



ROADTRIPS

PRESENTS

*Paris*

A GUIDE TO  
PARIS  
FRANCE



No one can deny the beauty and appeal of Paris, France. There's a magical, romantic quality about the city that is evident wherever you go. It's the perfect city to explore on foot, simply going for a stroll seeing one stunning vista after another or relaxing with a latté at a petit café.

The art, the history, the fashion, the architecture, the food – there are so many reasons to love Paris. Whatever your passion, you're likely find what you're looking for in the City of Light!





## TRAVEL TIPS

Paris is a beautiful city, full of spectacular places to explore and is sure to be at its best for the 2016 Euro and French Open. As is usual when traveling outside of our home country, there are always challenges present, extending from differing customs and common practices, but with some preparation and a willingness to be flexible, travelers are easily won over by Paris's charm. It doesn't hurt to brush up on the local language; even a little French can make navigating your way through Paris easier.

We at Roadtrips want to help set your expectations and do whatever we can to ensure that you are prepared for Paris's challenges and triumphs, and to create the best possible experience for our guests.





## GETTING TO PARIS

There are many flight route options from major North American cities into Paris. The majority of these international flights arrive into Charles de Gaulle International Airport (CDG), located 16 miles northeast of the city. Secondly, Orly International Airport (ORY), located 10 miles south of the city, receives international flights as well. For major events such as the French Open or the European Championship, flights fill up quickly and we recommend booking early to secure your preferred routing and schedule. As always before travelling internationally, ensure you don't forget to pack your valid passport.

There are a number of ways to access the city from both international airports. To ease your arrival worries, Roadtrips can assist you by arranging a private chartered vehicle to get you to your hotel comfortably. Alternatively, both airports are serviced by the suburban express train RER (line B), which is a quick and relatively simple way to access central Paris. Taxis are an option but the travel time and rates can be unpredictable due to traffic.

## TRAVEL TIMES & TRANSPORTATION

Traffic is a significant issue in most major cities, and Paris is no exception. As well, traffic patterns during major events are, by nature, always somewhat dynamic. Roadtrips accesses official information from local authorities and from our destination partners to provide the best information possible about traffic, estimated travel times, and permitted drop off points at venues.

Roadtrips' French Open and Euro 2016 guests will benefit hugely from our experience working at multiple major sporting events. Our staff has experience and knowledge that you'll find invaluable and they will assist you with all of it. It's the goal of our team of hosts, drivers, and destination specialists to provide as seamless an experience as possible for you.

## DINING OUT & RESERVATIONS

Few cities in the world offer the range of wonderful dining options available in this gastronomic destination. From the local corner bistro to Michelin starred celebrity chefs, your options for great food are many.

Restaurants are generally open for lunch around noon until 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 7 or 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. Cafés are often open all day, for breakfast pastries and coffees in the morning through to late evening snacks. For top end restaurants it's wise to reserve a table in advance, our Roadtrips personal concierges can assist with restaurant recommendations and reservations.

## HOW TO DIAL LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

To call a French phone number from a US or Canadian phone (mobile or land line) you must dial 011 + Country Code (33 for France) + Area Code (1 for Paris) + the local phone number.

To call a US or Canadian phone number from your North American mobile phone you must dial 00 + 1 + Area Code + Telephone Number.

## LANGUAGE

The official language in France is, of course, French! Learning a few French words, especially the friendly greeting, "Bonjour," will gain you some respect from the locals and "Merci" or thanks, is the right response to most interactions. Don't know any French? Not to worry, English is also widely spoken by hotel staff, restaurant staff and by others in the service industry. Our bilingual destination specialists are also available to assist onsite.



## WEATHER

The climate in France is generally quite mild. Winter can be chilly and early spring can be damp, but the summer is a gorgeous time to visit.

Average temperatures from May to October range between 68°F – 78°F (20°C – 26°C), making it ideal for taking in a match. Summer's long, warm days are also perfect for extended lingering at your favorite Parisian café.

