



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 2023

1 Paris	2,103,778
2 Marseille	886,040
3 Lyon	519,127
4 Toulouse	514,819
5 Nice	357,737
6 Nantes	327,734
7 Montpellier	310,240
8 Strasbourg	293,771
9 Bordeaux	267,991
10 Lille	238,246



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 by 6 countries) 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.

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. No judiciary.
- 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).

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:

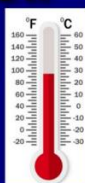
- **City proper:** 2,050,000.
 - **Metro area:** 7 million.
 - **Commuter Area:** 13 million.
- City council has 163 members:** Council elects the mayor, not the people.

Paris Temperatures:

Avg High Avg Low

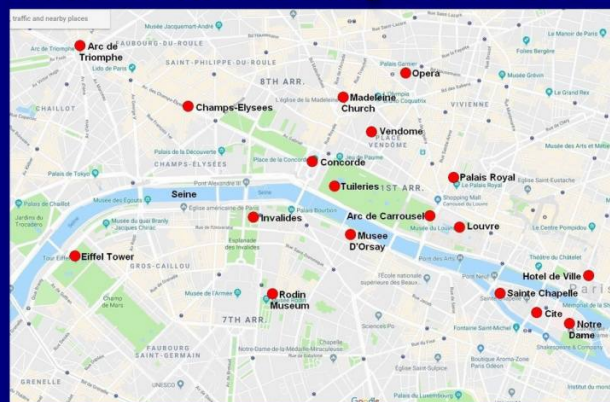
January 45 F 37 F

July 77 F 60 F



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

Main Tourist Stops in Paris



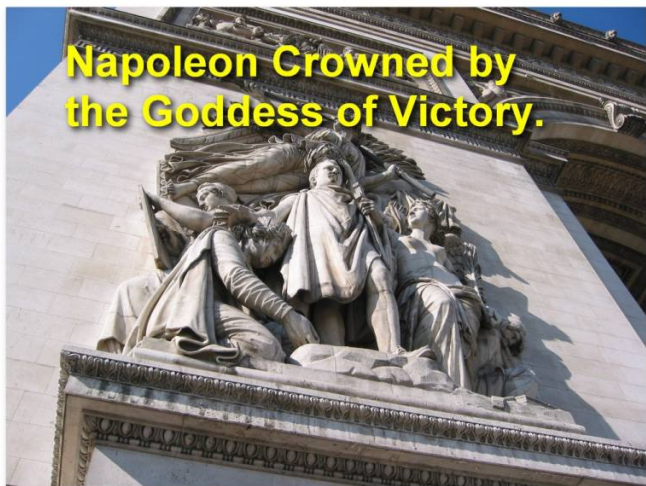
Champs-Elysees
Paris's Famous Avenue
1.2 miles long.
230 feet wide.



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.

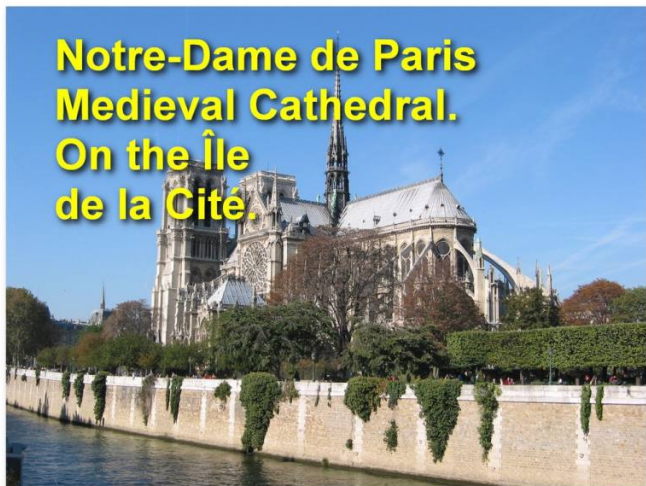




Arc de Triomphe
Great 360 degree views.
Open until 11pm.



Looking onto the
Champs-Élysées



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



Notre Dame Area Map



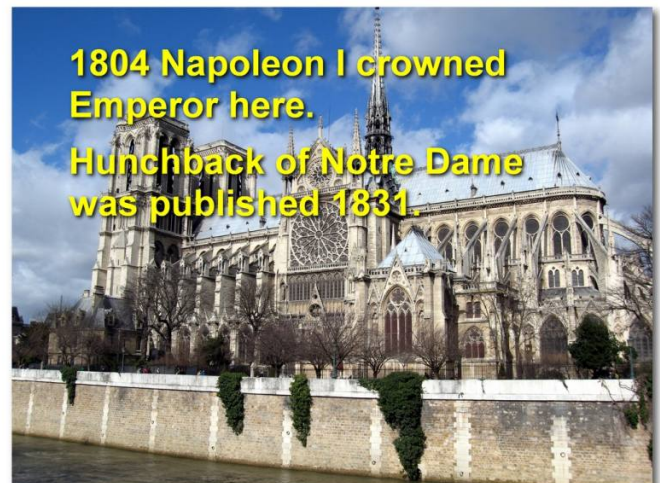
Construction
started 1163.
Mostly
complete
by 1260.
Length 420 ft.
Width 157 ft.
Nave height 115 ft.



