

PARIS VISITS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Press file 'Parisian lifestyle'

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Whether you want to party or learn to cook, travel by limousine or by hot-air balloon, play at being an urban explorer or relax in the home of a Parisian, Paris is a never-ending adventure!

Paris is a continual journey of discovery and there is never enough time to explore. Guided tours have become more fun and interactive than ever and cover a diverse range of disciplines via apps and websites. And the portrayal of an 'unusual' or 'confidential' Paris is always exciting when recounted by knowledgable guides proffering colourful anecdotes and great places to see. Paris, a multifaceted city, is revealed through design, photo workshops, wine tasting and cinema. Explore every backwater of each district at your leisure, on the water, in the air, underground, on wheels or by motorized transport and enjoy this truly amazing city.

AMAZING TOURS AND FUN ITINERARIES

Whether alone, with the help of a smartphone, or accompanied by a guide familiar with the secret side of the capital, exploring Paris takes on a new dimension.

> New insights

What a pleasure to learn about Paris's rich heritage in the company of an erudite tour guide. Paris has numerous guides passionate about their subject, who can relate interesting anecdotes and facts that reveal the hidden side of monuments and give visitors new insights into the capital's buildings and districts.

Guided walks by Curiocités, for example, offer different insights into tourist districts such as the Marais, the lle de la Cité and Place de la Bastille.

Paris can also be explored through signs of the Zodiac (Virgo, Taurus, Capricorn, Aquarius) with the company Narrêvasio.

And you'll have to find an alibi to uncover the series of guided investigative tours on 'criminal Paris' with Théo.

The guide Bruno de Baecque will take you on atypical themed tours to discover 'Les plus belles fesses du Louvre' (The most beautiful bottoms in the Louvre) or 'Que cachent les bourrelets de Beaubourg?' (Under the exterior of the Pompidou Centre).

Ballaville - www.ballaville.fr Bruno de Baecque, Vu sous cet angle - www.vusouscetangle.net Curiocités - www.curiocites.com Les balades de Magalie - www.lesbaladesdemagalie.com Les visites de Théo - www.lesvisitesdetheo.Com Le Vrai Paris - www.levraiparis.com Narrevasion - www.narrevasion.com Paris par Rues Méconnues - www.paris-prm.com

> Guided tours for children

Why not take advantage of a family stay in Paris to offer your children a special tour of the city designed just for them? A fun way to discover museums, monuments and different districts for kids and parents. With Delphine Lanvin, the story of Paris is told on a tour of little streets in Montmartre or in the Latin Quarter. Then there is BadalEnigm, which has created a wonderful series of urban orienteering trails, available to download from their website and do with the family on the day of one's choice. Culturamat and Muses et Musées offer similar eye-opening tours with a booklet in local districts, museums and gardens, as does Le Petit Chercheur d'Art. And Thomas Dufresne unveils the secrets of medieval knights and the strategies of Roman legionnaires in fascinating workshop sessions.

As for Parisphile, it seeks to make heritage popular with over 3s, as does ThatLou Treasure Hunt, which organizes orienteering at the Louvre Museum, and Aurore Juvenelle / Dédales Visites Guidées, which presents the city through numerous anecdotes.

Pedagogical visits

Art Kids Paris - www.artkidsparis.com Delphine Lanvin - www.lanvinvisites.weebly.com Family twist - www.familyt-wist.com Le petit chercheur d'art - www.lepetitchercheurdart.com Paris Kid - www.pariskid.com Parisphile - Tel: +33 (0) 1 40 34 71 57

<u>Urban orienteering and itineraries</u> Art'Tour Couleurs - www.arttourcouleurs.fr BaladEnigm - www.baladenigm.com Culturamat - www.culturamat.com Muses et Musées - www.musesetmusees.com Thomas Dufresne - Secrets de Paris - http://secretsdeparis.blogspirit.com/ ThatLou Treasure Hunt at the Louvre - thatlou.com/fr Aurore Juvenelle - www.dedale.org

<u>Multimedia show</u> Paris Story - www.paris-story.com

> Dramatized urban tours

Fabulous costumes, magic tricks, a few pirouettes or an inspired soliloquy in the street can provide poetry or theatrical shows. Actors, magicians, acrobats and wandering entertainers make the street an open stage.

