caulaincourt; adult €24, students except Sat €17; ☎ 9pm-2am Tue-Sun) This rustic cabaret venue in Montmartre was favoured by artists and intellectuals in the early 20th century, and *chansons* are still performed here and poetry read six nights a week starting at 9.30pm. Admission includes one drink.

Le Limonaire (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 45 23 33 33; http://limonaire.free.fr; 18 cité Bergère, 9e; M Grands Boulevards; admission free; ☎ 7pm-midnight Mon, 6pm-midnight Tue-Sun) This little wine bar is one of the best places to listen to French *chansons* and other traditional French bistro music. The singers (who change regularly) perform on the small stage every night; the fun begins at 7pm on Sunday, 8.30pm on Monday and at 10pm Tuesday to Saturday. Simple meals (€8.50 to €11) are served.

Le Vieux Belleville (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 44 62 92 66; www.le-vieux-belleville.com; 12 rue des Envergies, 20e; **M** Pyrénées; admission free; 🎵 performances at 8.30pm Tue, Thu & Fri) This old-fashioned bistro at the top of Parc de Belleville is an atmospheric venue for performances of French *chansons* featuring accordions and an organ grinder three times a week. It serves classic bistro food at lunch Monday to Saturday and at dinner Tuesday to Saturday.

Clubs

Paris does not have a mainstream club scene like that found in London, Berlin or New York; the music, theme and crowd at most clubs changes regularly according to the whims of the moment, and the scene is extremely mobile. As a result, blogs, forums and websites (right) are the best ways to keep apace with what's happening. The best DJs and their followings have short stints in a certain venue before moving on, and the scene's hippest *soirées clubbing* (clubbing events) float between a clutch of venues – including the city's many dance-driven bars (p188).

But the beat is strong. Electronic music is of particularly high quality in Paris' clubs, with some excellent local house and techno. Funk and groove have given the whimsical predominance of dark minimal sounds a good pounding, and the Latin scene is huge; salsa dancing and Latin music nights pack out plenty of clubs. R & B and hip-hop pickings are decent, if less represented than in, say, London.

Club admission costs anything from €5 to €20 and often includes a drink; admission is usually cheaper before 1am and men can't always get in unaccompanied by a woman. Drink prices start at around €6/8 for a beer/mixed drink or cocktail but often cost more.

La Dame de Canton (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 53 61 08 49, 06 10 41 02 29; www.damedecanton.com, in French; opp 11 quai François Mauriac, 13e; **M** Quai de la Gare or Bibliothèque; admission €10; 🎵 7pm-2am Tue-Thu, 7pm-dawn Fri & Sat) This floating *boite* (club) aboard a three-masted Chinese junk hosts concerts (8.30pm) that range from pop and indie to electro, hip-hop, reggae and rock; afterwards DJs keep the young crowd moving.

La Favela Chic (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 40 21 38 14; www.favelachic.com, in French; 18 rue du Faubourg du Temple, 10e; **M** République; admission free-€10; 🎵 8pm-2am Tue-Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat) The ambience is more *favela* (shantytown) than chic in this restaurant-bar-cum-

DIGITAL CLUBBING

Track tomorrow's hot 'n' happening *soirée au feeling* with these finger-on-the-pulse Parisian nightlife links (in French).

- www.gogoparis.com (in English)
- www.lemonsound.com
- www.novaplanet.com
- www.parisbouge.com
- www.parissi.com
- www.radiofg.com
- www.tribudenuit.com

dancehall, where Brazilians and French alike get down to the frenetic mix of traditional bossa nova, samba, *baile* (dance) funk and Brazilian pop.

Le Balajo (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 47 00 07 87; www.balajo.fr, in French; 9 rue de Lappe, 11e; **M** Bastille; admission €12-18; 🎵 10pm-2am Tue & Thu, 9pm-2am Wed, 11pm-5am Fri & Sat, 3-7.30pm Sun) A mainstay of Parisian nightlife since 1936, this ancient ballroom is devoted to salsa classes and Latin music during the week. Weekends see DJs spinning a very mixed bag of rock, disco, funk, R & B and house. While a bit lower-shelf these days, Le Balajo scores a mention for its historical value and its old-fashioned *musette* gigs on Sundays: waltz, tango and cha-cha for aficionados of retro tea-dancing.

Le Nouveau Casino (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 43 57 57 40; www.nouveaucasino.net, in French; 109 rue Oberkampf, 11e; **M** Parmentier; club admission €5-10, concerts €15-22; 🎵 7.30pm-midnight or 2am Sun-Thu, to 5am Fri & Sat) 'The New Casino' has an eclectic program – electro, pop, deep house, rock – with both live music concerts and top DJs. Try to get there before everyone pours out of the surrounding bars at 2am.

Les Bains Douches (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 48 87 01 80; www.lesbainsdouches.net, in French; 7 rue du Bourg l'Abbé, 3e; **M** Étienne Marcel; admission €20; 🎵 11pm-5am Wed-Sun) Housed in a refitted old *hammam* (Turkish bath), this darling of the 1990s has returned with a new mix of theme nights, Sunday morning 'afters' and gay soirées.

Point Éphémère (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 40 34 02 48; www.pointephemere.org; 200 quai de Valmy, 10e; **M** Louis Blanc; admission free-€14; 🎵 10am-2pm) A relatively new arrival by the Canal St-Martin with some of the best electronic music nights in town. Once this self-proclaimed 'centre for dynamic

artists' gets in gear, *'on y danse, on danse'* (you'll dance your arse off).

SocialClub (Mapp120-1; ☎ 0140280555; www.myspace.com/parissocialclub; 142 rue Montmartre, 2e; M) Grands Boulevards; admission free-€20; ☎ 11pm-3am Wed & Sun, to 6am Thu-Sat) Once known as Triptyque, this vast and very popular club is set up in three underground rooms and fills something of a gap in inner-city clubbing. Musically they're on to it, with a serious sound system spanning electro, hip-hop and funk, as well as jazz and live acts.

Gay & Lesbian Venues

The Marais, especially those areas around the intersection of rue Ste-Croix de la Bretonnerie and rue des Archives and eastwards to rue Vieille du Temple, has been Paris' main centre of gay and lesbian nightlife for two decades. There are also a few bars and clubs within walking distance of bd de Sébastopol. Other venues are scattered throughout the city. The lesbian scene here is much less public than its gay male counterpart and centres on a few cafés and bars in the Marais.

3W Kafé (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 48 87 39 26; www.3w-kafe.com, in French; 8 rue des Écouffes, 4e; M) St-Paul; ☎ 5.30pm-2am) This glossy lesbian cocktail bar is the flagship venue on a street with several dyke bars. It's relaxed and elegant and there's no ban on men.

Amnésia (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 16 94; www.amnesia-café.com; 42 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e; M) Hôtel de Ville; ☎ 11am-2am) In the heart of the Marais, cosy Amnésia remains resolutely popular with gay guys but is more mixed than many of its counterparts. There's an attractive lounge area upstairs and a tiny dance floor in the *cave* (wine cellar) downstairs with DJ music from the 1980s and 1990s.