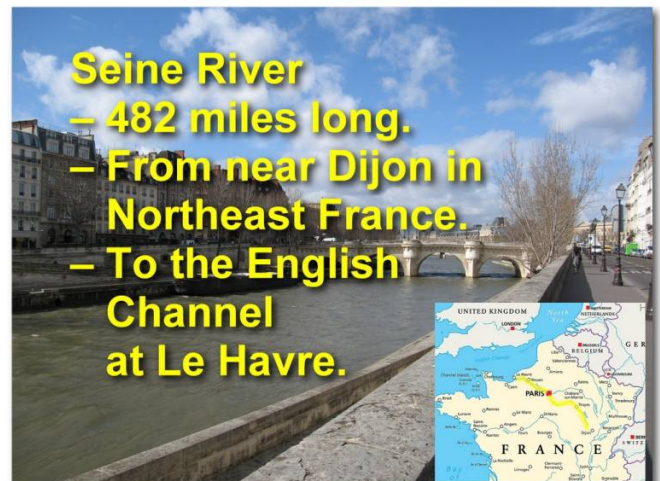
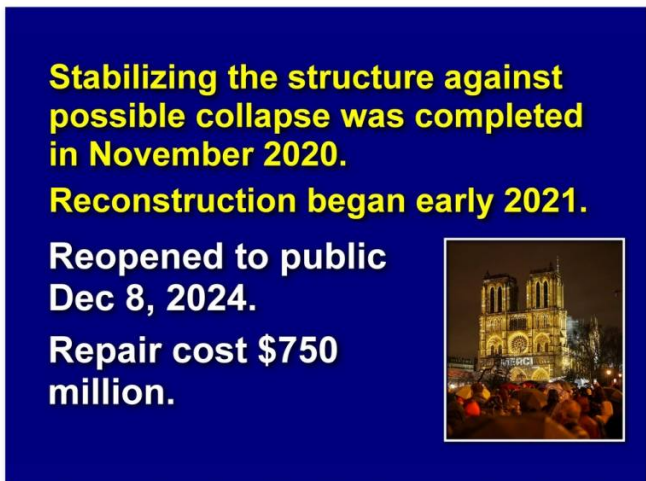
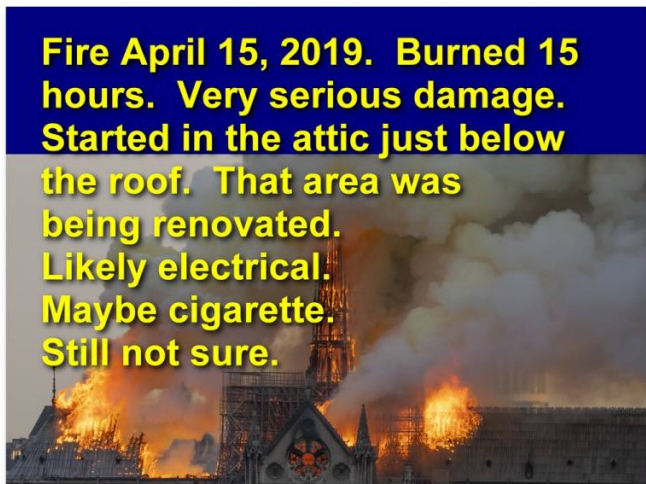
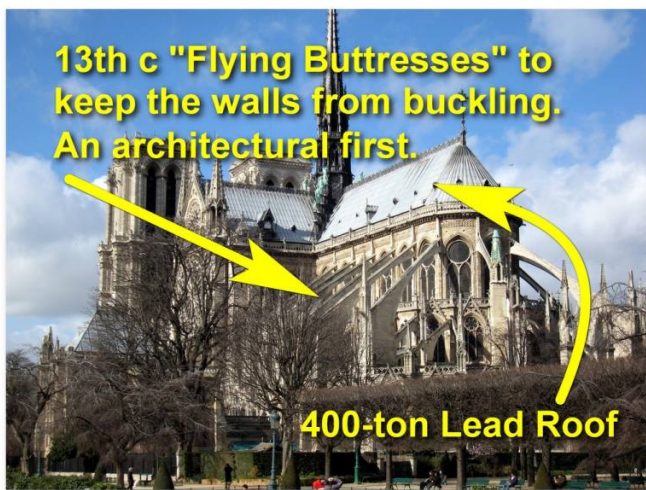
West Facade.



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.



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.

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.