Dramatized tours

Compagnie Clarance - www.compagnie-clarance.fr Visites spectacles - www.visites-spectacles.com

> A playground on the scale of Paris

Repeated every summer, the great Parisian treasure hunt continues to grow in popularity. It now takes place over 13 arrondissements of the city and as far as the Portes de Saint-Ouen. The 70 poetic and bilingual itineraries are accessible to everyone, including people with reduced mobility. The 10th edition will include unusual underground trails offered by the RATP, but 'Shhh!' ... Their destination will remain a secret until the last moment.

Qui veut pister Paris? offers a mystery-solving activity. Split into teams, participants become detectives in different districts of the city. Another possibility: the adventure Démasquez Paris, which reconstitutes a crime scene and provides information from a key figure in the investigation. The participants task is to find clues hidden in the capital.

Balaville, rallyes pédestres - www.balaville.fr Chasse aux Trésors de Paris - www.tresorsdeparis.fr Démasquez Paris - www.demasquezparis.com Team Break, the Real Escape Game - www.team-break.fr Paris sur scènes - www.paris-sur-scenes.com Paris ma Belle - www.parismabelle.com (urban orienteering) Qui veut pister Paris - www.quiveutpisterparis.com Rallye révolutionnaire parisien - www.rallyerevolutionnaireparisien.fr

Events agencies for communication through games Agence Ma Langue au Chat - www.malangueauchat.com Agence Paris Hors Piste - www.paris-horspiste.com

> On the trail of ...

Who hasn't dreamed of being in the shoes of Amélie of Montmartre, Louis XIV (the Sun King) or Marie-Antoinette? Paris is full of encounters with great fictional and nonfictional characters. Whether on foot or by bus, you'll find yourself in the settings of famous films with Ciné Balade. Lire et Partir takes you on the trail of the nocturnal wanderings of Gerard de Nerval in the district of Les Halles, or of Colette with her cats behind the windows of the Palais Royal.

Paris Walking Tours take you to Hemingway's Paris. As for Music lovers, they can hum along as they retrace the steps of Edith Piaf in the company of Les Passeurs d'Histoires.



Artistic trails Syndicat d'initiative à Montmartre (tours in the footsteps of Amélie Poulain) www.montmartre-guide.com Ciné balade - www.cine-balade.com Parcours cinéma de la Ville de Paris - www.paris.fr/loisirs/balades-culturelles/parcourscinema/p8542 www.action-in-montmartre.com www.setinparis.com

Literary and historic walks

Lire et partir - lireetpartir.wordpress.com Paris Walking Tours - www.paris-walks.com Sur le pavé la plume... - surlepavelaplume.com Les Passeurs d'Histoires - www.lespasseursdhistoires.com

> Museums with apps

Exploring the rich collections in Paris's museums couldn't be simpler. They all now have multilingual apps describing their major works.

For its permanent collections, 'Louvre Audioguide' presents 50 of its masterpieces narrated by curators and lecturers.

With 'Immersion 360°C', visitors benefit from wonderful 360° digital images on a tablet at Musée du Quai Branly, a complement to the museum's official guide 'Quai Branly', an ideal companion for visiting the museum.

A special mention for the 'Paris Comic Street' app created by the Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine. It enables visitors to (re)discover the architecture of Paris through comic books and fun clues. For those who enjoy cultural enigmas and strolling around Paris, a smartphone is a must.

Immersion 360°+ My Museum - www.mymuseum.fr Louvre - www.louvre.fr/application-collection-permanente Musée de Cluny Musée d'Orsay Grand Palais Quai Branly Paris Comic street

> Organizing your outings with a smartphone

Applications for smartphones continue to evolve and facilitate getting around Paris. Paris Apps denotes a number of mobile apps for Paris, for going out, visiting places, getting around, exploring (Paris Live), ordering a taxi (Taxis Bleus), finding the nearest toilets (Street'WC).