Le Cox (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 08 00; www.cox.fr, in French; 15 rue des Archives, 4e; M) Hôtel de Ville; ☎ noon-2am Mon-Fri, 1pm-2am Sat & Sun) This small gay bar has become *the* meeting place for an interesting (and maybe interested) and cruisy crowd throughout the evening from 6pm. OK, we don't like the in-your-face name either, but what's a boy to do?

Le Scarron (Mapp126-7; ☎ 01 42 77 44 05; www.lescarron.com; 3 rue Geoffroy l'Angévin, 4e; M) Rambuteau; ☎ 10pm-6am Wed-Sat) This rather chic *bar de nuit* hots up as the evening progresses, especially in the vaulted basement. There's a rather subdued piano bar on the ground floor much more suited (key word) to quiet conversation.

Le Troisième Lieu (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 48 04 85 64; www.letroisiemelieu.com, in French; 62 rue Quincampoix, 4e; M) Rambuteau; ☎ 6pm-2am Tue-Sun) This friendly bar is a popular place for chic young lesbians and, at times, for everyone else. There's a large, colourful bar and big wooden tables at street level, with good-value canteen meals. The vaulted cellar below leaves space for dancing to DJs, rock/alternative music concerts and live singers.

Cinemas

Both *Pariscope* and *L'Officiel des Spectacles* (p190) list the full crop of Paris' cinematic pickings. Going to the cinema in Paris is not cheap: expect to pay up to €10 for a first-run film. Students, under 18s, and over 60s get discounted tickets (usually just under €6), except Friday night, all day Saturday and on Sunday matinees. Wednesday yields discounts for everyone.

Cinémathèque Française (Map pp134-5; ☎ 01 71 19 33 33; www.cinemathèquefrancaise.com; 51 rue de Bercy, 12e; M) Bercy; adult/student/under 12yr €6/5/3; ☎ box office noon-7pm Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat, noon-10pm Thu, 10am-8pm Sun) This national cultural institution is a veritable temple to the 'seventh art' and also sponsors cultural events, workshops and exhibitions. It always leaves its foreign offerings – often rarely screened classics – in their original language.

Theatre

Almost all of Paris' theatre productions, including those written in other languages, are performed in French. There are a few English-speaking troupes around, such as the celebrated Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord. For other English-language productions, look for ads on metro poster boards and in English-language periodicals such as *FUSAC* (p113), *Paris Times* and *Paris Where*, which are free at English-language bookshops, pubs and so on.

Comédie Française (Map pp126-7; ☎ 08 25 10 16 80; www.comedie-francaise.fr, in French; place Colette, 1er; M) Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre; tickets €5-37; box office ☎ 11am-6pm) Founded in 1680 during the reign of Louis XIV, 'The French Comedy' theatre bases its repertoire around works of the classic French playwrights such as Molière, Racine and Corneille, though in recent years contemporary and even non-French works have been staged. Tickets for regular seats cost €11 to €37; tickets for the 65 places near the ceiling (€5) go on sale one hour before curtain time (usually 8.30pm) at the discount-ticket window around the corner from the main

entrance, facing place André Malraux. This is also when those aged under 27 can purchase any of the better seats remaining for between €10 and €12 at the main box office. There are three venues within the Comédie Française:

Salle Richelieu The main venue on place Colette just west of the Palais Royal.

Studio Théâtre (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 44 58 98 58; Galerie du Carrousel du Louvre, 99 rue de Rivoli, 1er; M Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre; ☎ box office 2-5pm Wed-Sun)

Théâtre du Vieux Colombier (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 44 39 87 00; 21 rue du Vieux Colombier, 6e; M St-Sulpice; ☎ box office 11am-6pm)

Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 46 07 34 50; www.bouffesdunord.com, in French; 37bis bd de la Chapelle, 10e; M La Chapelle; adult €12-24, students & under 25yr €10-20; box office ☎ 11am-6pm Mon-Sat) Perhaps best known as the Paris base of Peter Brooks' and Micheline Rozan's experimental troupes, this theatre in the northern reaches of the 10e and just north of the Gare du Nord also hosts works by other directors (eg Declan Donnellan, Stéphane Braunschweig, Krzysztof Warlikowski), as well as classical and jazz concerts.

Opera

Opéra National de Paris (ONP; ☎ 08 92 89 90 90; www.opera-de-paris.fr in French) The ONP splits its performance schedule between the Palais Garnier, its original home built in 1875, and the modern Opéra Bastille, which opened in 1989. Both opera houses also stage ballets and classical-music concerts performed by the ONP's affiliated orchestra and ballet companies. The season runs from September to July.

Opéra Bastille (Map pp132-3; 2-6 place de la Bastille, 12e; M Bastille; opera €7-150, ballet €5-80, concert tickets €10-65; box office ☎ 10.30am-6.30pm Mon-Sat) Tickets are available from the box office at 130 rue de Lyon, 11e, some 14 days before the date of the performance. The cheapest opera seats are €7 and are only sold from the box office. Note, on the first day they are released, box office tickets can only be bought from the opera house at which the performance is to be held. At Bastille, standing-only tickets for €5 are available 1½ hours before performances begin. Just 15 minutes before the curtain goes up, last-minute seats at reduced rates (usually €20 for opera and ballet performances) are released to people aged under 28 or over 60.

Palais Garnier (Map pp118-19; ☎ 08 92 89 90 90; place de l'Opéra, 9e; M Opéra; box office ☎ 11am-6.30pm Mon-Sat) Ticket prices and conditions (including

last-minute discounts) at the city's original opera house are almost exactly the same as those at the Opéra Bastille.

Cabaret

Paris' risqué cabaret revues – those dazzling, pseudo-bohemian productions where the women wear two beads and a feather (or was it two feathers and a bead?) – are another one of those things that everyone sees in Paris except the Parisians themselves. But they continue to draw in the crowds as they did in the days of Toulouse-Lautrec and Aristide Bruant and can be a lot of fun. Times and prices vary with the seasons, but shows usually begin at 7pm or 7.30pm, 8.30 or 9pm, or 11pm, and some venues have matinees and additional evening shows at the weekend. Tickets cost anything from €65 to €120 per person (€140 to €400 with swish dinner and Champagne). All venues sell tickets online.

CrazyHorse (Map pp118-19; ☎ 0147233232; www.lecrazyhorseparis.com; 12 av George V, 8e; M Alma Marceau) This popular cabaret, whose dressing (or, rather, undressing) rooms were featured in Woody Allen's film *What's New Pussycat?* (1965), now promotes fine art – abstract 1960s patterns as they appear superimposed on the nude female form.

Le Lido de Paris (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 40 76 56 10; www.lido.fr; 116bis av des Champs-Élysées, 8e; M George V) Founded at the close of WWII, the Lido gets top marks for its ambitious sets and the lavish costumes of its 70 *artistes*, including the famed Bluebell Girls and now the Lido Boy Dancers.

Moulin Rouge (Map p136; ☎ 01 53 09 82 82; www.moulinrouge.fr; 82 bd de Clichy, 18e; M Blanche) This legendary cabaret founded in 1889, whose dancers appeared in Toulouse-Lautrec's celebrated posters, sits under its trademark red windmill (actually a 1925 copy of the 19th-century original) and attracts viewers and voyeurs by the busload.

