

# 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](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](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.

Sadly, CIA World Factbook ceased publication Feb 2026.

<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. **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

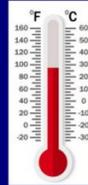
**Population 2025 Jan est:**

- **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:

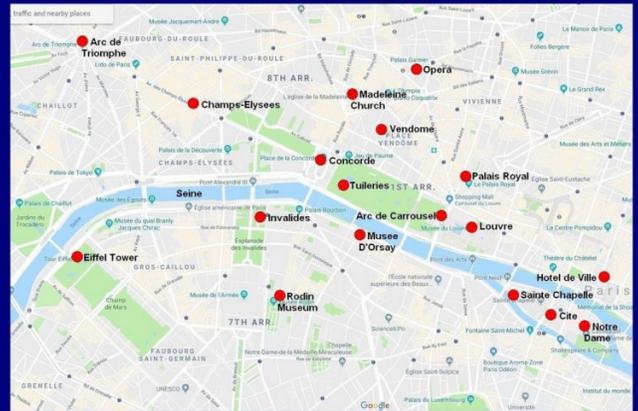
**Avg High Avg Low**

January 45 F 37 F  
July 77 F 60 F



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

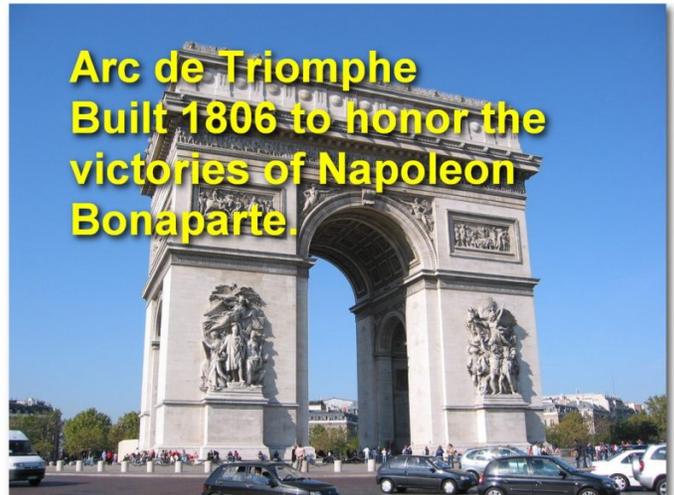
## Main Tourist Stops in Paris



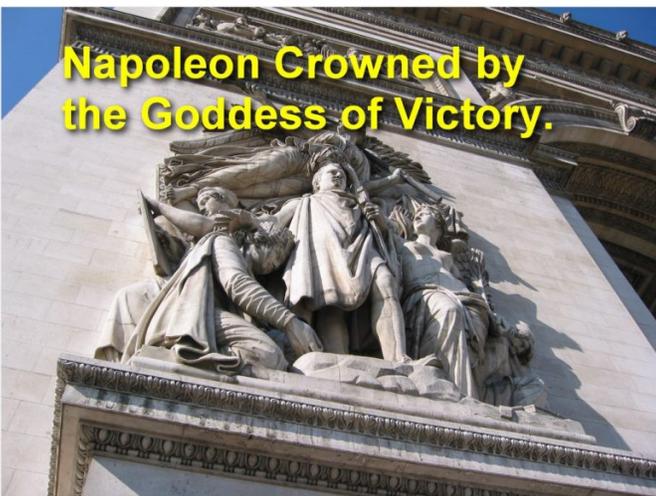
**Champs-Élysées**  
**Paris's Famous Avenue**  
**1.2 miles long**  
**230 feet wide.**



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



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



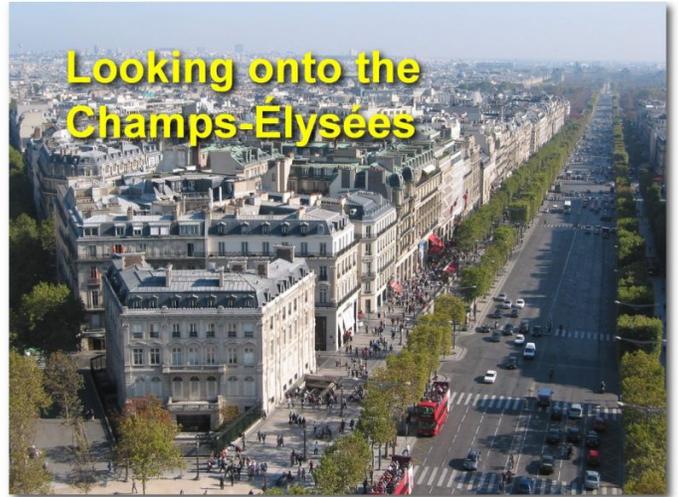
**Visitor access via tunnel.**  
**€13.**  
**280 steps to the top.**  
**Small elevator for**  
**people who**  
**cannot climb.**



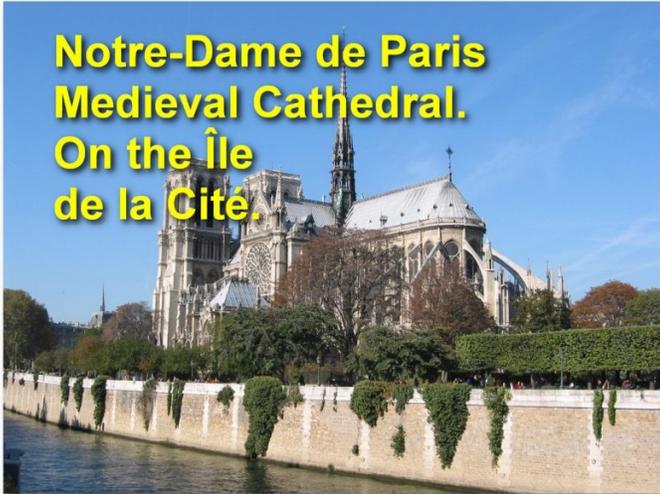
**Arc de Triomphe**  
**Great 360 degree views.**  
**Open until 11pm.**



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



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



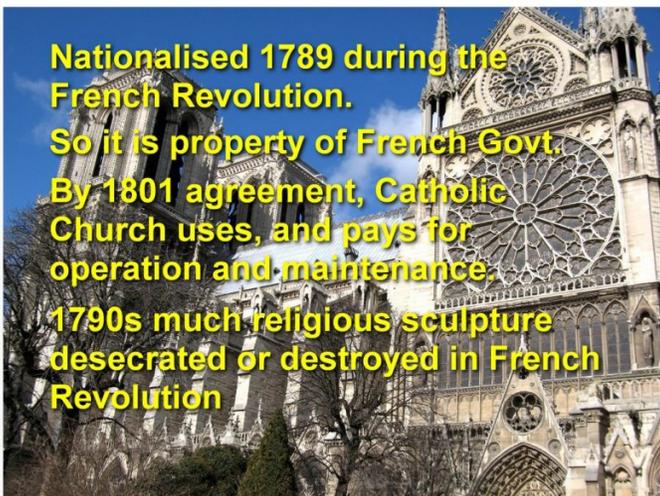
**Construction**  
**started 1163.**  
**Mostly**  
**complete**  
**by 1260.**  
**Length 420 ft.**  
**Width 157 ft.**  
**Nave height 115 ft.**