The RATP app is invaluable for getting around on public transport. Of course, it includes metro, bus and RER itineraries, but also real time information and information on the traffic situation. The RATP also offer 'Visiter Paris en métro'. All you have to do is enter the name of a Parisian monument in order to find out its location, information about it, what transport to use to get to it and information on nearby places of interest. Visitors in a hurry will like the app 'Paris ci la sortie du métro', which tells you which end of the metro to get on at so that you can get off in line with the connection you want to take and so save time.

And to stay up to date with the latest entertainment news (ideas for going out in Paris, shows, exhibitions, concerts, restaurants, theatres, art galleries, etc.) download 'Paris Bouge', accompanied by the latest guide 'Paris sans attendre'. For its third edition, 18 tourist sites have been selected, plus advice about seeing more, by queuing less.

Selection of Paris applications for smartphones Parisapps - www.parisapps.paris.fr

Transport Autolib My Airport (Paris Airports application) RATP - www.metroparisiphone.com Vélib' Les taxis bleus Taxis G7 Paris ci la sortie du metro - www.paris-cilasortiedumetro.fr Paris traffic Parking Dispo Uber Going out AlloCiné Bars à Paris Foursquare J'aime ma ligne Le Parisien.Sortie ParisBouge **VivreParis** Paris à la seconde Paris cafés Terrasses de Paris

Guides j'aime attendre - http://guides.jaimeattendre.com/paris-sans-attendre

> Paris in total freedom with downloadable walks

This phenomenon continues to grow. Many self-guided tours can be downloaded from the Internet giving complete freedom.

Walks exist in the form of an itinerary with explanations and photographs. These types of tours do not require a tour guide and so enable visitors to do things at their own pace when they feel like it. They are downloadable in PDF format or directly onto a telephone. Patrimap, a City of Paris application, is a must for discovering Paris's heritage.

Themed audio or video walks give visitors the opportunity to have a lively guided tour to suit their schedule. With Zevisit, you can explore romantic Paris, urban Paris or Paris via unusual streets. With the audio guides of Soundwalk, the Pigalle district is narrated by Lou Doillon, and Saint-Germain-des-Près by Virginie Ledoyen.

Urban Trip, an editor of cultural content for urban explorers, presents more than 150 fact files on places in Paris, biographies and some 350 photographs. Finally, ParisAvant.com offers views of Paris from different eras giving insights into the urban and cultural evolution of the city.

Themed itineraries

Patrimap - to download on I-tunes or patrimap.paris.fr

Audio and video guides

Sound Walk - www.soundwalk.com Paris e-guides - www.pariseguides.fr ZeVisit - www.zevisit.com

GPS guides and smartphone applications Adebe network / Urban trip - www.urbantripapp.com Digi-Guide - www.digi-guide.com Paris Avant - parisavant.com Raidigma by Cardinalis - www.raidigma.com My Day in Paris - www.maydayinparis.com IT Paris - www.it-paris.com www.baladesfluviales.fr

DISCOVERING SECRET AND UNUSUAL PARIS

Discover the dark side of Paris, get close to the high echelons of power, go behind the scenes, and get an insider's view from real Parisians! Follow your guide!

> Strange Paris

The history of Paris is peppered with the mysteries and secrets jealously guarded by some of its institutions. The Catacombs, the Paris sewer system, and the Père Lachaise and Montmartre cemeteries give rise to all kinds of fantasies. So a tour of these places is the best way to unravel many mysteries. Paris's metro system also holds many surprises: ghost stations, disused lines and obselete signal systems.

The agency Mysteries of Paris/Paris Ghost Tour organizes tours on the trail of vampires, ghosts, serial killers and other sinister characters, and brings the darkest hours of legendary places such as the catacombs or the Louvre museum back to life. The Visites de Théo, on the theme of Paris and crime, will delight fans of the genre.

In an impressive 'haunted house' setting, the Manoir de Paris stages 17 Parisian legends. Inevitably gory.

