

Paris Is For Lovers

Presentation by
Paul Pacter

France

Formal Name:

English: French Republic.

French: République
française.

Short Form:

English: France.

French: France.



France and its Neighbors



France includes all overseas territories worldwide as part of France. **Different from USA.**

Overseas territories include:

- French Guiana.
- Saint Pierre and Miquelon.
- Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Martin, and Saint Barthélemy.
- French Polynesia and several Pacific Islands.
- Reunion in Indian Ocean.

Population (2024 est)

68.6 million including:

- Metropolitan France: 66.4 million.
- Overseas Territories: 2.3 million.

Median age (2024): 42.6
(USA 39.1).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_France

Area: About = Texas.

247,000 sq mi:

- 213,000 sq mi Europe.
- 34,000 sq mi is Overseas Territories.

Land use: Agriculture 53%.

10 Largest Cities in France - 2019 Pop.

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Paris | 2,165,423 |
| Marseille | 870,731 |
| Lyon | 522,969 |
| Toulouse | 493,465 |
| Nice | 342,669 |
| Nantes | 318,808 |
| Montpellier | 295,542 |
| Strasbourg | 287,228 |
| Bordeaux | 260,958 |
| Lille | 234,475 |



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_communes_in_France_with_over_20,000_inhabitants

Terrain

Highest point: Mont Blanc (Alps)
15,781 feet.

Largest lake: Geneva (shared with Switzerland) 224 sq. miles.

Longest river: Rhine (shared with Switz. and Neth.) 766 miles.

Longest river entirely in France:
Loire 629 miles.

Religion as declared:

- 49% Christianity
 - 47% Catholicism.
 - 2% Protestant.
- 33% No religion.
- 4% Islam.
- 5% Others.
- 9% Undeclared.

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/france/#people-and-society>

Levels of government:

1. National.
2. Regions: 18.
 - Metropolitan France (Europe): 13.
 - Overseas Terr: 5.
3. Departments (Metropolitan): 96.

National Government:

“Unitary semi-presidential constitutional republic”.

Unitary means central government has most power.

Semi-presidential means:

- Elected president.
- President appoints prime minister and cabinet to run the executive branch.
- But PM and cabinet report to legislature. President cannot dismiss them.

President:

Emmanuel Macron.
Elected May 2017.
5 year term.
Renewable once.



Prime Minister:

Sébastien Lecornu.
Since Sept 2025.



Legislature: Parliament

- Upper house: **Senate. 348 Senators elected by local councils.**
- Lower house: **National Assembly. 577 Deputies popularly elected.**

France's 18 Regions:

- Managed by elected regional councils.
- Cannot enact laws.
- Can levy taxes.
- Operate schools and universities, public transit, business assistance.



Economy

Real GDP (purchasing power parity): \$3.732 trillion (2024).

Real GDP per capita: \$54,500 (2024). **USA: \$85,810**

Unemployment rate: 7.4% (2024). **USA: 4.3%**

Public debt: 99% of GDP (2023).

Currency: Euro.

History 1

481 AD: Clovis I unites Frankish tribes into 1 country, 1 king.

800: Charles the Great expands French territory into Empire. Next Slide

843: Charles's warring heirs split the Empire into 3 areas, later to become roughly France, Germany, and Italy.

Holy Roman Empire 800 AD

Under Charlemagne.

Incl today's France, Germany, Austria, most of Italy, Poland, Slavic areas.



History 2

1066: Duke of Normandy Conquers England.

1337: English try to regain control. 100 Years War.

1500s: Peace and prosperity.

1600s-1700s: Growing rebellion against King and Church over taxes, national debt, feudalism.

History 3

1789: French Revolution. Started with peasant riots. Ended up abolishing the monarchy. Royalty executed.

1799: Napoleon takes power. Overruns Europe.

1815: British defeat Napoleon at Waterloo. Exiled.

History 4

1914: WWI. Germany invades France.

1919: Allies defeat Germany.

1940: WWII. Germany invades and controls France. Vichy.

1944: Allied Liberation of Paris.

1945: Allies defeat Germany.

1951: Treaty of Paris. Beginning of European Union.

Flag: Three bands of blue, white, red. Adopted 1794.



Colors: Symbolize opposition to the autocratic and clericalist royal standards of the past.

Citizenship by birth: No. By descent only (One Parent).

World Heritage Sites: 53 incl one site in New Caledonia and one site in French Polynesia.

Selected World Heritage Sites:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chartres Cathedral. | Amiens Cathedral. |
| Versailles. | Palace of Fontainebleau. |
| Paris, Banks of the Seine. | Carcassonne. |
| Loire Valley. | Maison-Carree, |
| Pont du Gard. | Nimes. |

Other

Time Difference: UTC+1 (NY+6).

National holiday: July 14.

Fête de la Fédération.

Celebrates French Revolution of 1789, not storming of Bastille.

Internet Country Code: .fr

Phone Code: +33.

It's Time to Visit Paris

Paris

- **Capital.** And largest city of France.
- **Divided into: 20 arrondissements (districts).**
- **Area: 40.7 sq miles.**



Paris

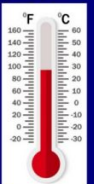
Population 2025 Jan est:

- **City proper: 2,050,000.**
 - **Metro area: 7 million.**
 - **Commuter Area: 13 million.**
- City council has 163 members: Council elects the mayor, not the people.**

Paris Temperatures:

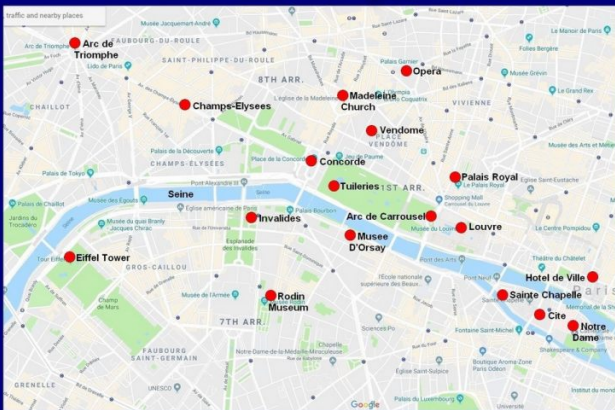
Avg High Avg Low

| | | |
|---------|------|------|
| January | 45 F | 37 F |
| July | 77 F | 60 F |



Free Wi-Fi zones: In public libraries, gardens, and parks.

Main Tourist Stops in Paris



Champs-Elysees Paris's Famous Avenue 1.2 miles long 230 feet wide.

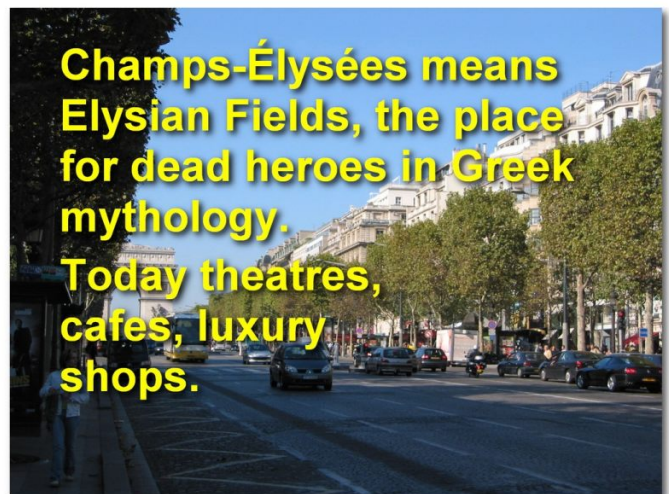


Champs Elysees From Place de la Concorde to Arc du Triomphe



Champs-Élysées means Elysian Fields, the place for dead heroes in Greek mythology.

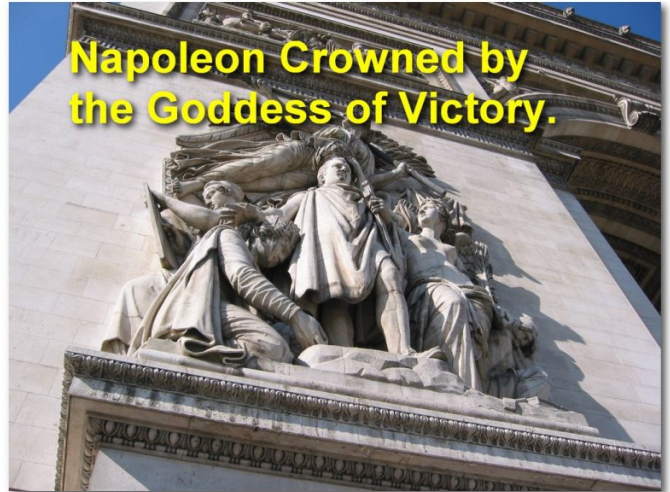
**Today theatres,
cafes, luxury
shops.**



Arc de Triomphe
Built 1806 to honor the
victories of Napoleon
Bonaparte



**Napoleon Crowned by
the Goddess of Victory.**



Visitor access via tunnel.
€13.
280 steps to the top.
Small elevator for
people who
cannot climb.



