



The municipal building in Paris's 5th arrondissement

A Breakdown of the Paris Arrondissements

Is there a city quite as impressive and daunting as Paris?

Planning a trip to the city of light can be challenging, especially when it comes to finding a place to stay. With 20 neighborhoods (arrondissements) to choose from, looking for accommodation can be terrifying. The city of light, the city of love, the city of glamour! For any traveler popping their Paris cherry, planning it all from home can be as exciting as it can be a bit maddening. While most already know what they want to see and do before arriving at Charles de Gaulle airport, it's finding a place to hang your hat at the end of the day that seems to be the crux of frustration for many new travelers. While searching for the right area, you'll become familiarized with the clunky word *arrondissements*, which is just fancy French speak for districts. With there being 20 of them, how do you make a distinction from one to another, especially when there's a budget to consider?

Which Paris Neighborhood is Best for You?

It's impossible to generalize each neighborhood, but the following should give you a broad description of the differences between the Paris neighborhoods and make it easier to get oriented on the Paris map.

Below a concise overview of all the arrondissements and their most important sights and attractions

Paris Arrondissements: Where to Stay

Before deciding where to stay in Paris, it is important to know a little about the arrondissement (neighborhood) where the hotel or apartment is located. In general, hotels in arrondissements close to Paris' city center or near Paris's must-see sights will be more expensive. It's important to decide if price is more important than location or vice versa before choosing where to begin looking for accommodations. This is not to say that deals cannot be found in some of Paris' more desirable arrondissements, it's just a bit more challenging. And, rest assured, most of Paris arrondissements are completely safe.

What is an arrondissement?

The Map of Paris shows the 20 different neighborhoods which are called *arrondissements*. The city of Paris is organized according to a system of arrondissements (municipal districts / neighborhoods) that spiral out from the center of Paris beginning with the 1st and going all the way through 20.

The first one is in the center, the following ones spiral outwards in a clock-wise direction. Most of the famous tourist attractions can be found in one of the central eight arrondissements. The arrondissements are encircled by the *périphérique*, a ring highway. Outside the *périphérique* are the *banlieues*, the suburbs of Paris.

Did you know?

In Paris arrondissements are named according to their number. For example, you might live in the 5th arrondissement, which would be written as 5^{ème} (or 5^e) in French. Looking at the Paris Map you can see that the districts spiral out from the center in numerical order. If you know the postal code of any address in Paris, you can easily identify which arrondissement it is located in because Parisian postal codes take the form of - 75XXX - with the last two digits being equal to the arrondissement (e.g. 75008 is the postal code for the 8th arrondissement). The suburbs are called the *banlieues*. The areas to the west of the city (Neuilly, Boulogne, Saint Cloud, Levallois, Versailles) are the most desirable and they are generally more peaceful than the city. Each of the Paris neighborhoods and arrondissements has its own special character.

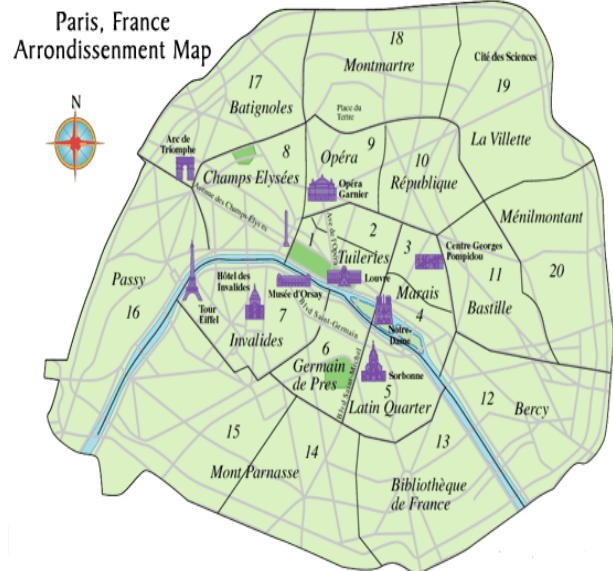
Paris' arrondissements are identified by the last two digits of address postal codes, and are typically written as 17^{ème} or 17^e arr. Regardless of where you stay in Paris, every arrondissement is well connected by a wonderful Métro (subway) system that allows you to travel to any point in the city with no more than one transfer. Have a look at our arrondissement map below, to see how the city is laid out and find the best area for you to stay in Paris.

1st Arrondissement

The 1st Arrondissement is the center of the old city of Paris and it is a great place to stay while in Paris. It is located on the Right Bank (Rive Droite) of the Seine, and is home to many beautiful historic buildings, the Louvre Museum, the adjacent Jardins des Tuileries and the elegant Place Vendôme. Because of its central location, hotels in this area tend to be more expensive. The advantage to staying here is that you are within walking distance of most of the top tourist destinations and restaurants in Paris and the area is very safe, as is most of Paris. The ultimate Paris must-see; you've got the Tuileries, Pont des Art, Place de Vendôme, Rue de Rivoli, and a long shot view of the Eiffel Tower overlooking the river Seine at Place de la Concorde. This is the Paris you see in Chanel advertisements. In particular, the one with Keira Knightly scooting around town in a leather jumpsuit, *A dream, right?* Well dreams are expensive, and moderate priced housing in this arrondissement will get you closer to the urban shuffle that is Les Halles than Le Louvre.