## BANKING & LOCAL CURRENCY

Since 2002, the official currency of France has been the Euro (noted by the symbol € and code EUR). Banks and automated teller machines are widely available, and are the most convenient way to get money. Visa, Mastercard and American Express are the most commonly accepted credit cards and can be used at most shops and restaurants without issue.

## ELECTRICITY

Voltage in France is 230 V. You will need to use a converter that allows your electronic device to run on a different voltage for anything that runs on 120 V.

Most outlets in France are the round, 2-prong style and will require an adapter to convert a North American pronged plug to fit the outlet.

## TIME ZONE

France is on Central European Time, which is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT/UTC). From the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October (Daylight Savings Time) they switch to two hours ahead of GMT/UTC.

## WHAT ABOUT TIPPING?

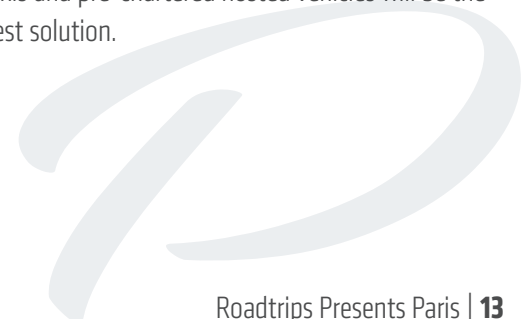
In Paris, most restaurant and bar prices include a 15% service charge by law, so there is not an expectation to tip in most cases. If you are extra satisfied you could leave a few coins on a smaller bill or round up to the nearest Euro or two. In higher end restaurants, it's common to add on an extra 5% of your bill. Taxis are often accustomed to an extra 10% and at hotels it's customary to leave a Euro or two for your housekeeper or for your helpful bellperson.



# TRANSPORTATION

The lovely city of Paris is relatively compact for a city of its population. The physical size of the city means visitors don't have to travel far to see the best of Paris, be it charming sidewalk cafés, designer shops or impressive attractions. Fortunately for guests, there are plenty of ways to get around Paris, including walking, which is a great way to make sure you don't miss any of the city's magic. The city is divided into 20 arrondissements (administrative districts), with the 1st arrondissement in the center of the city and the rest spiralling out from there in numerical order.

For the French Open and Euro 2016, Roadtrips' guests will receive assistance from our team in arranging transportation and making transportation choices to help get to their events and to explore the City of Light. For many of our guests, a mix of taxis and pre-chartered hosted vehicles will be the best solution.





## PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

Roadtrips can arrange for a private vehicle for those preferring the comforts of a dedicated car. In addition, your concierge at our premium hotels can make private chartered vehicle arrangements on request, when available.

## TAXI

Taxis are readily available in Paris. The easiest way to get one is to ask your hotel concierge or restaurant staff to call one for you. Otherwise there are taxi stands every couple of blocks. A taxi is occupied when its sign is illuminated in red and it's available when illuminated in green.

## METRO

Paris's public transit system is one of the most efficient and affordable ways to see the city. There are sixteen metro lines that go all around Paris and the nearest station is usually no more than 500 yards away. The easiest way to go is to get a Navigo system pass (similar to an

Oyster card in London), which is a combined travel pass that allows you to access the metro, RER and the buses for a set period of time (a week, a month or a year). You can always buy tickets instead of a pass but you must keep your ticket on you throughout your trip on the metro as ticket inspectors may ask you to produce it. Maps are available at any metro ticket window.

## RER

The RER (Réseau Express Régional) is like the express version of the Metro. It's made up of 5 lines that connect suburban Paris to the city center. It offers plenty of connections with the Metro and functions similarly, though it has fewer stops. For visitors, the RER will likely be most useful for getting to and from CDG or ORY airports.

## BUS

Though the Metro may be faster, travelling by bus allows you to take in the sights of Paris as you travel. Paris has an efficient bus system

that can take you most places in the city. Buses conveniently use the same tickets as the Metro or you can pay the driver using exact change.