Les Catacombes - www.catacombes.paris.fr Musée des Égouts de Paris - www.paris.fr Necro-Romantique - www.necro-romantiques.com (cemetery of Père-Lachaise) Ademas / Métro historique - ademas.assoc.free.fr Mysteries of Paris /Paris Ghost Tour- www.mysteriesofparis.com Le Manoir de Paris - lemanoirdeparis.fr Paul Bauer - +33 (0) 6 22 74 70 04 (cemetery tours) Annie Chapuis - +33 (0) 6 40 17 40 23 (cemetery tours)

> Open days for culture

Every third weekend in September, the European Heritage Days open numerous sites to the public that are usually closed. In addition to works of art of Parisian heritage, you can also see sites relating to industrial or political activity, parks and gardens, archaeological sites, pieces of furniture, and literary, river or military heritage.

Throughout the year, at the initiative of several artists' collectifs comprising artists, painters, sculptors and photographers, special days offer the public the opportunity to meet artists amidst their art works, as for example at the Cité Montmartre aux artistes, in rue Ordener. Or to discover the professions of arts and craftsmen, like at the Viaduc des Arts, under the arches of the Coulée verte walking trail.



Journées européennes du Patrimoine - www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr Cité Montmartre aux artistes - montmartreauxartistes.org Les Ateliers de Paris - www.ateliersdeparis.com Les ateliers associés du Père-Lachaise - www.apla.fr Les ateliers d'artistes de Belleville - www.ateliers-artistes-belleville.org Les ateliers de Ménilmontant www.ateliersdemenilmontant.org Les ateliers d'artistes du 14^e arrondissement - www.mairie14.paris.fr Les ateliers d'artistes - Les Frigos - les-frigos.com Le viaduc des Arts - www.leviaducdesarts.com

> Backstage tours

A glimpse of what's happening behind the scenes enhances your appreciation of a show, a film or the secrets of a top chef. So, go on a backstage tour of the famous Grand Rex cinema, the Lido cabaret or the Théâtre du Châtelet, or of famous sporting venues like Roland-Garros, the Stade de France or Parc des Princes.

Good food lovers will relish visits offered by Meeting the French, revealing the secrets of great Parisian brasseries, chocolatiers and baker-pastry makers.

As well as monuments, more and more companies occasionally open to the public. Visits to companies showcasing the expertise of individuals and to industrial sites have

become highly-popular. The majority of visits take place on the edge of Paris, in Seine-Saint-Denis.

Cultival - www.cultival.fr (behind the scenes at the Eiffel Tower, Théâtre de l'Athénée, the Lido, the Théâtre du Châtelet, etc.) Les Étoiles du Rex - www.legrandrex.com Meeting the French - www.meetingthefrench.com Parc des Princes - www.leparcdesprinces.fr Roland-Garros - www.fft.fr/roland-garros/musee/les-visites-guidees-du-stade Stade de France - www.stadedefrance.com Et voilà le travail ! - www.tourisme93.com (company visits)

> Experience Paris with Parisians

Get off the usual tourist trails and open the door of a Parisian's apartment. Several organizations offer visitors the opportunity to have a meal at the home of a Parisian. With ViZeat, for example, contact is first made online via a detailed fact file: price of the meal, drinks, languages spoken ... La Touche Française promises a meal where you will be seated amongst aristocrats, artists, dynasties of the old bourgeoisie or intellectuals. And there is also Marmitelove, a gourmet dating site for gourmet encounters. To prolong the experience, there is local accommodation. The network Rue Amandine offers a turnkey solution: an apartment chosen for its homely charm, a personalized road book for a well-organized stay, and even a friend to welcome you.

Meet Parisians in their home Le Vrai Paris - www.levraiparis.com Meeting the French - www.meetingthefrench.com Rue Amandine - www.rueamandine.com Succulent Paris - www.succulent-paris.com ViZeat - www.vizeat.com Voulez-vous diner.com - www.voulezvousdiner.com Full list of B&Bs on www.parisinfo.com

> Get to know the secret addresses of Parisians

We would all like to discover the Paris of the Parisians. That secret Paris to be found away from major tourist sites. So, share the enthusiasm of the Paris Greeter volunteers, or priveliged moments with arts & craftsmen and local tradesmen that you can visit with the organizations Bleu comme une orange or Ça se visite.

