

## FRANCE AT A GLANCE

**Population:** 67 million.  
**Area:** 247,000 square miles.  
**Located in Europe.** EU Member.  
**Capital:** Paris.  
**Head of State:** President Emmanuel Macron.  
**Currency:** Euro.  
**Visitors:** #1 tourist destination in the world!

## France and its Neighbors



**France = Metropolitan France (Europe) plus overseas territories. Metro includes Corsica.**

**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.

**Area: About = Texas.**

**247,000 sq mi:**

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

**Highest point: Mont Blanc (Alps) 15,774 ft.**

**Land use: Agriculture 53%.**

## Largest Cities in France

- 1 Paris 2,190,327
- 2 Marseille 862,000
- 3 Lyon 516,000
- 4 Toulouse 475,000
- 5 Nice 343,000
- 6 Nantes 307,000
- 7 Montpellier 282,000
- 8 Strasbourg 279,000
- 9 Bordeaux 252,000
- 10 Lille 232,000



**Population (Dec 2020 est) 67,000,000, including:**

- Metropolitan France: 65,000,000.
  - Overseas Territories: 2,000,000.
- Median age (2019): 42.3 (USA 37.9).**

**Racial / Ethnic Mix:**

- White: 85%.**
- Northwest African (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco): 10%.**
- Black: 3.3%.**
- Asian: 1.7%.**

**Religion as declared:**

- Christianity: 51%.**
  - Catholic 45%.
  - Other Christian 6%.
- No religion: 40%.**
- Islam: 5%.**
- Other: 3%.**
- Undeclared: 1%.**

**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:**  
 Jean Castex.  
 Appointed July 2020.



**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

### GDP (PPP) 2020 est:

- Total US\$2.954 trillion.
- Per capita: US\$45,454.

### GDP (nominal) 2020 est:

- Total US\$2.551 trillion.
- Per capita: US\$39,257.

**Public debt as % of GDP:**  
97% (USA 79%).

**Currency:** Euro.

€1 = US\$1.xx



**Unemployment:** 8.5%.

**Unemployment youth  
15 to 24:** 21%.

## French History - 1

**481 AD:** Clovis I unites Frankish tribes into one country under one king.

**800 AD:** Charles the Great (Charlemagne) expands territory. Pope appoints him Holy Roman Emperor.

## French History - 2

**843:** Charles's warring heirs split the Empire into 3 territories, later to become France and Germany. Treaty of Verdun.

**1066:** Duke of Normandy conquers England.

## French History - 3

**1337-1453:** English try to regain control. Hundred Years' War with France.

**1461-1483:** Louis XI tried to re-consolidate France.

**1500s:** Peace & prosperity. "Le Grande Siecle".

## French History - 4

**1661:** Finally, Louis XIV centralized power.

**But over next 100 years:** Peasants rebelled that King and Church had too much power. Large national debt. Heavy taxes. Most people were feudalistic serfs.

## French History - 5

**1756-1763:** 7-Years War between France and Britain. (aka French and Indian War.) France loses Canada, India.

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

## French History - 6

**1789:** Declaration of the "Rights of the Man". New French Constitution. National Assembly. End to feudalism. End to aristocratic power over land. **Principles of Liberté, Egalité, and Fraternité meant to end the class system.**

## French History - 7

**1799:** Napoleon takes power over the Assembly. Overruns Europe.

**1815:** British defeat Napoleon at Waterloo. Exiled.

**Triumph and Defeat**



## French History - 8

**1830:** Second French Revolution. Switch from Bourbon to reformist Orleans monarchy line.

**1914:** WWI. Germany invades France.

**1919:** Allies defeat Germany.

## French History - 9

**1940:** WWII. Germany invades France.

**1940-1944:** The Vichy Regime – Nazi controlled.

**1945:** Allies defeat Germany.

**Flag: Adopted**  
1794.

**Colors Symbolize:**



Opposition to the autocratic and clericalist royal standards of the past.

**National Day:** 14 July (1790). Establishment of constitutional monarchy.

## Paris

- **Capital.** And largest city of France.

- **Divided into:** 20 arrondissements (districts).

- **Area:** 40.7 sq miles.



## Paris Population 2020 est:

- **City proper:** 2,148,000.

- **Metro area:** 12,628,000.

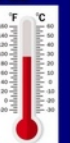
**City council has 163 members!** Council elects the mayor, not the people.