Sport

Parisians are mad about watching sport. For details of upcoming sporting events, consult the sports daily *L'Équipe* (www.lequipe.fr, in French) or *Figaroscope* (www.figaroscope.fr, in French), an entertainment and activities supplement published with *Le Figaro* daily newspaper each Wednesday. Branches of Fnac and Virgin Megastore (p191) sell tickets for bigger events.

FOOTBALL

France's home matches (friendlies and qualifiers for major championships) are held at the magnificent **Stade de France** (p208). Tickets cost anything between €20 and €100.

The city's only top-division football team, the red-and-blue-striped **Paris-St-Germain** (☎ 01 47 43 71 71; www.psg.fr), plays its home games at the 48,500-seat **Parc des Princes** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 32 75, 01 47 43 72 56; www.leparcdesprinces.fr; 24 rue du Commandant Guilbaud, 16e; **M** Porte de St-Cloud; tickets €20-80; box office ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri & 3hr before match), built in 1970.

TENNIS

In late May/early June the tennis world focuses on the clay surface of the 16,500-seat **Stade Roland Garros** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 08 25 16 75 16, 01 47 43 52 52; www.rolandgarros.com, in French; 2 av Gordon Bennett, 16e; **M** Porte d'Auteuil) in the Bois de Boulogne for the French Open, the second of the Grand Slam tournaments. Tickets are expensive and hard to come by; they go on sale in mid-November and bookings must usually be made by March. One week prior to the competition (on the first day of the qualifiers), remaining tickets are sold from the **box office** (☎ 08 25 16 75 16; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri) at the stadium entrance.

The top indoor tournament is the Paris Tennis Open, which usually takes place sometime in late October or early November at the **Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy** (Map pp134-5; ☎ 01 40 02 60 60; www.bercy.fr, in French; 8 bd de Bercy, 12e; **M** Bercy). Tickets are available from the **box office** (☎ 08 92 39 01 00, 01 46 91 57 57; ☎ 11am-6pm Mon-Sat).

CYCLING

Since 1974 the final stage of the **Tour de France** (www.letour.fr), the world's most prestigious cycling event, has ended on the av des Champs-Élysées. The final day varies from year to year, but is usually the 3rd or 4th Sunday in July, with the race finishing sometime in the afternoon. If you want to see this exciting event, find a spot at the barricades before noon.

Track cycling, a sport at which France excels, is held in the velodrome of the Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy (above).

HORSE RACING

One of the cheapest ways to spend a relaxing afternoon in the company of Parisians of all ages and backgrounds is to go to the races.

The most accessible of the Paris area's half-dozen racecourses is **Hippodrome d'Auteuil** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 40 71 47 47; www.france-galop.com; Champ de Courses d'Auteuil, 16e; **M** Porte d'Auteuil), in the southeastern corner of the Bois de Boulogne. It hosts steeplechases six times monthly from February to late June or early July and then early September to early December. Standing on the lawn in the middle of the track is free, but a seat in the stands costs €3 or 4 (under 18 years free). Race schedules are published in almost all national newspapers. If you read French, pick up a copy of *Paris Turf* (€1.20), the horse-racing daily.

SHOPPING

Paris is a wonderful place to shop, whether you're in the market for a diamond-encrusted original Cartier bracelet or you're an impoverished *lèche-vitrine* (literally, 'window-licker') who just enjoys what you see from the outside looking in. From the ultrachic couture houses of av Montaigne and the cubby-hole boutiques of the Marais to the vast underground shopping centre at Les Halles and the flea-market bargains at St-Ouen, Paris is a city that knows how to make it, how to display it and how to charge for it.

Opening Hours

Opening hours for Paris shops are generally 10am to 7pm Monday to Saturday. Smaller shops often shut all day Monday; other days, their proprietors may simply close from noon to around 2pm for a long lunch. Many larger stores hold *nocturnes* (late nights) on Thursdays, remaining open until around 10pm. For Sunday shopping, the Champs-Élysées, Montmartre, the Marais and Bastille areas are the liveliest.

Winter *soldes* (sales) – during which many shops extend their hours – start mid-January; summer ones, in the second week of June.

Clothing & Fashion**HAUTE COUTURE & DESIGNER WEAR**

Most of the major French couturiers and ready-to-wear designers have their own boutiques in the capital, but it's also possible to see labelled, ready-to-wear collections at major department stores such as Le Printemps, Galeries Lafayette and Le Bon Marché. The Rector Lanak, especially the so-called **Triangle d'Or** (Map pp118-19; **M** Franklin D Roosevelt or Alma Marceau, 1er & 8e) formed by av Montaigne and

av Georges V, **rue du Faubourg St-Honoré** (Map pp118-19; **M** Madeleine or Concorde, 8e) and its eastern extension, **rue St-Honoré** (**M** Tuileries), **place des Victoires** (Map pp120-1; **M** Bourse or Sentier, 1er & 2e) and the Marais' **rue des Rosiers** (Map pp126-7; **M** St-Paul, 4e), is traditionally the epicentre of Parisian fashion, though **St-Germain** (Map pp126-7; **M** St-Sulpice or St-Germain des Prés) on the Left Bank can also claim a share of boutiques.

FASHION EMPORIA

There are fashion shops offering creations and accessories from a variety of cutting-edge designers.

Abou d'Abi Bazar (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 42 77 96 98; 10 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 3e; **M** St-Paul; ☹ 2-7pm Sun & Mon, 10.30am-7.15pm Tue-Sat) This fashionable boutique is a treasure trove of smart and affordable ready-to-wear pieces from young designers including Paul & Joe, Isabel Marant, Missoni and Antik Batik.

APC (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 78 18 02; 112 rue Vieille du Temple, 3e; **M** Chemin Vert; ☹ 11.30am-8pm) The focus of the Production and Creation Workshop is on simple lines and straight cuts for guys, though some pieces are more adventurous. It also has women's clothes.

Kiliwatch (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 21 17 37; 64 rue Tiquetonne, 2e; **M** Étienne Marcel; ☹ 11am-7.30pm Tue-Sat) A Parisian institution, Kiliwatch is always packed with hip guys and gals rummaging through rack after rack of new and used street wear and designs. There's a startling range of vintage goods including hats and boots, plus art/photography books, eyewear and the latest trainers.

L'Éclaireur (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 48 87 10 22; 3ter rue des Rosiers, 4e; **M** St-Paul; ☹ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat) You'll find John Galiano and Dries Van Noten rubbing shoulders with *objets* by Piet Hein Eek and Piero Fornasetti here. Part art space, part lounge and part deconstructionist fashion statement, this collection for women is known for having the next big thing first.

Department Stores

Paris has a number of *grands magasins* (department stores).

Galleries Lafayette (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 82 34 56; 40 bd Haussmann, 9e; **M** Auber or Chaussée d'Antin; ☹ 9.30am-7.30pm Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat, 9.30am-9pm Thu) A vast *grand magasin* in two adjacent buildings, Galleries Lafayette features a wide selection of fashion and accessories and the world's largest lingerie department. A fashion show

(☎ 01 42 82 30 25 to book a seat) takes place at 3pm on Friday.

