

Six days Paris trip

Welcome to France & Paris: Your Ultimate Travel Guide

With Simran Pal | Trips With Sam

France – A Quick Overview

Description :

France, located in Western Europe, is famous for its rich history, art, fashion, cuisine, and diverse landscapes. It borders Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Spain, and Andorra. The country has a population of around 67 million people, with French as the official language. France's culture is deeply rooted in art, gastronomy, cinema, and fashion. The climate varies: temperate in the north, Mediterranean in the south. The currency is Euro (€). Major border cities include Lille (Belgium), Strasbourg (Germany), and Menton (Italy). France's transport network is excellent, with high-speed TGV trains connecting cities and international airports like Charles de Gaulle (Paris) and Nice Côte d'Azur Airport serving global travelers.

Paris – Capital City Guide

Description / Story:

Paris, the “City of Light,” is not just the capital but also the cultural, fashion, and culinary heart of France. The city is divided into 20 arrondissements, spiraling clockwise from the center. Each arrondissement has its unique personality — from historic and tourist-heavy areas like the 1st, 4th, and 7th, to the trendy and artsy neighborhoods of Le Marais and Montmartre. Walking along the Seine, exploring museums, or sipping coffee in a quiet café are quintessential Parisian experiences.

How to Get There & Local Map:

From Airports:

- Charles de Gaulle (CDG):
- Taxi: ~35–45 min to central Paris (depending on traffic)
- RER B train: CDG → Gare du Nord (~45 min), then metro or walking to your hotel
- Orly (ORY):
- Taxi: ~30–40 min to central Paris
- Orlyval + RER B: ORY → Antony → Gare du Nord (~35–40 min)

From Train Stations:

- Gare du Nord: Eurostar (London), Thalys (Brussels, Amsterdam), local trains → connect via metro or taxi
- Gare de Lyon: Southeast France, Italy; connect to hotel by metro, taxi, or walking

Within the City – Local Map & Navigation:

- Metro: 16 lines, color-coded, covers all arrondissements and main landmarks
- Buses: Complement metro routes; useful for short scenic rides
- Bike Rentals (Vélib’): Available at stations across the city
- Walking: Best for historic districts like Le Marais, Latin Quarter, and Montmartre
- Taxis & Ride-Share: Efficient for airport transfers and late-night travel

City Centers & Neighborhoods (Arrondissements Overview):

- 1st Arrondissement: Louvre, Place Vendôme, Rue Saint-Honoré – luxury shopping and historic landmarks. Walkable from Palais Royal metro stop.
- 3rd & 4th (Le Marais): Trendy shops, cafés, museums, cobblestone streets. Accessible via Saint-Paul, Hôtel de Ville metro stations.
- 5th & 6th (Latin Quarter & Saint-Germain): Academic & historic center, lively cafés, Jardin des Plantes. Use Cluny-La Sorbonne or Odéon metro stations.
- 7th: Eiffel Tower, Rue Saint-Dominique, high-end residential charm. Access via École Militaire or Alma-Marceau metro stations.
- 8th: Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe, Avenue Montaigne & George V — couture and luxury. Charles de Gaulle – Étoile metro.
- 18th (Montmartre): Artistic hilltop neighborhood, Sacré-Cœur, panoramic city views. Access via Abbesses or Anvers metro stations.

Famous Landmarks & Streets:

- Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, Arc de Triomphe, Champs-Élysées
- Pont Neuf & Pont d'Arcole bridges over the Seine
- Fashion streets: Avenue Montaigne, Rue François 1er, Rue Saint-Honoré

Optional Day Trips from Paris:

- Versailles Palace: RER C train from central Paris → 40 min
- Giverny (Monet Gardens): SNCF train to Vernon → shuttle bus → 1.5 hrs

Cafes, Bars & Restaurants:

- Cafes: Café de Flore, Les Deux Magots, Bar à Iode
- Restaurants: Le Relais de l'Entrecôte, Flocon, CLAMATO
- Bars & Nightlife: Septime La Cave, La Robe & La Mousse, L'Avant Comptoir du Marché

Local Experiences / Hidden Gems:

- Walk along the Seine or explore small streets in Le Marais
- Visit markets in Saint-Germain and Montmartre
- Try local hair salons and fashion boutiques if interested
- Take a boat ride on the Seine for city views

Safety & Travel Tips:

- Taxi recommended from airports or train stations
- Pickpockets common in crowded areas; keep valuables safe
- Carry some cash (EUR), cards widely accepted
- Early morning/evening walks safest and most picturesque
- Avoid rush hours on metro if carrying luggage

Day 1 – Arrival in Paris & Exploring the 1st & 2nd Arrondissements

Morning – Arrival & Check-In at The Westin Paris – Vendôme

I arrived in Paris from Brussels and took a short taxi ride to The Westin Paris – Vendôme, perfectly located between Tuileries Garden and Place Vendôme in the 1st Arrondissement. The hotel's elegant façade and the warm atmosphere made me feel instantly at home. My room had a soft view of the Eiffel Tower — a magical start to my Paris stay.