A few publishing houses publish specialist guides focussing on 'The Paris of Parisians', with a selection of unusual, little-known addresses. And websites list enough confidential addresses to enable you to feel like one of the most in-the-know Parisians.

Confidential Parisian addresses Bleu comme une orange - www.bleucommeuneorange.com Ça se visite - www.ca-se-visite.fr Le Bonbon - www.lebonbon.fr Parisien d'un Jour, Parisien Toujours - www.parisgreeter.org My Little Paris - www.mylittleparis.fr Merci Alfred - www.mercialfred.com (for men) Paris pour un jour - www.parispourunnjour.frParis Localers - www.localers.com Les Balades de Romain - www.lesbaladesderomain.fr

Editions Parigramme - www.parigramme.com

PARIS VISITS WITH A DIFFERENCE

EXPERIENCE PARIS WITH THEMED ITINERARIES

Good addresses, private accompanied tours through the world of Parisian gastronomy, design, photography and urban planning ... Paris offers so many ways for visitors to pursue their special interests.

> Gourmet Paris

Renowned for its gastronomy, Paris may also be explored through the taste buds - an excellent vector for sharing delicious French culture.

Several agencies offer gastronomic guided walking tours such as chocolate tours, visits to the market with Parisians or chefs, visits behind the scenes at a local baker's, or cooking courses and urban tours or workshops on the subject of wine, in Paris as well as in famous wine regions. Not to be missed, a visit to the Musée du Vin de Paris, accompanied by a an upscale dinner in rue des Eaux.

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De Vinis Illustribus - www.devinis.fr Le Foodist - www.lefoodist.com Musée du Vin de Paris - www.museeduvinparis.com Ô Château - www.o-chateau.com Œnodyssee - www.oenodyssee.fr Paris wine day tours - www.wine-day-tours.com Hubris - www.hubris.com Wine tasting in Paris - www.wine-tasting-in-paris.com Faaway - www.faaway.com Dilettantes - www.dilettantes.fr -champagnes Millesiwine - www.millesiwine.com Cinerea - www.cinerea.fr

Gourmet visits and walks

La Route des Gourmets - www.laroutedesgourmets.fr Paris Sweet Paris - www.parissweetparis.com Promenade des sens - www.promenadedessens.fr Robert Pink - www.robertpink.com Succulent Paris - www.succulent-paris.com 1day in Paris - www.1dayinparis.com Esprit Chocolat - www.espritchocolat.com Meeting the French - www.meetingthefrench.com

> Paris shopping

Shopping fans are going to adore sharing this unique experience. With the services of a personal shopper you'll have a wonderful time discovering new boutiques. And especially, finding that outfit, object or perfume that so encapsulates Parisian elegance.

Aimer Paris - www.aimerparistours.com Cour des créateurs - www.courdescreateurs.com Design à Paris - www.designaparis.com Fabulous you Paris - www.shopping-paris.fabulousyouparis.com Fashion Paris - www.fashionshopperparis.com HV stylisme - www.hv-stylisme.com Les Balades de Magalie - www.lesbaladesdemagalie.fr Mood of Paris - www.mood-paris.fr Paris Luxury Shopper - www.parisluxuryshopper.fr Paris pour un jour - www.parispourunjour.fr Paris upperside - www.parisupperside.com Personal Shopper @ Paris - www.personal-shopper-paris.eu Personal shopper by Ronteix Nadia - www.personalshopperbyronteixnadia.com Promenade des Sens - www.promenadedessens.fr 1day in Paris - www.1dayinparis.com Ultimate Paris Guide / UUU - www.ultimateparisguide.com Wonderful Time - www.wonderfultime.com

> Capture Paris

Visiting Paris and its most beautiful monuments and squares while learning the art of photography, this is what agencies such as 'Paris and you photo', 'Pic my trip' and 'My Pix Time' offer. These coaches teach you different techniques so that you'll be able to take great photographs of Paris and enjoy them for ever.

Also of note: the activities of Réseau Tram. This association brings together venues devoted to contemporary creation and organizes trails on one or two Saturdays each month. A coach takes visitors from Paris on a tour of several sites for an enlightened discovery of the art scene in the French region today.