Le Bon Marché (Map pp124-5; ☎ 01 44 39 80 00; 24 rue de Sèvres, 7e; **M** Sèvres Babylone; ☹ 9.30am-7pm Mon-Wed & Fri, 10am-9pm Thu, 9.30am-8pm Sat) Opened by Gustave Eiffel as Paris' first department store in 1852, 'The Good Market' (which also means 'bargain' in French) is less frenetic than its rivals across the Seine, but no less chic. Men's as well as women's fashions are sold.

Le Printemps (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 82 57 87; 64 bd Haussmann, 9e; **M** Havre Caumartin; ☹ 9.35am-7pm Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat, 9.35am-10pm Thu) 'The Spring' (as in the season) is actually three separate stores – one for women's fashion, one for men and one for beauty and household goods – offering a staggering display of perfume, cosmetics and accessories, as well as established and up-and-coming designer wear.

Flea Markets

Paris' *marchés aux puces* (flea markets) can be great fun if you're in the mood to browse for unexpected diamonds in the rough through all the *brocante* (second-hand goods) and bric-a-brac on display. Some new items are also available, and a bit of bargaining is expected.

Marché aux Puces de la Porte de Vanves (Map pp114-15; av Georges Lafenestre & av Marc Sangnier, 14e; **M** Porte de Vanves; ☹ 7am-6pm or later Sat & Sun) The Porte de Vanves flea market is the smallest and, some say, friendliest of the big three. Av Georges Lafenestre has lots of 'curios' that aren't quite old (or curious) enough to qualify as antiques. Av Marc Sangnier is lined with stalls offering new clothes, shoes, handbags and household items.

Marché aux Puces de Montreuil (Map pp114-15; av du Professeur André Lemaître, 20e; **M** Porte de Montreuil; ☹ 8am-7.30pm Sat-Mon) Established in the 19th century, this flea market is renowned for its quality second-hand clothing and designer seconds. The 500 stalls also sell engravings, jewellery, linen, crockery, old furniture and appliances.

Marché aux Puces de St-Ouen (Map pp114-15; rue des Rosiers, av Michelet, rue Voltaire, rue Paul Bert & rue Jean-Henri Fabre, 18e; **M** Porte de Clignancourt; ☹ 9am-6pm Sat, 10am-6pm Sun, 11am-5pm Mon) This vast flea market founded in the late 19th century and said to be Europe's largest. It has some 2500 stalls grouped into 10 *marchés* (market areas), each with its own speciality (eg Marché Serpette

and Marché Biron for antiques, Marché Malik for second-hand clothing). There are rows and rows of 'freelance' stalls selling anything from used clothing and batteries to rusty tools and stolen mobile phones.

Food & Wine

The food and wine shops of Paris are legendary and well worth seeking out. Many places will vacuum pack or shrink-wrap certain food items to guard against spoilage.

Cacao et Chocolat (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 46 33 77 63; 29 rue du Bucy, 6e; M) Mabillon; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm Sun) This place is an exotic and contemporary take on chocolate, showcasing the cocoa bean in all its guises, both solid and liquid. The added citrus flavours, spices and even chilli are guaranteed to tease you back for more.

Fauchon (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 70 39 38 00; 26 & 30 place de la Madeleine, 8e; M) Madeleine; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Sat) Paris' most famous caterer has a half-dozen departments in two buildings selling the most incredibly mouth-watering delicacies from *pâté de foie gras* and truffles to *confitures* (jams).

Fromagerie Alléouze (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 46 22 50 45; 13 rue Poncelet, 17e; M) Ternes; ☎ 9.30am-1pm & 4-7pm Tue-Thu, 9am-1pm & 3.30-7pm Fri & Sat, 9am-1pm Sun) To our minds (and taste buds), this is the best cheese shop in Paris and worth a trip across town. Cheeses are sold as they should be: grouped and displayed in five main categories (p72).

Huilerie J Leblanc et Fils (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 46 34 61 55; 6 rue Jacob, 6e; M) St-Germain des Prés; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue-Sat) The Leblanc family has made the smoothest of culinary oils from almonds, pistachios, sesame seeds, pine kernels, peanuts etc at its stone mill in Burgundy since 1878. You can taste before you buy.

Julien, Caviste (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 72 00 94; 50 rue Charlot, 3e; M) Filles du Calvaire; ☎ 9.30am-1.30pm & 3.30-8.30pm Tue-Fri, 9.30am-8pm Sat) This independent wine store on hip rue Charlot focuses on small, independent producers and organic wines. The enthusiastic merchant Julien will locate, explain (and wax lyrical about) the wine for you, whatever your budget.

La Maison du Miel (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 47 42 26 70; 24 rue Vignon, 9e; M) Madeleine; ☎ 9.30am-7pm Mon-Sat) In the sticky, very sweet business since 1898, 'The Honey House' stocks over 50 kinds of honey, with such obscure varieties as Corsican chestnut flower, Turkish pine and Tasmanian leatherwood.

Gifts & Souvenirs

Paris has a huge number of speciality shops offering gift items.

Anna Joliet (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 42 96 55 13; passage du Perron, 9 rue de Beaujolais, 1er; M) Pyramides; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat) This wonderful (and minuscule) shop at the Jardin du Palais Royal specialises in music boxes, both old and new. Just open the door and see if you aren't tempted in.

Au Plat d'Étain (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 43 54 32 06; 16 rue Guisarde, 6e; M) Mabillon; ☎ 11am-12.30pm & 2-7pm Tue-Sat) People do collect tin and lead soldiers as this fascinating boutique crammed with nail-size, hand-painted military soldiers, drummers, musicians, snipers and cavaliers attests. In business since 1775, the shop itself is practically a collectible.

Boutique Obut (Map pp132-3; ☎ 01 47 00 91 38; 60 av de la République, 11e; M) Parmentier; ☎ 10am-noon & 12.30-6.30pm Tue-Sat) For the guy who has *everything*, this is the Parisian mecca for fans of *pétanque* (or similar game of *boules*), a form of bowls played with heavy steel balls. They'll kit you out with all the equipment necessary to get a game going.

E Dehillerin (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 42 36 53 13; 18-20 rue Coquillière, 1er; M) Les Halles; ☎ 9am-12.30pm & 2-6pm Mon, 9am-6pm Tue-Sat) Spread over two floors and dating back to 1820, E Dehillerin carries an incredible selection of professional-quality *matériel de cuisine* (kitchenware). You're sure to find something even the most well-equipped kitchen is lacking.

L'Agenda Modern (Map pp126-7; ☎ 01 44 54 59 20; 42 rue de Sévigné, 3e; M) St-Paul; ☎ 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri) Subtitled 'The Shop of Days', this boutique sells handmade diaries beautifully bound in natural or dyed alligator or calf leather. And, fear not, they're bilingual, so the Monday morning blues will not read as *le blues du lundi matin*.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

For information on international air links to Paris, see p961. For information on the transport options between the city and Paris' airports, see opposite.

Air

Paris is served by Aéroport d'Orly and Aéroport Roissy Charles de Gaulle, both well linked by public transport to central Paris. More of a schlep is Aéroport Paris-Beauvais, which handles charter and some budget carriers.