## Paris Temperatures:

**Avg High Avg Low**

January 45 F 37 F

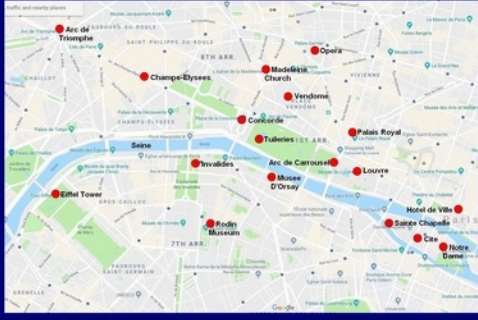
July 77 F 60 F



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



## Main Tourist Stops in Paris



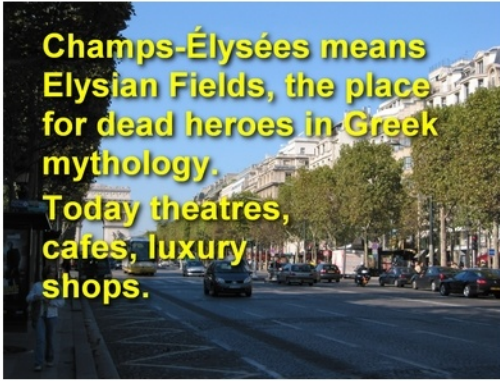
**Champs-Élysées**  
**Paris's Famous Avenue**  
**1.2 miles long,**  
**230 feet wide**



**Champs Elysees**  
**From Place de la**  
**Concorde to**  
**Arc du Triomphe**



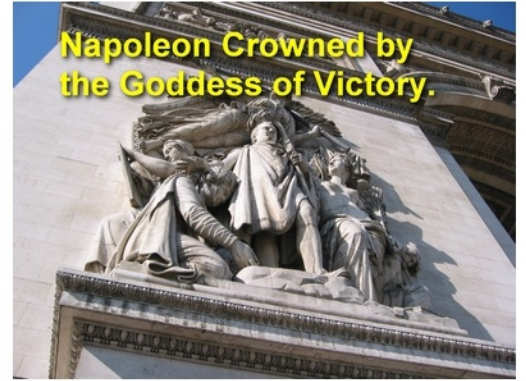
**Champs-Élysées means**  
**Elysian Fields, the place**  
**for dead heroes in Greek**  
**mythology.**  
**Today theatres,**  
**cafes, luxury**  
**shops.**



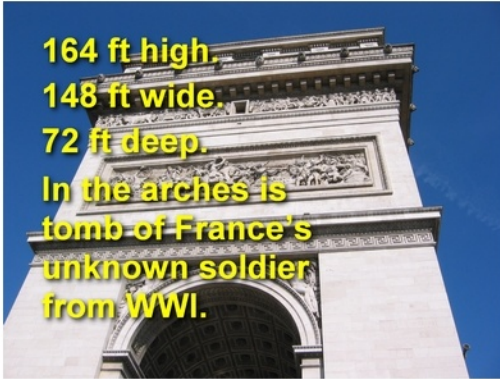
**Arc de Triomphe**  
**Built 1806 to honor the**  
**victories of Napoleon**  
**Bonaparte.**



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



**164 ft high.**  
**148 ft wide.**  
**72 ft deep.**  
**In the arches is**  
**tomb of France's**  
**unknown soldier**  
**from WWI.**



**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**



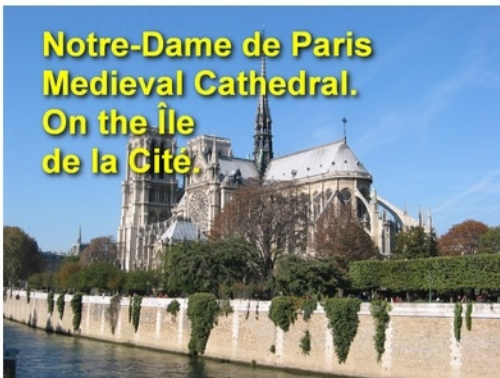
**Looking onto the**  
**Champs-Élysées**