And if you dream of painting in watercolours or making charcoal drawings outdoors, sign up for a walking and sketching session. Just like art school students, you will stroll around, advised by a qualified teacher, making rapid sketches of local scenes, facades, people ... In short, life.

Les Photographes.org - www.lesphotographes.org Paris and you photo - www.parisandyouphoto.com Photo up - www.photo-up.fr www.picmytrip.com www.mypixtime.fr www.randocroquis.com Tram Réseau art contemporain Paris Île-de-France - www.tram-idf.fr

> Paris and town planning

With districts undergoing transformation and heritage to preserve, Paris is a concentration of architecture and town planning in motion. Several seasoned associations organize urban walks on this theme.

Specialist guides, mainly architects, lead visitors through Paris and the suburbs explaining history, geography, landscape, town planning, architectural history, daily usage, politics, and design.

Aimer Paris - www.aimerparistours.com GA Paris - www.ga-paris.fr Gin Tonique Tours - www.gin-tonique-tours.fr Paris Histoire vivante - www.parishistoirevivante.com Pavillon de l'Arsenal - www.pavillon-arsenal.com/visites_guidees/ Promenades urbaines - www.promenades-urbaines.com

PARIS VISITS WITH A DIFFERENCE

ON THE WATER, ON LAND AND IN THE AIR ... ALL OF PARIS

Atypical modes of transport are increasing in Paris and vie with each other in originality. Ecological, sporty, luxurious, festive, offbeat ... You'll never tire of travelling around Paris.

> By electric self-service car

Electric cars are now available on the streets of Paris through a self-service hire system or you can hire a hybrid car with a driver.

Thanks to Autolib', people living in the Paris Region and tourists can rent an electric car for a few hours or a few days. Paris City Council has installed Autolib' stations throughout the city and in some nearby areas. Once you have subscribed to this new, ultra-flexible system, it is possible to book a car, via the Internet or by phone, at any time of the day or night.

Another possibility: test an electric hybrid car with a driver-guide. As well as visiting some of the finest monuments in the Paris Region, you'll also learn about ecological initiatives that define the capital today: the first office building in the world (on the Champs-Élysées) to be lit exclusively by LED lighting, a plant wall, shelters for protecting bees, and the city's Climate Plan drawn up by the Paris City Council.

Autolib'- www.autolib.eu Ecovisit Paris - www.ecovisitparis.com

> In unusual vehicles



Whether they're vintage or exotic, on two or four wheels, Paris is full of original modes of transport to explore it in.

Bicycle taxis, tuk-tuks and other pedal-powered vehicles are an easy way to make a simple journey or to have a guided tour of the capital in an environmentally-friendly way. For something just as eco-friendly and fun, but requiring a bit of balance as well, weave through Paris on a Segway, or the Trikke, a three-wheeled vehicle cleverly combining the sensation of roller-skating, scootering and skiing — but without the snow.

As for the celebrated 2CV, it takes aficionados from all around the world on discovery tours of Paris with a driver-guide at the wheel ready to answer almost any question you

could think of. Tours aboard this original convertible last from an hour and a half to three hours. Retro or romantic transport enthusiasts can experience la dolce vita Parisstyle on a Vespa. And a lavish white, black or pink stretch limousine will satisfy those looking for luxurious, spacious and plush transport.

With little tourist trains, you can return to your childhood in the magical setting of Montmartre, and with the company Another Paris, the route becomes 'Royal' in the Marais, 'Bohemian' in the 14th arrondissement or 'Artistic' from Saint-Germain-des-Près to the Louvre.

And why not experience the magic of a drive in a horse-drawn carriage? The company Paris Calèches is an invitation to the most enchanting of rides in its Cinderella coach. Everything can be made available on board: macaroons, champagne, roses, etc.