## BOAT

The Batobus is a city-run river shuttle that docks at eight different ports along the Seine, offering access to all the must-see spots including the Champs-Élysées, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Louvre.

## CAR RENTAL

As there are so many transportation options in Paris, a car hire isn't necessary or required to get around. Navigating the streets of Paris can be a hassle, finding parking even more so. If you must drive, Paris has all the major international car rental agencies. Ensure that you have proper insurance and good maps.

## WALKING

It's very possible to explore the essentials of Paris by foot. The wide boulevards and spacious parks make the walk easy and enjoyable. It's worth it to grab a map from your hotel concierge, plan out your route and take a stroll through the city of light! If you get tired, there are plenty of options to get you back to your hotel – a taxi, bus or metro are all very accessible.

## CYCLING

A self-service biking option called Velib has a network of over 1500 stations around Paris where you can rent a bike for a very reasonable cost. You can open an account on the spot at any station with a credit card and you can borrow or return from any station. Rental outlets are also an option. A guided bike tour is a great way to see the city of love.



## TOP 5 THINGS TO SEE IN PARIS







## THE EIFFEL TOWER

Obviously. It's one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world. Built in 1887 for the 1889 World Fair, this 325-meter tower was the tallest manmade structure in the world until 1930. With about 7 million visitors annually, it is the most visited monument in the world. What's a trip to Paris without a touristy picture in front of the famous tower?



## MUSEE DU LOUVRE

Do you know where the Mona Lisa is kept? It resides firmly inside the Musee du Louvre, one of the most famous art museums in the world. The museum is packed with masterpieces at every turn. You can spend hours exploring the museum and still not have enough time to see every beautiful work of art on display here.



## THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES

One of the most beautiful and opulent palaces in the world, the Versailles is a symbol of the ostentatious and decadent lifestyle of the French monarchy. Its garden is so beautiful that it is like a piece of paradise on earth. Your trip to Paris will not be complete without a visit to the Palace of Versailles.



## THE CATACOMBS OF PARIS

This is a medieval underground burial complex where six million human skeletons are stacked neatly along endless corridors. If you are not one to be frightened by the dark and haunting sight, then the Catacombs of Paris is one place that you must not miss.



## NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL

Situated in the heart of Paris, the Notre Dame Cathedral is one of the most iconic landmarks of the city. With its looming ceilings and beautiful stained-glass windows, it is also one of the most beautiful and impressive places to visit.

Also worthy of a visit are:

### THE PARIS PANTHEON

The Paris Pantheon is a strikingly beautiful building in the Latin quarter of Paris. Originally a church dedicated to St. Genevieve, it is now a secular mausoleum and the final resting place of distinguished French citizens. This magnificent building is one of the best in Paris.

### CRYPTE ARCHEOLOGIQUE PARIS

Lying directly below the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Crypte Archeologique is a relic from France's Roman past. If you like to see Roman ruins, then you will find it a very interesting and educational place to visit.

### PERE LACHAISE CEMETERY

If you think a cemetery is not the best of places to visit when in Paris, then the Pere Lachaise Cemetery will help you see things from a new perspective. The cemetery is the final resting place of many famous French and foreign figures, including Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison.



## ACCOMMODATIONS

As one would expect, Paris has a wide range of accommodation choices including some of the finest hotels anywhere. Whether you gravitate toward charming boutique hotels or full-service luxury properties, it's easy to find a perfect fit for your home in Paris.

All of our Paris hotels are centrally located to give you an ideal base for exploring the city. Our accommodations have been carefully selected not only for the location, but also for their service, amenities, and comfort. Choose from some of the best hotels in the city, including The Four Seasons, The Park Hyatt, or the Hotel Molitor.