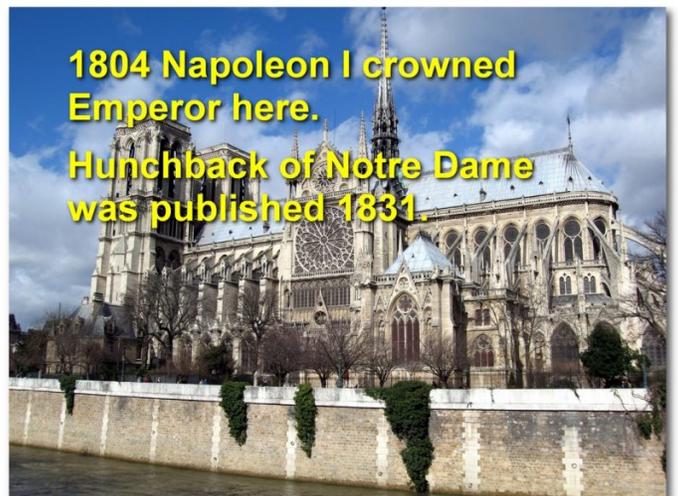
**West Facade.**

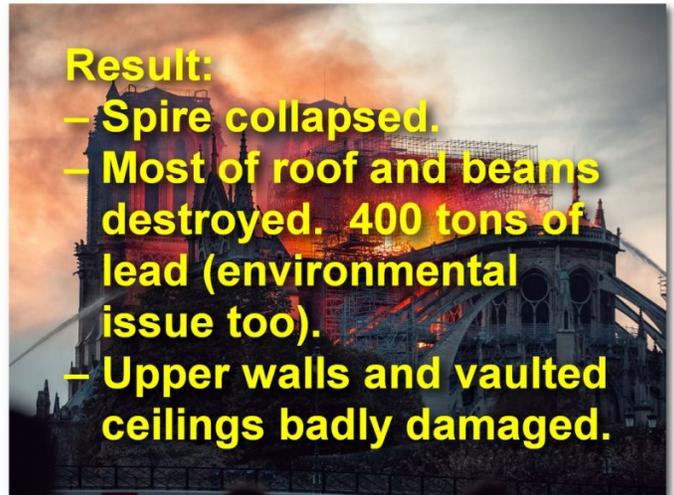
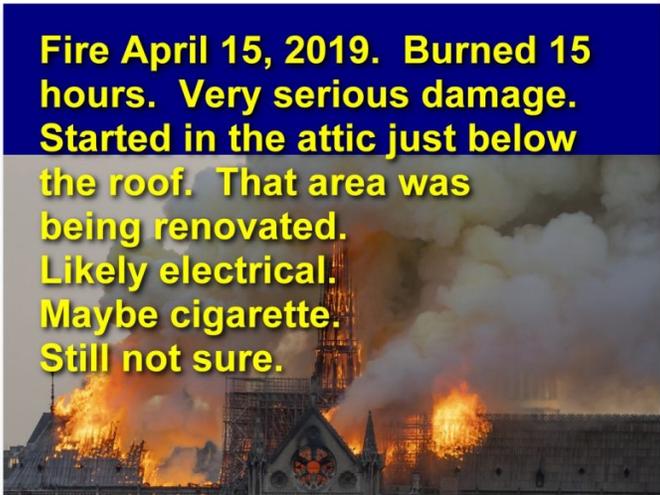
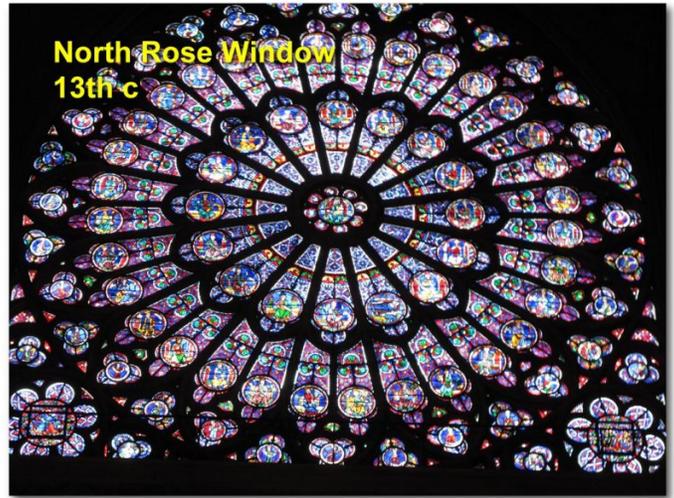
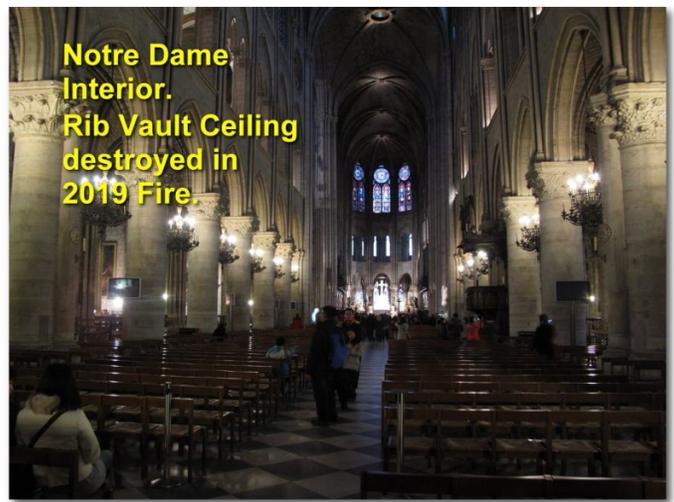
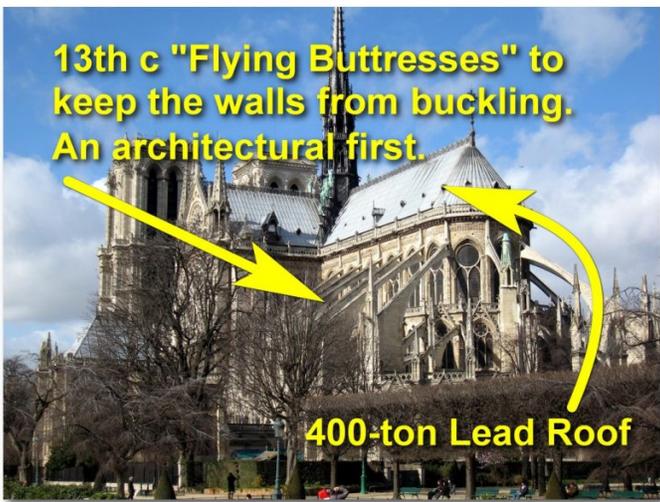


**Nationalised 1789 during the**  
**French Revolution.**  
**So it is property of French Govt.**  
**By 1801 agreement, Catholic**  
**Church uses, and pays for**  
**operation and maintenance.**  
**1790s much religious sculpture**  
**deseccrated or destroyed in French**  
**Revolution**

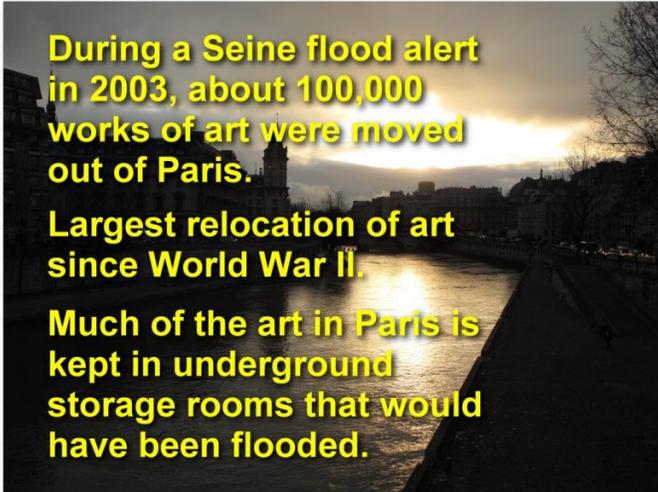


**1804 Napoleon I crowned**  
**Emperor here.**  
**Hunchback of Notre Dame**  
**was published 1831.**





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



During a Seine flood alert  
in 2003, about 100,000  
works of art were moved  
out of Paris.