<u>Taxi bicycles</u>

I love hanif cab - www.hanif-tuktuk-paris.com Allo Tuk Tuk - www.allo-tuktuk.com Cyclopolitain - www.cyclopolitain.com

Parisian tuk-tuks

Paris Trikkes - www.paristrikkes.com Paris by Scooter - fr.parisbyscooter.com (Vespa)

Horse and carriage Paris Calèches - www.pariscaleches.com

2 CV car 4 Roues Sous 1 Parapluie - www.4rs1p.com Paris Authentic - www.parisauthentic.com

Limousine Full list on www.parisinfo.com

<u>Little train</u> Another Paris - www.another-paris.com Promotrain - www.promotrain.fr -(Montmartre)

> By bicycle

To explore Paris at your own pace, as free as a bird, there's nothing like a bicycle! And as well as hiring a bike, you also have the possibility of renting one from the city's self-service bicycle hire scheme Vélib'.



Thanks to the Vélib' system, which has been operating in Paris since 2007, renting a bicycle has never been so easy. Pick up a bicycle at one station and drop it off at another. This self-service system operates 24/7. What's more, as of this summer it is

now also available for young Parisians with P'tit Vélib', four models of bikes for children aged from two to eight.

A bike ride can also be a chance to meet Parisians who share the same passion for this clean transport. Whether by joining the cycle outing through the streets of the city which takes place every Friday evening and the third Sunday of the month at 10.30am, starting from the Hôtel de Ville (Paris City Hall), or participating in the annual Vélibienne, a 15 km public bike ride. For a more relaxing ride, there are electrically-assisted bicycles.

Numerous companies offer guided bicycle tours in several languages, while cyclists looking for more independence can decide on their own route with the help of the cycle maps produced by the Paris City Council.

Ptit'Vélib - blog.velib.paris.fr/ptit-velib/ Vélib' - www.velib.paris.fr Paris Rando Vélo - www.parisrandovelo.com Vélo electro - www.velo-electro.com Ecox - www.ecox.fr Holland Bikes - www.hollandbikes.com Alternative bike - www.alternative-bike.fr Guided tours by bike Bike About Tours - www.bikeabouttours.com Blue Bike Tours - www.bluebiketours-paris.com Paris Fat Tire BikeTours - http://paris.fattirebiketours.com/tours/ Paris à Vélo c'est Sympa - www.parisvelosympa.com Paris Bike Tour - www.parisbiketour.net Paris Charms and Secrets - www.parischarmssecrets.com (vélos électriques) VeloParis - www.veloparis.com To plan your own bike ride Geovelo Paris - www.geovelo.fr Carte des itinéraires conseillés en vélo téléchargeable - www.paris.fr/pratique/deplacementsvoirie/velo/carte-des-principaux-amenagements/rub_9931_stand_64244_port_24784 Guide du Parisien - www.guideduparisien.fr/guide/circuler/velos-velib/

> Paris from the air

Whether it's from the air or from the rooftop of a tower, Paris has plenty of opportunities to get a bird's eye view. Sky-high views with or without a floor beneath your feet ...

Dizzy heights guaranteed with these views over Paris. Only the bravest visitors to the first floor of the Eiffel Tower will dare step onto the glass floor 57 m above the ground, before continuing their ascent to the highest point of the Tower. And there are other rooftops with panoramic views offering this kind of exhilarating experience, like the 56th floor of the Montparnasse Tower with its 360° view of the city's most beautiful monuments. To get a panoramic view of the 'voie royal' across the city from the equestrian statue of Louis XIV in the courtyard of the Louvre to the Grande Arche at La Défense, head to the top of the Arc de Triomphe. For an amazing end to an evening, the latest elevated venue in the city is up on the 34th floor of the Concorde Lafayette. The hotel's bar, La Vue, has been revamped and boasts one of the best views of the city.

Those with a real head for heights should get up in the air to get the best views of Paris. By helicopter, tethered balloon, hot air balloon, or even, for a unique experience, in an airship, discover all the different ways of flying over the City of Light.

Rooftops and panoramic floors Bar La Vue - www.barlavue.com Tour Eiffel - www.toureiffel.fr 56° étage Tour Montparnasse - www.tourmontparnasse56.com Arc de Triomphe - www.arc-de-triomphe.monuments-nationaux.fr Helicopter Helifirst - www.helifirst.fr Helipass - www/helipass/com Hot-air balloon Aerfun Montgolfière France - www.aerfun.com Ballon de Paris - www.ballondeparis.com Airship Airship Paris - www.airship-paris.fr

> Buses with a difference

Choose from a prestige air-conditioned coach, a double-decker bus or a vintage minibus to discover Paris with multilingual guides on themed circuits. Opt for a tour alone, a private hire tour for a group, a morning, afternoon or even an evening excursion!