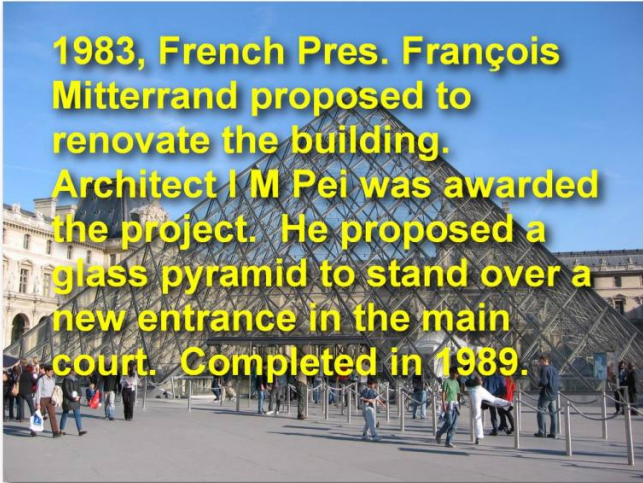


Eight curatorial departments:

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.

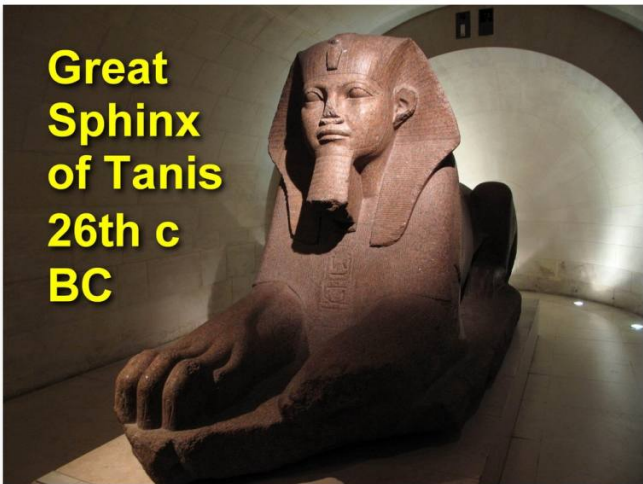


1983, French Pres. François Mitterrand proposed to renovate the building. Architect I M Pei was awarded the project. He proposed a glass pyramid to stand over a new entrance in the main court. Completed in 1989.



A few examples from the collection follow:

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



**Greek Funerary Lion
350 BC**



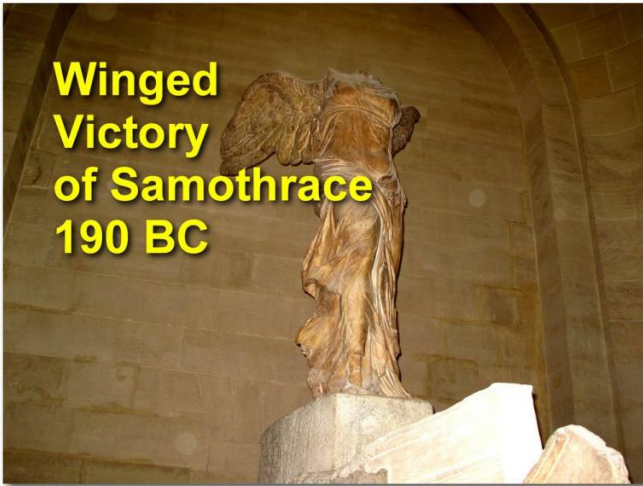
**Venus de Milo
Btw 130 and 100 BC**



**9 Muses Sarcophagus
Roman, 2nd c AD**



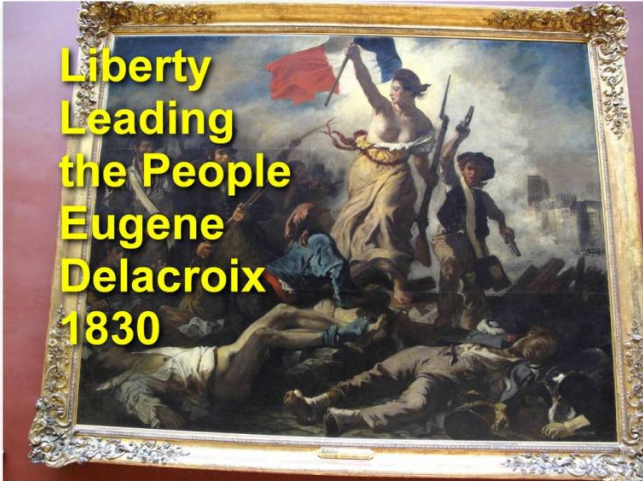
**Winged
Victory
of Samothrace
190 BC**



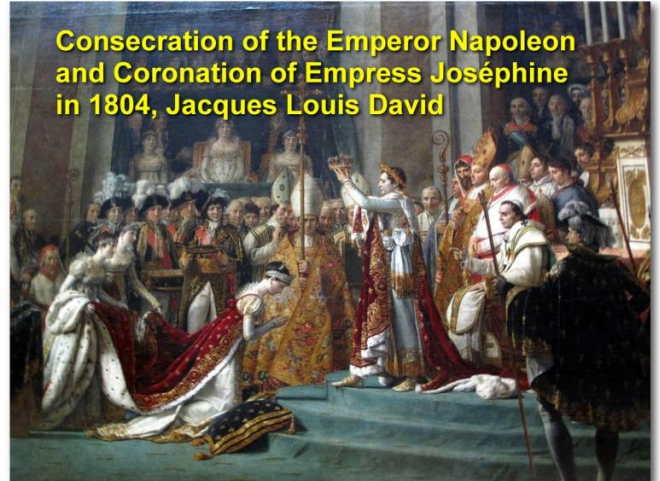
**Mona Lisa
Leonardo
Da Vinci
1503-1519**