**Beautiful at Night As Well**



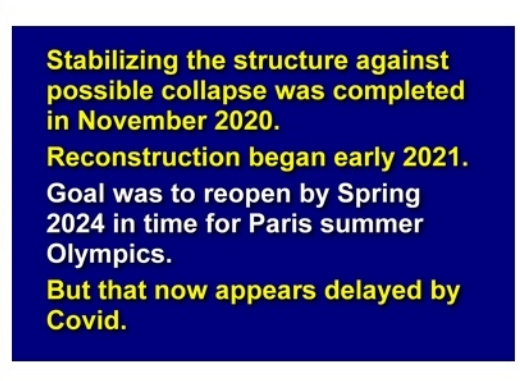
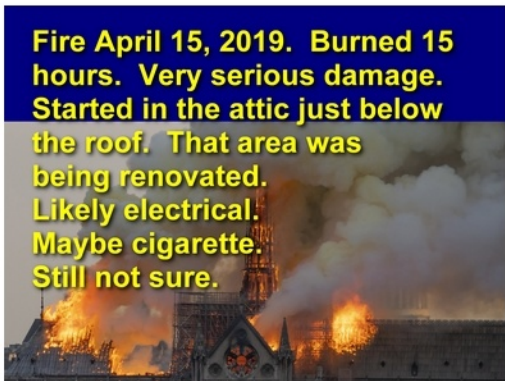
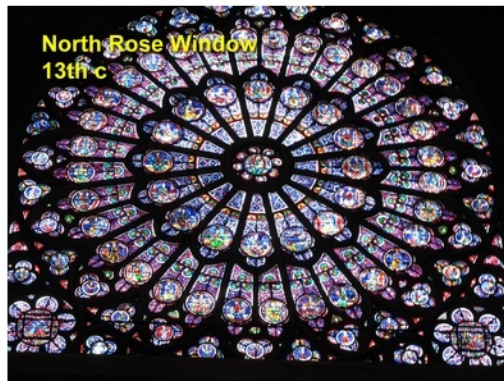
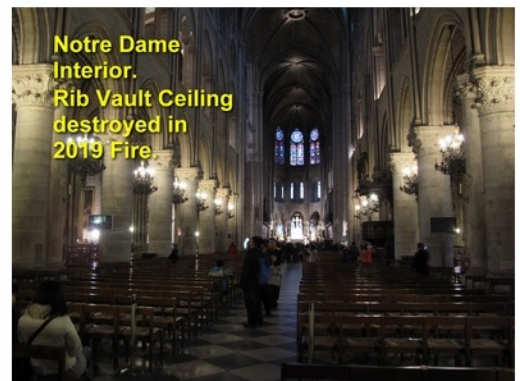
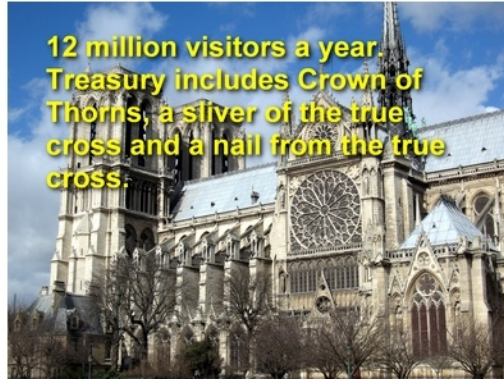
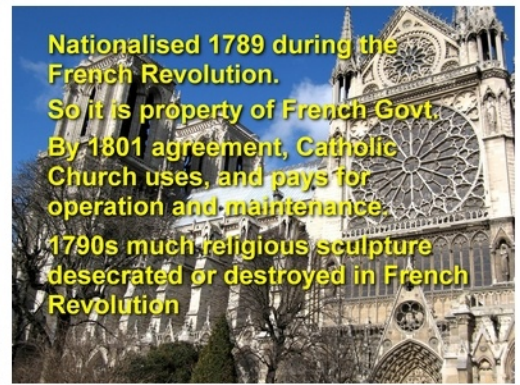
**Notre-Dame de Paris**  
**Medieval Cathedral.**  
**On the Île**  
**de la Cité.**



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





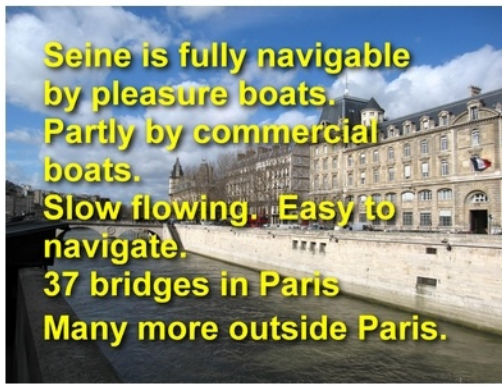






### Seine River

- 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.



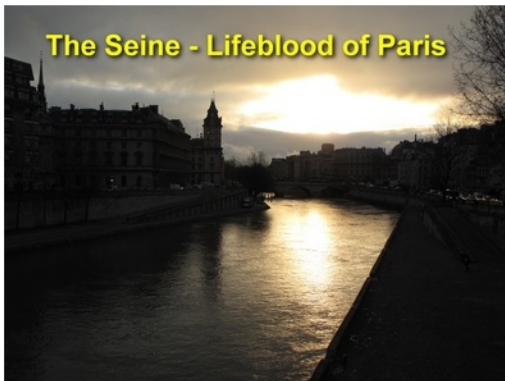
Many tour boats, dinner cruises, water taxis.



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.



Water quality is improving. But still occasional sanitary sewer discharges. High heavy metal and Ph.