THE TUILERIES ARE A MAJOR ATTRACTION IN THE 1ST ARRONDISSEMENT





Arrondissement 1 – Louvre

The least populated of the twenty arrondissements in Paris is at the geographical center of Paris, hence the area is crammed with historic sights. The Louvre Museum, Royal Palace, Tuileries gardens, Forum des Halles, Bourse du Commerce and the upscale Vendôme Square are all located here. The 1st arrondissement also comprises the western tip of the Île de la Cité, including the magnificent Sainte-Chapelle and the Conciergerie



1er - Louvre, Palais Royale

2nd Arrondissement

The 2nd Arrondissement is also located on the Right Bank and is principally known as the stock exchange and business district. The eastern end contains the garment district. While this is not an exciting tourist destination, it is a safe and quiet area with more affordable accommodations.

The second is the city's smallest arrondissement where the trendy Etienne Marcel and Rue Montorgueil reside; two bustling pockets of the 2nd that are flushed with cafés and shopping. The second also homes the textile industry, so be careful of staying near Sentier as these textile workers get up early...as do their cacophonous delivery trucks.



Arrondissement 2 – Bourse

Primarily a business district, with the Palais de la Bourse - the former stock exchange - as its most notable landmark. Another important building in the smallest of Paris's arrondissements is the historic National Library. A modern expansion of the library is located in the 13th arrondissement. The second arrondissement is also home to a number of historic shopping arcades



2ème - Bourse

3rd Arrondissement

The 3rd Arrondissement encompasses part of the Marais district, a former swamp that is now a trendy, art-filled neighborhood. This safe area is very gay-friendly and has a great Jewish quarter with excellent restaurants and shops. Be sure to check out the lovely Musée Picasso while you are here.

Luxury independent designer boutiques contrast the plethora of vintage shopping that sell second hand goods by the kilo, as well as haute cuisine at Zagat celebrated restaurants versus local corner brasseries-turned hipster hangouts. Unfortunately, this neighborhood is notoriously pricey. A solution to those who have their sights set on the Marais would be to look into the outskirts like République as it is stone's throw from this mecca of chic.



Arrondissement 3 – Temple

Another small arrondissement; it contains the northern part of the historic Marais district. The Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (with the Museum of Arts and Crafts, a technology museum), the Picasso Museum and the Carnavalet Museum - devoted to the history of Paris - are located here.



3ème - Marais, Picasso Museum

4th Arrondissement

The 4th Arrondissement is at the heart of Medieval Paris. Many prominent tourist sites such as Notre Dame, St. Chapelle, and the National Museum of Art in the Pompidou Center are all here. The Marais spills into the 4^e arr. and contains the Place des Vosges, known as the most beautiful square in Europe.



Arrondissement 4 - Hôtel-de-Ville

The 4th arrondissement contains the southern part of the medieval Marais district as well as the Île St-Louis and the eastern part of Île de la Cité, the oldest part of Paris. This area is very popular thanks to attractions such as the Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Place des Vosges, the city hall and the Gothic Tour St-Jacques. Contrasting with all the historic buildings is the modern Centre Pompidou.



4^{ème} - Marais, Hôtel de Ville

5th Arrondissement

The 5th Arrondissement is located on the Left Bank (Rive Gauche) and has been known as the Latin Quarter since the early 13th century because the Sorbonne University professors and students all spoke Latin. It is still considered to be the intellectual center of Paris, and is now filled with a variety of bohemian restaurants and bookshops. The 5th Arrondissement is also in close proximity to the glorious Luxembourg Gardens. Foodies will enjoy the food shops and cafés on Rue Mouffetard

Foodies love the Rue Mouffetard in Paris's 5th Arrondissement.

A fact about this area that is seldom communicated is that while there is the impressive Rue Mouffetard with its market, boutique hotels, and the old-world charm of the Latin Quarter, the area is brimming with students attending the universities and prestigious high schools. In short, French teenagers are everywhere, and in my experience down these tiny *rues* they walk in packs making it cumbersome to get around.



FOODIES LOVE THE RUE MOUFFETARD IN PARIS'S 5TH ARRONDISSEMENT

Arrondissement 5 – Panthéon

The Latin Quarter, with the renowned Sorbonne university, is situated in this arrondissement. The area's popular avenue, the Boulevard St-Michel, marks the border with the 6th arrondissement. The most famous sight in the 5th arrondissement is the Panthéon, but there are many other noteworthy sights such as the magnificent Val-de-Grâce church, the intriguing St-Etienne-du-Mont church, the Cluny Museum, the roman-era Arènes de Lutèce and the Jardin des Plantes, the city's botanical garden which is home to the Natural History Museum.