**Liberty
Leading
the People
Eugene
Delacroix
1830**



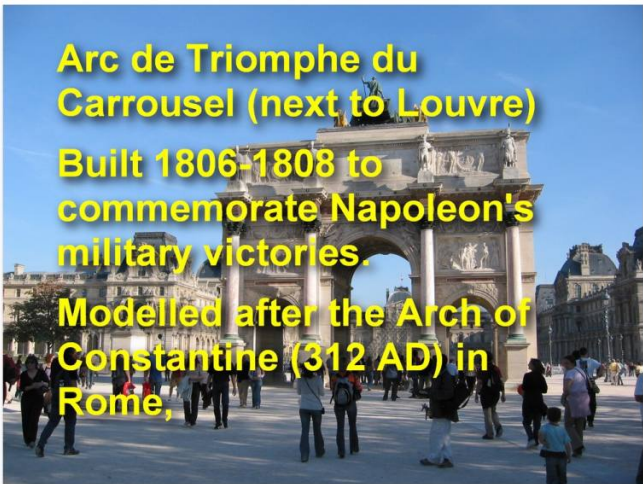
**Consecration of the Emperor Napoleon
and Coronation of Empress Joséphine
in 1804, Jacques Louis David**



**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.



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



Pont Saint-Michel 1857
"N" is Napoleon III, Nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte

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



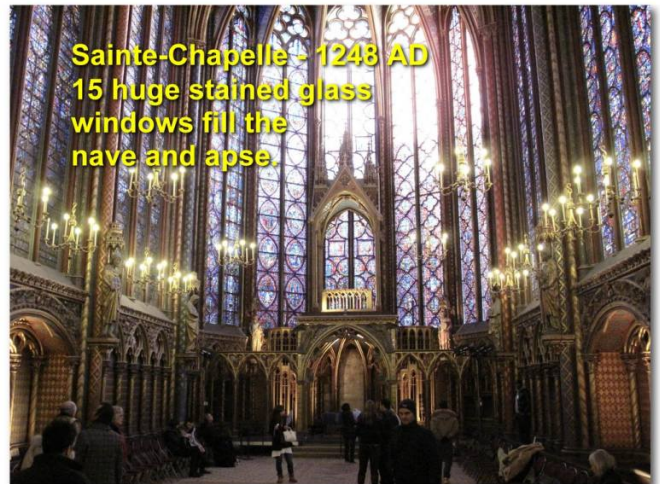
Visit Marie Antoinette's cell at the Conciergerie

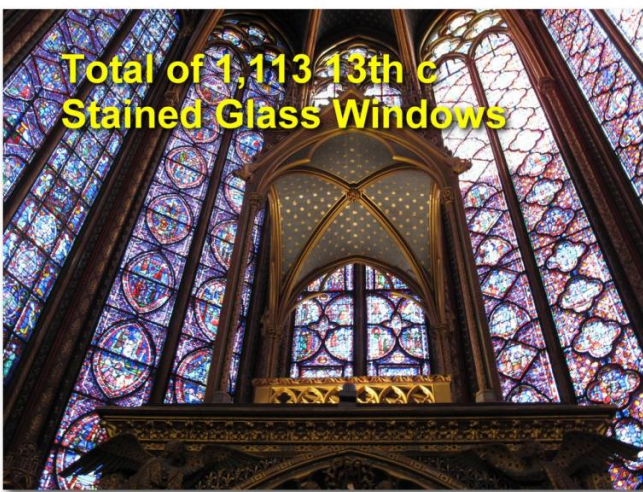


Sainte Chapelle Completed 1248 AD. Gothic style Royal Chapel On Ile de la Cite. Part of Palais de la Cité. Residence of Kings of France until 14th c.