Quick Tip: If you arrive by train, taxis are easy to find at the station exits. Just mention your destination politely in French — “Place Vendôme, s'il vous plaît.”

Afternoon – Parisian Streets, Cafés & Shopping

After settling in, I began exploring the nearby streets of Rue Saint-Honoré and Rue de Rivoli, home to luxury boutiques and the best window shopping in the world. A quick stop at Place Vendôme offered a glimpse into Paris's high-end fashion world, where every store looks like art.

I stopped for a coffee at Café Kitsuné, hidden near Palais Royal — a peaceful little spot surrounded by trees and charm.

Optional Stops:

- Louvre Museum (1st Arrondissement) – Even walking through the courtyard feels iconic.
- Les Halles (1st Arrondissement) – Perfect for a casual shopping stroll.
- Galeries Lafayette (9th Arrondissement) – Famous for its glass dome and terrace views.

Evening – Sunset Drinks & Dinner

As evening arrived, I stopped by Mandarin Oriental Paris for drinks — the perfect way to unwind and watch the golden light fade over the city.

Dinner was at Le Relais de l'Entrecôte in Saint-Germain-des-Prés (6th Arrondissement) — a lively Parisian spot known for its classic steak and fries. The place was full of chatter, laughter, and that unmistakable French charm.

Pro Tip: Arrive early to skip the queue; this restaurant is loved by locals and travelers alike.

After dinner, I took a short walk along the Seine River, passing Pont Neuf, where the shimmering reflections on the water made for the perfect end to my first day in Paris.

Where I Stayed

Hotel: The Westin Paris – Vendôme

Location: 1st Arrondissement

Highlights: Eiffel Tower views, central location, classic Parisian interiors

Hidden Gems of Day 1

- Café Kitsuné – Minimalist café with great matcha and coffee.
- Rue Saint-Honoré Corners – Designer boutiques and hidden perfume shops.
- Tuileries Garden View – Perfect spot for evening walks.

Transport Tips:

- Taxis and Ubers are easiest for short city rides.
- Most main attractions are walkable from the 1st and 2nd Arrondissements.
- Metro lines 1 and 7 are nearby for quick city access.

Safety Tips:

- Watch for pickpockets in crowded areas.
 - Keep valuables zipped and avoid dark alleys at night.
 - Learn a few French basics — “Bonjour,” “Merci,” “S’il vous plaît.”
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Day 2 – Left Bank Charm & Evening Elegance in Saint-Germain

Morning – Breakfast at Angelina & a Walk Through History

My second morning in Paris began with a Parisian classic — breakfast at Angelina, the legendary tearoom near the Tuileries Garden. Their famous hot chocolate and Mont-Blanc pastry are pure indulgence — sweet, rich, and beautifully Parisian.

After breakfast, I walked towards Notre-Dame Cathedral, crossing the Pont des Arts bridge, where artists and couples once left love locks. The sight of Notre-Dame, even amidst its quiet restoration, felt deeply moving — history and art standing proud together.

Optional Stops:

- Shakespeare and Company Bookstore – A dreamy literary escape by the Seine.
- Île Saint-Louis – A tranquil island perfect for a short riverside stroll.
- Sainte-Chapelle – Known for its kaleidoscope-like stained-glass windows.

Afternoon – Cafés, Fashion & the Left Bank

By midday, I found myself wandering through Saint-Germain-des-Prés, home to old-world cafés and chic boutiques. I stopped at Café de Flore, one of Paris’s oldest cafés, where artists and writers like Sartre once gathered.

Lunch was at Allard, a cozy French bistro tucked into a quiet street — the duck confit here is a must-try. Afterwards, I walked past Le Bon Marché, Paris’s first department store, and explored small boutiques nearby that still carry that Left Bank charm.