5^{ème} - Latin Quarter

6th Arrondissement

The 6th Arrondissement, also known as St. Germain de Prés, is a colorful part of the Left Bank that was once the favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway and the artist Eugène Delacroix. Today you can stroll the famous Boulevard St. Germain, or find the former homes of famous authors on Rue Jacob. The gorgeous Luxembourg Gardens are in this district as well. The little street in this district called Cherche-Midi has some great little local restaurants.

There's nothing about this iconic neighborhood, one that captures the true essence of the left bank that I can write that hasn't already been written. One of the favorite things to do when you are in the 6th is to pass the home of the legendary Serge Gainsbourg. The contrast between Serge's home and the bourgeois 6th arrondissement is incredible. The neighbors cringe at the eyesore located in this otherwise upscale *rive gauche* neighborhood where they have rallied up to have the graffiti painted over, to find that it was tagged up again by fans and unfortunately vandals mere days later.

A FORMER RENDEZVOUS FOR PARIS'S LITERATI, LES DEUX MAGOTS IS STILL A POPULAR SPOT TO DINE

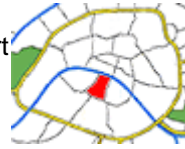




A FORMER RENDEZVOUS FOR PARIS'S LITERATI, LES DEUX MAGOTS IS STILL A POPULAR SPOT TO DINE

Arrondissement 6 – Luxembourg

One of the world's greatest parks, the Jardin du Luxembourg, makes this arrondissement popular with locals and visitors alike. The 6th arrondissement also contains a number of landmarks like the Odéon Theatre and the Saint Sulpice church, which sports two towers with a different design. Another important church in this arrondissement is the 11th century Saint-Germain des Prés, the oldest abbey church in Paris. The church is at the heart of the namesake neighborhood, which is one of the most popular areas to stay in for visitors to Paris



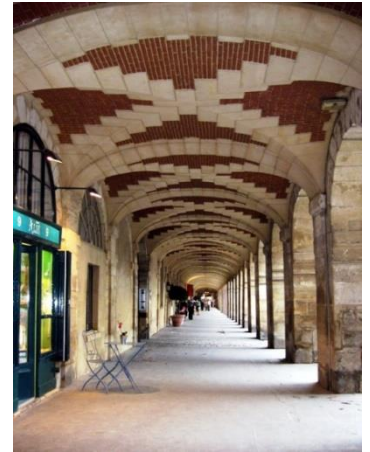
6ème - Saint Germain

7th Arrondissement

The Eiffel Tower, one of the most recognized landmarks and European tourist attractions in the world, is located in the 7th Arrondissement. The Invalides, which holds Napoleon's tomb and the Musée d'Orsay are also found here. The Musée du Quai Branly (African and Oceanic arts museum) is also located in this arrondissement.

The 7th is absolutely gorgeous. Case in point, Karl Lagerfeld lives here. Anything as beautiful as this classically Parisian district that homes someone like Karl as you can imagine is pricey but in my opinion, a little sleepy. An appeal to this area of course is the Eiffel Tower but luckily views of this main attraction can be found in many of the other arrondissements. You will pass it many times during your trip, and that staying in its arrondissement isn't vital to your experience, unless of course you're planning on doing a Lagerfeld stake-out than I guess this would be the place for you.

THE PLACE DES VOSGES IS SURROUNDED BY SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS UNDER BEAUTIFUL ARCADES



The 7th is all about wealthy residential streets & tree-lined parks

Arrondissement 7 - Palais-Bourbon

Government institutions and major landmarks dominate this upscale arrondissement. The most famous of these landmarks is the Eiffel Tower, drawing millions of visitors each year. Other important tourist draws are the Invalides - with its museums and Napoleon's tomb - and three more museums: the Musée d'Orsay, the Musée Rodin and the Musée du Quai Branly, which is dedicated to non-European cultures. The Palais Bourbon (National Assembly), École Militaire (Military School) and the UNESCO headquarters can also be found in the 7th arrondissement.



7ème - Eiffel Tower

8th Arrondissement

The Right Bank's 8th Arrondissement is where you'll find the glitz, glamour, and elegance of Paris. The Champs-Ely and all you can say it is *Ca-ching, ca-ching*. This area is expensive. Expensive as in Oprah stays in here when she comes to Paris...just to give you an idea. If at some point you're not sure you're in Paris (after, say a trip up to Père-Lachaise), get off the metro line Alma-Marceau where you will be at the end of the ostentatious Avenue Montaigne (see: Sex and the City finale, anyone?) with a full frontal view of the Eiffel Tower.

Ever wonder where the stereotype that Parisians have flawless style and impeccable taste came from? I'll tell you where. It came from heresées, Arc de Triumph, famous fashion houses, elegant hotels and restaurants are all in this exciting and beautiful arrondissement. You may pay a little more for a hotel here, but the convenience and beauty is worth it. For the best restaurant prices and authentic French food, don't eat on the Champs-Élysées. These restaurants are geared for tourists and the value is not good. Opt for somewhere on one of the small, winding streets that branch off of the Champs-Élysées. One exception to this would be the famous Ladurée (located on the Champs-Élysées), which is worth every euro.