AÉROPORT D'ORLY

Orly (ORY; off Map pp114-15; ☎ 39 50, 01 70 36 39 50; www.aeroportsdeparis.fr), the older and smaller of Paris' two major airports, is 18km south of the city. Its two terminals, Orly Ouest (Orly West) and Orly Sud (Orly South), are linked by a free shuttle-bus service that continues to/from the airport car parks and RER C station Pont de Rungis-Aéroport d'Orly (right); the Orlyval automatic metro links both terminals with the RER B station Antony (right).

AÉROPORT ROISSY CHARLES DE GAULLE

Roissy Charles de Gaulle (CDG; off Map pp114-15; ☎ 39 50, 01 70 36 39 50; www.aeroportsdeparis.fr), 30km north-east of Paris in the suburb of Roissy, consists of three terminal complexes, appropriately named Aéro-gare 1, 2 and 3, and two train stations served by commuter trains on RER line B3: Aéroport Charles de Gaulle 1 (CDG1), which serves terminals 1 and 3, and the sleek Aéroport Charles de Gaulle 2 (CDG2) for terminal 2. A free shuttle bus connects the terminals with the train stations.

AÉROPORT PARIS-BEAUVAIS

The international airport at **Beauvais** (BVA; off Map pp114-15; ☎ 08 92 68 20 66, 03 44 11 46 86; www.aeroportbeauvais.com), 80km north of Paris, is used by charter companies as well as Ryanair, Central Wings and various other budget airlines

Bus

DOMESTIC

Because French transport is biased in favour of the excellent state-owned rail system, Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français (SNCF), the country has extremely limited inter-regional bus services and no internal intercity bus services to or from Paris.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurolines (p963) links Paris with destinations in all parts of Western and Central Europe, Scandinavia and Morocco. The central **Eurolines office** (Map pp130-1; ☎ 01 43 54 11 99; www.eurolines.fr; 55 rue St-Jacques, 5e; M Cluny-La Sorbonne; ☎ 9.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm & 2-5pm Sat) takes reservations and sells tickets. The **Gare Routière Internationale de Paris-Gallieni** (Map pp114-15; ☎ 08 92 89 90 91; 28 av du Général de Gaulle; M Gallieni), the city's international bus terminal, is in the eastern suburb of Bagnolet.

Train

SNCF (☎ 08 91 36 20 20, for timetables 08 91 67 68 69; www.sncf.fr) mainline train information is available round the clock.

Paris has six major train stations, each of which handles passenger traffic to different parts of France and Europe and also has a metro station bearing its name. For more information on the breakdown of regional responsibility of trains from each station, see the ferries and train map (p966).

Gare d'Austerlitz (Map pp134-5; bd de l'Hôpital, 13e; M Gare d'Austerlitz) Spain and Portugal; Loire Valley and non-TGV trains to southwestern France (eg Bordeaux and Basque Country).

Gare de l'Est (Map pp120-1; bd de Strasbourg, 10e; M Gare de l'Est) Luxembourg, parts of Switzerland (Basel, Lucerne, Zurich), southern Germany (Frankfurt, Munich) and points further east; regular and TGV Est trains to areas of France east of Paris (Champagne, Alsace and Lorraine).

Gare de Lyon (Map pp134-5; bd Diderot, 12e; M Gare de Lyon) Parts of Switzerland (eg Bern, Geneva, Lausanne), Italy and points beyond; regular and TGV Sud-Est and TGV Midi-Méditerranée trains to areas southeast of Paris, including Dijon, Lyon, Provence, the Côte d'Azur and the Alps.

Gare Montparnasse (Map pp124-5; av du Maine & bd de Vaugirard, 15e; M Montparnasse Bienvenüe) Brittany and places en route from Paris (eg Chartres, Angers, Nantes); TGV Atlantique Ouest and TGV Atlantique Sud-Ouest trains to Tours, Nantes, Bordeaux and other destinations in southwestern France.

Gare du Nord (Map pp120-1; rue de Dunkerque, 10e; M Gare du Nord) UK, Belgium, northern Germany, Scandinavia, Moscow etc (terminus of the high-speed Thalys trains to/from Amsterdam, Brussels, Cologne and Geneva and Eurostar to London); trains to the northern suburbs of Paris and northern France, including TGV Nord trains to Lille and Calais.

Gare St-Lazare (Map pp118-19; rue St-Lazare & rue d'Amsterdam, 8e; M St-Lazare) Normandy (eg Dieppe, Le Havre, Cherbourg).

GETTING AROUND

To/From the Airports

AÉROPORT D'ORLY

There is a surfeit of public-transport options to get to and from Orly airport. Apart from RATP bus 183, all services call at both terminals. Tickets for the bus services are sold on board.

Air France bus 1 (☎ 08 92 35 08 20; www.cars-airfrance.com; one-way/return €9/14; 30-45min; every 15min ☎ 6am-11.30pm from Orly, 5.45am-11pm from Invalides) This *navette* (shuttle bus) runs to/from

A MORE PERSONAL APPROACH

Public transport is straightforward and inexpensive to and from the airports. Pricier, door-to-door alternatives include **taxi** (around €40 to €50 between central Paris and Orly, €40 to €60 to/from Roissy Charles de Gaulle; €110 to €150 to/from Beauvais and about €60 between Orly and Roissy Charles de Gaulle; see p204 for taxi telephone numbers) or a private minibus shuttle such as **Allô Shuttle** (☎ 01 34 29 00 80; www.alloshuttle.com), **Paris Airports Service** (☎ 01 55 98 10 80; www.parisairportservice.com) or **Parishuttle** (☎ 01 53 39 18 18; www.parishuttle.com). Count on around €25 per person (€40 between 8pm and 6am) for Orly or Roissy Charles de Gaulle and €150 for one to four people to/from Beauvais. Book in advance and allow ample time for other pickups and drop-offs.

the eastern side of Gare Montparnasse (Map pp124–5; rue du Commandant René Mouchotte, 15e; **M** Montparnasse Bienvenüe) as well as Aéroport des Invalides (Map pp124–5; **M** Invalides) in the 7e. On the way to the city, you can ask to get off at metro stations Porte d'Orléans or Duroc to make other connections.

Jetbus (☎ 01 69 01 00 09; adult/under 5yr €5.70/free; 55min; every 15–25min ☹ 6.20am–11.10pm from Orly, 6.15am–10.30pm from Paris) Jetbus runs to/from metro Villejuif Louis Aragon (Map pp114–15), which is a bit south of the 13e on the city's southern fringe. From there a regular metro/bus ticket will get you into the centre of Paris.

Noctilien bus 31 (☎ 08 92 68 77 14, 08 92 68 41 14 in English; adult/4–9yr €6/3; 45min; every 60min ☹ 12.30am–5.30pm) Part of the RATP night service, Noctilien bus 31 links Gare de Lyon, Place d'Italie and Gare d'Austerlitz in Paris with Orly-Sud.

Orlybus (☎ 08 92 68 77 14; adult/4–11yr €6.10/3.05; 30min; every 15–20min ☹ 6am–11.50pm from Orly, 5.35am–11.25pm from Paris) This RATP bus runs to/from metro Denfert Rochereau (Map pp114–15), in the 14e and makes several stops in the eastern 14e.