### The Seine - Lifeblood of Paris



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



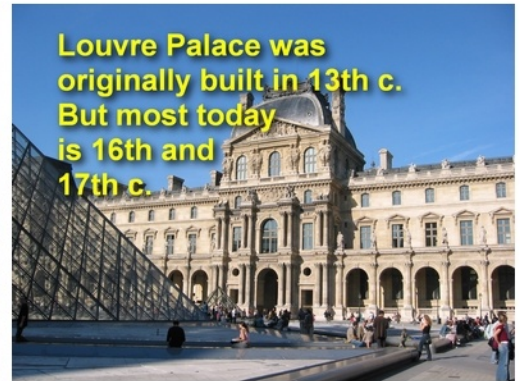
Most-visited paid monument in the world. 7 million visitors a year. Average 25,000 people a day. 1,063 ft tall. Tallest structure in Paris.



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.

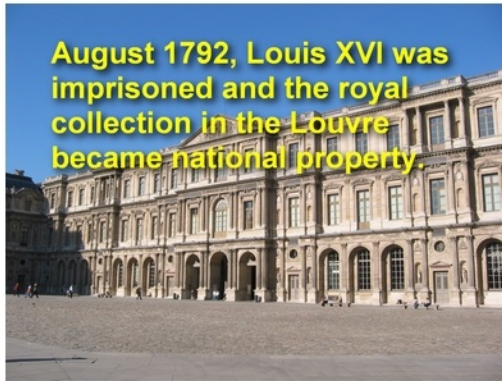


Louvre Palace was originally built in 13th c. But most today is 16th and 17th c.



Collection 380,000 items. 35,000 on display any one time.

Annual visitors 9.6 million.

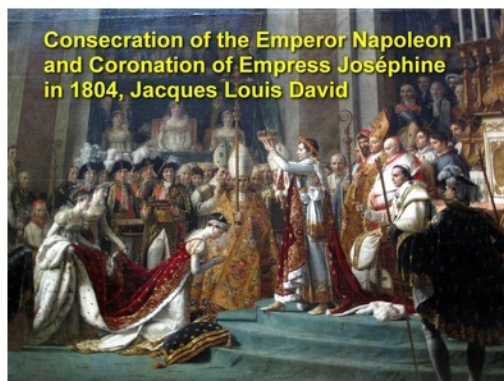
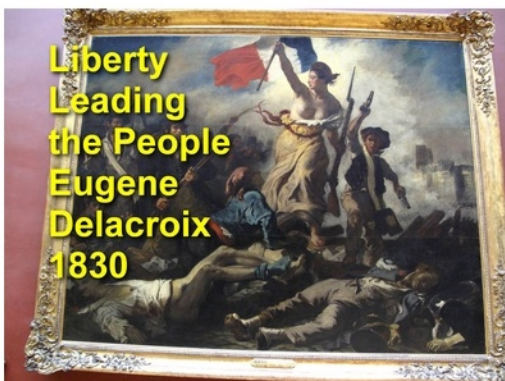
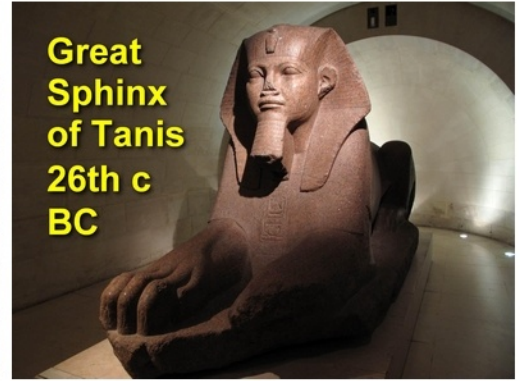
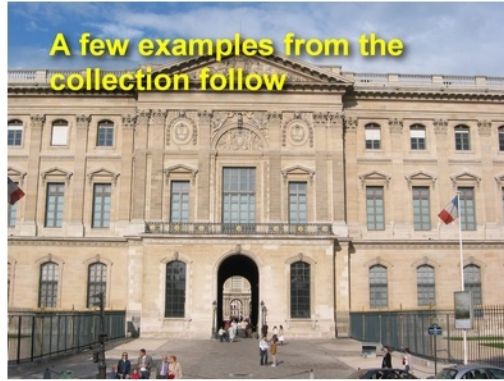
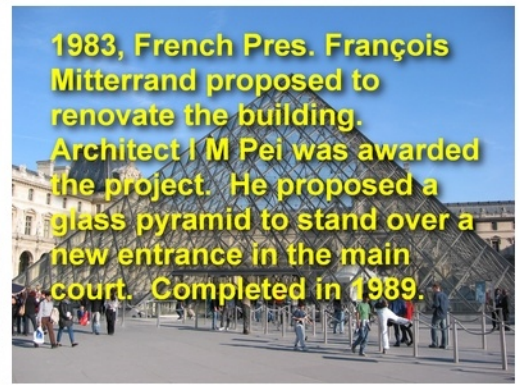


August 1792, Louis XVI was imprisoned and the royal collection in the Louvre became national property.



- 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.