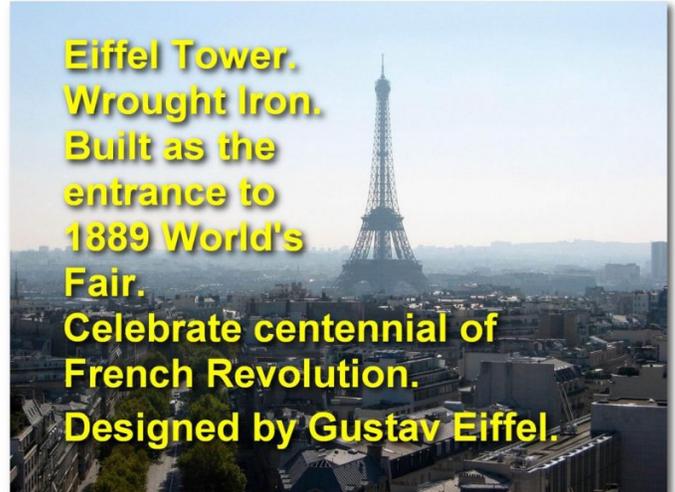
Largest relocation of art  
since World War II.

Much of the art in Paris is  
kept in underground  
storage rooms that would  
have been flooded.



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.



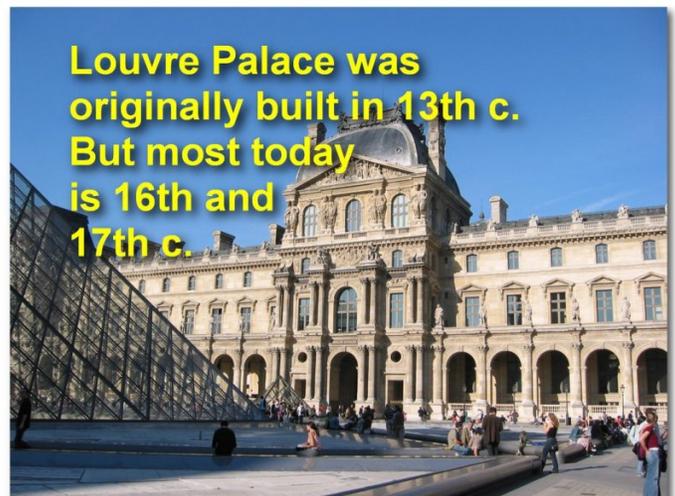
3 Levels. Elevators.  
Repainted every 7 years.  
60 tons of paint.



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:**

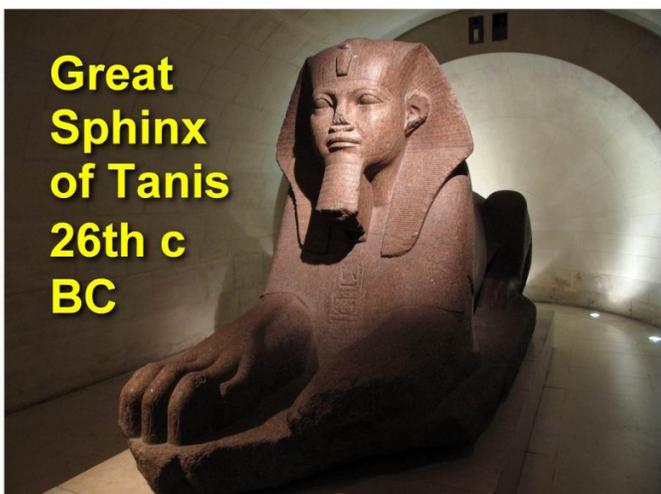
- 1. Egyptian Antiquities.**
- 2. Near Eastern Antiquities.**
- 3. Greek, Etruscan, Roman.**
- 4. Islamic Art.**
- 5. Sculpture.**
- 6. Decorative Arts.**
- 7. Paintings: 7,500 works 13th c. to 1848. 2/3ds French artists. Newer works are in Musee D'Orsay.**
- 8. Prints and drawings.**



**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.**



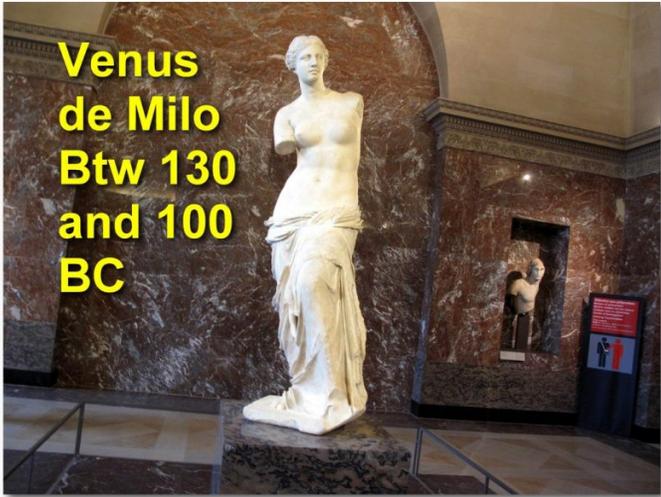
**A few examples from the collection follow**



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



**Greek Funerary Lion**  
**350 BC**



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



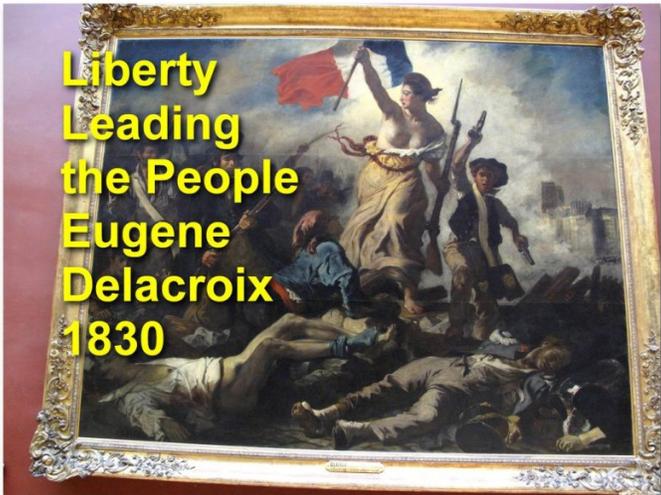
**9 Muses Sarcophagus  
Roman, 2nd c AD**



