

NEIGHBOURHOODS

top picks

- **Centre Pompidou** (p88) Architecturally phenomenal and the world's most successful cultural centre.
- **Ste-Chapelle** (p107) Sway with the wall of stained glass as it shimmers in the sun.
- **Musée du Louvre** (p80) View (and view and view again) the world's greatest and most famous works of art.
- **Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine** (p134) Take a tour of the greatest monuments in France.
- **Cathédrale de Notre Dame de Paris** (p104) Ogle at the organ in this grandiose monument to Gothic architecture.
- **Musée Rodin** (p130) Ponder *The Thinker* or re-enact *The Kiss* at the sculptor's home (and garden).
- **Musée de l'Orangerie** (p87) 'Swim' among the fragrant blossoms of Monet's sublime *Water Lilies*.
- **Eiffel Tower** (p131) Climb, circle or just look at the icon that is more Parisian than Paris itself.

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Paris is a compact, easily negotiated city. Some 20 arrondissements (city districts) spiral clockwise from the centre and are important locators; their numbers are always included in addresses.

Each of Paris' arrondissements has a distinct personality. The 1er has plenty of sights but few residents, the 5e is studenty, the 7e full of ministries and embassies; the 10e was traditionally working-class but is now a trendy district in which to live, while the 16e is a bastion of the well-heeled. But the profiles are not always so cut and dried; the lay of the land becomes much clearer to visitors when they see the city as composed of named *quartiers* (quarters or neighbourhoods).

This guide starts on the Right Bank, north of the Seine, in the area around the Louvre and Les Halles, which largely takes in the 1er but also part of the 2e and the westernmost edge of the 4e. Next come the Marais (4e and 3e) and the contiguous Bastille (11e) districts to the east and southeast. The two islands in the Seine – Île de la Cité and Île St-Louis – are on neither the Right nor Left Bank but they do belong to arrondissements – the 1er and 4e, respectively.

We encounter the Left Bank in the Latin Quarter, the traditional centre of learning in Paris, and the leafy Jardin des Plantes to the east of it (both 5e). The 6e, to the west and southwest, is both a frenetic district (St-Germain and Odéon) and tranquil park (Luxembourg). To the south is Montparnasse (14e), once the centre of nightlife. Faubourg St-Germain and Les Invalides to the north in the 7e are important for their sights but also as the locations of many branches of government and embassies. To the west is the Eiffel Tower and, across the Seine on the Right Bank, the posh 16e arrondissement, a district of broad, tree-lined avenues and some excellent museums.

To the east and still on the Right Bank is the 8e, which includes the lion's share of Parisian icons: Étoile, with its landmark Arc de Triomphe, and the wide boulevard known as the Champs-Élysées. At the end of this grand avenue are two very important *places* (squares): Concorde and, to the north, Madeleine. Above the 8e is the multifaceted 17e, with its beautiful, Haussmann-era buildings beyond the Gare St-Lazare and the working-class neighbourhoods of Clichy. To the east is the 9e, where you'll find the city's original Opéra and the Grands Boulevards.