Orlyval ☎ 08 92 68 77 14; adult/4–10yr €9.30/4.65; 35–40min; every 4–12min ☹ 6am–11pm) This RATP service links Orly with the city centre via a shuttle train and the RER (p203). An automated shuttle train runs between the airport and Antony RER station (eight minutes) on RER line B, from where it's an easy journey into the city; to get to Antony from the city (26 minutes), take line B4 towards St-Rémy-les-Chevreuse. Orlyval tickets are valid for travel on the RER and for metro travel within the city.

RATP bus 183 (☎ 08 92 68 77 14; adult/4–9yr €1.50/0.75 or 1 metro/bus ticket; 1hr; every 35min ☹ 5.35am–8.35pm) This is a cheap but very slow public bus that links Orly-Sud (only) with **M** Porte de Choisy (Map pp114–15), at the southern edge of the 13e.

RER C (☎ 08 90 36 10 10; adult/4–10yr €6/4.25; 50min; every 15–30min ☹ 5.30am–11.50pm) An Aéroports de Paris (ADP) shuttle bus links the airport with RER line C at Pont de Rungis-Aéroport d'Orly RER station. From the city, take a C2 train towards Pont de Rungis or Massy-Palaiseau. Tickets are valid for onward travel on the metro.

AÉROPORT ROISSY CHARLES DE GAULLE

Roissy Charles de Gaulle has two train stations: Aéroport Charles de Gaulle 1 (CDG1) and the sleek Aéroport Charles de Gaulle 2 (CDG2). Both are served by commuter trains on RER line B3. A free shuttle bus links all of the terminals with the train stations.

There is public transport between Aéroport Roissy Charles de Gaulle and Paris. Tickets for the bus are sold on board.

Air France bus 2 (☎ 08 92 35 08 20; www.cars-airfrance.com; one-way/return €13/18; 35–50min; every 15min ☹ 5.45am–11pm) Air France bus 2 links the airport with two locations on the Right Bank: near the Arc de Triomphe just outside 2 av Carnot, 17e (Map pp118–19; **M** Charles de Gaulle-Étoile) and the Palais des Congrès de Paris (Map pp118–19; bd Gouvion St-Cyr, 17e; **M** Porte Maillot).

Air France bus 4 (☎ 08 92 35 08 20; www.cars-airfrance.com; one-way/return €14/22; 45–55min; every 30min ☹ 7am–9pm from Roissy Charles de Gaulle, 6.30am–9.30pm from Paris) Air France bus 4 links the airport with Gare de Lyon (Map pp134–5; 20bis bd Diderot, 12e; **M** Gare de Lyon) and with Gare Montparnasse (Map pp124–5; rue du Commandant René Mouchotte, 15e; **M** Montparnasse Bienvenüe).

Noctilien buses 120, 121 & 140 (☎ 08 92 68 77 14, 08 92 68 41 14 in English; adult/4–9yr €7.50/3.75; every 60min ☹ 12.30am–5.30pm) Part of RATP's night service, Noctilien buses 120 and 121 link Montparnasse, Châtelet and Gare du Nord with Roissy Charles de Gaulle, and bus 140 links Gare du Nord and Gare de l'Est with the airport.

RATP bus 350 (☎ 08 92 68 77 14; adult/4–9yr €4.50/2.25 or 3 metro/bus tickets; 1hr; every 30min ☹ 5.45am–7pm) This public bus links Aéroports 1 & 2 with Gare de l'Est (Map pp120–1; rue du 8 Mai 1945, 10e; **M** Gare de l'Est) and with Gare du Nord (Map pp120–1; 184 rue du Faubourg St-Denis, 10e; **M** Gare du Nord).

RATP bus 351 (☎ 08 92 68 77 14; adult/4–9yr €4.50/2.25 or 3 metro/bus tickets; 1hr; every 30min ☹ 7am–9.30pm from Roissy Charles de Gaulle, 8.30am–8.20pm from Paris) This public bus links the eastern side

of place de la Nation (Map pp114–15; av du Trône, 11e; **M** Nation) with the airport.

RER B (☎ 08 90 36 10 10; adult/4-11yr €8.20/5.80; 30min; every 10–15min ⚡ 5am-midnight) RER line B3 links CDG1 and CDG2 with the city. To get to the airport, take any RER line B train whose four-letter destination code begins with E (eg EIRE), and a shuttle bus (every five to eight minutes) will ferry you to the appropriate terminal. Regular metro ticket windows can't always sell RER tickets as far as the airport so you may have to buy one at the RER station where you board.

Roissybus (☎ 08 92 68 77 14; €8.60; 45-60min; every 15min ⚡ 5.45am-11pm) This direct public bus links both terminals with rue Scribe (Map pp118–19; **M** Opéra) behind the Palais Garnier in the 9e.

BETWEEN ONLY & ROISSY

Air France bus 3 (☎ 08 92 35 08 20; www.cars-airfrance.com, in French; adult/2-11yr €16/8; 1hr; every 30min 6am-10.30pm) This bus is free for connecting Air France passengers.

Orlyval (☎ 08 90 36 10 10; adult/4-10yr €9.30/4.65; 1hr, every 10-15min ⚡ 6am-11pm) RER line B connects stations CDG1 and CDG2 at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle and Antony station, from where the Orlyval automatic train links with the two terminals at Orly airport.

AÉROPORT PARIS-BEAUVAIS

The special **Express Bus** (☎ 08 92 68 20 64; €13; 1-1¼hr; ⚡ 8.05am-10.40pm from Beauvais, 5.45am-8.05pm from Paris) leaves **Parking Pershing** (Map pp118-19; 1 bd Pershing, 17e; **M** Porte Maillot), just west of Palais des Congrès de Paris, three hours before Ryanair departures (you can board up to 15 minutes before) and leaves the airport 20 to 30 minutes after each arrival, dropping off just south of Palais des Congrès on Place de la Porte Maillot. Tickets can be purchased up to 24 hours in advance online (<http://ticket.aeroportbeauvais.com>), at the airport from **Ryanair** (☎ 03 44 11 41 41) or at a kiosk in the car park.

Bicycle

Two-wheeling has never been so good in the city of romance thanks to Vélib' (a crunching of *vélo*, meaning bike, and *liberté*, meaning freedom), a self-service bike scheme whereby you pick up a pearly-grey bike for peanuts from one roadside Vélib' station, pedal wherever you're going, and park it right outside at another.

A runaway success since its launch in 2007, **Vélib'** (☎ 01 30 79 79 30; www.velib.paris.fr; day/week/year subscription €1/5/29, bike hire per 1st/

2nd/additional half-hr free/€2/4) has revolutionised how Parisians get around. Its more than 1500 *stations* across the city – one every 300m – sport 20-odd bike stands a head (at the last count there were 20,600 bicycles in all flitting around Paris) and are accessible around-the-clock.

To get a bike, you need a Vélib' account. One- and seven-day subscriptions can be done on the spot at any station with any major credit card, which must have a chip; as deposit you'll need to pre-authorise a direct debit of €150, all of which is debited if your bike is not returned/reported as stolen). If the station you want to return your bike to is full, swipe your card across the multilingual terminal to get 15 minutes for free to find another station. Bikes are geared to cyclists aged 14 and over, and are fitted with gears, antitheft lock with key, reflective strips and front/rear lights. Bring your own helmet!