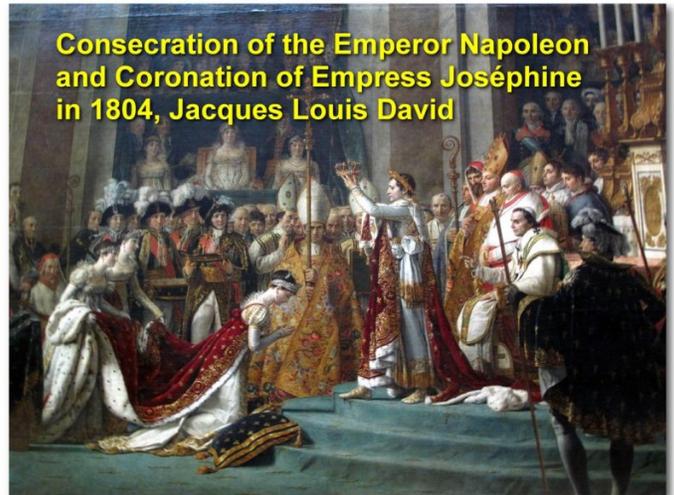
**Winged  
Victory  
of Samothrace  
190 BC**



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



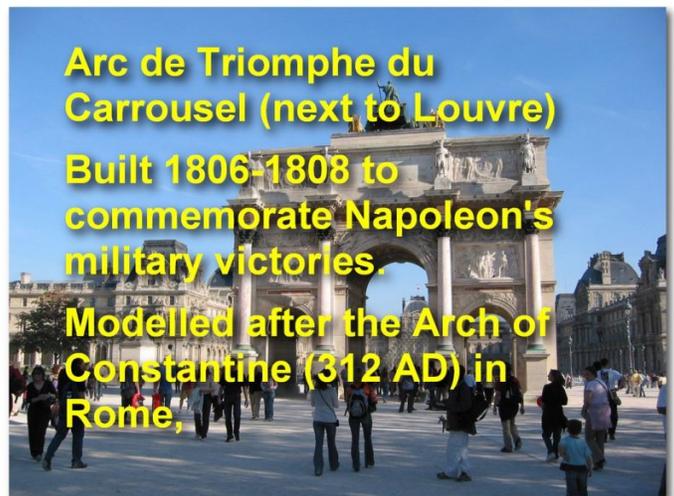
**Liberty  
Leading  
the People  
Eugene  
Delacroix  
1830**



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



**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.

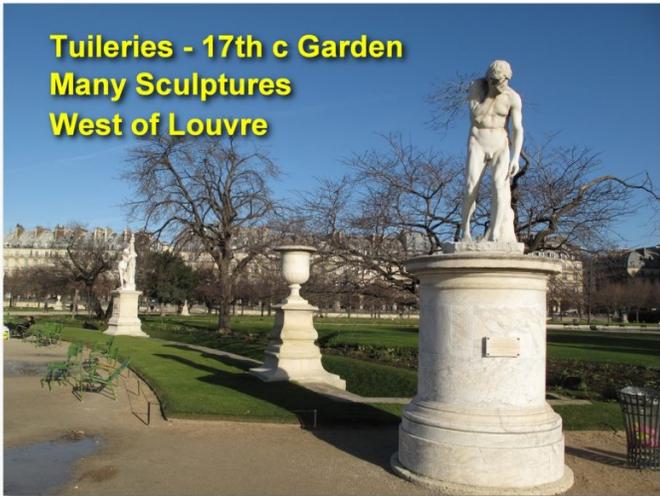


In 1815, those horses were returned to Venice  
by terms of the Congress of Vienna.

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

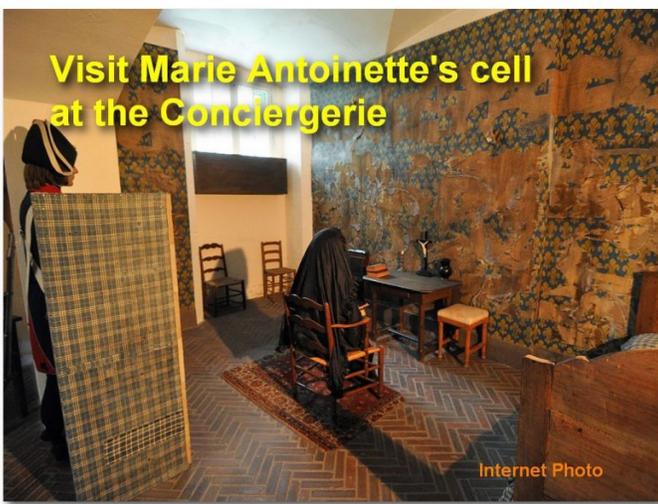
**Conciergerie - 10th to 14th c.  
Former Royal Palace  
on Ile de la Cite.  
Now used  
mostly for  
law courts.**



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



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

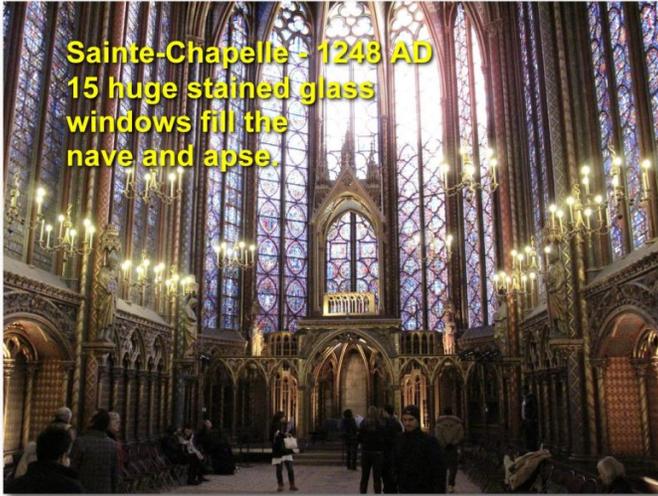


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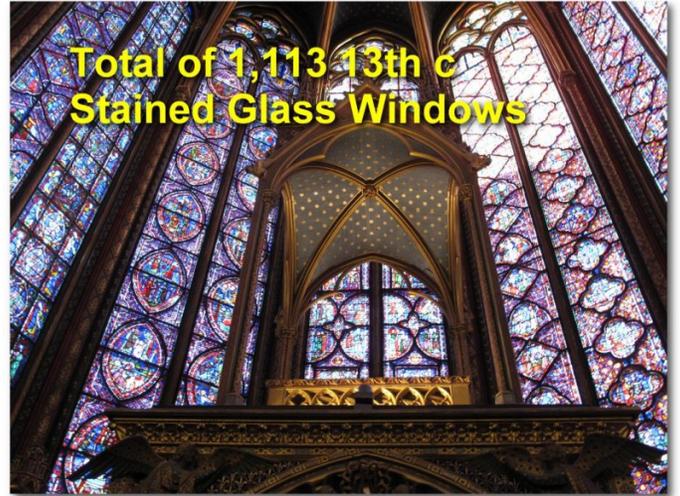
**Sainte Chapelle  
Completed 1248 AD.  
Gothic style Royal Chapel  
On Ile de la Cite.  
Part of Palais de la Cité.  
Residence of  
Kings of France  
until 14th c.**