Arrondissement 8 – Élysée

Another arrondissement loaded with tourist attractions. The Champs-Élysées - probably the world's most famous boulevard - cuts through this arrondissement from the Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe. Bordering the Champs-Élysées are the magnificent Grand Palais and Petit Palais, as well as the Élysée, the presidential Palace. The arrondissement also features the temple-like Madeleine church and the romantic Monceau Park.



8ème - Champs-Élysées

9th Arrondissement

The 9th Arrondissement, it holds both the most elegant and the most tawdry areas of Paris. Pigalle, where you'll find the Moulin Rouge and adjacent strip joints is here, but closer in you will see the Palais Garnier, Paris' elegant Opera house. Be sure to visit the Opera Garnier; its ornate décor is over-the-top and the Chagall painted ceiling is worth the price of admission itself.



Arrondissement 9 – Opéra

A multifaceted arrondissement, with prestigious boulevards in the south and the not so prestigious Pigalle area - a red light district - in the north. Pigalle does attract its share of tourists though thanks to the nearby Moulin Rouge (18th arr). Just as famous, but located in the south part of the 9th arrondissement, is the former Opéra Garnier, a magnificent opera house. Nearby is the Galeries Lafayette, a well-known department store. The majestic Sainte-Trinité church is also located in this arrondissement.



9ème - Opéra, Pigalle

10th Arrondissement

The 10th Arrondissement centers on the Canal St. Martin and the restaurants and cafés that line its banks. The streets along the canal become car-free zones on Saturday afternoons/evenings, and all day on Sundays to make way for the cycling and rollerblading hoards. Two great train stations, Gare du Nord and Gare de l'Est, are located here as is the historic Place de la République on the south end of the arrondissement. This area has become quite trendy in recent years and you will find many young people flocking to the area. Train stations tend to attract itinerants and pickpockets, so be on the alert.



Arrondissement 10 - Enclos-St-Laurent

Two of Paris's main railway stations - the Gare de l'Est and Gare du Nord - can be found here. This is a down to earth arrondissement with the Canal Saint-Martin and the neoclassical Saint-Vincent-de-Paul church as some its most interesting sights.



10ème - Canal St. Martin



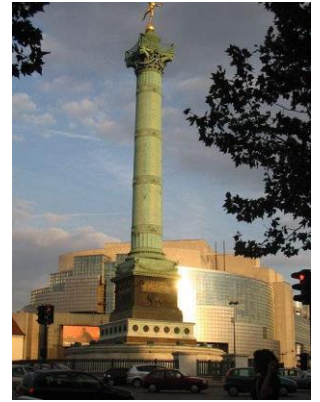
The 9th & 10th Arrondissement areas are lively areas with tons to see and do, and are great districts to look into. They're also pretty spread out, so be careful because some parts can be pretty sketchy, especially the senior citizen prostitution hangouts off of Rue Saint Denis.

CANAL ST. MARTIN

11th Arrondissement

The Opera Bastille has helped to revitalize the once dreary 11th Arrondissement. There are more than a few good restaurants here to tempt you as well. This is a great place to stay in Paris. The area is safe and less expensive than the closer arrondissements. There are also plenty of good restaurants within walking distance.

It's no secret that the 11th is of my favorite arrondissements in the city. Similar to the 9th, it's young, fun and edgy. When looking for a place to stay, be careful because outside the hip and grungy Oberkampf, this neighborhood is not completely gentrified (which I think is a good thing), so it might be a little too "festive" for a first-timer, especially one without a working knowledge of French.



THE PLACE DE LA BASTILLE IN THE 11TH ARRONDISSEMENT AND IN THE BACKGROUND, THE OPERA BASTILLE



Arrondissement 11 – Popincourt

A very low profile arrondissement, mostly residential. The Oberkampf district in the north is better known for its nightlife than its landmarks, but it does contain the Cirque d'Hiver (winter circus) and the St. Ambroise church.



11ème - Bastille

12th Arrondissement

The 12th Arrondissement has been totally revitalized and is now the new, trendy spot in Paris for the younger crowd. Known as Bercy, this area is considered by many to be the "new Saint-Germain". The métro meteor (line 14) makes Bercy a short 10 minutes from the Madeleine stop in the center of Paris. The Parc de Bercy is a 26-acre garden at one end of this Arrondissement; at the other end you will find the restaurants, shops, and cinemas that are infusing this area with new life and excitement.

One of the larger arrondissements in the city offers an influx of affordable housing by way of hostels, hotels and apartment rentals. I generally steer friends and family in the direction of this area as it is affordable and safe with access to major metro lines that will get you too many of the city's major destinations.



Arrondissement 12 – Reuilly

The large Bastille Opera can be found in this mostly residential area, as well as the Bercy Stadium and the nearby modern Bercy Park. The arrondissement is bordered by the expansive Vincennes park on the east.



12ème - Bercy




13th Arrondissement

The 13th Arrondissement centers on the Gare de Austerlitz, and is another area that has little to offer the tourist, unless you have a passion for tapestries. The Manufacture des Gobelins (a textile manufacturer) is located here at 42 ave des Gobelins.