Hidden Corners to Explore:

- Les Antiquaires – A stylish restaurant near the Seine.
 - Chez Julien – Romantic riverside spot for a quick coffee or dessert.
 - Emporio Armani Café – A chic break for espresso and fashion lovers.
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Evening – The Golden Triangle & Glamorous Paris Nights

As the sun dipped, I crossed to the 8th Arrondissement for an evening of style and sparkle. A quick stroll along Avenue Montaigne revealed all the Parisian luxury — Dior, Chanel, Louis Vuitton — and that unmistakable golden light reflecting off the shop windows.

Dinner was at L’Avenue, where the fashionable crowd gathers. The energy was effortless yet elegant, with views of the Eiffel Tower sparkling in the background. Later, I stopped by Mandarin Oriental’s bar for late-night cocktails — smooth music, dim lighting, and perfect Parisian elegance.

Where I Ate & Drank

- Breakfast: Angelina Paris (1st Arrondissement)
- Lunch: Allard (6th Arrondissement)
- Dinner: L’Avenue (8th Arrondissement)
- Drinks: Mandarin Oriental Bar 8

Transport Tips:

- Take the Metro Line 4 to reach Saint-Germain quickly.
- Walking from the 1st to 6th Arrondissement is scenic — cross via Pont Neuf or Pont des Arts.
- Taxis are easy to find near Place Vendôme and Champs-Élysées at night.

Safety Tips:

- Always keep your bag on your lap at outdoor cafés.
- Avoid carrying your passport — keep a copy instead.
- Paris is safe, but stay alert near tourist-heavy zones.

Day 3 – Montmartre Magic & Sunset at the Eiffel Tower

Morning – Art, Views & Hidden Streets of Montmartre

Paris feels different from above — the morning sun casts a soft glow over the cobblestones of Montmartre (18th Arrondissement). I wandered through its quiet, winding streets, each corner telling a story from the Belle Époque.

The highlight was Sacré-Cœur Basilica, gleaming white atop the hill. From its terrace, Paris stretched endlessly beneath me, a mosaic of rooftops kissed by the morning light. Street artists at Place du Tertre set up their easels, sketching dreamers, couples, and travelers alike — a magical snapshot of Parisian life.

For breakfast, I stopped at Hardware Société, just behind the basilica. Creamy scrambled eggs and strong Australian-style coffee gave me the perfect energy for exploring the hilltop village.

Hidden Corners to Explore:

- Rue de l’Abreuvoir – One of Montmartre’s prettiest streets, perfect for photos.
- Le Consulat Café – Iconic and charming; a must for a coffee break.
- Musée de Montmartre – Small museum full of Belle Époque stories.

Afternoon – Back to Central Paris & Le Marais

By noon, I descended Montmartre and took the Metro toward central Paris. My next stop was Le Marais (3rd & 4th Arrondissements) — a lively mix of history, fashion, and art.

Lunch was at Clamato, a cozy seafood spot with a relaxed Parisian vibe. Afterward, I strolled the narrow streets, discovering vintage boutiques, art galleries, and cafés tucked away in quiet courtyards.

Sweet Pause:

- Bontemps Pâtisserie – A caramel éclair to savor the moment.

Optional Detours:

- Notre-Dame & Île Saint-Louis – A quick riverside walk.
 - Saint-Michel – For books, crêpes, and postcard-perfect moments.
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Evening – Eiffel Tower Glow & Paris by Night

As dusk approached, I headed to the 7th Arrondissement to see the Eiffel Tower sparkle. Watching the sunset behind the tower is unforgettable — the first twinkle of lights makes the city feel alive in a way that no photo can capture.

Dinner was at Les Ombres, a rooftop restaurant with stunning skyline views. Candlelight, fine food, and the glittering Eiffel Tower made the evening feel like pure Parisian magic.

Alternative Dinner Options:

- Le Jules Verne – Dining inside the Eiffel Tower itself.
- Chez Francis – Classic Parisian with tower views.

Where I Ate & Drank:

- Breakfast: Hardware Société (18th)
- Lunch: Clamato (5th)
- Dessert: Bontemps Pâtisserie (3rd)
- Dinner: Les Ombres (7th)

Transport Tips:

- Metro Line 12: Direct to Montmartre (Abbesses Station).
- Metro Line 6: Elevated views en route to Eiffel Tower.
- Paris taxis: Reliable for night travel; use G7 or Bolt.

Safety Tips:

- Montmartre steps can be slippery; wear comfortable shoes.
- Pickpockets are common near Sacré-Cœur and Champs-de-Mars.
- Carry minimal valuables late at night.