For more information on cycling in Paris and a list of rental outlets where you can rent wheels for longer periods of time and guided bicycle tours, see p160.

Boat

A river shuttle called **Batobus** (☎ 08 25 05 01 01; www.batobus.com; adult/student/2-16yr 1-day pass €12/8/6, 2-day pass €14/9/7, 3-day pass €17/11/8; every 15-30min ⚡ 10am-9.30pm May-Aug, 10am-7pm Sep-mid-Nov & mid-Mar-Apr, 10.30am-4.30pm mid-Nov-mid-Dec & Feb-mid-Mar, 10.30am-5pm mid-Dec-Jan) docks at the following eight locations. You can jump on and off as you like.

Champs-Élysées (Map pp118-19; port des Champs-Élysées, 8e; **M** Champs-Élysées Clemenceau)

Eiffel Tower (Map pp124-5; port de la Bourdonnais, 7e; **M** Champ de Mars-Tour Eiffel)

Hôtel de Ville (Map pp126-7; quai de l'Hôtel de Ville, 4e; **M** Hôtel de Ville)

Jardin des Plantes (Map pp130-1; quai St-Bernard, 5e; **M** Jussieu)

Musée d'Orsay (Map pp124-5; quai de Solferino, 7e; **M** Musée d'Orsay)

Musée du Louvre (Map pp126-7; quai du Louvre, 1er; **M** Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre)

Notre Dame (Map pp126-7; quai Montebello, 5e; **M** St-Michel)

St-Germain des Prés (Map pp126-7; quai Malaquais, 6e; **M** St-Germain des Prés)

For pleasure cruises on the Seine, Canal St-Martin and Canal de l'Ourcq, see p163.

Car & Motorcycle

The quickest way of turning your stay in Paris into an uninterrupted series of hassles is to drive. If driving the car doesn't destroy your holiday sense of spontaneity, parking the darn thing certainly will. If you must drive, the fastest way to get across the city is usually via the bd Périphérique (Map pp114-15), the ring road that encircles the city.

RENTAL

You can get a small car (eg a Renault Twingo or Opel Corsa) for one day, without insurance and for 250km mileage, from around €80. Most of the larger companies listed below have offices at the airports and main train stations. Several are also represented at **Aérogare des Invalides** (Map pp124-5; **M** Invalides) in the 7e. **Avis** (☎ 08 02 05 05 05; www.avis.fr, in French) **Budget** (☎ 08 25 00 35 64; www.budget.fr, in French) **Europcar** (☎ 08 25 35 83 58; www.europcar.fr, in French) **Hertz** (☎ 08 25 88 92 65; www.hertz.fr) **National Citer** (☎ 08 25 16 12 12; www.citer.fr) **Sixt** (☎ 08 20 00 74 98; www.sixt.fr, in French)

Smaller agencies can offer much more attractive deals. For a wider selection check the *Yellow Pages* (www.pagesjaunes.fr, in French) under 'Location d'Automobiles: Tourisme et Utilitaires'.

ADA (☎ 08 25 16 91 69; www.ada.fr, in French) 8e arrondissement (Map pp118-19; ☎ 01 42 93 65 13; 72 rue de Rome; **M** Rome); 11e arrondissement (Map pp120-1; ☎ 01 48 06 58 13; 34 av de la République; **M** Parmentier) **easyCar** (www.easycar.com) Montparnasse (Map pp124-5; Parking Gaité, 33 rue du Commandant René Mouchotte, 15e; **M** Gaité) Britain's budget car-rental agency hires cars at train stations and underground car parks and are fully automated systems; you must book in advance. All the forms are online and you must fill them out when you get to the easyCar branch.

Rent a Car Système (☎ 08 91 70 02 00; www.rentacar.fr, in French) 16e arrondissement (Map pp114-15; ☎ 01 42 88 40 04; 84 av de Versailles, 16e); Bercy (Map pp134-5; ☎ 01 43 45 98 99; 79 rue de Bercy, 12e; **M** Bercy)

PARKING

In many parts of Paris you pay €1 to €3 an hour to park your car on the street. Large municipal parking garages usually charge between €1.70 and €2.80 an hour or €20 to €25 per 24 hours. Most are open 24 hours.

Parking fines are €11 to €35, depending on the offence and gravity, and parking attendants dispense them with great abandon.

You pay them by purchasing a *timbre amende* (fine stamp) for the amount written on the ticket from any *tabac* (tobacconist), affix a stamp to the pre-addressed coupon and drop it in a postbox.

Public Transport

Paris' public transit system, mostly operated by the **RATP** (Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens; ☎ 32 46, 08 92 69 32 46; www.ratp.fr; 🕒 7am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat & Sun) is one of the cheapest and most efficient in the Western world.

Various transport maps are available for free at metro ticket windows. RATP's *Paris 1* provides plans of metro, RER, bus and tram routes in central Paris; *Paris 2* superimposes the same plans over street maps; and *Île-de-France 3* covers the area surrounding Paris. *Grand Plan Touristique* combines all three and adds tourist information. These can also be viewed and downloaded from the highly informative, comprehensive and useful RATP website.

BUS

Paris' bus system, operated by the RATP, runs between 5.45am and 12.30am Monday to Saturday. Services are drastically reduced on Sunday and public holidays (when buses run from 7am to 8.30pm) and from 8.30pm to 12.30am daily when a *service en soirée* (evening service) of 20 buses – distinct from the Noctilien overnight services – runs.

Night Buses

After the 'evening buses' have finished their last runs, some 42 Noctilien (www.noctilien.fr) night buses kick in, departing every hour between 12.30am and 5.30am. The buses serve the main train stations and cross the major arteries of the city before leading out to the suburbs; many go through Châtelet (rue de Rivoli and bd Sébastopol). Look for blue N or 'Noctilien' signs at bus stops. There are two circular lines within Paris (the N01 and N02) that link four main train stations, St-Lazare, Gare de l'Est, Gare de Lyon, Montparnasse (but not Châtelet), as well as popular nightspots such as Bastille, the Champs-Élysées, Pigalle and St-Germain.

Noctilien services are free if you have a Navigo pass, Mobilis or Paris Visite pass (opposite) for the zones in which you are travelling. Otherwise you pay a certain number of standard €1.50 metro tickets, depending on

the length of your journey. Ask the driver how many you need to get to your destination.

Tickets & Fares

Short bus rides (ie rides in one or two bus zones) cost one metro/bus ticket (€1.50); longer rides require two. Transfer to other buses or the metro is not allowed on the same ticket. Travel to the suburbs costs up to three tickets. Special bus-only tickets can be purchased from the driver.

You must cancel (*oblitérer*) single-journey tickets in the *composteur* (cancelling machine) next to the driver. If you have a Navigo pass, Mobilis or Paris Visite pass (right), flash it as you board. Do not cancel the magnetic coupon that accompanies your pass.

METRO & RER

Paris' underground network, also run by the RATP, consists of two separate but linked systems: the Métropolitain, or *métro*, with 14 lines and 373 stations (one more will open in 2008 and another in 2010); and the RER (Réseau Express Régional), a network of suburban lines, designated A to E and then numbered, that pass through the city centre. When giving the names of stations in this book, the term 'metro' is used to cover both the Métropolitain and the RER system within Paris proper.