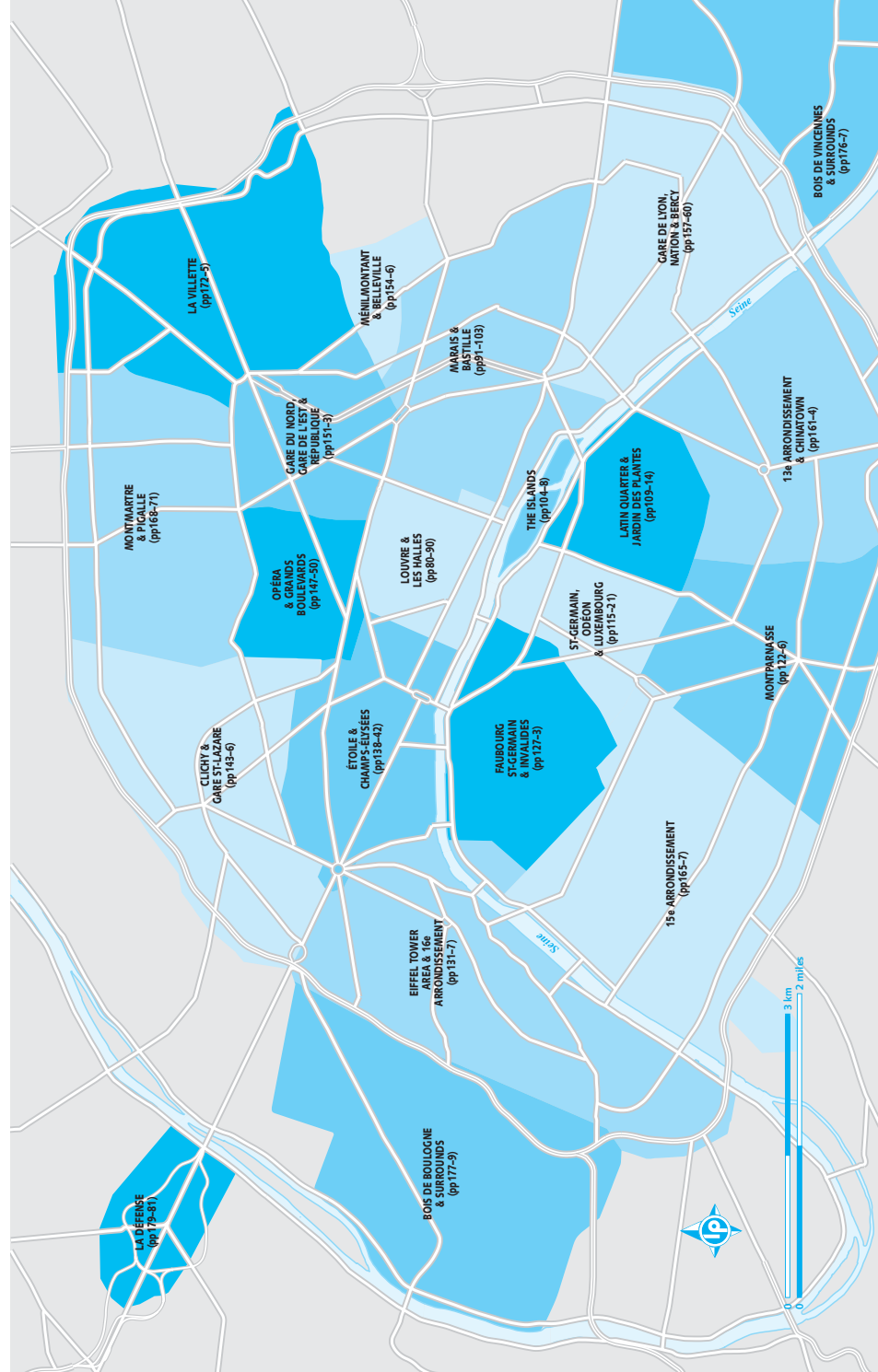
The 10e, hosting both the Gare du Nord and the Gare de l'Est, is the city's rail hub. Below République (3e) and its enormous and chaotic square is the *branché* (trendy) district of Mémilmontant – awash in alternative bars, cafés and restaurants, especially along rue Oberkampf in the northern 11e – and to the east, the solidly working-class neighbourhood of Belleville (20e).

The 12e contains Gare de Lyon to the northwest, the huge square-cum-roundabout called Nation to the east and, to the south, the redeveloped area of Bercy, its old wine-warehouses now turned into a wining-and-dining 'theme park'. Across the Seine is the 13e arrondissement, home to Chinatown and the grandiose Bibliothèque Nationale de France, and currently undergoing massive redevelopment. The 15e arrondissement, the largest and most populous district but arguably, least interesting to tourists, is to the west.

To the north in the 18e is Montmartre, the Paris of myth and films, and Pigalle, the naughty red-light district that today looks pretty tame. La Villette, with its lovely park, canal and cutting-edge museums in the far-flung 19e arrondissement of the northeast, is the last district of major importance *intra-muros*, Latin for 'within the walls' and what Parisians call central Paris. Areas of interest to visitors 'outside the walls' include the Bois de Vincennes and Bois de Boulogne, Paris' 'lungs' and recreational centres to the east and the west respectively; La Défense, the futuristic business and residential district at the northern end of metro line 1; and St-Denis, to the north on metro line 13, which has an important 12th-century cathedral.

In this chapter, the Transport boxed texts provide quick reference for the location of metro and train stations, tram and bus stops, and ferry piers in each district.