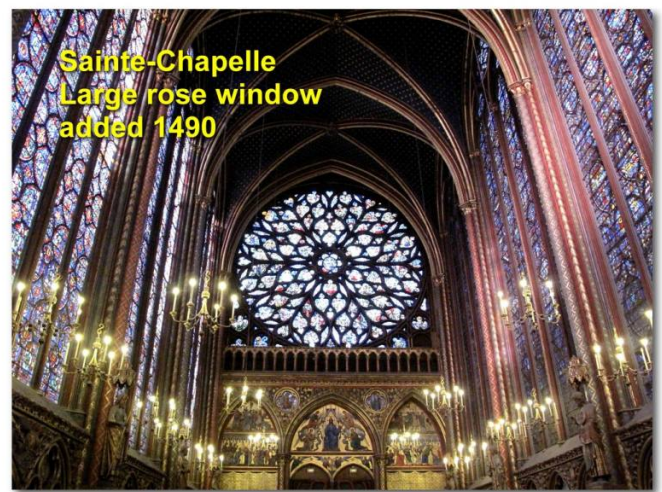


Sainte-Chapelle - 1248 AD 15 huge stained glass windows fill the nave and apse.

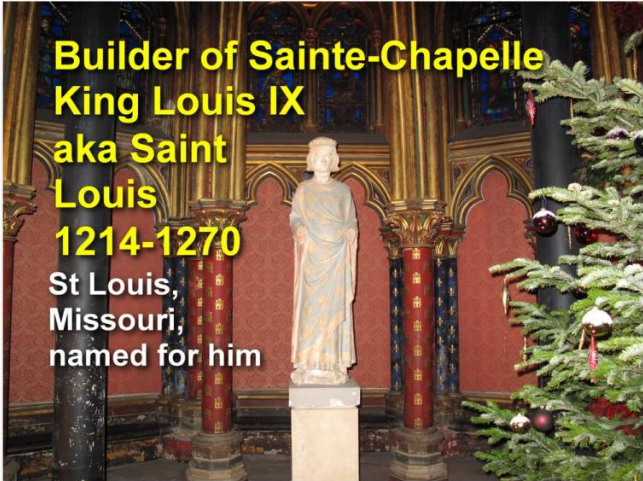




**Total of 1,113 13th c
Stained Glass Windows**



**Sainte-Chapelle
Large rose window
added 1490**



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

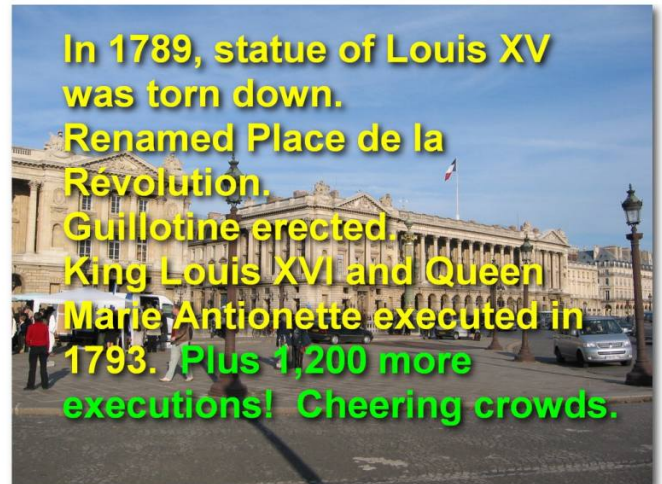
St Louis,
Missouri,
named for him



**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
Revolution.
Guillotine erected.
King Louis XVI and Queen
Marie Antionette executed in
1793. Plus 1,200 more
executions! Cheering crowds.**



**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.



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 – 16th c
Mayor of Paris and city
government offices.



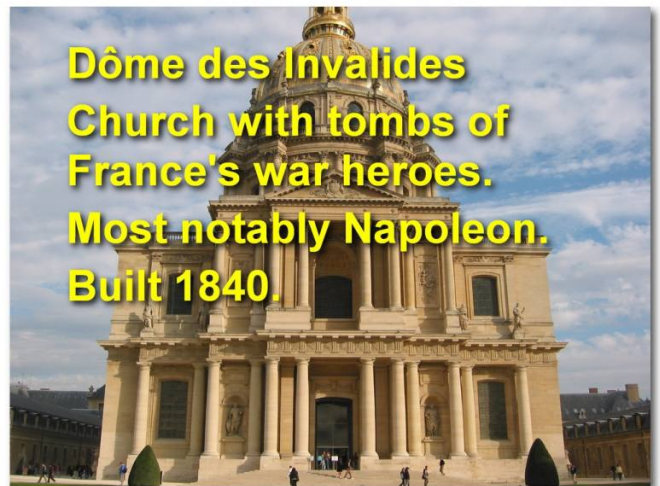
**Ice Skating at Hotel
de Ville in Winter**



Hotel de Ville
Right across Seine
from Notre-Dame



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.