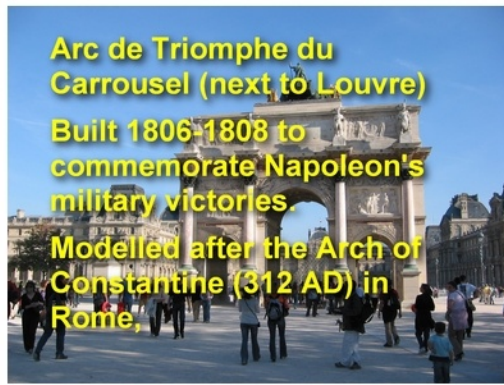








**Palace Ceiling**



**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.**



**Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel**  
**63 ft high.**  
**75 ft wide.**  
**Half the size of Arc de Triomphe d'Etoile**



**Top statue is Peace Riding in a Triumphant 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.



**Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel**  
**1806-1808**



**Tuileries - 17th c Garden**  
**Many Sculptures**  
**West of Louvre**



**Tuileries - 17th c Garden**



**Tuileries**  
**Grand Bassin Rond**



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



**Orangerie - 1852**  
**West corner of Tuileries Gardens**  
**Next to Place de la Concorde**



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

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

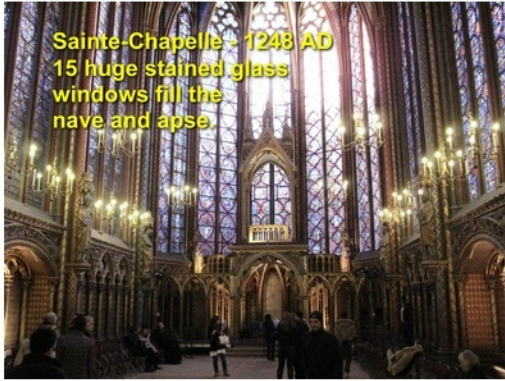
Internet Photo



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 Cite.  
Residence of Kings of France until 14th c.



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



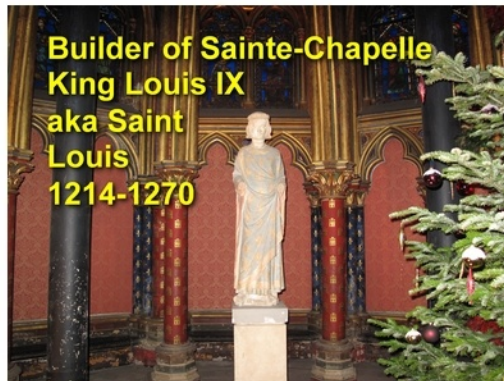
Total of 1,113 13th c Stained Glass Windows



Sainte-Chapelle  
Large rose window added 1490



Sainte-Chapelle  
Gothic Royal Chapel  
13th c



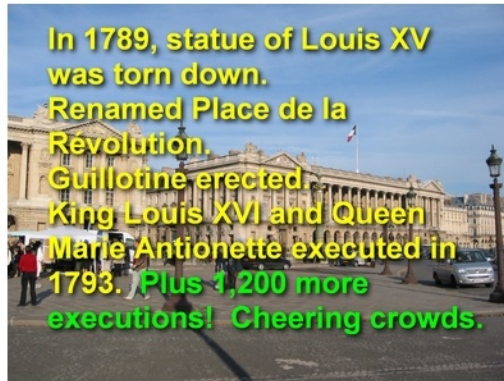
Builder of Sainte-Chapelle  
King Louis IX  
aka Saint Louis  
1214-1270



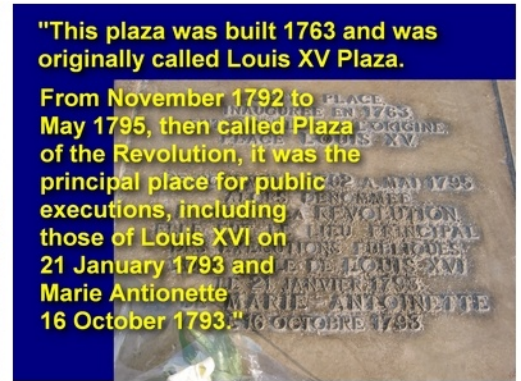
Ile de la Cite has some residential and dining areas



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.



"This plaza was built 1763 and was originally called Louis XV Plaza.

From November 1792 to May 1795, then called Plaza of the Revolution, it was the principal place for public executions, including those of Louis XVI on 21 January 1793 and Marie Antionette 16 October 1793.



