



Viator Insider's Guide

Paris

THE
TOP
ATTRACTIONS,
TIPS, & THE
BEST THINGS
TO SEE AND DO

Bonjour, Paris!



Perhaps no city in the world is as romanticized as Paris. The City of Light's grand boulevards, beautiful works of art, decadent food, and ahead-of-the-curve fashion have wooed travelers, artists, poets, and hopeless romantics for centuries. They come because, as Audrey Hepburn said in *Sabrina*, "Paris is always a good idea."

While the big draws might be the famous museums, iconic landmarks, romantic cafes and sexy cabarets, the city offers more than what's seen on the postcards. It's that *je ne sais quoi* found in the backstreets, the neighborhoods, and the people who are passionate about the best things in life. Put it all together and it's easy to see why Paris is one of the most magical cities in the world.

In this guide we've handpicked the very best of what makes Paris so special — both on and off the beaten path — so you can **travel like an insider in Paris!**

Meet the Insiders



Patricia is a native of France who fell in love with Paris at an early age. Her favorite things to do in the city are exploring the Latin Quarter and hunting for the best *éclair au chocolat*.



Christine has been enchanted with France since she moved there eight years ago. One of her favorite Paris activities is wandering the city's [secret covered passages](#).

Beat the Crowds



The Best Way to See the Eiffel Tower: Skip the Lines!

[The Eiffel Tower](#) is the most popular attraction in Paris and any time of year the wait to visit the iconic Tower can be hours long. Skip the line with a fast-track entrance ticket which includes access to the 1st and 2nd levels, as well as standard access to the summit for one of the best views in Paris.

👉 Book a [Skip the Line Eiffel Tower Tour with Viator](#).

Insider's Tip

Don't waste time in lines at Paris' other attractions. [Skip the line](#) to the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, the Paris Wax Museum, and Paris Story.

After Hours



Best Nightlife Experience: A Traditional French Cabaret

The cabaret was born in Paris and today the city is home to several historic venues: [Le Lido](#), [Paradis Latin](#), Crazy Horse, Folies Bergère, and [Moulin Rouge](#), the most famous cabaret and the home of the Cancan dance. All offer a titillating adults-only experience with beautiful dance, impressive athleticism and artistry (and a bit of nudity). For the ultimate splurge on a cabaret experience, check out the [Viator VIP: Moulin Rouge Show with Exclusive VIP Seating and 3-Course Dinner](#).

“What a show! The energy, the costumes, the dance routines—it was all spectacular!”

- Phil

Explore



Best Way to See the City: Cruise the Seine

The Seine River is the lifeblood of Paris and provides one of the best vantage points to see the city's architectural wonders. River cruises run day and night and many include drinks with lunch or dinner. From the river, you can see the Pont Neuf, Musée d'Orsay, the Latin Quarter and many more of the city's most iconic sites. The *pièce de résistance* of any trip on the Seine is the view of the Cathédrale de Notre Dame; in all its dark gothic splendor of towers and gargoyles, it's even more awe-inspiring when seen from the river.

👉 Book a [Seine River cruise with Viator](#).

Insider's Tip

The Seine isn't the only waterway in Paris; several less-trafficked canals also wind their way around the city. A [cruise down the Canal Saint Martin](#), under old iron footbridges and through a series of 19th-century locks, reveals a [quieter side of Paris](#) most tourists don't see.



Exclusive Access

Best Way to Bring History to Life: Visiting Versailles

An enduring symbol of all that was grand and opulent in pre-revolutionary France, [Versailles](#) remains one of the most magnificent palaces in Europe. It's filled with baroque details, perfectly-preserved antique furnishings, and innumerable works of art, and surrounded by nearly 2,000 acres of enchanting gardens. Strolling the palace's vast halls is like taking a step back in time to the days when Marie Antoinette called Versailles home. Plan to spend the full day here if you can; when hunger sets in, opt for a Versailles-themed [meal at the famous Dalloyau restaurant](#).

➤ *For the ultimate look at life at Versailles, book a [VIP Small-Group Tour with Private Viewing of the Royal Quarters](#).*

“This tour exceeded our expectations. We skipped all the lines and crowds, and enjoyed an intimate tour of rooms that most tourists never see.”

- Dennis S.



Indulge

Macaron
6,50 €

Best Culinary Experience: Eat Like a Local

Soupe à l'oignon, cassoulet, foie gras, boeuf bourguignon, escargots, pain au chocolat, croissants, macarons, crêpes, baguettes, fromage... the list goes on and on. Some of the best food in the world comes from France, and [you can taste it all in Paris](#). From small farmers' markets to corner boulangeries to Michelin-starred restaurants, Paris has dining options for any budget or taste. Sate your sweet tooth at Ladurée, pack a picnic at Marché des Enfants Rouges or dine with a view at Le Jules Verne in the Eiffel Tower. In Paris, you'll never go hungry.

👉 Book a [food tour](#) to find the best local spots or take a [cooking class](#) and learn to make French food at home.

Insider's Tip

Nothing goes better with French food than French wine. There's only [one working vineyard left](#) in Paris on a tiny plot of land in Montmartre, but you still have several options for wine tasting at bars and wine cellars in the city limits.