Arc de Triomphe
Great 360 degree views.
Open until 11pm.



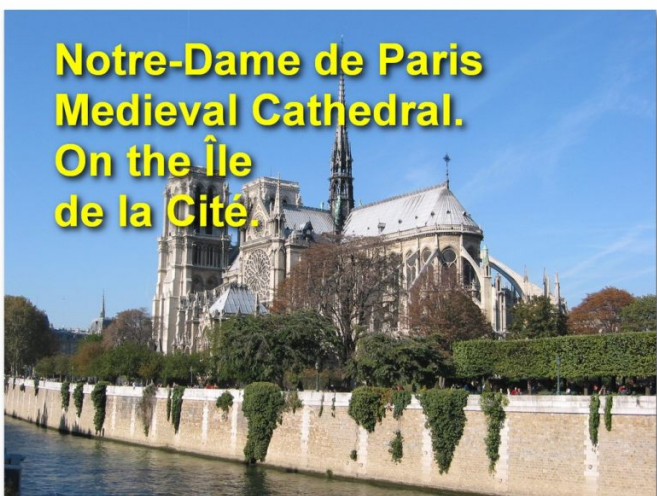
Montmartre
and
Sacre Coeur



**Looking onto the
Champs-Élysées**



Notre-Dame de Paris
Medieval Cathedral.
On the Île
de la Cité



Construction started 1163.
Mostly complete by 1260.
Length 420 ft.
Width 157 ft.
Nave height 115 ft.



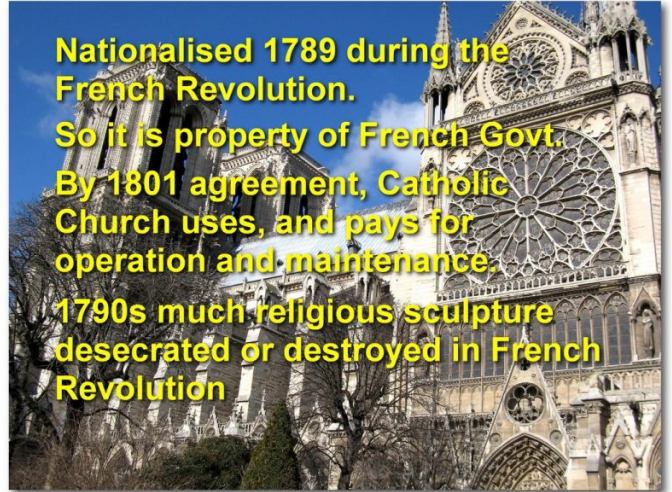
Number of towers 2.
Tower height 226 ft.
Number of spires 1
(destroyed by 2019 fire).
Spire height was 300 ft



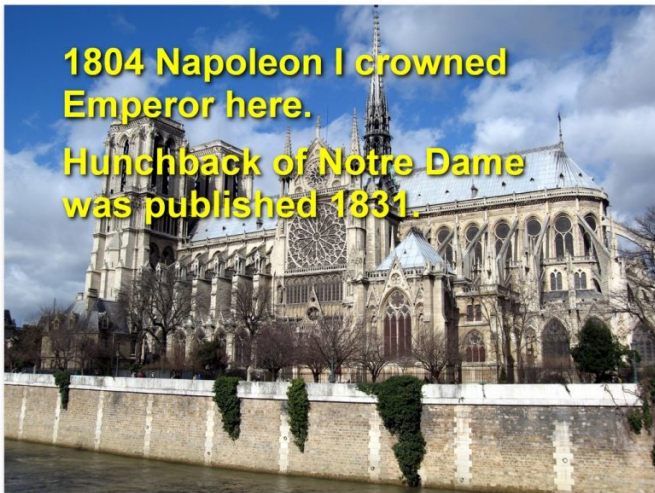
West Facade.



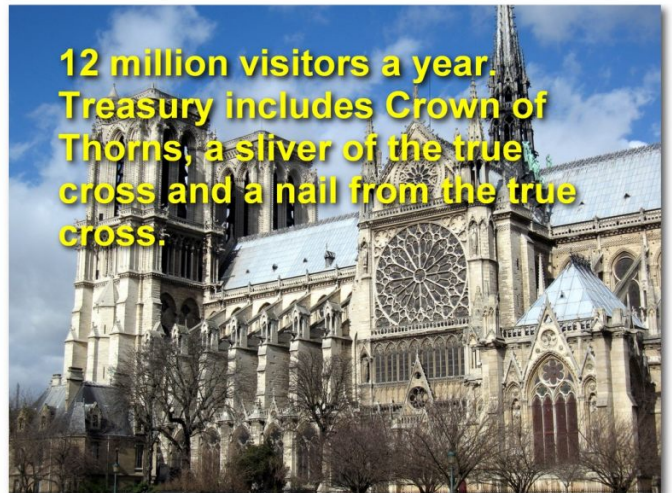
Nationalised 1789 during the French Revolution.
So it is property of French Govt.
By 1801 agreement, Catholic Church uses, and pays for operation and maintenance.
1790s much religious sculpture desecrated or destroyed in French Revolution



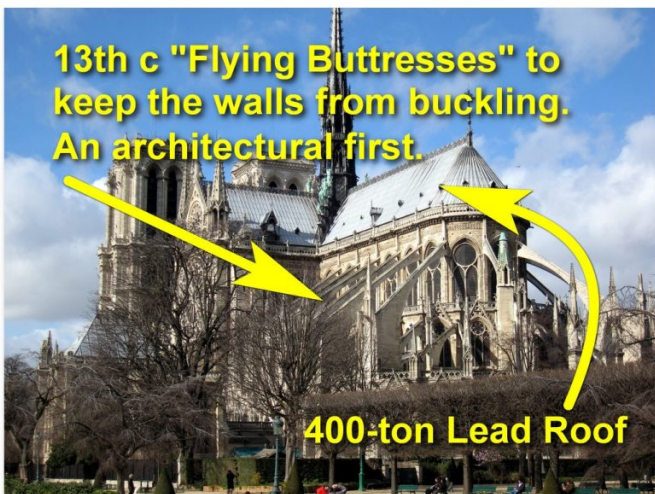
1804 Napoleon I crowned Emperor here.
Hunchback of Notre Dame was published 1831.



12 million visitors a year.
Treasury includes Crown of Thorns, a sliver of the true cross and a nail from the true cross.



13th c "Flying Buttresses" to keep the walls from buckling.
An architectural first.