Place de la Concorde  
Hotel de la Marine  
Naval Offices



Place de la Concorde  
Fontaine des Mers  
1840



Many weddings take place in Place de la Concorde

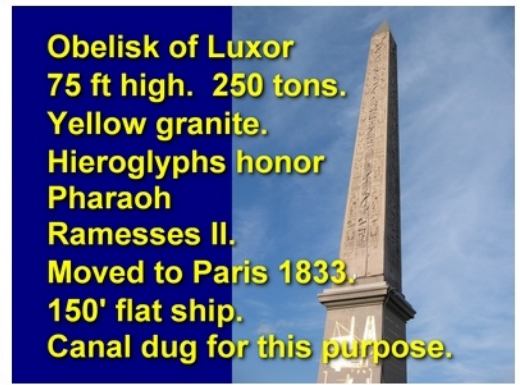




**Place de la Concorde**  
**Wedding**  
**Photo Ops**



**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.**



**Placé de la Concorde**  
**Ferris Wheel**  
**Opened 1993.**  
**Closed 2018.**  
**Considered not**  
**in keeping with**  
**surroundings.**



**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.**



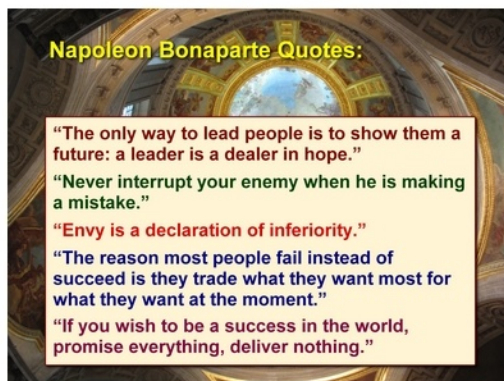
**1792-1815: Napoleon**  
**conquered much of**  
**Europe (Italy, Austria,**  
**Spain, Portugal), eastern**  
**Europe, Egypt, and**  
**Russia.**  
**1804: Named Emperor of**  
**France.**



**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**

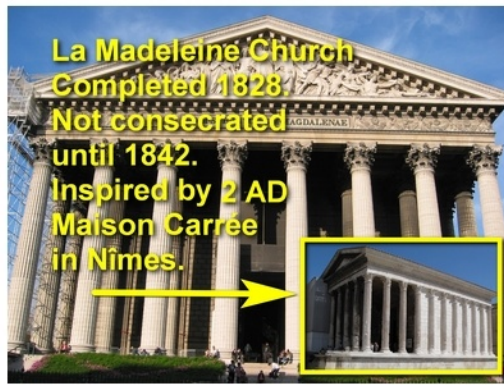
**"Wherever my**  
**reign has passed,**  
**it has left**  
**lasting traces"**

**PARTOUT OÙ MON RÉGNE A PASSÉ**  
**IL A LAISSÉ**  
**DES TRACES DURABLES**





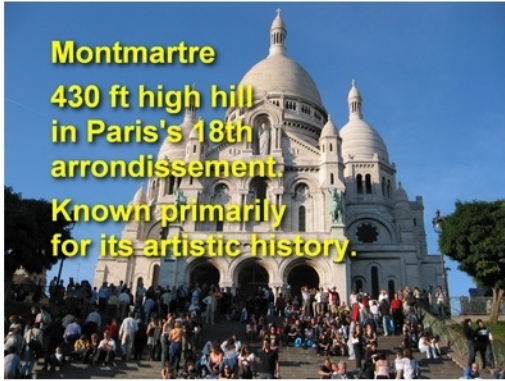
**La Madeleine Church**  
 Designed 1806 by Napoleon himself as a temple to the glory of his battles.



**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.



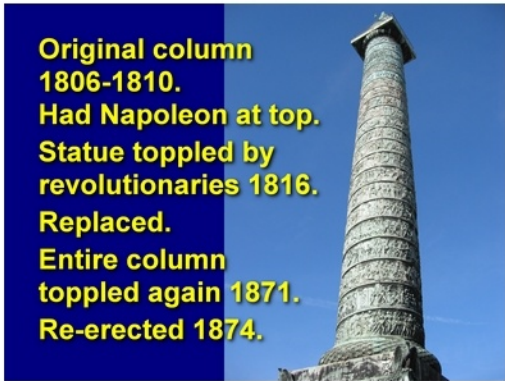
**Paris Opera - Palais Garnier**  
 1875



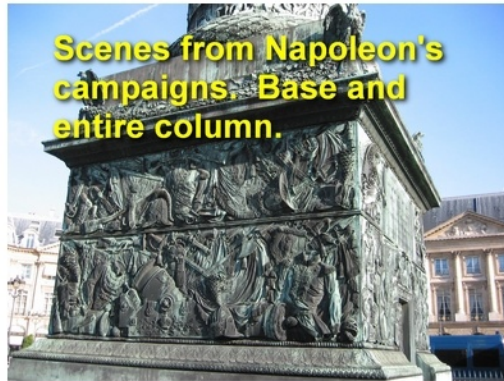
Paris Opera - 1875



**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.  
 140 mi long.  
 304 stations.  
 16 lines.  
 4 more under construction.