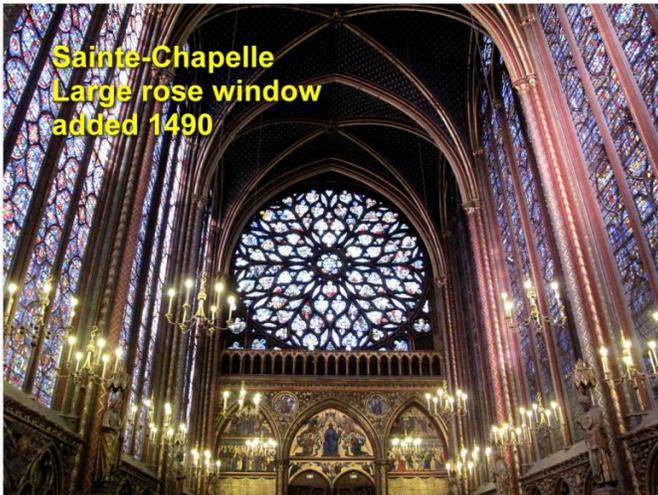
**Sainte-Chapelle - 1248 AD  
15 huge stained glass  
windows fill the  
nave and apse.**



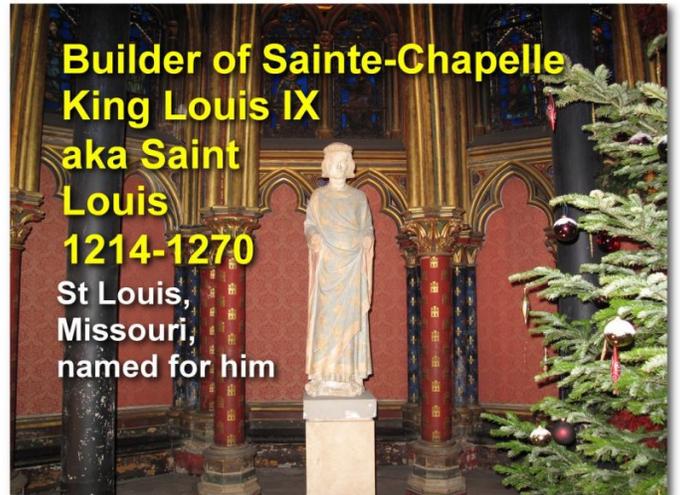
**Total of 1,113 13th c  
Stained Glass Windows**



**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**



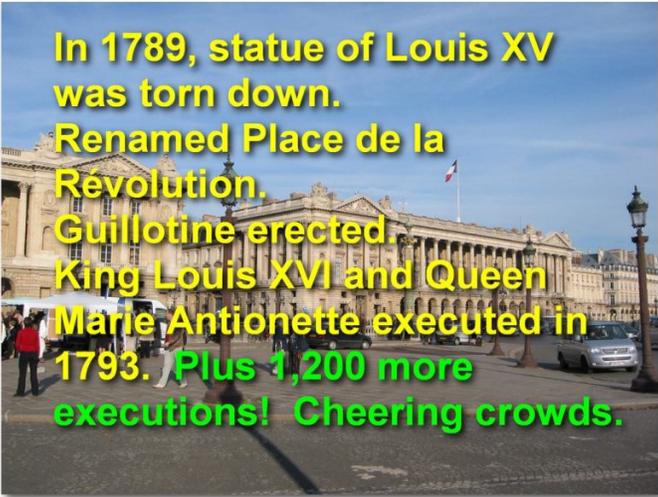
**Île de la Cité has some  
residential and dining areas**



**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



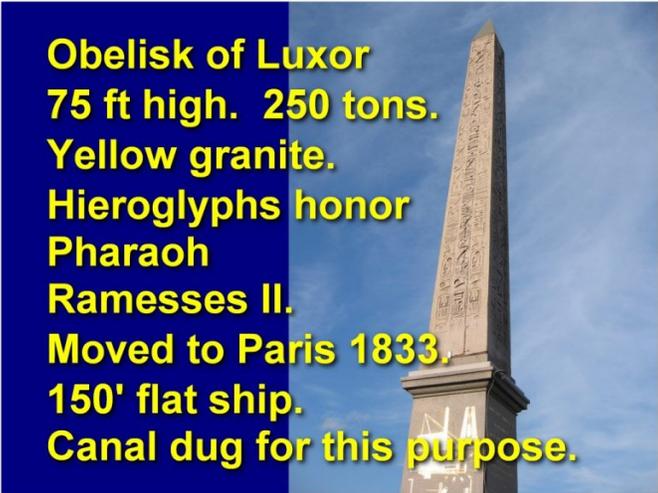
Place de la Concorde  
Wedding  
Photo Ops



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



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.

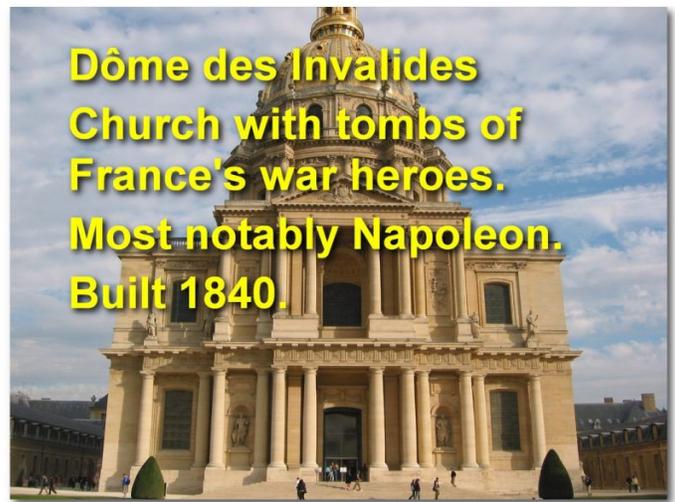


Ice Skating at Hotel de Ville in Winter





**Hotel de Ville**  
Right across Seine  
from Notre-Dame



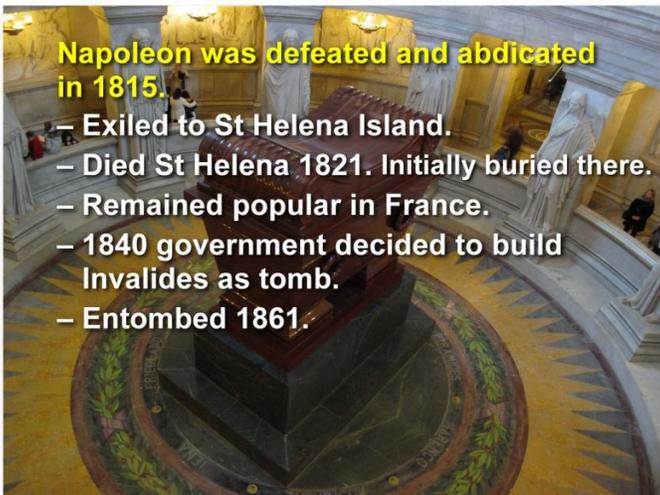
**Dôme des Invalides**  
Church with tombs of  
France's war heroes.  
Most notably Napoleon.  
Built 1840.