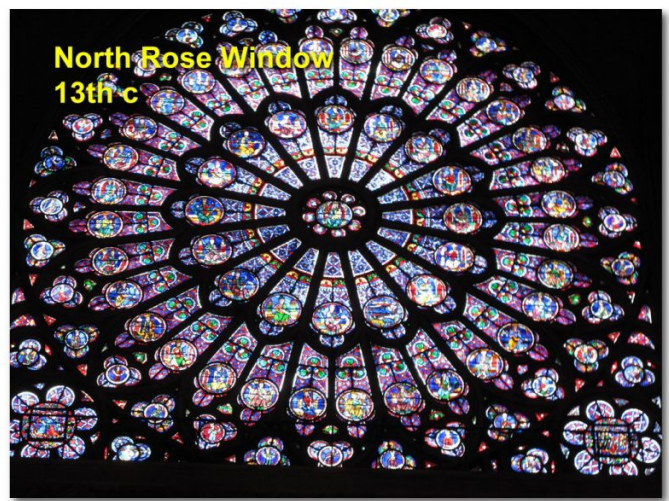
400-ton Lead Roof

Notre Dame Interior.
Rib Vault Ceiling destroyed in 2019 Fire

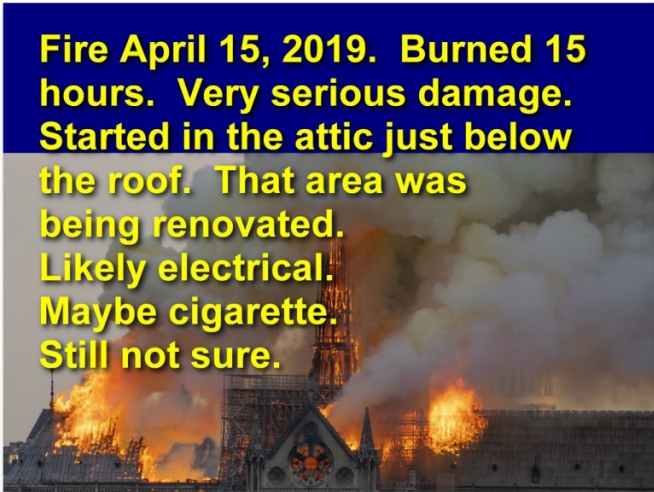




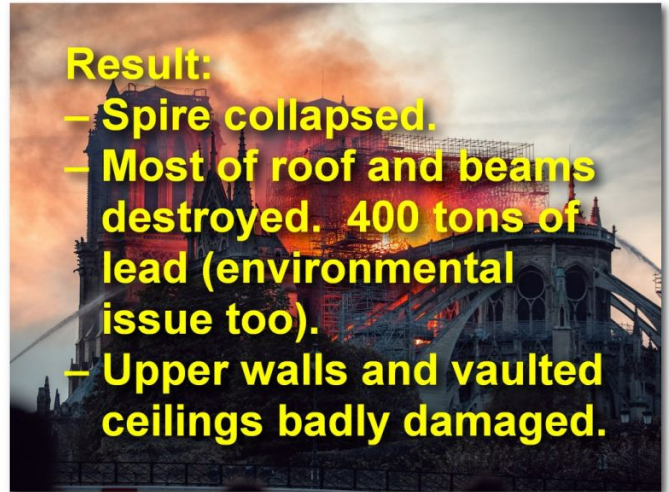
Notre-Dame Interior



North Rose Window
13th c



Fire April 15, 2019. Burned 15 hours. Very serious damage. Started in the attic just below the roof. That area was being renovated. Likely electrical. Maybe cigarette. Still not sure.



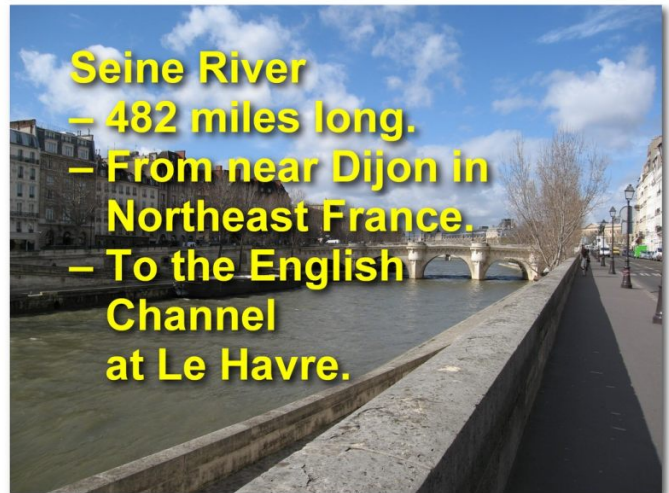
Result:
 – Spire collapsed.
 – Most of roof and beams destroyed. 400 tons of lead (environmental issue too).
 – Upper walls and vaulted ceilings badly damaged.

Stabilizing the structure against possible collapse was completed in November 2020.

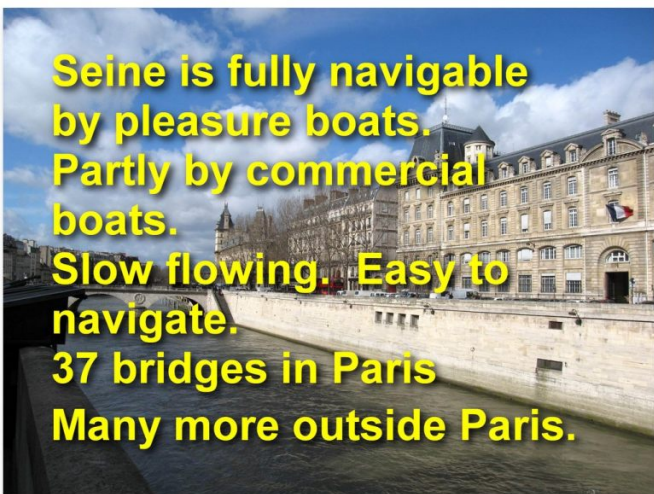
Reconstruction began early 2021.

Reopened to public Dec 8, 2024.

Repair cost \$750 million.



Seine River
 – 482 miles long.
 – From near Dijon in Northeast France.
 – To the English Channel at Le Havre.



Seine is fully navigable by pleasure boats. Partly by commercial boats. Slow flowing. Easy to navigate. 37 bridges in Paris. Many more outside Paris.



Average depth in Paris is 31 feet.



Many tour boats, dinner cruises, water taxis.



During a flood alert in 2003, about 100,000 works of art were moved out of Paris. Largest relocation of art since World War II. Much of the art in Paris is kept in underground storage rooms that would have been flooded.



Eiffel Tower. Wrought Iron. Built as the entrance to 1889 World's Fair. Celebrate centennial of French Revolution. Designed by Gustav Eiffel.



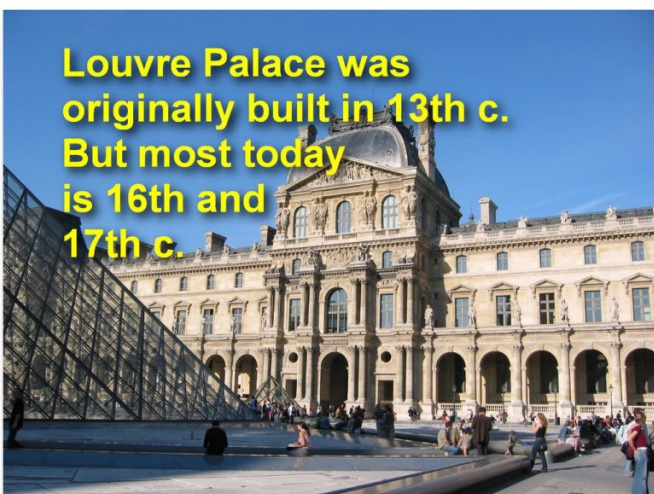
Most-visited paid monument in the world. 7 million visitors a year. Average 25,000 people a day. 1,063 ft tall. Tallest structure in Paris.



3 Levels. Elevators. Repainted every 7 years. 60 tons of paint.



Louvre World's Largest Art Museum. In 13th c buildings known as the Louvre Palace.



Louvre Palace was originally built in 13th c. But most today is 16th and 17th c.



Collection 380,000 items. 35,000 on display any one time. Annual visitors 9.6 million.

August 1792, Louis XVI was imprisoned and the royal collection in the Louvre became national property.

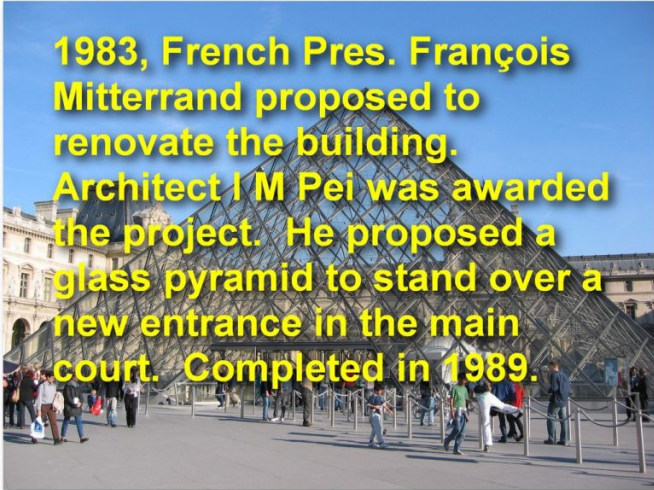


Eight curatorial departments:

1. Egyptian Antiquities.
2. Near Eastern Antiquities.
3. Greek, Etruscan, Roman.
4. Islamic Art.
5. Sculpture.
6. Decorative Arts.
7. Paintings: 7,500 works 13th c. to 1848. 2/3ds French artists. Newer works are in Musee D'Orsay.
8. Prints and drawings.