This neighborhood is the hidden Buttes aux Cailles that boasts a stretch of restaurants, cafés and bars. Surrounded by shiny new blocks of office buildings, a huge medieval-looking graffiti-covered warehouse stands proudly whilst sticking out like a sore thumb.



Les Frigos is a city-owned building-turned-artists'-squat in the 13th arrondissement not far from the Seine. Every spring, the annual Portes Ouvertes (open doors) weekend grants walk-in visitors a chance to visit the 90-or-so ateliers within its walls. The doors opened at 2:00, and already there was an impressive turnout: from the metro station, all I had to do was to follow the camera-toting crowd to find my way there.

 <p>Les Frigos: An Artis Squat in Paris' 13th Arrondissement</p>	<p>Arrondissement 13 – Gobelins A largely residential neighborhood with the modern National Library as its most significant landmark. Another interesting complex is the Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière, an expansive hospital complex with an imposing chapel. The 13th arrondissement is also home to the city's largest Chinatown.</p> 	 <p>13ème - Place d'Italie</p>
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14th Arrondissement




Largely residential, the 14th Arrondissement is best known for Montparnasse (both the station and the towering skyscraper (Tour Montparnasse), the Paris Catacombs, and the Parc Montsouris. The Cité Universitaire is also found in this district as well as lively cafés and restaurants around the Boulevard du Montparnasse and the rue Daguerre.

The northern end of the district was the home to many American ex-pats and other famous members of the literati; Hemingway, Henry Miller, F. Scott Fitzgerald, T.S. Eliot, Alice B. Tolkas, Gertrude Stein, to name but a few. At the southern end, you'll find a quiet residential area. We love this area for great restaurants and reasonably priced hotels.



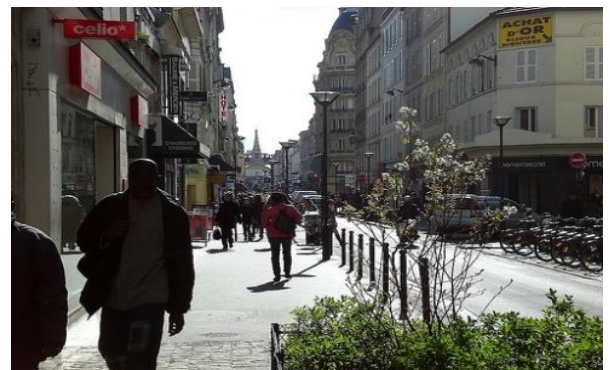
Many of France's famous citizens are buried in Montparnasse Cemetery

The 14th gets a bad rap for being boring and too residential. While it's not exactly the most raging arrondissement in the city, there is still something to say about its sleepy charm and quiet streets, especially for those who are looking to return to peace and quiet after a long day of sightseeing.

	<p>Arrondissement 14 – Observatoire A lively arrondissement, especially around the Montparnasse Boulevard, where the Tour Maine Montparnasse (located in the adjacent 15th arrondissement) dominates the skyline. Not far from this skyscraper is the Montparnasse Cemetery, where many famous French citizens are buried. A popular tourist attraction in this arrondissement is the catacombs, which can be accessed at the Denfert-Rochereau square. The observatory of Paris nearby gave the 14th arrondissement its name.</p> 	
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15th Arrondissement

The 15th Arrondissement is a quiet residential area that was once the home of the artists Mogdliani, Chagall and Leger. There are few tourist sights here except for the Parc de Expositions. The 15th is hit or miss. This is another neighborhood that has a stigma of being dull. When closer to the 7th, you are close to Invalides, Ecole Militaire, and the Eiffel Tower. Just try to turn a blind eye to the concrete 1970s high-rises over by Beaugrenelle – or what locals refer to it as moche-grenelle (ugly grenelle).





Arrondissement 15 – Vaugirard

This is the largest of the twenty arrondissements in Paris, both in size and population. The tallest skyscraper in the center of Paris, Tour Maine Montparnasse is located here. The Parc André Citroën in the west is one of Paris's most interesting modern parks.



16th Arrondissement

The former village of Passy, the 16th Arrondissement, is a lovely residential area that holds great charm for the tourist who is looking for refined calm. This safe arrondissement has beautiful boulevards, such as the Ave d'Iena, Ave Foch and Ave Victor Hugo as well as the exquisite Bois de Boulogne Park. Some wonderful museums are here, including the Guimet, the Marmottan, and the Balzac. And, you can get a great view of the Eiffel Tower from the place de Trocadero, just across the river.

It's extremely safe, residential and quiet, and you're a stone's throw from the Arc de Triomphe and views of the Eiffel Tower. It's also very upscale with a large American population of families who have been relocated professionally. Whenever I feel too boho to grace the sidewalks of this upper-class enclave, I head to the Palais de Tokyo for a dose of modern art at one of their free exhibits, and unwind with a cheap glass of wine in their café.