# ROADTRIPS' RESTAURANT GUIDE TO PARIS





## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH CAFÉS

### HOLYBELLY

This one of the most popular breakfast places in all of Paris. You may need to wait for a table, but it's worth it! Their coffee is from a top-notch local roaster and their food is simple but good including black-rice porridge made with coconut milk and pancakes with bourbon butter and maple syrup. As Holybelly puts it "Our space is casual, the vibe super-relaxed but the food and coffee is top shelf and that's a contrast we love to maintain."

<http://holybel.ly>

### COLOROVA PATISSERIE

This pastry shop and tea room on the left bank is artsy and pulls in a stylish crowd. Good coffee, delicious pastries, and breads make for a simple French breakfast during the week. On the weekend, it's best to make a reservation as their brunch offerings of homemade fruit juices, cakes and eggs Benedict bring in a crowd!

[www.facebook.com/Orlova2013](http://www.facebook.com/Orlova2013)

### FRENCHIE TO GO

Frenchie to Go is a great place to grab a tasty takeaway. For breakfast there is excellent coffee, seriously good sticky buns or scones, and for lunch, some of the best deli-style sandwiches you can find on this side of Atlantic Ocean. Gregory Marchand's take on an Anglo-Saxon delicatessen is worth a try!

[www.frenchietogo.com](http://www.frenchietogo.com)

### RACHEL'S

The well-known Parisian baker, Rachel Moeller, has opened her own café and it has proven very popular. If you're a foodie, you'll want to check it out for breakfast or lunch – it's great homemade fare for a really decent price.

[www.facebook.com/RachelsParis03](http://www.facebook.com/RachelsParis03)

## DINNER AND EVENING SPOTS

### FRENCHIE – THE RESTAURANT

It was Jamie Oliver who first nicknamed Gregory Marchand "the Frenchie" when he was a young chef working in London. Gregory has since opened a few spots in Paris that are worth a visit, Frenchie the being one of them. The restaurant has a recently redesigned dining room, new decor and a new five course carte blanche menu that is sure to please.

[www.frenchie-restaurant.com/en](http://www.frenchie-restaurant.com/en)

### FRENCHIE – THE WINEBAR

The Winebar is just across the street from Frenchie – The Restaurant and is a hot spot where you can sample smaller portions of the restaurant's dishes as well as an array of UK-made cheeses with a huge selection of wines by the glass.

[www.frenchie-restaurant.com/node/61](http://www.frenchie-restaurant.com/node/61)

### BESPOKE

This cocktail bar and restaurant is not your typical, classy Parisian bar. Expect low-lighting, crazy alcoholic concoctions, and some great, inventive sliders and sharing plates. This is the place to go for interesting drinks and great sharing plates after a long day exploring Paris!

<http://bspk.fr>

### SPRING

Simple and seasonal is how American-born Daniel Rose likes to keep things at Spring. A mix of French tradition and local market inspiration, you'll enjoy a four course meal - three savoury dishes and a dessert. As they put it at Spring – "There is no menu or 'carte' – we simply make you dinner".

[www.springparis.fr](http://www.springparis.fr)



## LA BUVETTE

At this great wine bar in the 11th Arrondissement, you can choose to stand at the classy 1930's bar or cozy up at a corner table but either way, you're sure to enjoy yourself! Camille Fourmont has changed this

tiny cheese shop into a wine bar that serves up some great tapas and has a fantastic selection of artisan beers and wines.

[www.facebook.com/La-Buvette-141341299357225/timeline/](https://www.facebook.com/La-Buvette-141341299357225/timeline/)

## FINE DINING

### LE JULES VERNE

Contemporary French cuisine at Le Jules Verne will not disappoint – and neither will the view! Located 400 feet up the Eiffel Tower, you could not find a more magical place to dine. Be ready to dress smart and give the Experience Menu a try – a five or six course unique “tasting” menu accompanied by a perfect wine pairing suggestion from the restaurant's Sommelier.

[www.lejulesverne-paris.com/en](http://www.lejulesverne-paris.com/en)

### LE GRAND VEFOUR

Le Grand Vefour has been a gourmet meeting place for the Parisian elite for over 200 years. The Michelin-starred chef Guy Martin currently maintains the historic aura while adding his sophisticated, modern take on the classic French cuisine that's always been offered at one of the most beautiful restaurants in all of Paris.