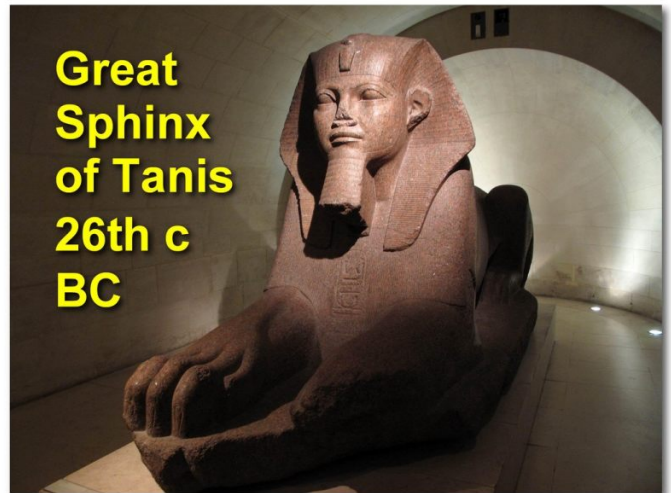
1983, French Pres. François Mitterrand proposed to renovate the building. Architect I M Pei was awarded the project. He proposed a glass pyramid to stand over a new entrance in the main court. Completed in 1989.



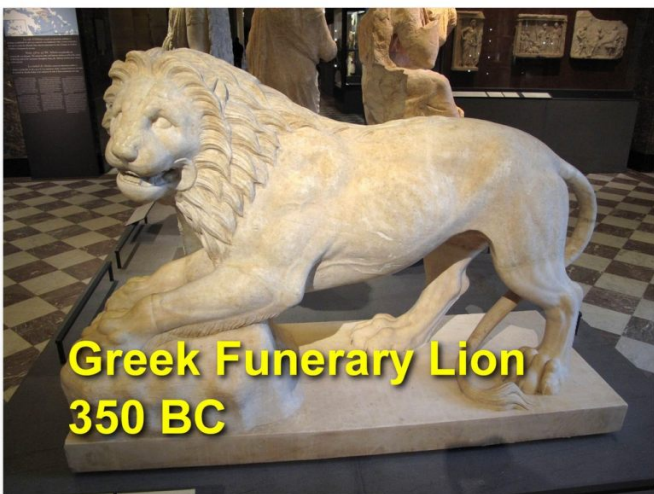
A few examples from the collection follow



**Great Sphinx of Tanis
26th c BC**



**Greek Funerary Lion
350 BC**



**Venus de Milo
Btw 130 and 100 BC**



9 Muses Sarcophagus
Roman, 2nd c AD



Winged Victory of Samothrace
190 BC



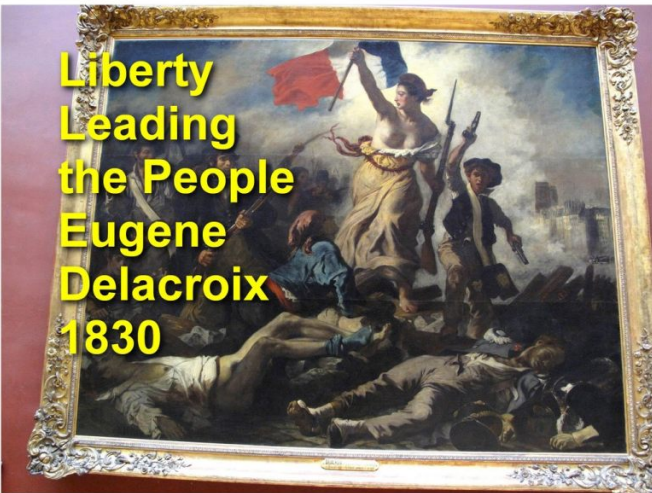
Mona Lisa
Leonardo
Da Vinci
1503-1519



The Charging Chasseur
1812
Théodore
Géricault



Liberty Leading the People
Eugene
Delacroix
1830



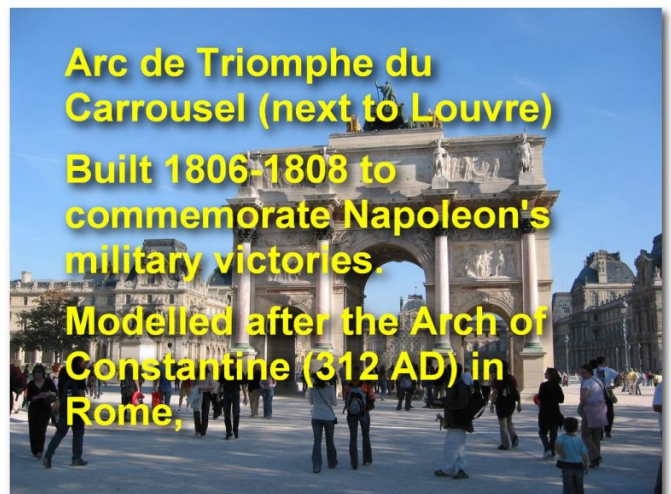
Consecration of the Emperor Napoleon and Coronation of Empress Joséphine in 1804, Jacques Louis David



Louvre - Interior Courtyard



Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel (next to Louvre)
Built 1806-1808 to commemorate Napoleon's military victories.



Modelled after the Arch of Constantine (312 AD) in Rome,

Top statue is Peace Riding in a
Triumphal Chariot



Copied from St Mark's in Venice.
However...

When originally built,
Arc du Carrousel was
surmounted by the
actual 1204 bronze
horses from St Mark's
Cathedral in Venice,
which Napoleon had
captured in 1798.



In 1815, those horses were returned to Venice
by terms of the Congress of Vienna.

The current Paris horses were sculpted 1828.

The Venice horses are now inside St Mark's
Cathedral for conservation purposes. St
Mark's facade now has copies.

Tuileries - 17th c Garden
Many Sculptures
West of Louvre



Tuileries
Grand Bassin Rond



Musée de l'Orangerie - 1852
Gallery of impressionist
and post-impressionist
paintings



In Tuileries next to
Place de la Concorde.

Orangerie includes 8 large Water
Lilies murals by Claude Monet.
Monet helped design the museum.



Internet Photo

Orangerie was
built in 1852 for
winter storage of
store the citrus
trees of Tuileries.

Large glass
windows on
south side to
allow light to the trees. North windows are
much smaller.

Before the Orangerie was built, the trees were
stored in the Louvre.

Orangerie used to store trees until 1922.

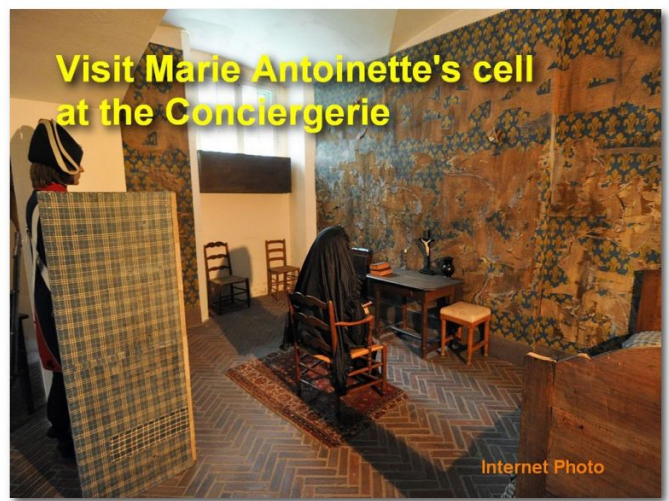


Conciergerie - 10th to 14th c.
Former Royal Palace
on Ile de la Cite.
Now used
mostly for
law courts





Conciergerie
During French Revolution,
thousands of prisoners were
held here.
Then taken
for execution.