'Montmartre, the Paris of myth and films, and Pigalle, the naughty red-light district'



ITINERARY BUILDER

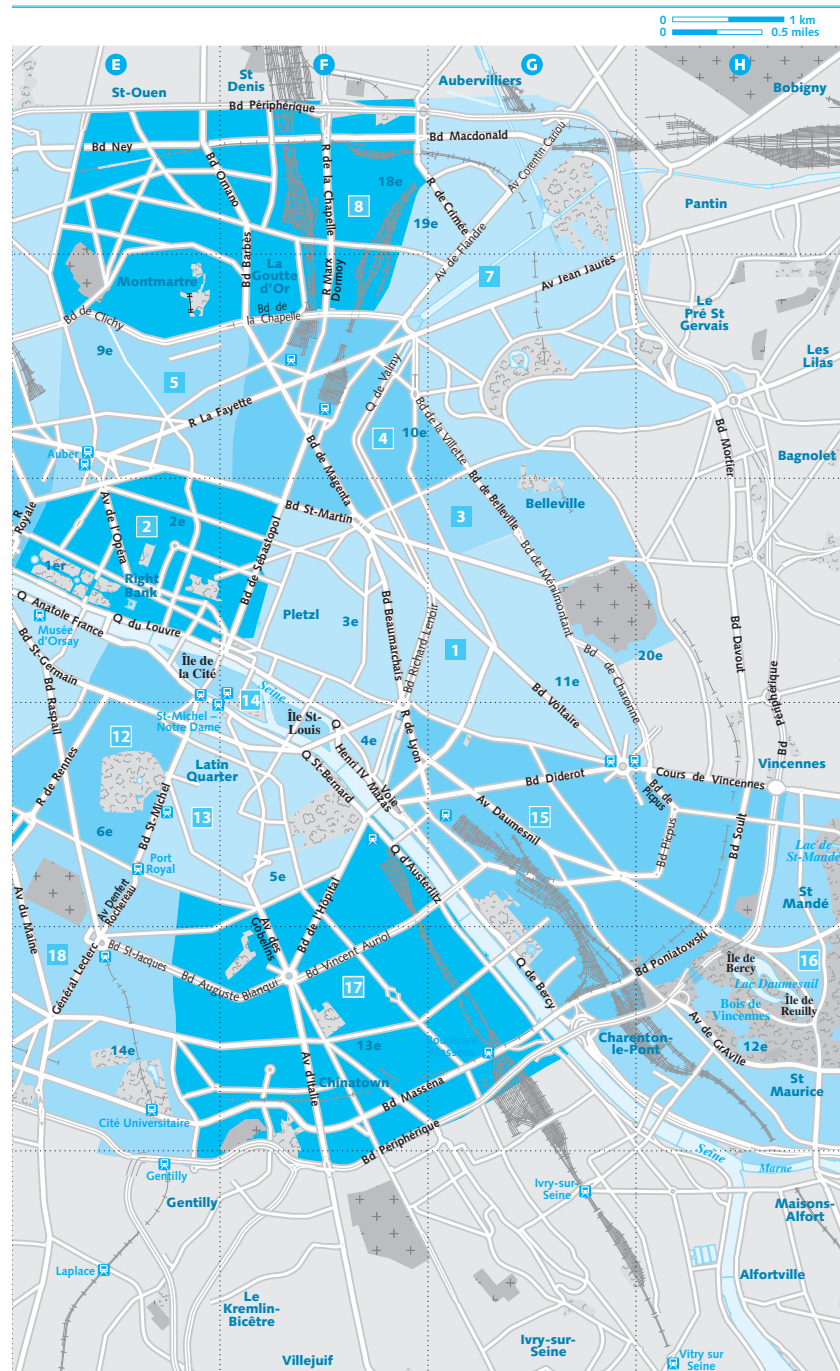
It's easy to see lots of Paris in a very short time; as we point out in [Introducing Paris](#) (p2), familiar sights and landmarks seem to leap out at you from every corner. But to really get under the skin of Paris you'll want to look beyond the obvious. This Itinerary Builder should help you find a range of both obvious and slightly more obscure places in eight featured neighbourhoods.

HOW TO USE THIS TABLE

The table below allows you to plan a day's worth of activities in any area of the city. Simply select which area you wish to explore, and then mix and match from the corresponding listings to build your day. The first item in each cell represents a well-known highlight of the area, while the other items are more off-the-beaten-track gems.