Arrondissement 16 – Passy

Even if the 7th arrondissement may be even more exclusive, the 16th arrondissement has the reputation of being the richest, and only the better-off are able to pay the high rents here. The arrondissement is bordered by the enormous Boulogne park to the west. A big draw is the Palais de Chaillot, from where you can have a great view of the Eiffel Tower. The Palais de Chaillot is also home to several museums and a theater. The Musée Guimet, a museum with a collection of Asian art and the Palais de Tokyo, home to modern art, can be found nearby. Another notable museum is the Musée Marmottan, with a collection of impressionist art.



16ème - Trocadéro

17th Arrondissement

The 17th Arrondissement is pretty much a nice residential area and has few tourist sights. It borders on the Arc de Triomphe and can be a good lodging choice if you don't mind being a bit away from the city center. The nearby La Defense business district has many hotels and is a safe and clean area.

Another neighborhood that is making a name for itself, thanks to the up-and-coming Batignolles area that houses many established French artists and writers. Because of its low profile, finding decent housing in a neighborhood that grants you access to Champs-Elysees and Parc Monceau is more manageable as well as bit more affordable for this otherwise bourgeois neighborhood.



Arrondissement 17 - Batignolles-Monceau

This is a diverse arrondissement, bordering the grand boulevards in the south and the lowly Pigalle neighborhood in the north. The Palais des Congrès, a large convention center, is located at the western tip of the arrondissement.






17ème - Palais de Congrès

The 18th Arrondissement




One of the most popular outer areas of Paris, Montmartre, attracts many visitors to its colorful street artists and stately Sacre Coeur church. Some of the world's greatest artists lived here, notably Picasso, Matisse, Max Jacob, Utrillo and Renoir. There are some charming eateries in this area. Unfortunately, the area is now also home to prostitutes and souvenir shops. And some of the "street artists" are rip-off artists as well; don't feel obligated to buy anything you did not ask for, even if they made it "just for you"! Watch out for people trying to tie bracelets on your wrist. They will trick you into buying them. Keep an eye on your wallet when you're in parts of this area.

Avoid any hotel or hostel that is off of the Barbès-Rochechouart or Château Rouge metro stop. If you happen to be staying in this district, use Google maps to make sure you are closer to the more populated Pigalle or Blanche metros. Parts of the 18th is like a vintage postcard of Paris (just don't mind the controversial Starbucks that just popped up) with sights to see such as Sacre Coeur, Montmartre, and the Moulin Rouge. Just be wary about wondering around the desolate side streets at night. Really!

	<p>Arrondissement 18 - Butte-Montmartre Montmartre, the once bohemian and still village-like district is often inundated with tourists. The Sacré-Coeur basilica and the Place du Tertre are the biggest tourist draws. Another famous sight here is the Moulin Rouge, located at the border of the 9th arrondissement.</p> 	
		18ème - Montmartre




19th Arrondissements

The 19th Arrondissement, an ethnically rich area, is home to the Museum of Science and Industry, an absolutely wonderful museum. You will also find the Buttes-Chaumont which is a great place for children to enjoy donkey rides and puppet shows. There are some excellent African and Middle Eastern restaurants in this area that offer quality cuisine for low prices. Look to see which ones are bustling with locals and eat there.

	<p>Arrondissement 19 - Buttes-Chaumont One of Paris's most interesting parks, the Parc des Buttes-Chaumont, is in the middle of this large arrondissement. Another, more modern park, the Parc de la Villette, contains the city's popular science museum.</p> 	
		19ème - Parc de la Villette

20th Arrondissements

The 20th Arrondissement is another ethnically diverse area. People from all of France's former empire can be found here, bringing their own cultures with them. The most famous landmark is the Père Lachaise Cemetery that is the final resting place for Oscar Wilde, Isadora Duncan, Colette, Edith Piaf, Jim Morrison of the Doors and a host of other celebrities and politicians. If you visit the Père Lachaise cemetery, be sure to look for the grave of Victor Noir; there is a life size statue of him lying dead, killed by Pierre Bonaparte. Interestingly, the statue is said to have fertility powers.

	<p>Arrondissement 20 – Ménilmontant This mostly residential, cosmopolitan arrondissement has no real attractions but it still gets its fair share of tourists thanks to the Cimetière du Père-Lachaise, the most famous cemetery in Paris.</p> 	
		20ème - Belleville, Père Lachaise

For a first time visitor to Paris, we wouldn't suggest staying in the 19th and 20th neighborhoods. While there are things to see like the sprawling Parc des Buttes Chaumont, the markets and of course the famous Père-Lachaise cemetery, but these areas would make a better day trip. The increasingly large community of young prostitutes (again with the prostitution, but hey, it's Paris!) in Belleville who aren't as obvious as the 75 year olds dressed like Britney in the 10th could find you in a less than desirable tango in Paris.