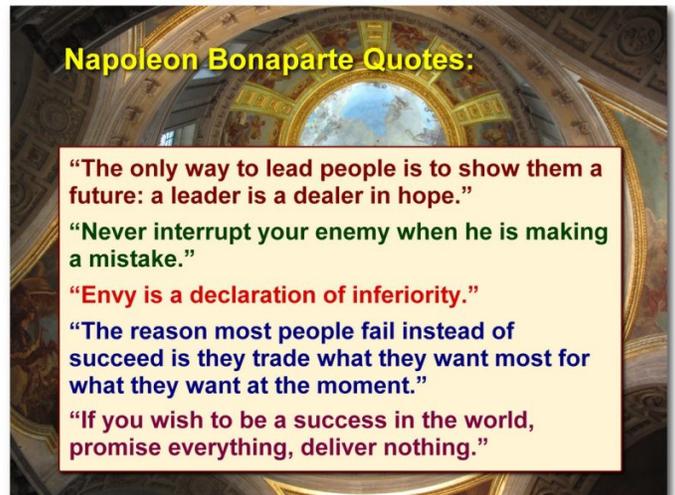
**1792-1815:** Napoleon  
conquered much of  
Europe (Italy, Austria,  
Spain, Portugal), eastern  
Europe, Egypt, and  
Russia.  
**1804:** Named Emperor of  
France.



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.

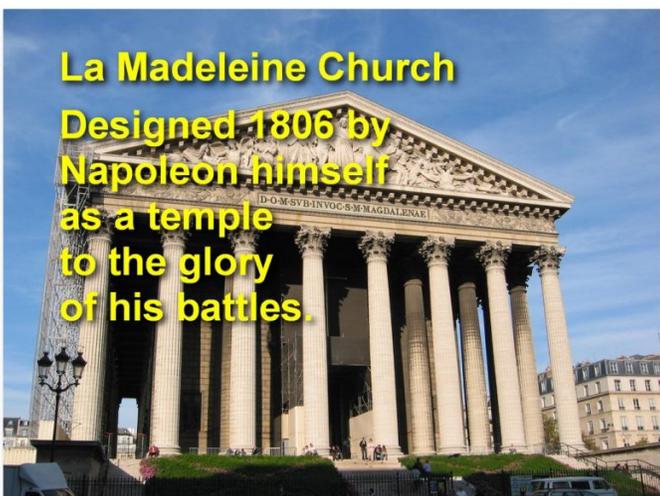


Napoleon was defeated and abdicated  
in 1815.  
- Exiled to St Helena Island.  
- Died St Helena 1821. Initially buried there.  
- Remained popular in France.  
- 1840 government decided to build  
Invalides as tomb.  
- Entombed 1861.



**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."



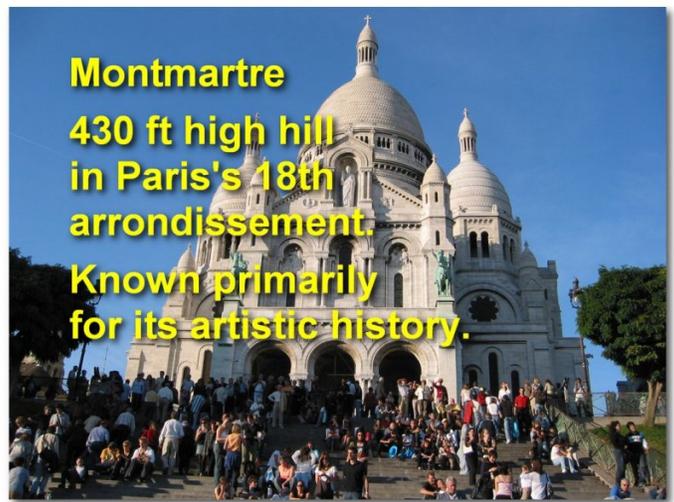
**La Madeleine Church**  
Designed 1806 by  
Napoleon himself  
as a temple  
to the glory  
of his battles.



**La Madeleine Church**  
Completed 1828.  
Not consecrated  
until 1842.  
Inspired by 2 AD  
Maison Carree  
in Nimes.



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.

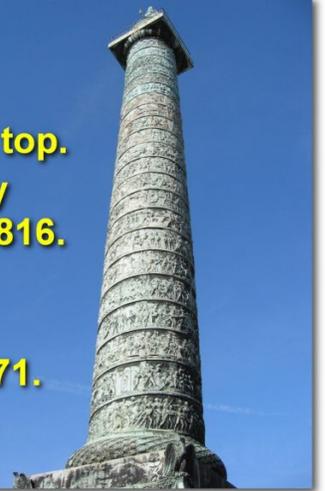


Paris Opera - 1875

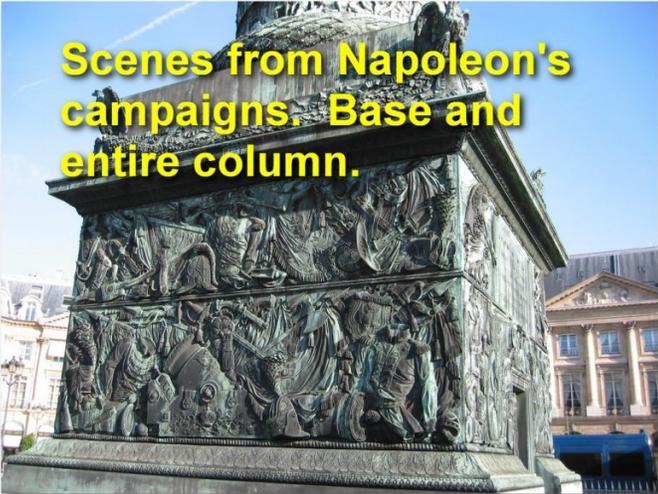
**Vendome Column  
Modeled after Trajan's  
Column in Rome**



**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**



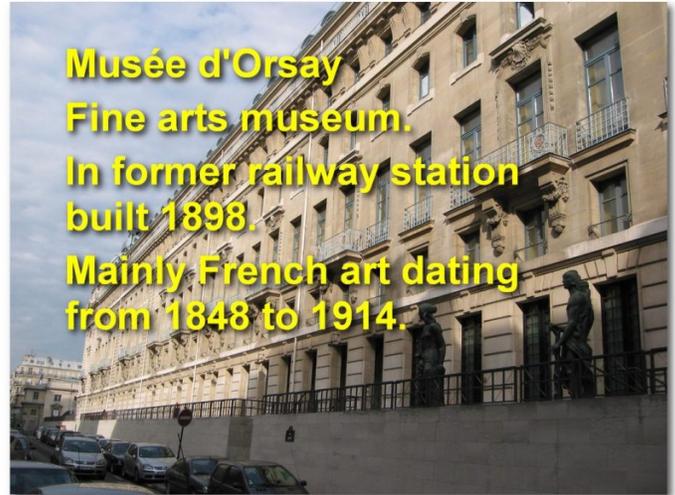
**Paris Metro - Buskers (UK)  
Musiciens ambulants  
US: Street performers**