Metro

Each metro train is known by the name of its terminus. On maps and plans each line has a different colour and number (from 1 to 14). Nowadays Parisians refer to the line number.

Signs in metro and RER stations indicate the way to the platform for your line. The *direction* signs on each platform indicate the terminus. On lines that split into several branches (such as lines 3, 7 and 13), the terminus served by each train is indicated with backlit panels on the cars, and electronic signs on each platform give the number of minutes until the next train.

Signs marked *correspondance* (transfer) show how to reach connecting trains. At stations with many intersecting lines, such as Châtelet and Montparnasse Bienvenüe, the connection can seem interminable.

Different station exits are indicated by white-on-blue *sortie* (exit) signs. Get your bearings and choose the correct exit by checking the *plan du quartier* (neighbourhood map) posted at each exit.

The last metro train on each line begins its run sometime between 12.35am and 1.04am. The metro starts up again around 5.30am.

RER

The RER is faster than the metro, but the stops are much further apart. Some of Paris' attractions, particularly those on the Left Bank (eg the Musée d'Orsay, Eiffel Tower and Panthéon), can be reached far more conveniently by the RER than by metro.

RER lines have an alphanumeric combination – the letter (A to E) refers to the line, the number to the spur it follows out in the suburbs. Even-numbered lines generally head for Paris' southern or eastern suburbs while odd-numbered ones go north or west. All trains whose four-letter codes (indicated both on the train and on the light board) begin with the same letter share the same terminus. Stations served are usually indicated on electronic destination boards above the platform.

Tickets & Fares

The same RATP tickets are valid on the metro, the RER (for travel within the city limits), buses, the Montmartre funicular and Paris' three tram lines. A single ticket – now white in colour and called *un ticket t+* – costs €1.50; a *carnet* (book) of 10 is €11.10 (€5.55 for children aged four to 11 years). Tickets are sold at all metro stations. Ticket windows and vending machines accept most credit cards.

One metro/bus ticket lets you travel between any two metro stations – no return journeys – for a period of 1½ hours, no matter how many transfers are required. You can also use it on the RER for travel within zone 1. A single ticket can be used to transfer between buses and between buses and trams, but not from the metro to bus or vice versa.

Always keep your ticket until you exit from your station; you may be stopped by a *contrôleur* (ticket inspector) and will have to pay a fine (€25 to €45 on the spot) if you are found to be without a ticket or are holding an invalid one.

Tourist Passes

Mobilis and Paris Visite passes are valid on the metro, the RER, the SNCF's suburban lines (p204), buses, night buses, trams and the Montmartre funicular railway. They do not require a photo but you should write your card number on the ticket. Passes are sold at

larger metro and RER stations, SNCF offices in Paris, and the airports.

The Mobilis card coupon allows unlimited travel for one day in two to six zones (€5.60 to €15.90; €4.55 to €13.70 for children aged four to 11 years). Buy it at any metro, RER or SNCF station in the region. Depending how many times you plan to hop on/off the metro in a day, a *carnet* might work out to be cheaper.

The Paris Visite pass allows the holder unlimited travel (including to/from airports) as well as discounted entry to certain museums and activities. They are valid for one, two, three or five consecutive days of travel in three, five or eight zones. The version covering one to three zones costs €8.50/14/19/27.50 for one/two/three/five days. Children aged four to 11 years pay €4.25/7/9.50/13.75.

Travel Passes

The cheapest and easiest way to use public transport in Paris is to get a combined travel pass that allows travel on the metro, RER and buses for a week, a month or a year. You can get passes for travel in two to eight urban and suburban zones but, unless you'll be using the suburban commuter lines extensively, the basic ticket valid for zones 1 and 2 should be sufficient.

The Navigo system (www.navigo.fr, in French), somewhat like London's Oyster cards, provides you with a refillable weekly, monthly or yearly pass that you can recharge at Navigo machines in most metro stations; you simply swipe the card across the electronic panel as you go through the turnstiles. Standard Navigo passes, available to anyone with an address in Paris, are free, but take up to three weeks to be issued; ask at the ticket counter for a form. Otherwise pay €5 for a Navigo Découverte, issued on the spot but – unlike the Navigo pass – not replaceable if lost or stolen. Both passes require a passport photo and can be recharged for periods of one week or more.

Weekly tickets (*coupon hebdomadaire*) cost €16.30 for zones 1 and 2 and is valid from Monday to Sunday. It can be purchased from the previous Thursday until Wednesday; from Thursday, weekly tickets are available for the following week only. Even if you're in Paris for three or four days, it may work out to be cheaper than buying *carnets* and will certainly cost less than buying a daily Mobilis or Paris Visite pass (see above).

The monthly ticket (*coupon mensuel*; €53.50 for zones 1 and 2) begins on the first day of

each calendar month; you can buy one from the 20th of the preceding month. Both are sold in metro and RER stations from 6.30am to 10pm and at some bus terminals.

TRAIN

Suburban Services

The RER and **SNCF commuter lines** (☎ 08 91 36 20 20, 08 91 67 68 69; www.sncf.fr) serve suburban destinations outside the city limits (ie zones 2 to 8). Buy your ticket *before* you board the train or you won't be able to get out of the station when you arrive. You are not allowed to pay the additional fare when you get there.

If you are issued with a full-size SNCF ticket for travel to the suburbs, validate it in a time-stamp pillar *before* you board the train. You may also be given a *contremarque magnétique* (magnetic ticket) to get through any metro/RER-type turnstiles on the way to/from the platform. If you are travelling on a Paris Visite or Mobilis pass, do *not* punch the magnetic coupon in one of SNCF's time-stamp machines. Most – but not all – RER/SNCF tickets purchased in the suburbs for travel to the city allow you to continue your journey by metro. For some destinations, a ticket can be purchased at any metro ticket window; for others you'll have to go to an RER station on the line you need in order to buy a ticket.

Taxi

Prise en charge (flag fall) in a Parisian taxi is €2.10. Within city limits, it costs €0.82 per kilometre between 10am and 5pm Monday to Saturday (*Tarif A*; white light on meter), and €1.10 per kilometre at 'night' (from 5pm to 10am), all day Sunday, and on public holidays (*Tarif B*; orange light on meter). Travel in the suburbs (*Tarif C*) costs €1.33 per kilometre.

There's a surcharge of €2.75 for taking a fourth passenger, but most drivers refuse to accept more than three people anyway for insurance reasons. The first piece of baggage is free; additional pieces over 5kg cost €1 extra, as do pickups from SNCF mainline stations.

To order a taxi, call Paris' **central taxi switchboard** (☎ 01 45 30 30 30; passengers with reduced mobility ☎ 01 47 39 00 91; ♿ 24hr). You can also call or book online through the following radio-dispatched taxi companies, on call 24 hours.

Alpha Taxis (☎ 01 45 85 85 85; www.alphataxis.com)

Taxis Bleus (☎ 01 49 36 29 48, 08 91 70 10 10; www.taxis-bleus.com)

Taxis G7 (☎ 01 47 39 47 39; www.taxig7.fr, in French)

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