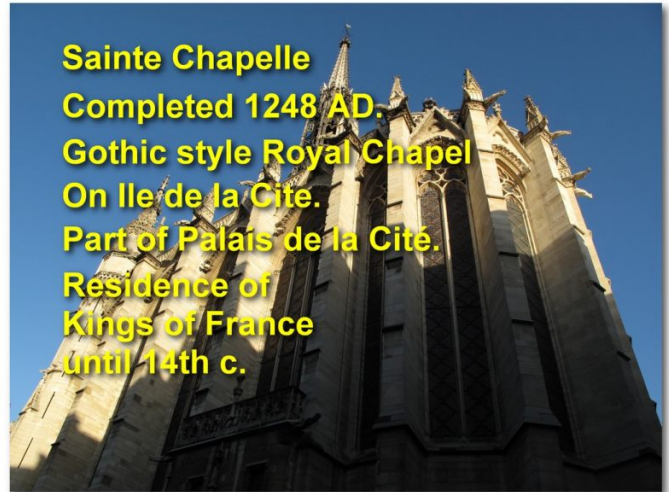


**Visit Marie Antoinette's cell
at the Conciergerie**

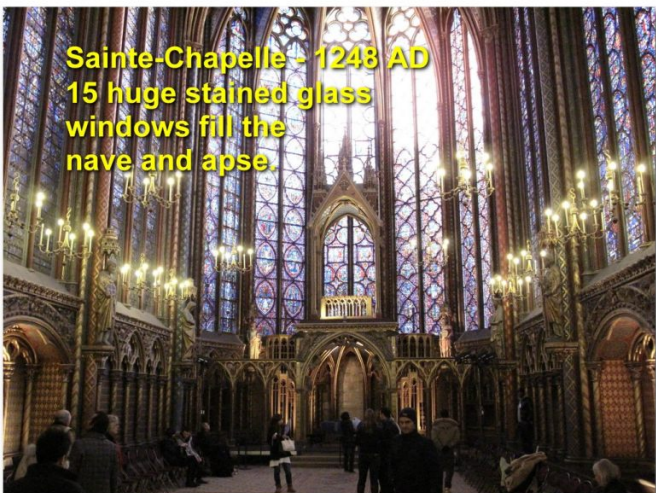
Internet Photo



Conciergerie
10th-14th c
Main palace
of the medieval
Kings of France



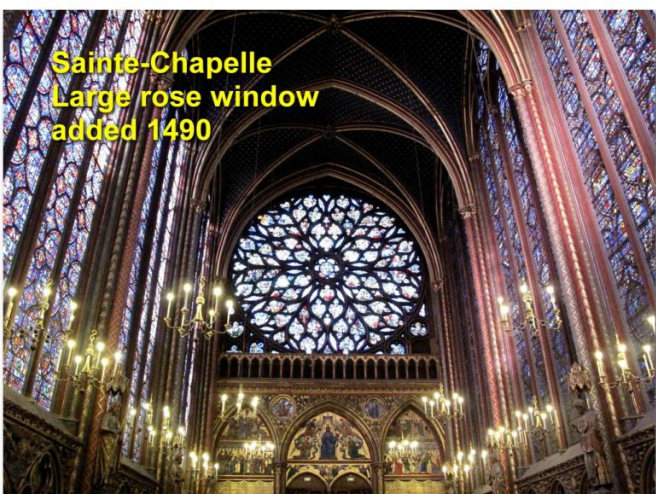
Sainte Chapelle
Completed 1248 AD.
Gothic style Royal Chapel
On Ile de la Cite.
Part of Palais de la Cité.
Residence of
Kings of France
until 14th c.



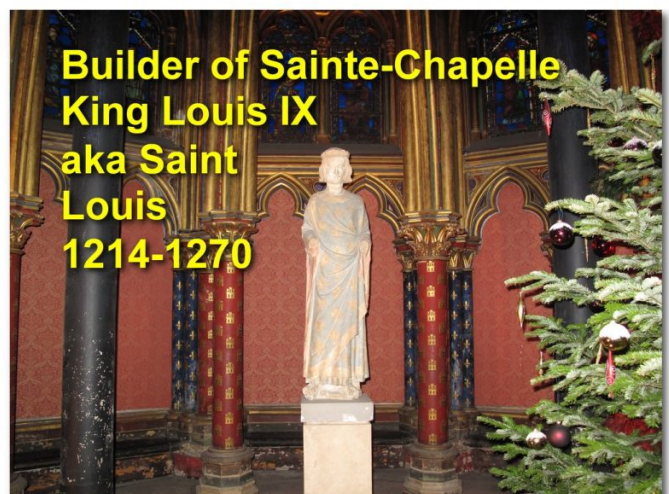
Sainte-Chapelle - 1248 AD
15 huge stained glass
windows fill the
nave and apse.



**Total of 1,113 13th c
Stained Glass Windows**



Sainte-Chapelle
Large rose window
added 1490



Builder of Sainte-Chapelle
King Louis IX
aka Saint
Louis
1214-1270

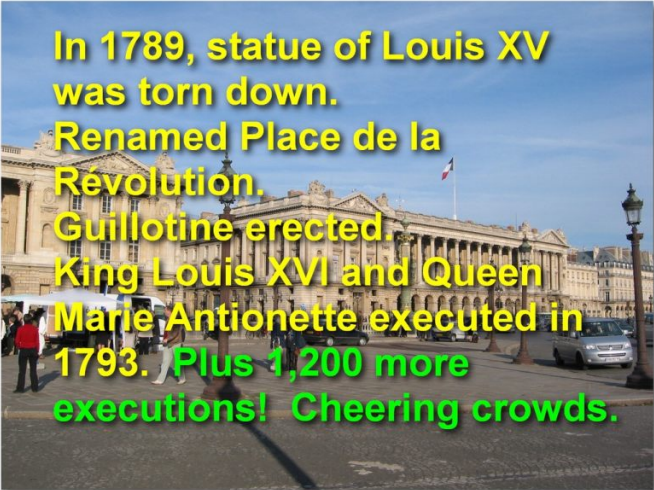
Île de la Cité has some residential and dining areas



Place de la Concorde
Largest public square in Paris: 19 acres.
Built 1763.
Original name Louis XV Plaza.



In 1789, statue of Louis XV was torn down.
Renamed Place de la Révolution.
Guillotine erected.
King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antionette executed in 1793. Plus 1,200 more executions! Cheering crowds.



Place de la Concorde
Hotel de la Marine
Naval Offices



Place de la Concorde
Fontaine des Mers
1840



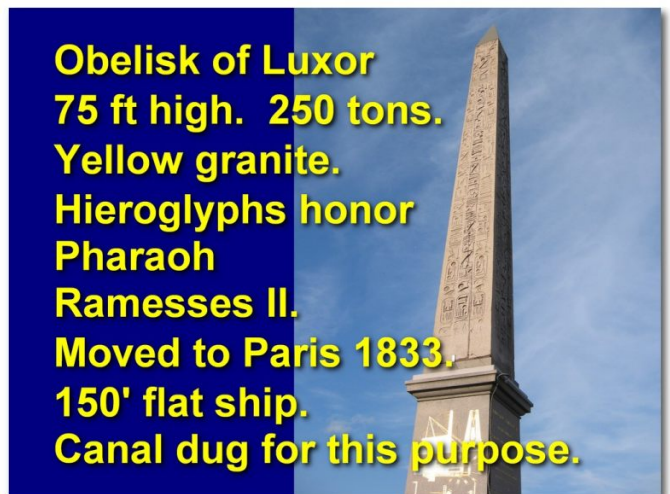
Place de la Concorde
Wedding
Photo Ops



Obelisk of Luxor
1,000 BC.
One of a pair.
Other remains at Luxor, Egypt.



Obelisk of Luxor
75 ft high. 250 tons.
Yellow granite.
Hieroglyphs honor Pharaoh Ramesses II.
Moved to Paris 1833.
150' flat ship.
Canal dug for this purpose.





Place de la Concorde Ferris Wheel
Installed for Millennium.
Opened, closed, relocated (most recently for Paris Olympics).
2025 reopened in Tuilleries.
Permanent?



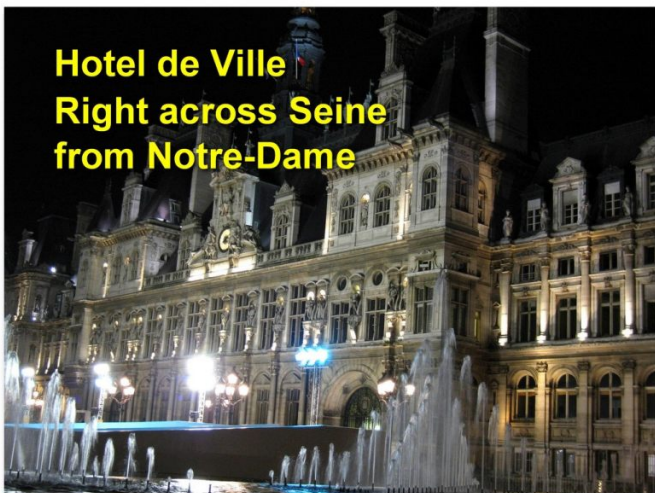
Hotel de Ville – City Hall
Mayor of Paris and city government offices.



Hotel de Ville
16th-17th c original
was burned by
revolutionaries 1871.
Rebuilt 1874-1882.