Day 4 – Parisian Elegance & Hidden Corners

Morning – Breakfast & Boulevard St. Germain Charm

I began the day with a quiet breakfast at Coutume Café, one of Paris's modern specialty coffee spots near Boulevard St. Germain. The scent of freshly brewed espresso mixed with the buttery aroma of croissants set the perfect tone for the morning.

From there, I strolled through Boulevard Saint-Germain, passing elegant boutiques, bookshops, and flower stands that make this part of the 6th Arrondissement feel timeless. A stop at Église Saint-Sulpice — majestic yet peaceful — offered a quiet break before the day unfolded.

Optional Morning Stops:

- Pierre Hermé – For the most artistic macarons in Paris.
- Galerie Kugel – A hidden gem for antique lovers.
- Jardin du Luxembourg – Ideal for a relaxed morning walk among fountains and statues.

Afternoon – Parisian Elegance & Designer Streets

The afternoon unfolded along Avenue Montaigne and Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré — two of Paris's most iconic fashion boulevards. The windows of Dior, Chanel, and Hermès sparkled under the soft Paris light, each boutique a story of timeless French style.

I then walked toward the Champs-Élysées, one of the most beautiful and well-known avenues in Paris. Stretching for 1.9 km, it connects Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe — a grand showcase of Parisian life, where history meets high fashion and cafés line the sidewalks.

Lunch was at Café de l'Esplanade, a refined spot near Les Invalides where locals gather for quiet luxury. Between sips of rosé and bites of truffle risotto, I watched Parisians glide by in perfect elegance — effortless and inspiring. Later, I explored Galerie Vivienne, one of Paris's oldest covered passages. Its mosaic floors, antique bookshops, and vintage boutiques offered a nostalgic charm that felt frozen in time.

Optional Detour:

- Printemps Rooftop Terrace – Free access to one of the best skyline views in Paris.

Evening – Dinner & Twilight by the Seine

As the golden light began to fade, I returned toward the 1st Arrondissement. The streets around Rue de Rivoli and Place Vendôme shimmered in the evening — elegant, calm, and distinctly Parisian.

Dinner was at Chez Bernard, an elegant brasserie with a modern Parisian soul — vibrant yet intimate, serving beautifully plated dishes and warm, lively energy.

After dinner, I took a slow walk across Pont Alexandre III, where the reflections of street lamps danced on the Seine — a perfect final farewell to the City of Light.

Alternative Dinner Options:

- Le Fumoir – Classic Parisian elegance near the Louvre.
- Café Laperouse – Romantic riverside dining.

Where I Ate & Drank:

- Breakfast: Coutume Café (6th)
- Lunch: Café de l'Esplanade (7th)
- Dinner: Chez Bernard (1st)

Hidden Gems:

- Rue de Verneuil – For chic street art and boutique shops.
- Maison Francis Kurkdjian Boutique – For signature Parisian perfumes.
- Galerie Vivienne – Timeless covered passage full of Parisian nostalgia.

Transport Tips:

- Metro Line 1: Best for shopping and sightseeing between 1st and 8th Arrondissements.
- Metro Line 10: Connects St. Germain and the Latin Quarter.
- Taxis/Ubbers: Easily available from Avenue Montaigne to central Paris.

Safety & Etiquette:

- Dress modestly in high-end areas — Parisians value understated elegance.
- Keep shopping bags close, especially in metro stations.
- Always say “Merci, bonne journée!” when leaving a boutique.

Lifestyle Tip:

Take a slow afternoon coffee break — not because you have time, but because that's how Paris teaches you to live. ☕

Day 5 – Latin Quarter, Pantheon & A Seine Farewell

Morning – The Intellectual Heart of Paris

My final full day in Paris began with breakfast at Café Verlet, a historic roastery just steps from The Westin Paris – Vendôme. The scent of freshly ground beans and the calm morning rhythm of Rue Saint-Honoré made it an inspiring start.

I then made my way to the Latin Quarter (5th Arrondissement) — the city's bohemian soul and the home of centuries of art, philosophy, and romance. The Panthéon stood proud on the hill, its neoclassical dome guarding the tombs of France's greatest thinkers — Voltaire, Rousseau, and Marie Curie.

Optional Morning Stops:

- Luxembourg Gardens – Fountains, statues, and a touch of royal serenity.
- Sorbonne University – The timeless center of French intellect.
- Rue Mouffetard Market – Colorful local stalls with cheeses and fresh flowers.

Afternoon – Art, Bridges & the Soul of the Seine

After a light lunch at Les Deux Magots — the legendary Saint-Germain café once frequented by Hemingway and Picasso — I headed to the Musée d'Orsay (7th Arrondissement). Inside this former railway station, Monet's water lilies and Degas' dancers glowed in the golden afternoon light.