Learn



Best Experience for Art Lovers: Wander the Halls of the Louvre

More than 9 million people visit the Louvre each year, making it the most visited museum in the world. It's no wonder, as the museum is home to some of civilization's most important art, including the Venus de Milo and the Mona Lisa. If you spent one minute looking at each of the 35,000 pieces of art in the Louvre, it would take you 24 days to see it all. Don't be daunted by the museum's size and overwhelming richness; skip-the-line admission and guided tours can help you make the most of your visit.

👉 Book a [Louvre tour](#) with Viator.

“This was an excellent tour. The Louvre is such a huge museum and it would have been difficult to navigate and see the highlights on our own.”

- Shara B.

Shop



Best Souvenirs: Find Vintage Treasures and High-End Couture for Less

From designer-owned boutiques to [bustling flea markets](#) stocked with distinctive French goods, Paris has options for every shopper at any budget, making it nearly impossible to leave this city without the perfect souvenir.

Head to Paris' largest flea market, St. Ouen, a maze of more than 2,000 treasure-filled stalls, to find vintage couture and antiques or check out [La Vallée Village](#), a chic open-air mall where you can score huge savings on world-renowned designer brands.

👉 Book a [bargain-hunting tour of the St. Ouen flea market](#) or a [discount couture tour](#) to snag your perfect souvenir for less.

Insider's Tip

Shops in Paris have two official sales periods each year, but that doesn't mean you can't find a discount at other times. Look for signs that say *promotion* or *soldes exceptionnels* (exceptional sales) or book a [shopping tour](#) to let an expert lead you to the best deals.

Detour



Best Day Trip: The Beaches and WWII Battlefields of Normandy

Normandy is steeped in history, the subject of successive invasions and decisive battles, a place where monasteries rise up from the sea and tapestries recount historical watersheds. Some of the best [Normandy](#) experiences include honoring World War II heroes at the [Normandy Battlefields](#), being awed by the dramatic architecture and extreme tides at [Mont Saint Michel](#) and seeing the elaborately-embroidered medieval [Bayeux Tapestry](#).

Other great [day trips from Paris](#) include discovering the Loire Valley, spending the day at Versailles, wine tasting in Burgundy or taking a high-speed train to London.

“The tour of the American sites and D-Day Beaches was definitely the highlight of our trip!”

- Tillie W.

Pssst!



The secret view most tourists don't see

You might think that the best view of Paris is seen from the top of the iconic Eiffel Tower, but while the tower's view is beautiful and well-worth seeing, it's actually second to the view from [Tour Montparnasse](#). Why? Well, from the Eiffel Tower there's one important landmark you can't see: the Eiffel Tower itself!

The Tour Montparnasse may not be much to look at from the outside. After all, it shares the skyline with architectural gems like the Louvre, Notre-Dame, Sacré Coeur and the Panthéon. But once you get to the 56th floor observation deck or the rooftop terrace three floors up - you'll see why it beats the Eiffel Tower for the best view. The 360-degree view of Paris, which includes the Eiffel Tower, is nothing short of breathtaking.

Viator Recommends

Best Money-Saver: The Paris Pass

Get free entry to more than 60 attractions, plus skip-the-line access to other sights, a one-day hop-on hop-off bus ticket and free public transit with the [Paris Pass](#).



Best Unusual Attraction: The Catacombs

Descend below the streets of Paris to see the labyrinthine [Catacombs](#), a network of tunnels where the remains of more than six million Parisians are buried.

Best Family Activity: Disneyland® Paris

See all your favorite Disney characters come to life in a wonderland of rides, theme restaurants, parades and shows at [Disneyland® Paris](#).



Viator Recommends

Best Active Sightseeing: Paris by Bike

Burn off some of those croissant calories while you pass the city's famous landmarks on a leisurely [bike ride through Paris](#).



Best Alternative Transportation: An Antique Citroën

See some of the city's best hidden sights and local gems in the most Parisian of automobiles: a vintage convertible [Citroën 2CV car](#).



Best Place to Propose: On a Horse-Drawn Carriage

For the ultimate romantic experience, sit back and relax as your [horse-drawn carriage](#) passes by some of the most iconic sights in Paris.

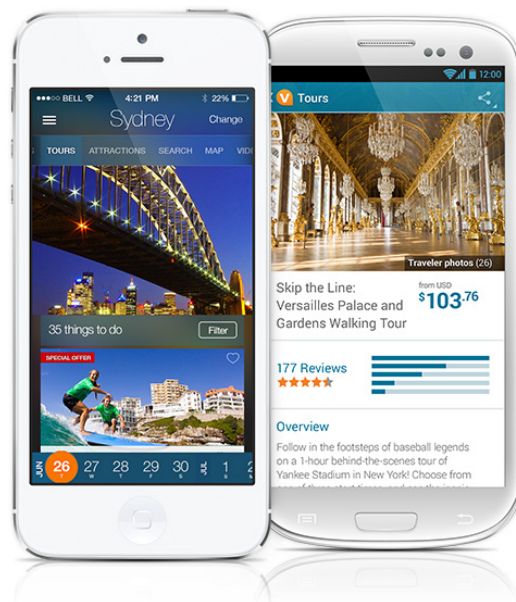


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