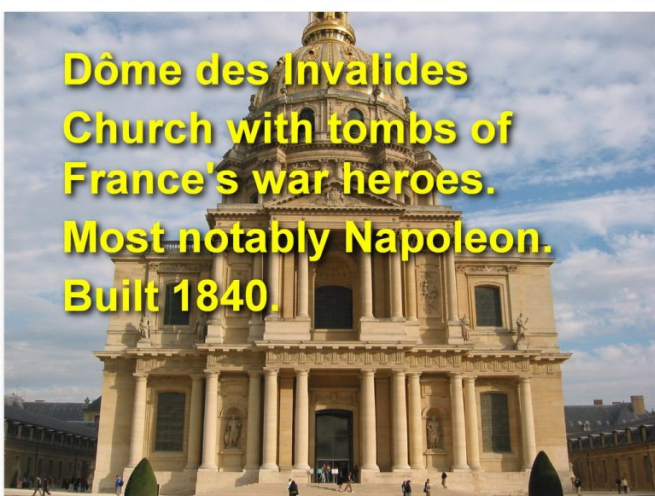
Ice Skating at Hotel de Ville in Winter



Hotel de Ville
Right across Seine
from Notre-Dame



Les Invalides
Complex of buildings
all relating to
military history
of France.
Museums
and monuments.



Dôme des Invalides
Church with tombs of
France's war heroes.
Most notably Napoleon.
Built 1840.



1792-1815: Napoleon
conquered much of
Europe (Italy, Austria,
Spain, Portugal), eastern
Europe, Egypt, and
Russia.
1804: Named Emperor of
France.

In 1803, to raise funds for future wars, Napoleon sold France's Louisiana Territory in North America to the United States for \$15 million.

"Louisiana Purchase".

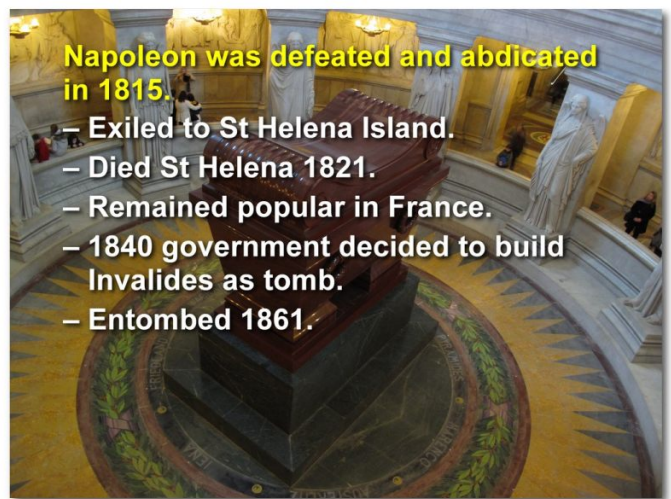
800,000 sq mi.

From Mississippi to Rocky Mts.



Napoleon was defeated and abdicated in 1815.

- Exiled to St Helena Island.
- Died St Helena 1821.
- Remained popular in France.
- 1840 government decided to build Invalides as tomb.
- Entombed 1861.



Napoleon Bonaparte Quotes:

"The only way to lead people is to show them a future: a leader is a dealer in hope."

"Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake."

"Envy is a declaration of inferiority."

"The reason most people fail instead of succeed is they trade what they want most for what they want at the moment."

"If you wish to be a success in the world, promise everything, deliver nothing."

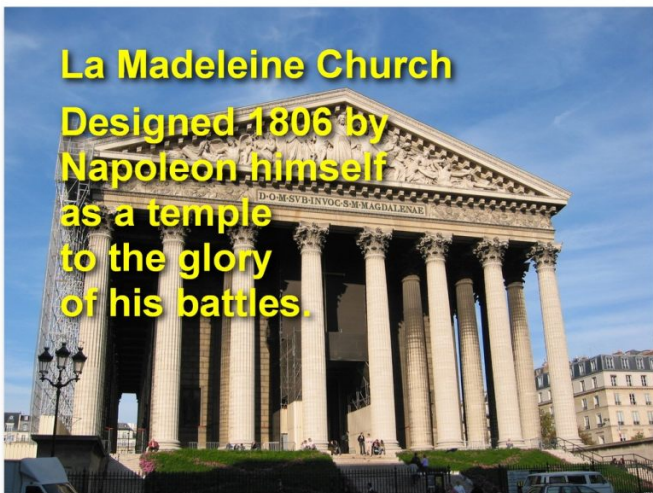
Napoleon Bonaparte

"Wherever my reign has passed, it has left lasting traces"



La Madeleine Church

Designed 1806 by Napoleon himself as a temple to the glory of his battles.



La Madeleine Church

Completed 1828
Not consecrated until 1842.
Inspired by 2 AD Maison Carrée in Nîmes.



Altar of La Madelaine Church.
Napoleon seated before Jesus.

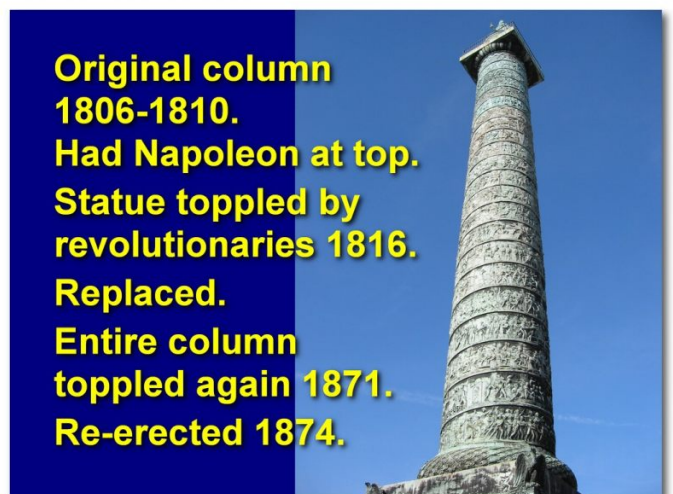


Montmartre

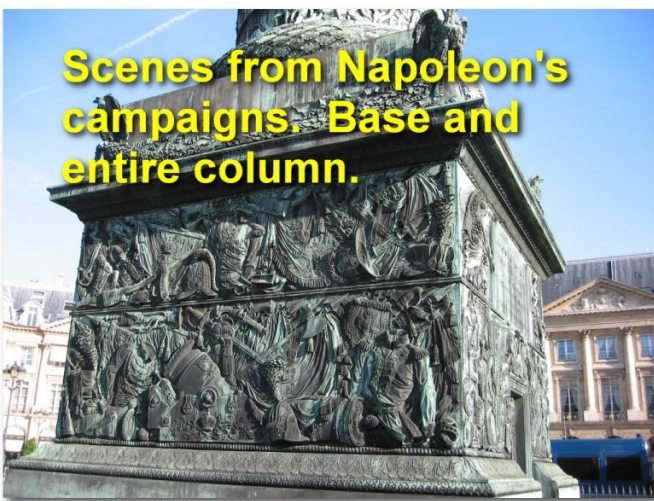
430 ft high hill in Paris's 18th arrondissement.

Known primarily for its artistic history.





Scenes from Napoleon's campaigns. Base and entire column.



Paris Metro

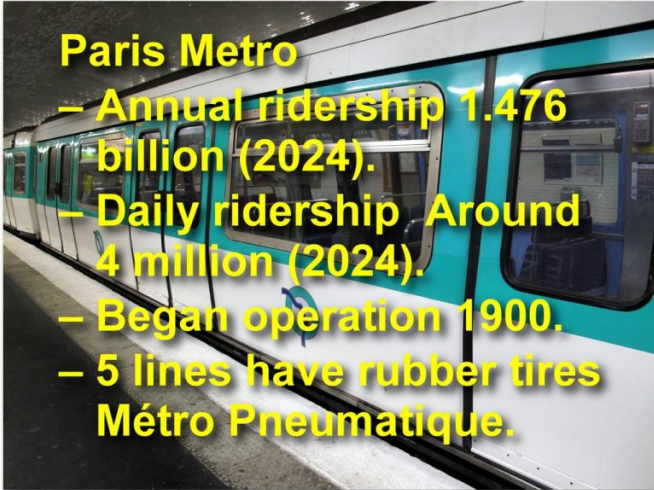
Mostly underground train system.

- 152 mi long.
- 321 stations.
- 16 lines (4 more under construction).



Paris Metro

- Annual ridership 1.476 billion (2024).
- Daily ridership Around 4 million (2024).
- Began operation 1900.
- 5 lines have rubber tires Métro Pneumatique.