**Paris Metro**  
 Annual ridership  
 1.520 billion (2015).  
 Began operation 1900.  
 5 lines have rubber tires.



**Paris Metro**  
 Entrance  
 to Palais  
 Royal-  
 Musée du  
 Louvre  
 Station



**Fountain outside Palais  
 Royal - Louvre Metro Station**



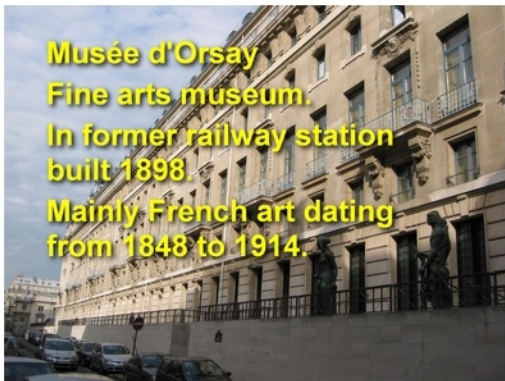
**Paris Metro - Buskers**  
 Musiciens ambulants



**Paris Mailbox**



**Institut de France**  
 Learned societies covering:  
 - French language  
 - Humanities  
 - Sciences  
 - Fine Arts  
 - Painting and Sculpture  
 - Music  
 - Architecture  
 - Moral and Political Sciences



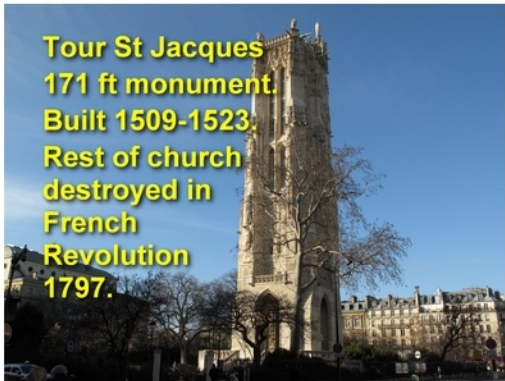
**Musée d'Orsay**  
 Fine arts museum.  
 In former railway station  
 built 1898.  
 Mainly French art dating  
 from 1848 to 1914.



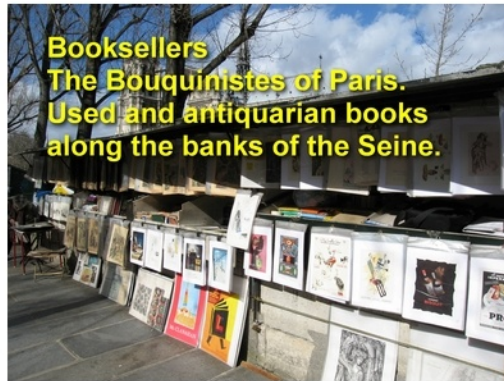
**Musée d'Orsay**  
 Largest collection of  
 Impressionist and  
 post-Impressionist  
 masterpieces in the world.  
 Incl 24 Van Gogh,  
 86 Claude Monet,  
 34 Manet, 81 Renoir,  
 43 Degas, 24 Gauguin,  
 etc etc.  
 3.6 million visitors a year.



**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.

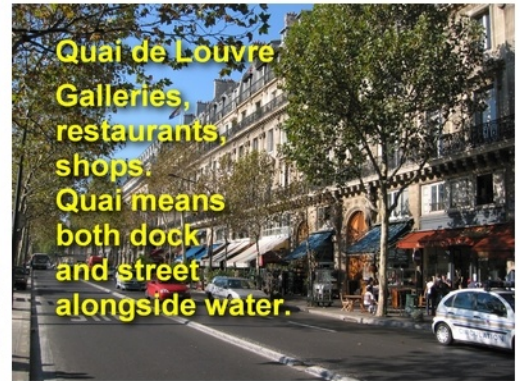
Right behind Notre-Dame.  
 Opened 1962.