Crossing the Pont des Arts, I stopped to browse the bouquinistes — old bookstalls that line the Seine — each one filled with vintage Parisian prints, postcards, and poetry.

Sweet Pause:

- Carette at Place des Vosges — for a Parisian pastry and people-watching in one of the city's oldest squares.

Evening – Michelin Dining & A Twilight Cruise

For my last night in Paris, I wanted something extraordinary — the kind of dinner that captures Paris's essence in every detail.

I chose Le Gabriel (2 Michelin Stars) at La Réserve Paris, an intimate sanctuary near the Champs-Élysées. Chef Jérôme Bancetel's artistry blends classical French with seasonal innovation — think blue lobster with citrus, or truffle-laced foie gras. The experience was more than dinner — it was poetry on a plate.

Alternative fine-dining picks:

- L'Arpège (3 Michelin Stars) – Chef Alain Passard's vegetable-driven haute cuisine, creative and soulful.
- Le Clarence (2 Michelin Stars) – Set in a historic mansion, offering refined French gastronomy with wine pairings that surprise you in every sip.

If you prefer a more relaxed yet scenic farewell, Chez Bernard by the Seine remains a beautiful option — chic, modern, and full of life.

After dinner, I took a Bateaux Parisiens evening cruise from Port de la Bourdonnais. The city glowed under the stars — the bridges, the Louvre, and finally, the Eiffel Tower sparkling like a final curtain call.

Where I Ate & Drank:

- Breakfast: Café Verlet (1st)
- Lunch: Les Deux Magots (6th)
- Dinner: Le Gabriel (8th) or Chez Bernard (Seine Riverside)

Hidden Gems:

- Rue Mouffetard Market – Parisian street life at its most authentic.
- Pont des Arts – The bridge where time slows down.
- Bouquinistes – Vintage books and romantic keepsakes.

Transport Tips:

- Metro Line 4 – For Latin Quarter & Panthéon.
- Metro Line 12 – For Musée d'Orsay.
- Seine Cruise – Port de la Bourdonnais (near Eiffel Tower).

Paris Tip:

Your last night deserves a little magic — don't rush it. Paris always rewards those who linger. ✨

Day 6 – Farewell Paris: A Heartfelt Goodbye

Morning – One Last Paris Sunrise

There's something quietly emotional about the last morning in Paris. The streets feel softer, the croissants smell sweeter, and every moment seems suspended in memory.

I woke early at The Westin Paris – Vendôme, taking one last glance at the soft glow of the Eiffel Tower from my room. Paris isn't just a stop — it's a living poem, whispering in every street, café, and garden.

Breakfast was a light cappuccino at Café Verlet, just around the corner. The aroma of freshly roasted coffee, paired with a warm pastry, felt like the perfect quiet Parisian goodbye.

Mid-Morning – Check-Out & Transfers

Check-out from The Westin was smooth and elegant. A taxi awaited to take me to Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) — about a 40-minute ride through calm, early-morning Paris streets.

For those flying from Orly Airport, travel takes roughly 30 minutes depending on traffic. If you prefer the train, the RER B line is quick, direct, and budget-friendly.

Transport Tips:

- Taxi/Uber: ~€55–€65 to CDG | ~€40–€50 to Orly.
- RER Train: €11 (CDG) | €14 (Orly via OrlyVal).
- Private transfers: Ideal for groups or early morning departures.

Before You Leave – Paris Secrets to Hold Onto

Even as your luggage feels heavier, leave room in your heart for:

- The sparkle of Place Vendôme at dusk.
- Quiet corners of Le Marais and Saint-Germain with their cobblestone charm.
- The shimmering Seine at night, especially near Pont Neuf.
- The scent of freshly baked baguettes, warm coffee, and soft pastries.

Travel isn't just about destinations — it's about how each place changes the version of yourself that emerges. Paris leaves you a little softer, more curious, and infinitely inspired.

Last-Minute Shopping & Memories

- Duty-Free at CDG: French perfumes, chocolates, mini champagne bottles.
- Saint-Germain boutiques: Open till late for final stylish finds.
- Capture one last photo of your favorite corner — it becomes your Paris postcard forever.

Safety & Smart Travel Tips

- Keep your passport and valuables close; use a crossbody bag.
- Download offline maps or save your hotel address for last-minute directions.
- Always greet with “Bonjour” — it's the Parisian way of kindness.



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