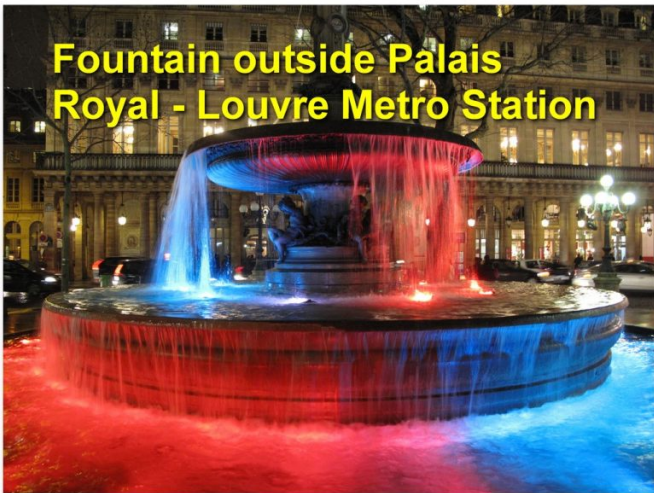


Paris Metro

Entrance to Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre Station



Fountain outside Palais Royal - Louvre Metro Station



Paris Metro - Buskers
Musiciens ambulants



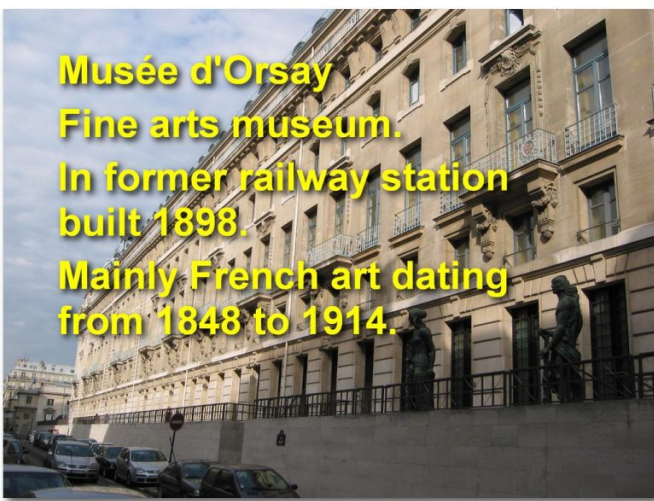
Paris Mailbox



Institut de France
Learned societies covering:

- French language
- Humanities
- Sciences
- Fine Arts
- Painting and Sculpture
- Music
- Architecture
- Moral and Political Sciences





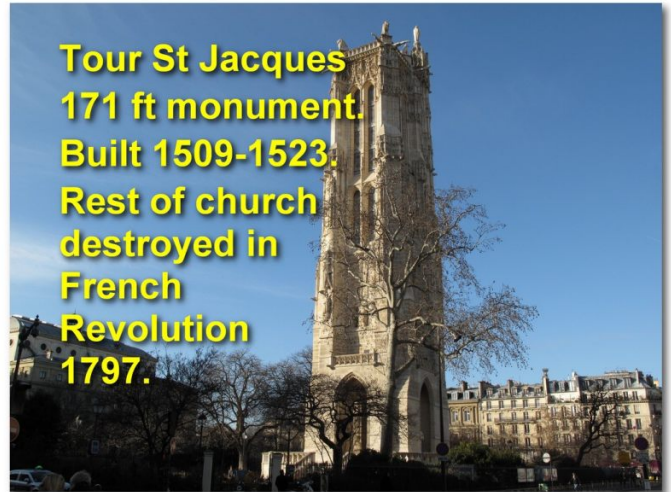
Musée d'Orsay
Fine arts museum.
In former railway station
built 1898.
Mainly French art dating
from 1848 to 1914.



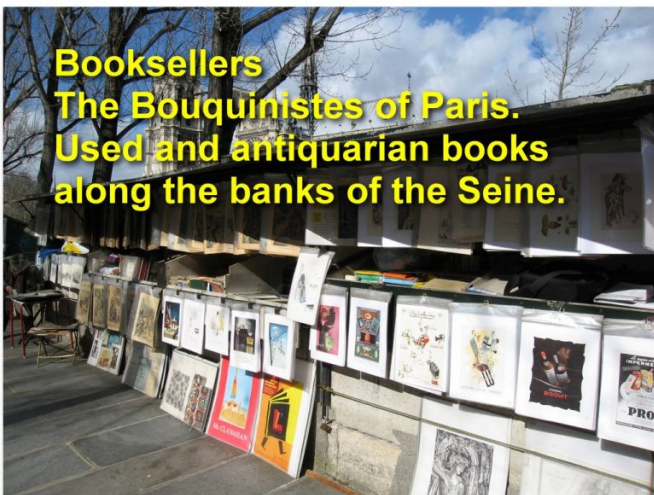
Musée d'Orsay
Largest collection of
Impressionist and
post-Impressionist
masterpieces in the world.
Incl 24 Van Gogh,
86 Claude Monet,
34 Manet, 81 Renoir,
43 Degas, 24 Gauguin,
etc etc.
3.6 million visitors a year.



Palais de Justice
1857-1868.
Courthouses.



Tour St Jacques
171 ft monument.
Built 1509-1523.
Rest of church
destroyed in
French
Revolution
1797.



Booksellers
The Bouquinistes of Paris.
Used and antiquarian books
along the banks of the Seine.



Deportation Memorial
Memorial to the 200,000 people
who were deported from Vichy
France to the Nazi
concentration camps.

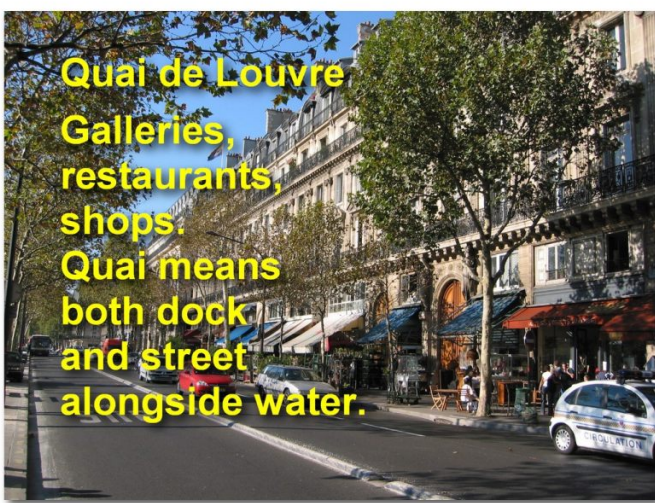
Right behind Notre-Dame.
Opened 1962.



Theatre de la Ville
1862 theatre.
Today
primarily
dance
performances.



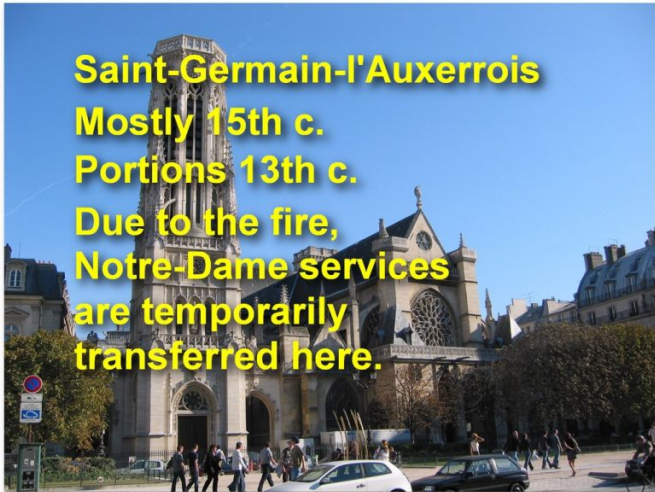
Fontaine du Palmier
One of 15 fountains
commissioned by
Napoleon 1806 to
commemorate his
victories.
Finished 1808.



Quai de Louvre
Galleries,
restaurants,
shops.
Quai means
both dock
and street
alongside water.



Quai de Louvre
Aka Quai
Francois Mitterrand



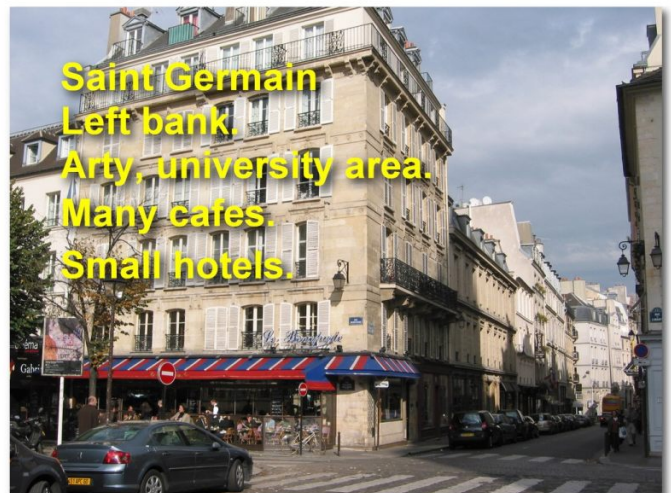
Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois
Mostly 15th c.
Portions 13th c.
Due to the fire,
Notre-Dame services
are temporarily
transferred here.