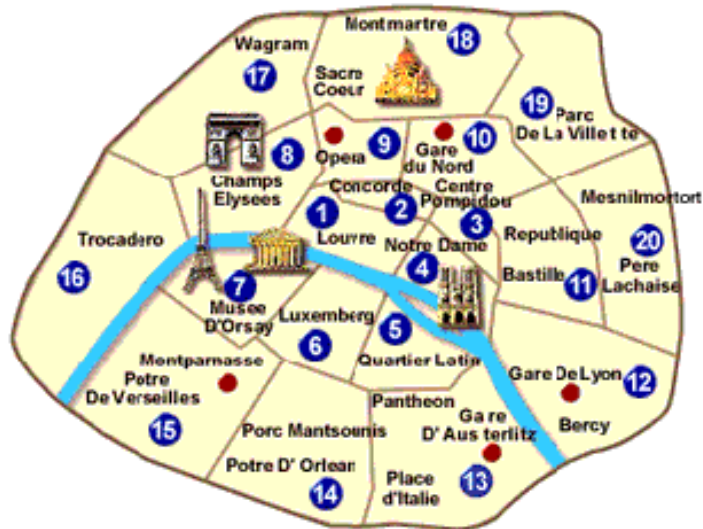
Paris Chinatown

13 arrondissement

Paris has 2 Chinatowns or “Quartier Chinois” as the French call them; one of the Chinatowns is in 13 arrondissement and another in Belleville, 20 arrondissement.

Birth of Paris Chinatown 13 arrondissement

Paris Chinatown 13 arrondissement was born in the 1970s and 80s as a result of overseas Chinese displaced by the new governments that emerged after the post-colonial era. The most famous of these migrants are the boat people, **overseas Chinese refugees fleeing Vietnam**. Lesser known are Overseas Chinese in Laos, Cambodia, French Guiana, French Caledonia, and Mauritius who resettled in Paris.



When the migrants arrived in Paris, 13 arrondissement was a Chinatown waiting to be born. The high rise buildings constructed by the Gaullist government’s urban development program were shunned by Parisians. To the migrants, it meant cheap rent and an empty social space waiting to be shaped so they settled there.

Paris Chinatown 13 arrondissement appears

Within the borders of avenue d'Ivry, avenue de Choisy and boulevard Masséna, Chinese businesses emerged to serve the cultural needs of this new Paris Chinatown; supermarkets stocked with familiar foodstuff from their former homelands, **Chinese pastries** shops offering popular and festive cakes, and of course many Chinese restaurants where dinners and banquets are held.

Many of the businesses have sign boards written in Chinese, French and depending on where they came from Vietnamese or Laos as well.

The most famous shop in Paris Chinatown 13 arrondissement is 'Tang Freres' owned by brothers from a **Laos Chinese** family. Tang Freres is not just a Chinese shopping place but a major institution in this Chinatown attracting the other French population and tourists.

Because of the way Paris Chinatown 13 arrondissement was developed, you cannot find any distinctively Chinese styled buildings. It does not mean that the traditional Chinese institutions (**clan associations**, temples, martial arts schools, Chinese schools...) are absent; they are just hidden beneath the physical façade.

The Chinatown is visibly at its most “Chinese” during the **Chinese New Year**. Being the major event celebrated, the streets are decorated with banners and New Year goods are displayed outside almost every shop. There are **Lion dance** performances, lighting of **fire crackers** and many performances to usher in the New Year. (See **Chinese New Year eve in Paris Chinatown 13 arrondissement**). There is even a big Chinese new year parade put together by the residents and business owners attracting both the locals and tourists.

Diaspora of diaspora

Paris Chinatown 13 arrondissement can be described as the coming together of Chinatowns from French Indochina (Cholon or **Saigon Chinatown**, **Vientiane Chinatown**, **Luang Prabang Chinatown** and those in Cambodia). Today, Paris Chinatown 13 arrondissement is now the largest Chinatown on continental Europe and it is still growing. Who would have thought the once forsaken high rise buildings could emerge into one of the most colorful neighborhood in the space of four decades?

The 13th arrondissement of central Paris is primarily a residential and business district in the south-eastern part of the French capital, lying on the Left Bank of the river Seine. Although not usually recognised as a natural drawcard for tourists, the 13th nonetheless does hold several attractions of interest to the traveller that include the recently-completed **Bibliothèque Nationale de France** (National Library), now part of a major new development of the **Paris Rive Gauche** district, the second large-scale urbanism project inside the city of Paris. To the west of the PRG along avenue de Tolbiac is the first of these urbanism projects, **Les Olympiades**, with its raised esplanade and the latest of the Paris Meteor (high-speed metro) stops, Les Olympiades. The southern part of the arrondissement is the "China town" of Paris, one of the (or even the) biggest in Europe.

On foot

The easy walk to the 13th *arrondissement* from the center of Paris (*Île de la Cité*) takes around 40 minutes, either through back streets or along the Seine promenade. It can be a very pleasant walk: you can walk across the Latin Quarter, for example, through the rue Mouffetard in the Paris/5th *arrondissement*.