**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.

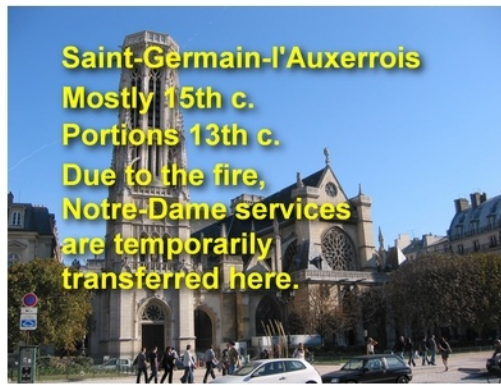


**Quai de Louvre**  
 Galleries,  
 restaurants,  
 shops.  
 Quai means  
 both dock  
 and street  
 alongside water.





**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.

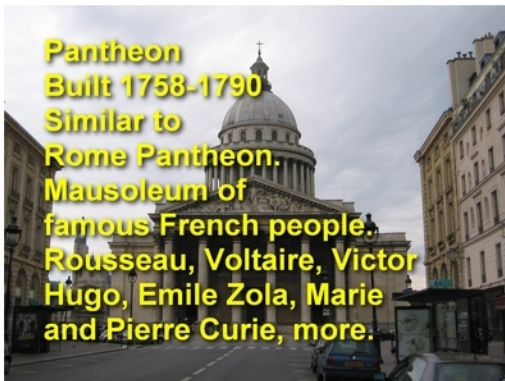


**Saint Germain**  
Left bank  
Arty, university area.  
Many cafes.  
Small hotels.

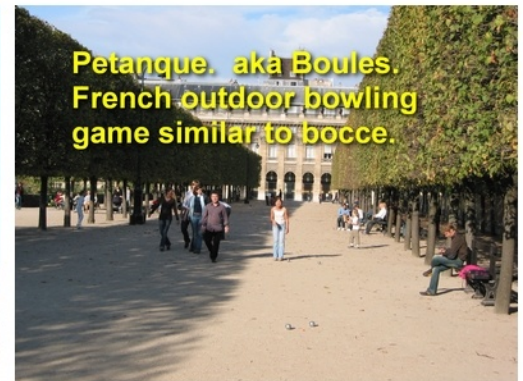


**Abbey of  
St Germain  
des Pres**  
12th c  
and later.

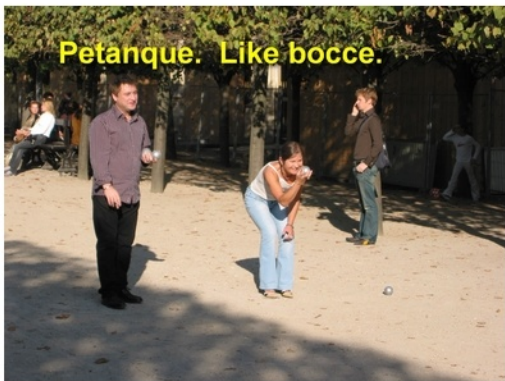
**Eugène Delacroix Museum  
is next door.**



**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.



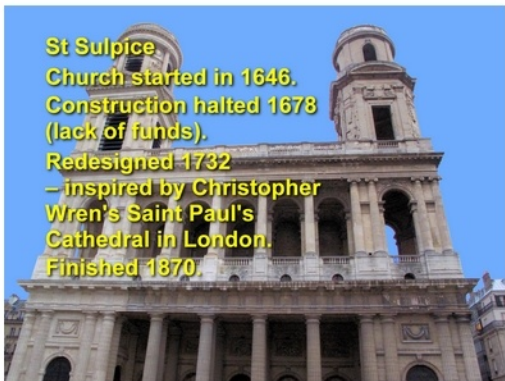
**Petanque. Like bocce.**



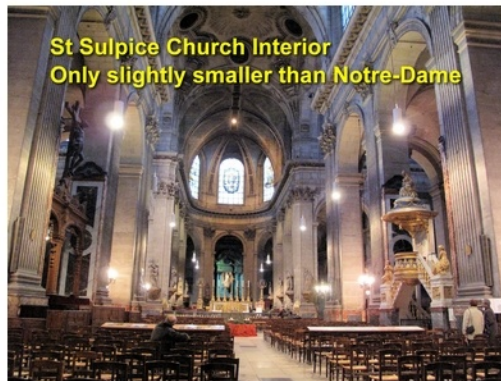
**Palais Royale**  
Built for Cardinal Richelieu  
1633 to 1639.  
Became a royal palace 17th  
and 18th c.



**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



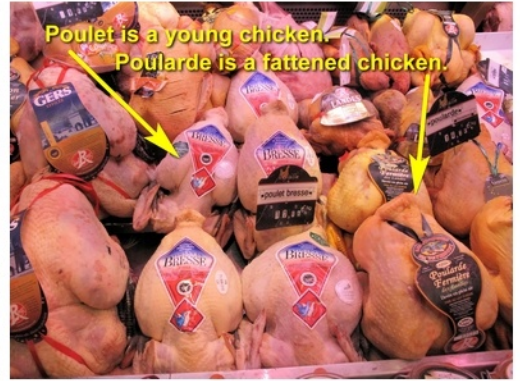
Shopping - Department Stores  
Printemps



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



Lychees

Kiwano (Horned Melon)



Mangosteens

Sicilian Tomatoes

Pitaya Dragon Fruit



Crepes and Waffles



PECIALITES CC











Sea Urchins



€15.80 Complete Dinner Including Dessert

€12.50



Complete Dinner €12  
Fondues €13



Fondue



Complete Dinners  
€12.50 to €18.50



Quartier  
Asiatique  
13th arrondissement



Yes, this is Paris



THE END  
of our visit to Paris  
[ppacter@gmail.com](mailto:ppacter@gmail.com)

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