Joan of Arc
Gilded bronze equestrian
statue of Joan of Arc.
Sculpted by Emmanuel
Fremiet. 1874.



Joan of Arc - 1412-1431
Heroine of France.
In her youth, England
controlled France.
Had a vision
to retake France
from England.
Captured. Burned
at the stake.
Inspired France on
to victory over England
in 1453. Now Saint.

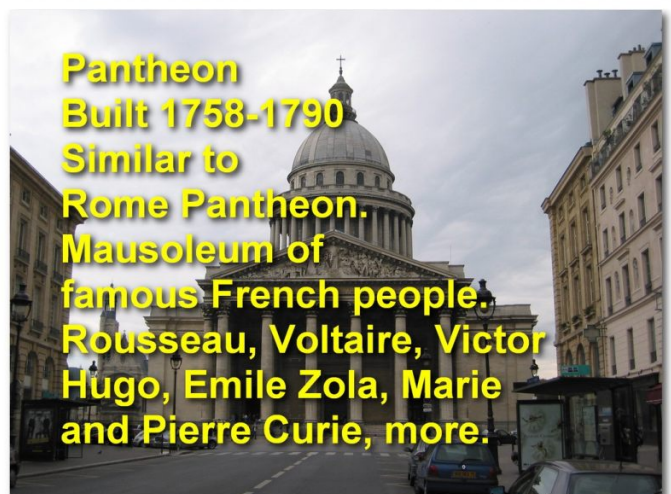


Saint Germain
Left bank.
Arty, university area.
Many cafes.
Small hotels.

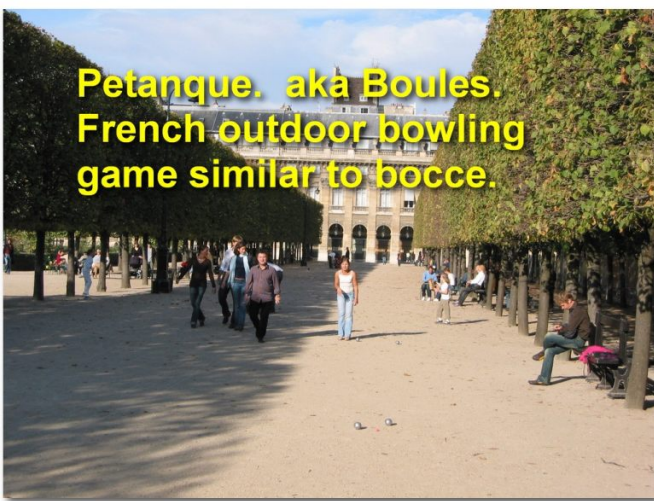


Abbey of
St Germain
des Pres
12th c
and later.

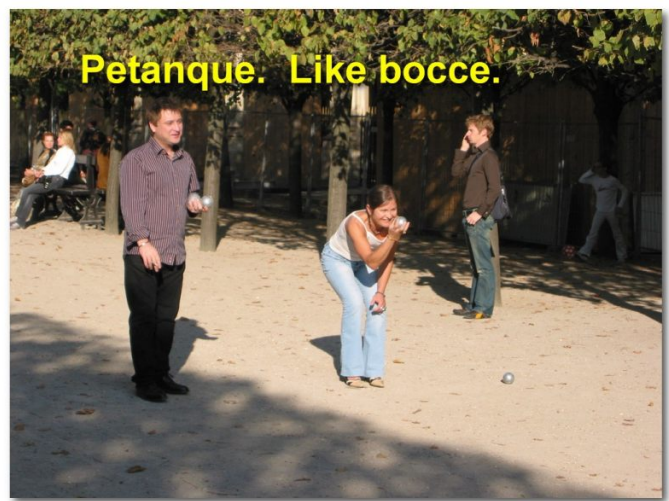
Eugène Delacroix Museum
is next door.



Pantheon
Built 1758-1790
Similar to
Rome Pantheon.
Mausoleum of
famous French people.
Rousseau, Voltaire, Victor
Hugo, Emile Zola, Marie
and Pierre Curie, more.



Petanque. aka Boules.
French outdoor bowling
game similar to bocce.



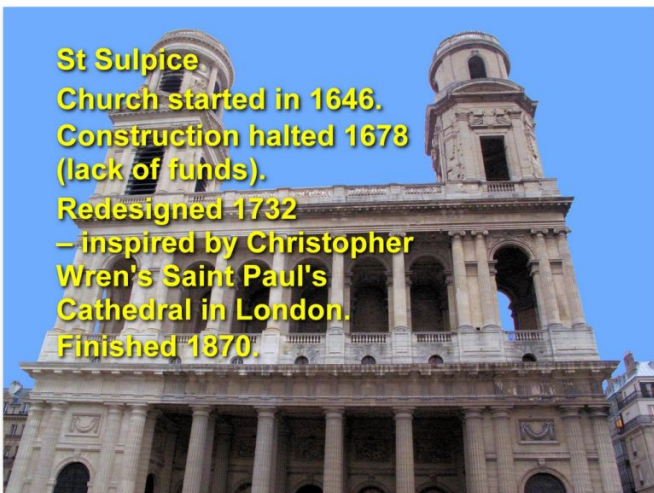
Petanque. Like bocce.



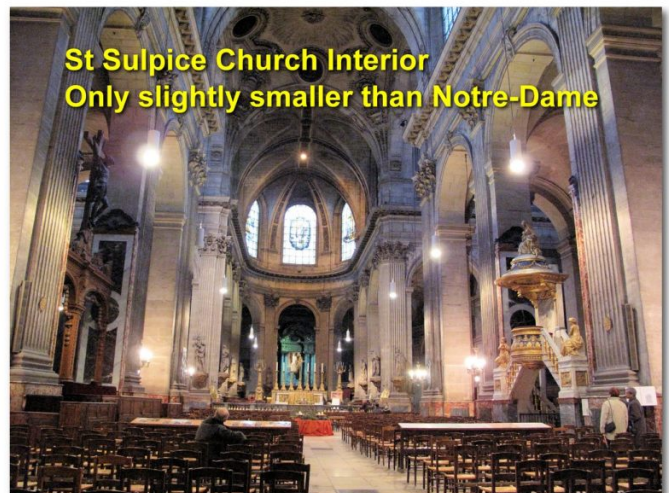
Palais Royale
Built for Cardinal Richelieu
1633 to 1639.
Became a royal palace 17th
and 18th c.



**Palais Royale now offices of
Council of State (both
legislative and judicial
responsibilities).
Also Ministry of Culture.**



St Sulpice
Church started in 1646.
Construction halted 1678
(lack of funds).
Redesigned 1732
– inspired by Christopher
Wren's Saint Paul's
Cathedral in London.
Finished 1870.



St Sulpice Church Interior
Only slightly smaller than Notre-Dame



Pont Neuf

**Pont Neuf means
“New Bridge”.
Actually it is the
OLDEST bridge
on the Seine.
Built 1578-1607.
12 arches.
Crosses over Île
de la Cité.
Length: 761 ft.**



**Shopping - Department Stores
La Samaritaine**



Shopping - Department Stores
Galeries Lafayette



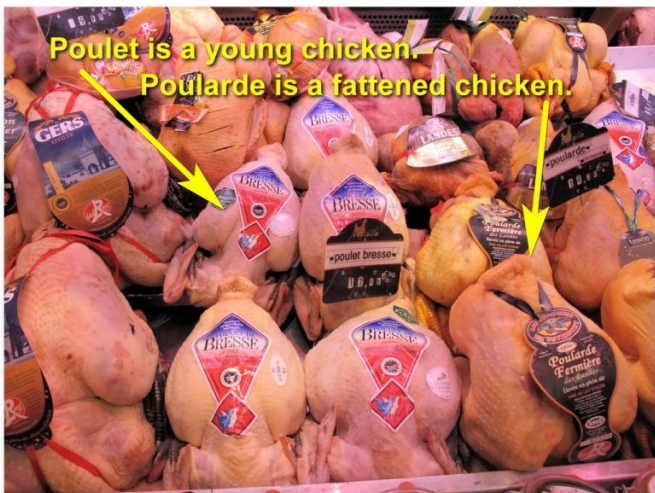
Shopping - Department Stores
Printemps



We conclude with a few photos of Paris's
spectacular markets, shops, and cafes.



Oysters and Mussels



Poulet is a young chicken.
Poularde is a fattened chicken.



White Asparagus

Pomegranates