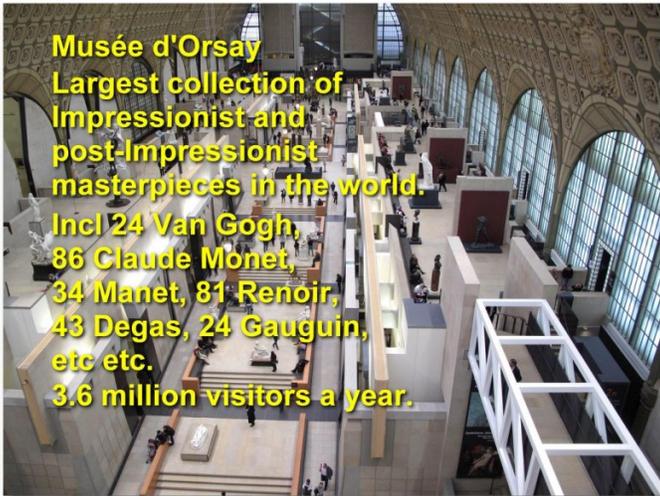


**Institut de France**  
 Learned societies covering:

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



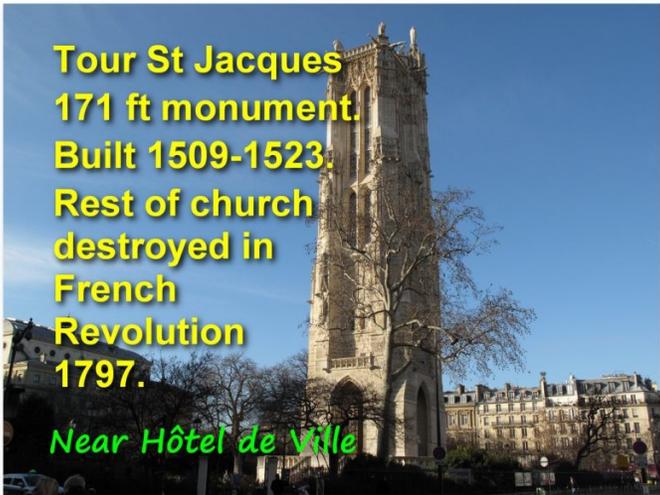
**Musée d'Orsay**  
 Fine arts museum.  
 In former railway station built 1898.  
 Mainly French art dating from 1848 to 1914.



**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.

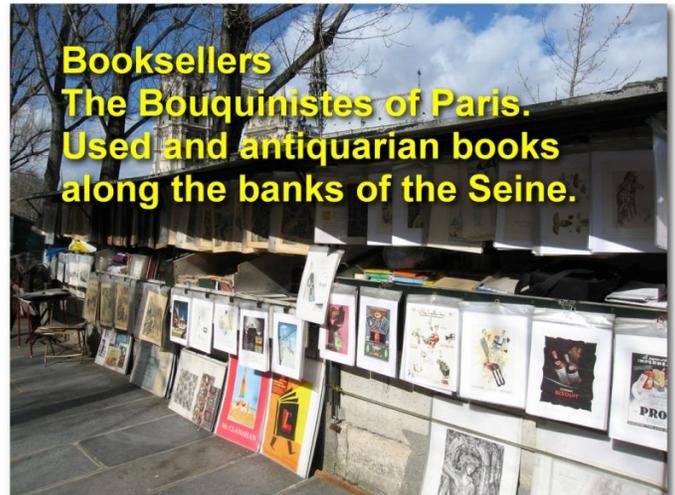


**Palais de Justice**  
 1857-1868.  
 Courthouses.



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

*Near Hôtel de Ville*

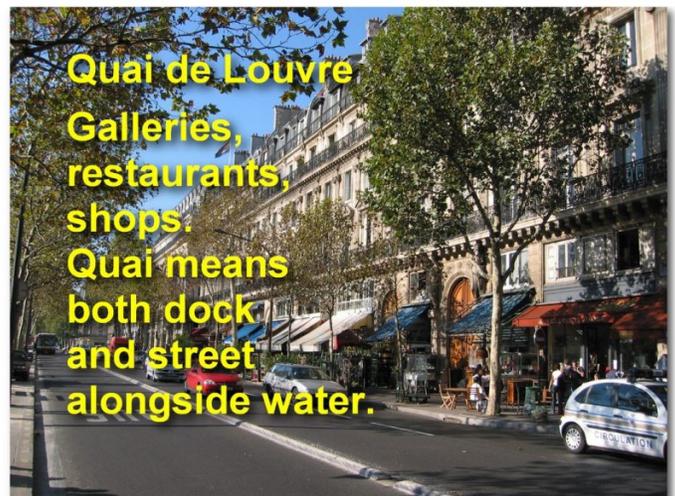


**Booksellers**  
 The Bouquinistes of Paris.  
 Used and antiquarian books along the banks of the Seine.



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

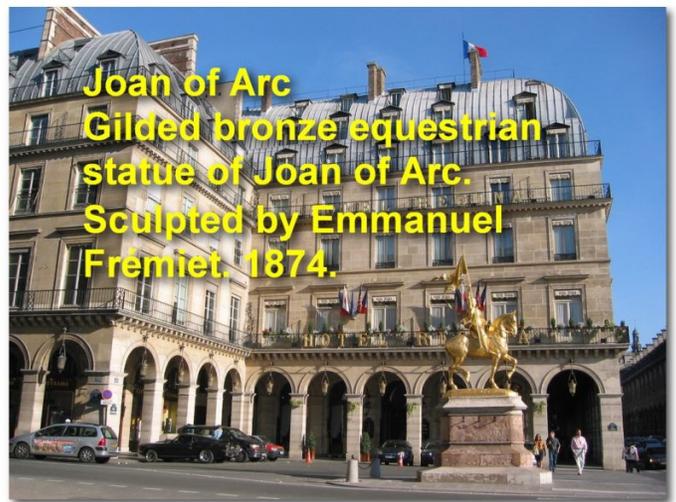
Right behind Notre-Dame.  
 Opened 1962.



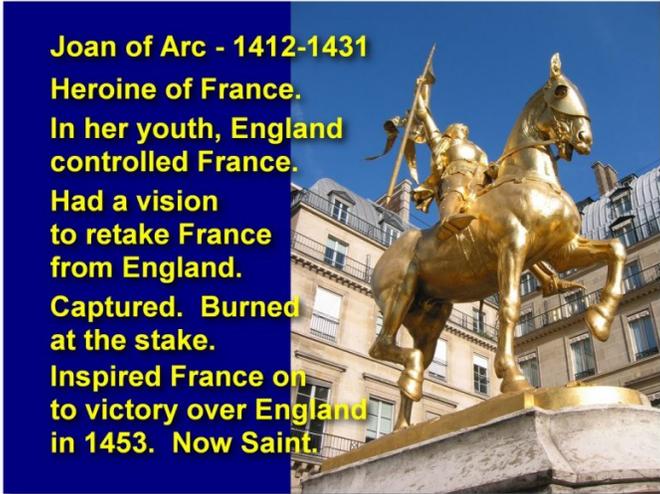
**Quai de Louvre**  
 Galleries, restaurants, shops.  
 Quai means both dock and street alongside water.