Simple and practical: the hop-on/hop-off ticket of double decker buses enables users to get on and off at any of the stops at famous tourist attractions.

For an original tour of Paris in a group, the RATP offers individuals and professionals the possibility of hiring an old or modern bus with a driver. The most unusual vehicle is the TN4 bus from the 1930s, with its rear platform, for discovering Paris with the wind in your hair. Another possibility: the mythical Renault bus from 1958, with its delightful rounded retro shape.

Some buses are available for private hire for celebrating events like stag nights, weddings and birthdays. For these occasions, the bus turns into a mobile club with some of the best views of Paris.

Hop on hop off bus tours

Les cars rouges - www.carsrouges.fr Paris l'open tour - www.parislopentour.com

Unusual buses Locabus Ratp - www.ratp.fr Le Bus bleu - www.lebusbleu.fr Bustronome - www.bustronome.com/fr/(déjeuner et dîner à bord d'un bus panoramique)

Disco buses Sortie bus - www.sortiebus.com Bus discothèque - www.busdiscotheque.com (bus de luxe)

> Paris from the Seine



A stay in Paris simply would not be complete without a boat cruise along the Seine or the canals, offering many unforgettable views of the city.

As you glide along the water at a leisurely pace, you pass by the most magnificent museums and monuments in Paris. Some companies offer special entertainment for children to make the voyage more magical: a 'Croisière enchantée' (enchanted cruise), with musical show, or 'Petits Matelots' (Little Sailors), based on the character of Barthélemy the pirate. Also worth discovering are the cruises along the Canal Saint-Martin with its picturesque locks.

Venice is not the only place with legendary craft on the water. The gleaming mahogany and flamboyant copper Rivas of Paris Boat Prestige, brave the criss-crossing of lines of barges for a fantastic ride. For those wanting something greener, Batostar, the first 100% electric boat sails between Notre-Dame and the Eiffel Tower.

The river, which runs through the middle of the city, can also be explored on foot, via its many bridges (all works of art to stop and take in) and via the new Berges de Seine. Inaugurated just over a year ago now, this left bank promenade has become a popular place to stroll all year round. The right bank is also immensely popular for walking, rollerblading, cycling ... on Sunday, when it is closed to motorized vehicles.

Information on these outings along the Seine, and also to woods, parks and gardens can be found at the Comité départementale de la randonnée pédestre de Paris, which offers 88 way-marked routes. More hardened walkers can trek across Paris from north to south or east to west on way-marked paths.

Luxury and Riva cruises

La Marina de Paris - www.marina-de-paris.com Paris Boat Prestige - www.parisboatprestige.com Vip Paris - www.le-vip-paris.com Yachts de Paris - www.yachtsdeparis.fr

Public transport

Compagnie des Batobus - Port de la Bourdonnais, Paris 7th - M° Alma-Marceau, RER Pont-del'Alma - www.batobus.com

On the Seine

Batostar - www.batostar.com Bateaux-Mouches - www.bateauxmouches.com Bateaux Parisiens - www.bateauxparisiens.com (Enchanted cruise) Capitaine Fracasse - www.croisiere-paris.com Green River Cruises - www.greenriver-paris.fr My Paris River - www.myparisriver.com Paris en scène - www.paris-en-scene.com Les Vedettes de Paris - www.vedettesdeparis.com (Petits Matelots boat trip for 4-11 yrs) Les Vedettes du Pont-Neuf - www.vedettesdupontneuf.com

On the Canal Saint-Martin

Canauxrama - www.canauxrama.com Paris Canal - www.pariscanal.com Marin d'eau douce - www.marindeaudouce.fr (electric boats on the Villette Canal Baisin) On foot Comité départemental de la randonnée pédestre de Paris - www.rando-paris.org Les berges de Seine - www.lesberges.paris.fr

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