[www.grand-vefour.com/en/](http://www.grand-vefour.com/en/)

### L'ATELIER DE JOEL ROBUCHON

On top of the Champs Elysees, Joel Robuchon's second Atelier offers a unique gastronomy experience that allows diners to observe their dishes being prepared. The devoted staff creates small plates or full portions of the world-famous chef's signature dishes, depending on your appetite!

[www.joel-robuchon.com/en/restaurants-paris-atelier-etoile.php](http://www.joel-robuchon.com/en/restaurants-paris-atelier-etoile.php)

### RESTAURANT LE MEURICE

Located in the beautiful Hotel Le Meurice, overlooking the Tuileries Garden, your dining experience at this three-starred Michelin restaurant will be unforgettable! World-renowned chef Alain Ducasse and his talented team work with the best local French products, transforming what could be rustic into something refined, delicate and inventive.

[www.dorchestercollection.com/en/paris/le-meurice/restaurants-bars](http://www.dorchestercollection.com/en/paris/le-meurice/restaurants-bars)

### TAILLEVENT

From their legendary wine cave to their French haute cuisine there are no disappointments at this two-Michelin starred restaurant. The service is as smooth as only a top French restaurant can deliver, the beautiful dining rooms are classic and luxurious, and their tasting menu is unmatched.

[www.taillevent.com/le-restaurant/](http://www.taillevent.com/le-restaurant/)

### RESTAURANT GUY SAVOY

At the entrance of the restaurant, in bright red neon letters you can read chef Guy Savoy's quote (in French of course) “Cooking is the art of instantly transforming historical products into pleasure”. This is exactly what you'll experience at this three-Michelin-starred French Gourmet Restaurant. Make sure to bring your dinner jacket as you'll be dining in one of the most elegant, aesthetic atmospheres in all of Paris.

[www.guysavoy.com](http://www.guysavoy.com)



## BENOIT

In the heart of Paris, the Benoit has been providing a traditional, Parisian dining experience for over 100 years. Under the current direction of chef Alain Ducasse, the warm, comfortable atmosphere of this traditional Bistro will charm you and your taste buds. Being the only Parisian Bistro to have a Michelin star, you're sure to enjoy their classic snails with garlic butter and herbs and their generously portioned desserts - Bon Appétit!

[www.benoit-paris.com/en](http://www.benoit-paris.com/en)





## FRENCH OPEN FACTS + FIGURES





Each year in late spring, spectators watch the drama unfold as the best in tennis come together to battle it out for the world's greatest clay court championship, the French Open.

Held at the famous Roland Garros Stadium in Paris, France, this second tournament of the Grand Slam is held over two weeks and is the only one to be played on a clay court. Considered by many to be a much more difficult surface to play on than grass, due to the slower moving, yet higher bouncing ball, this court and tournament force players to demonstrate their true skill, and prove that they have what it takes to walk away with the top prize.

Since the first tournament in 1891, some of the sports greatest athletes have taken on the infamous clay courts, from Max Decugis to Rafael Nadal and Suzanne Lenglen to Chris Evert, in order to claim victory at one of the most physically demanding tennis tournaments in the world.

Some interesting facts about the French Open:

- Roland Garros is currently the smallest Grand Slam venue, though plans are in place for expansion. In 2019, tennis fans will be treated the new improvements.
- Each year, approximately 250 ball boys and girls (or Ramasseurs de balles) are selected to work the French Open. The successful applicants will undergo weeks of training to ensure they are up to the task.
- The famous 'clay' courts are actually white limestone covered with red brick dust.
- Rafael Nadal holds the record for most men's singles titles with nine; Chris Evert holds the record for women with seven.
- The only French players to win the French Open are Yannick Noah in 1983 and Mary Pierce in 2000





The Ultimate in Sports Travel