**Quai de Louvre  
Aka Quai  
Francois Mitterrand**



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



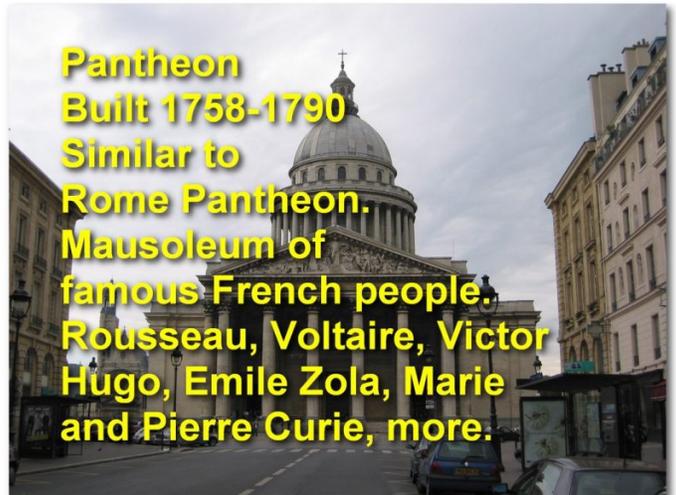
**Joan of Arc - 1412-1431  
Heroine of France.  
In her youth, England  
controlled France.  
Had a vision  
to retake France  
from England.  
Captured. Burned  
at the stake.  
Inspired France on  
to victory over England  
in 1453. Now Saint.**



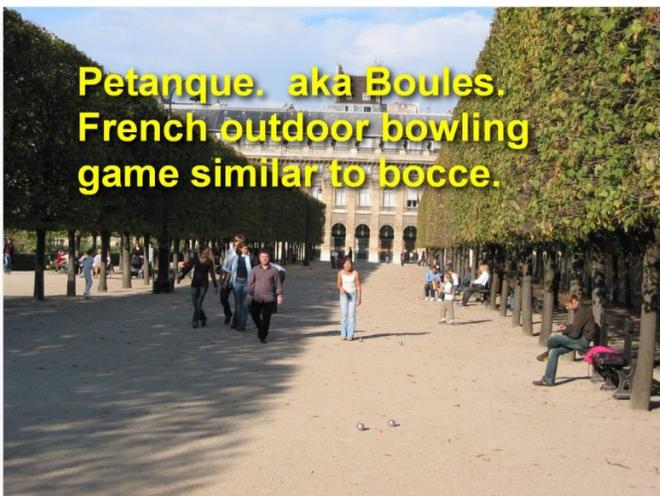
**Saint Germain  
Left bank.  
Arty, university area.  
Many cafes.  
Small hotels.**



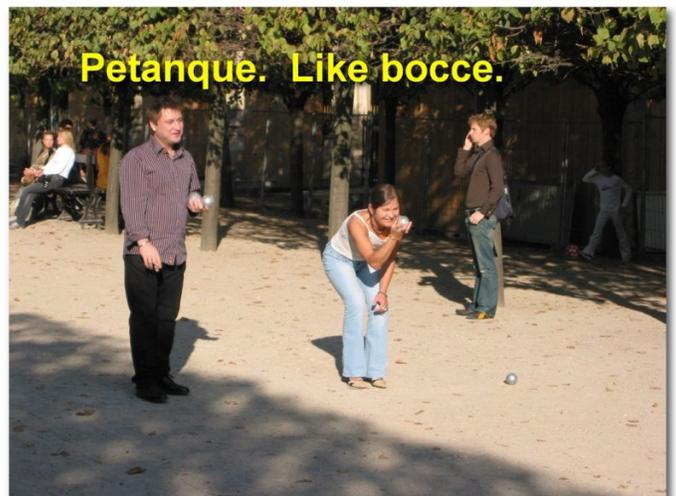
**Abbey of  
St Germain  
des Pres  
12th c  
and later.  
Eugène Delacroix Museum  
is next door.**



**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.**

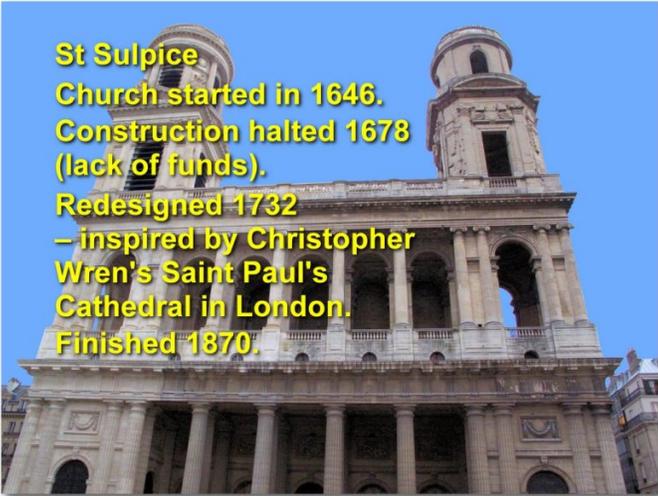
**Palais Royale**  
Built for Cardinal Richelieu  
1633 to 1639.  
Became a royal palace 17th  
and 18th c.



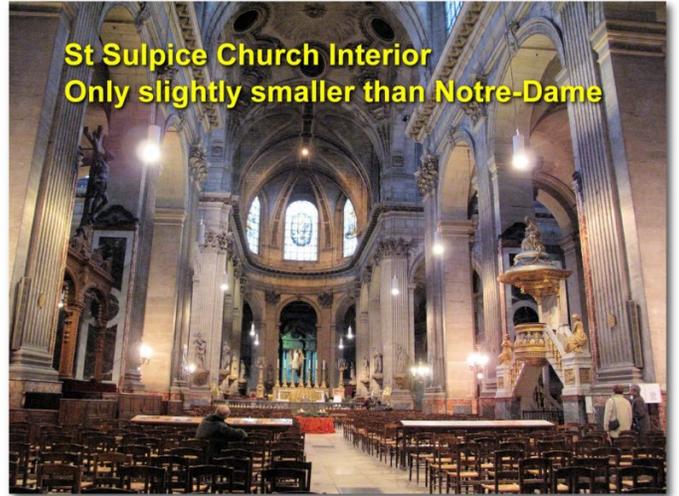
**Palais Royale now offices of  
Council of State (both  
legislative and judicial  
responsibilities).  
Also Ministry of Culture.**



**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**



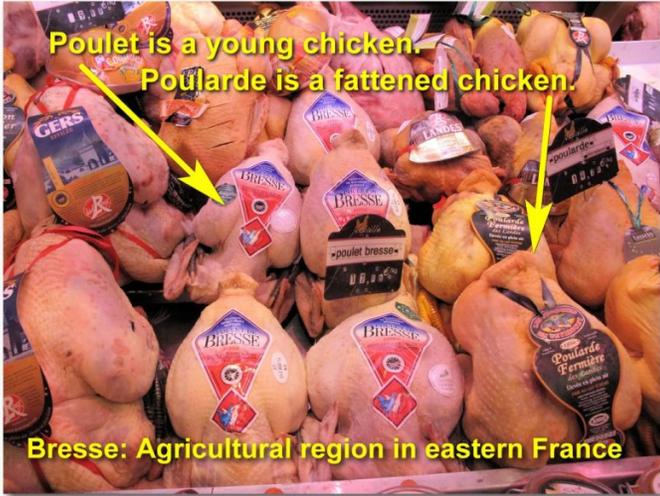
We conclude with a few photos of Paris's spectacular markets, shops, and cafes.



Oysters and Mussels



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



White Asparagus



Pomegranates

Bresse: Agricultural region in eastern France

Berry Tart



Lychees



Kiwano (Horned Melon)

Mangosteens

Sicilian Tomatoes

Pitaya = Dragon Fruit

Reminder: 1kg = 2.2 pounds



SPECIALITES CC





**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**



**Complete Dinners  
€12.50 to €18.50**



**Quartier  
Asiatique  
13th arrondissement**



**Yes, this is Paris**