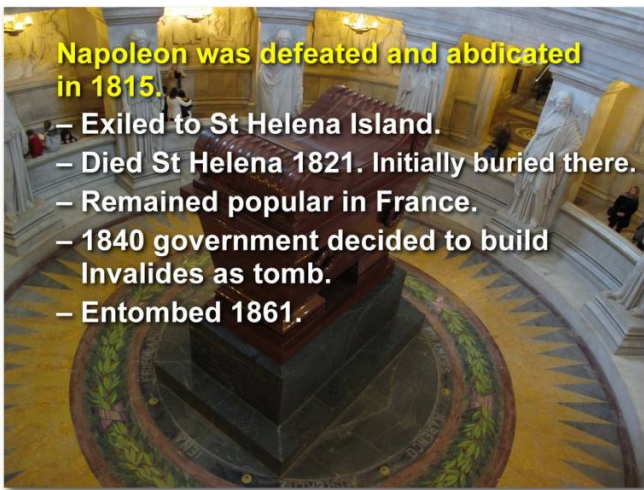


In 1803, to raise funds for future
wars, Napoleon sold France's
Louisiana Territory in North
America to the United States for
\$15 million.

"Louisiana
Purchase".

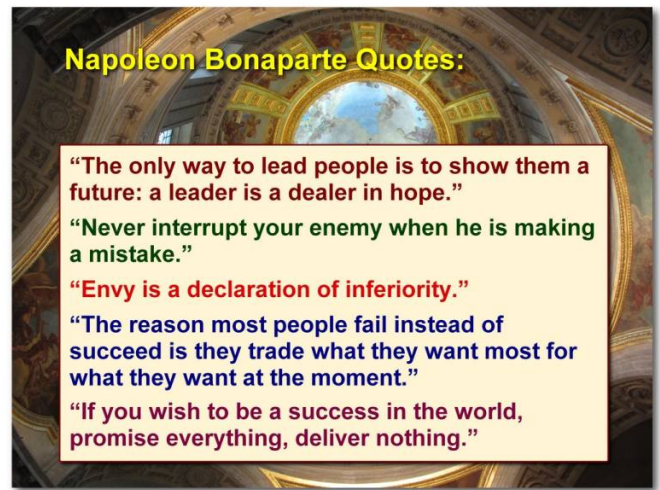
800,000 sq mi.
From Mississippi to Rocky Mts.





Napoleon was defeated and abdicated in 1815.

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



Napoleon Bonaparte Quotes:

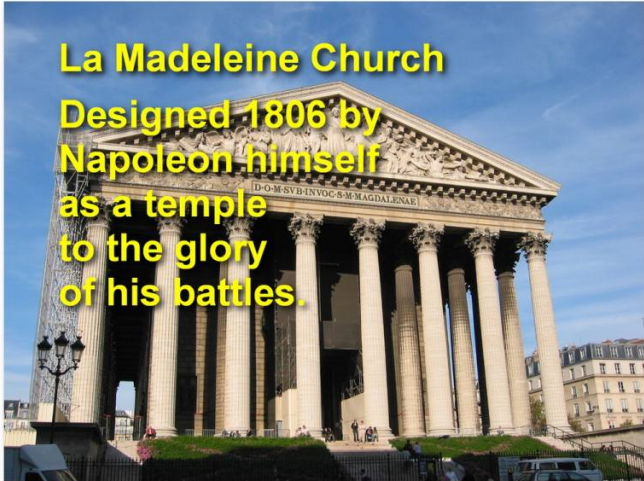
"The only way to lead people is to show them a future: a leader is a dealer in hope."

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

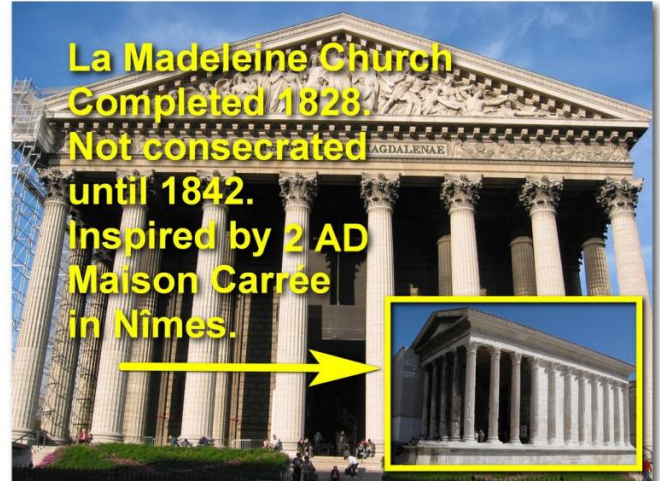
"Envy is a declaration of inferiority."

"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."



**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 Madeleine
Church.
Napoleon
seated before
Jesus.**



**Montmartre
430 ft high hill
in Paris's 18th
arrondissement.
Known primarily
for its artistic history.**



Montmartre

At the end of 19th c and early 20th c these artists lived or worked in Montmartre:

Amedeo Modigliani, Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Suzanne Valadon, Piet Mondrian, Pablo Picasso, Camille Pissarro, and Vincent van Gogh.



**Sacré-Coeur Basilica
Started 1875.
Completed 1914.**

View from Sacre-Coeur



Walk up or funicular.

Sacré-Coeur Interior

Open 6am to 10:30pm daily.
Can climb dome 9am-7pm.