By métro

You can get to the 13th *arrondissement* using 3 metro lines:

Ligne 7 serves **Gobelins'** near the Manufacture des Gobelins, **Place d'Italie**, **Tolbiac** good entrance point for the Paris Chinatown, **Maison-Blanche**, and **Porte d'Italie**, **Porte de Choisy** and **Porte d'Ivry**; you will get to these three stations if and only if you take a train that goes to the Mairie d'Ivry direction. Other trains take another direction and leave Paris immediately after Maison-Blanche.

Ligne 6 serves **Glacière**, **Corvisart**, **Place_d'Italie**, **Nationale**, **Chevaleret** - near the avant-garde art galleries of rue Louise-Weiss, and **Quai de la Gare**, near the Bat-O-Far and other .

Ligne 14 serves **Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand** (near the new Bibliothèque de France), and the newest station in Paris, **Olympiades**, the new terminus.

By bus

Ligne 27 Orange in color Ligne 47 Pink in color Ligne 64 goes from **Gambetta** to **Place d'Italie**. Turquoise/light green in color Ligne 67 Pink in color Ligne 83 Dark yellow in color

All of these lignes stop at Place d'Italie.

See

- **La Bibliothèque Nationale de France**, The National Library preserves collections of historic documents of both French and international origin. It holds 5,000 Greek manuscripts. You can get a day pass to visit or choose to visit only the expositions the library hosts.
- **La Butte aux Cailles**. A little district within the district. Very charming little streets on a hill in the western end of the 13 district. Nice for lunching/dining activities. This is the place where the band "Mano Negra" was hanging around.
- **Stade Charléty**. The Stade Charlety is a massive multi-sport arena, hosting football (soccer), tennis, rugby and squash matches.
- **Manufacture des Gobelins**, 42, avenue des Gobelins, ☐ 33(0)1 44 54 19 33. Once the dye works for royalty, it is now a museum.

Do

Stroll across the Seine on the Pont Simone de Beauvoir pedestrian bridge from the Bibliothèque Nationale to the Parc de Bercy (which is actually in the 12th district)

Eat

The southern part of the district, in the high-rise "Chinatown" area, is the good place to go if you like Chinese or Vietnamese food. Many outlets sell Vietnamese sandwiches; note, though, that the area is not the best for getting cheap, good quality Chinese food; Elsewhere the 13th has some other standouts.

- **Sinorama**, Avenue de Choisy at rue de Tolbiac. One of many Chinese places in the outer part of the Arrondissement
- **Phở 14**, (*across from Sinorama*) for Vietnamese soups, best known in the district.
- **Chez Gladines**, 5 rue des Cinq Diamants (*On the Butte aux cailles*). Big Basque salads and a lot of ambiance in this moderately low-budget restaurant. This place is almost always crowded on Saturday nights.
- **le Temps des Cerises**, 18-20, rue de la butte-aux-cailles (*Métro: Place d'Italie*), ☐ +33 1 45 89 69 48. If you are looking for quality French food, a large choice of good and affordable wine this is the place to go. This is what we can call a "restaurant populaire" (as opposed to other posh and expensive places around) with a friendly staff, a very nice atmosphere, no way to reserve a table, just show up and the "patron" will find a place for you (arrive before 8 if you don't want to queue up especially on weekends), shut down your mobile or you will be kicked out !!! The "Boudin a la Normande" (blood sausage) is a must, you can also get very decent goose liver and other French speciality such as "Salade de Museau". 12€ to 20€ (with a sliding scale)
- **Green Garden**, 20 rue nationale (*Métro: Port d'Ivry*), ☐ +33 1 45 82 99 54, East-Asian Vegetarian
- **Au Banquier**, 7 Rue du Banquier (*Métro Campo-Formio*), ☐ +33 1 43 36 73 46. Decoration is quite minimalist, but the northern african cuisine of this place is delicious.
- **Sala Thai**, 13 rue des Frères d'Astier de la Vigerie (*Métro Maison Blanche*), ☐ +33 1 45 84 13 22. delicious and genuine Thai cuisine. complete dinner for approx. 35€, including beverages

Drink

- **Batofar**, 11 quai François Mauriac (*Métro: Bibliothèque François Mitterrand or Quai de la Gare*), ☎ +33 1 56 29 10 11, [3]. This little red lighthouse boat which hosts dance and chill electronic music and other multimedia cultured events has been one of the coolest spots around for some time. The dancefloor is in the hold, and the lounge on the upper deck. Of particular interest is the Sunday afternoon chillout/cookout event which spills out onto the *quai* (during nice weather).
- **La Dame de Canton** (*La Guinguette Pirate*), Port de la gare (*Métro: Bibliothèque François Mitterrand or Quai de la gare*), ☎ +33 1 53 61 08 49, [4]. Known for years as the *Guinguette Pirate*, this Chinese junk has recently been rechristened with her "maiden name" as their website puts it. The restaurant and bookings are still the same, with equal parts world music, *chanson français* and concerts for kids.

Buy

- **Les frères Tang**, Avenue de Choisy. The Tang brothers have the biggest Chinese grocery in Paris, occupying several multistory barracks-like buildings tucked into the Olympic housing project. They're known for giving away large balloons during Chinese New Year celebrations. They are one of the rare supermarkets to be open on Sundays. edit