Paris Opera - 1875 aka Palais Garnier 1,979 seats.



Now primarily ballet
and some opera.

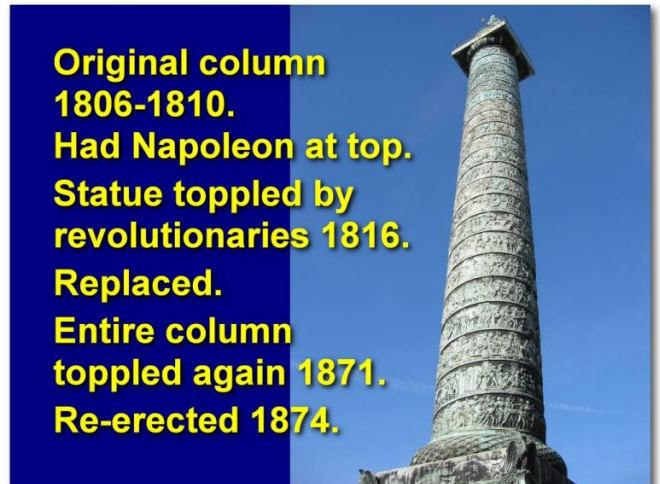
Paris Opera - 1875



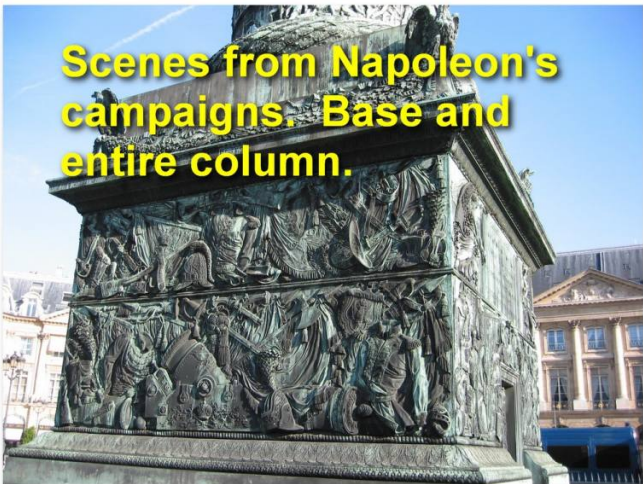
Vendome Column Modeled after Trajan's Column in Rome.



Original column
1806-1810.
Had Napoleon at top.
Statue toppled by
revolutionaries 1816.
Replaced.
Entire column
toppled again 1871.
Re-erected 1874.



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 (UK) Musiciens ambulants US: Street performers

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.

Near Hôtel de Ville

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.

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

Quai de Louvre
Aka Quai
Francois Mitterrand

Joan of Arc
Gilded bronze equestrian
statue of Joan of Arc.
Sculpted by Emmanuel
Frémiet. 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.



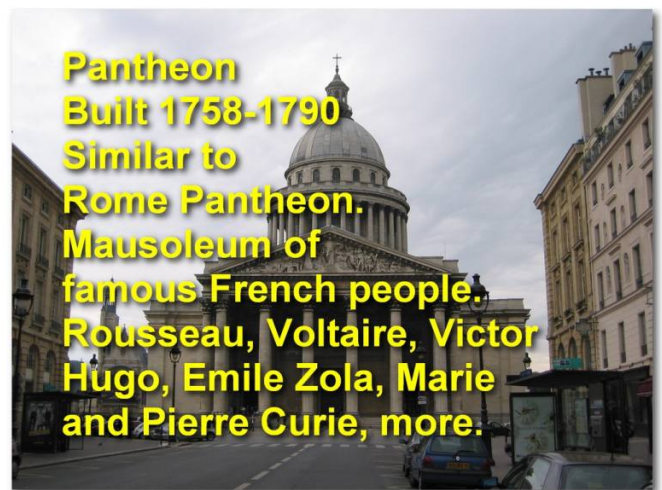
Saint Germain
Left bank
Arty, university area.
Many cafes.
Small hotels.



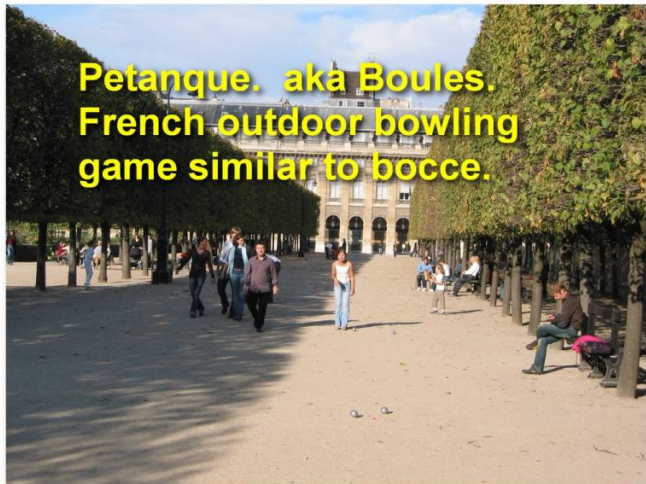


**Abbey of
St Germain
des Pres
12th c
and later.**

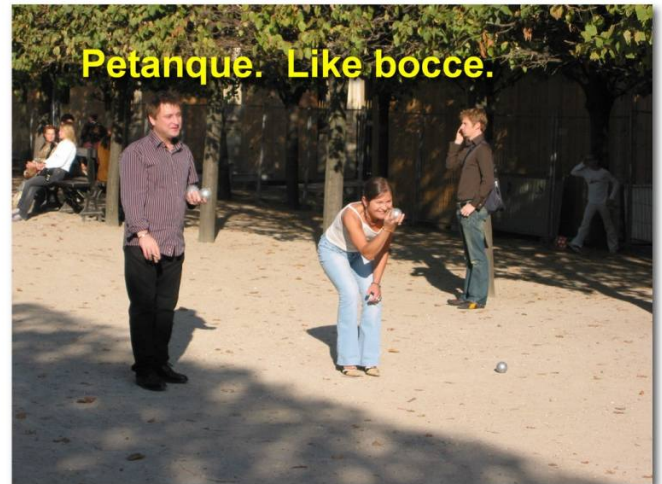
**Eugène Delacroix Museum
is next door.**



**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.



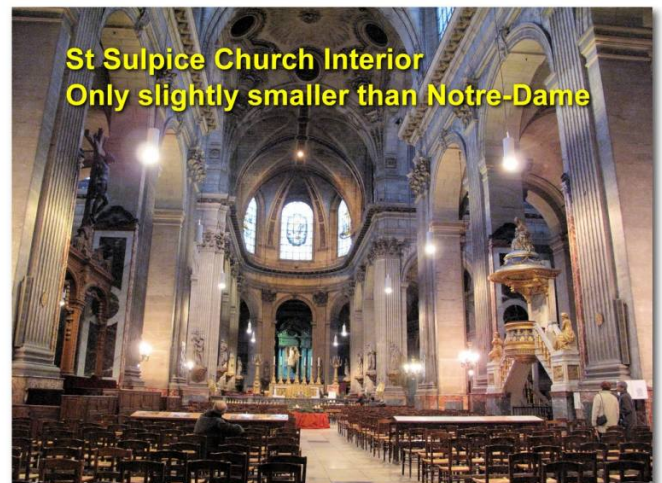
**Palais Royale
Built for Cardinal Richelieu
1633 to 1639.
Became a royal palace 17th
and 18th c.**



**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



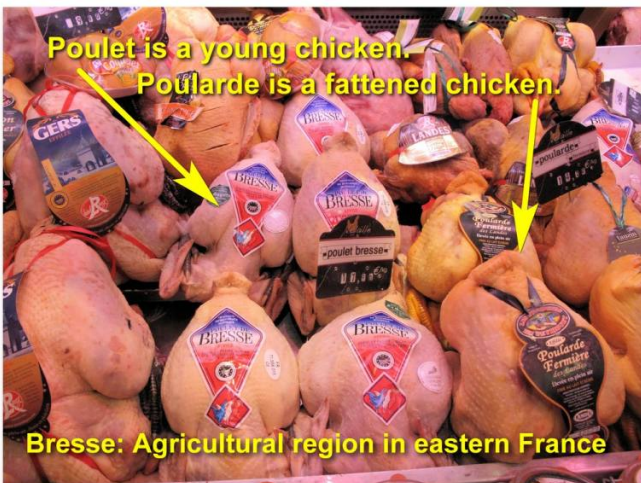
We conclude with a few photos of Paris's spectacular markets, shops, and cafes.



Oysters and Mussels



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



Bresse: Agricultural region in eastern France

White Asparagus



Pomegranates



Berry Tart



Lychees

Kiwano
(Horned
Melon)



Mangosteens

Sicilian Tomatoes

Pitaya =
Dragon
Fruit

Reminder: 1kg=2.2 pounds



Crevettes Cuites
Cooked Prawns



Fruit Tart
Tarte aux Fruits



Comté Cheese
France's most popular local variety
Hard, aged 4-24 months



Sweet Brioche



Cooked American Lobsters



**White sausage with truffles
Creamed fish poached**



Herring Potato Salad

Caribbean Salad Pasta Salad

Dill Shrimps

Octopus Salad

Tuna Stuffed Peppers



Pâté en croûte (Pate in a crust)



**Pâté en terrine
(Pate in a mold)**



Sea Urchins



**€15.80 Complete Dinner
Including Dessert**

€12.50



**Complete Dinner €12
Fondues €13**



Fondue



**Quartier
Asiatique
13th arrondissement**



Yes, this is Paris

**75 McDonald's in Paris.
250 in Paris metro area.
1,500 in all of France.**



**THE END
of our visit to Paris
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