AREA	ACTIVITIES	Sights	Museums & Galleries	Activities	Eating	Drinking	Shopping
Louvre & Les Halles		Centre Pompidou (p88)	Musée du Louvre (p80)	Spa Nuxe (p318)	Aux Lyonnais (p234)	Le Fumoir (p285)	Kiliwatch (p200)
		Église St-Eustache (p89)	Les Arts Décoratifs (p84)	Jardin des Tuileries (p85)	Chez la Vieille (p234)	Harry's New York Bar (p285)	E Dehillerin (p201)
		Passages Couverts (p188)	Musée de l'Orangerie (p87)	Cityrama (p407)	Le Vaudeville (p232)	Angéline (p286)	Anna Joliet (p201)
Marais & Bastille		Place des Vosges (p91)	Musée Picasso (p96)	Vit'Halles Beaubourg (p319)	L'Ambassade d'Auvergne (p242)	La Perle (p287)	APC (p202)
		Pletzl (p91)	Musée des Arts et Métiers (p97)	Paris à Vélo, C'est Sympa! (p406)	Le Petit Marché (p239)	Le Pick-Clops (p288)	CSAO Boutique & Gallery (p206)
		Cimetière du Père Lachaise (p154)	Maison de Victor Hugo (p91)	Canal Croises Canauxrama (p406)	Le Temps au Temps (p238)	Le Bistrot du Peintre (p289)	Red Wheelbarrow Bookstore (p202)
Latin Quarter & Jardin des Plantes		Panthéon (p114)	Institut du Monde Arabe (p112)	Jardin des Plantes (p113)	Le Coupe-Chou (p250)	Le Verre à Pied (p290)	Pâtisserie Sadaharu Aoki (p209)
		Mosquée de Paris (p113)	Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle (p113)	Hammam de la Mosquée de Paris (p318)	L'AOC (p250)	Le Pub St-Hilaire (p291)	Shakespeare & Company (p208)
		Sorbonne (p114)	Musée National du Moyen Age (p114)	Piscine Pontoise (p323)	Le Petit Pontoise (p251)	Le Vieux Chêne (p290)	Magie (p209)
St-Germain, Odéon & Luxembourg		Église St-Sulpice (p115)	Fondation Dubuffet (p119)	Jardin du Luxembourg (p119)	Ze Kitchen Galerie (p255)	Café de Flore (p292)	Ivoire (p209)
		Église St-Germain des Prés (p115)	Musée National Eugène Delacroix (p121)		Le Mâchon d'Henri (p257)	Le Comptoir des Cannelles (p293)	La Dernier Goutte (p211)
		Institut de France (p119)	Pièce Unique Variations (p210)		Le Salon d'Hélène (p254)	Le 10 (p292)	Le Dépôt-Vente de Bucy (p204)
Étoile & Champs-Élysées		Arc de Triomphe (p138)	Petit Palais (p139)	Spa Harnn & Thann (p318)	Bistrot du Sommelier (p261)	Buddha Bar (p294)	Espace IGN (p213)
		Av des Champs-Élysées (p138)	Palais de la Découverte (p139)	Bateaux-Mouches (p407)	Graindorge (p262)	Cricketer (p294)	Fromagerie Alléosse (p214)
		Place de la Concorde (p139)	Grand Palais (p139)		Ladurée (p234)		Fauchon (p214)
Opéra & Grands Boulevards		Palais Garnier (p147)	Musée National Gustave Moreau (p150)	Paris Story (p405)	La Boule Rouge (p264)	De La Ville Café (p295)	La Maison du Miel (p215)
		Les Grands Boulevards (p147)	Musée de Parfum (p147)	L'Open Tour (p407)	Le Roi du Pot au Feu (p265)	O'Sullivan's (p295)	Le Printemps (p215)
		Place de l'Opéra (p147)	Musée Grévin (p147)		Casa Olympe (p264)		Hôtel Drouot (p215)
Gare de Lyon, Nation & Bercy		Cinémaèque Française (p157)	Maison Rouge (p157)	Parc de Bercy (p157)	Sardegna a Tavola (p272)	La Liberté (p297)	Fermob (p216)
		Viaduc des Arts (p157)	Musée des Arts Forains (p160)		Comme Cochons (p273)	La Flèche d'Or (p308)	Marché aux Puces d'Aligre (p216)
		Passerelle Simone de Beauvoir (p157)	Maison de Jardinage (p157)		Les Amis de Messina (p272)	Chai 33 (p297)	La Maison du Cerf-Volant (p216)
Montmartre & Pigalle		Basilique du Sacré Cœur (p168)	Musée de Montmartre (p170)	Petit Train de Montmartre (p170)	Le Maquis (p279)	Le Dépanneur (p299)	Gaspard de la Butte (p217)
		Place du Tertre (p168)	Musée de la Vie Romantique (p171)	Cook'n with Class (p398)	La Table d'Anvers (p278)	Le Progrès (p299)	La Citadelle (p217)
		Cimetière de Montmartre (p168)	Dalí Espace Montmartre (p170)		Chez Toinette (p278)	La Fourmi (p298)	

GREATER PARIS



LOUVRE & LES HALLES

Drinking p284; Eating p230; Shopping p198; Sleeping p336

The 1er arrondissement contains some of the most important sights for visitors to Paris. Though it can boast a wild and exciting side, it remains essentially a place where history and culture meet on the banks of the Seine.

Sculptures merge with lawns, pools and fountains, while casual strollers lose themselves in the lovely promenade stretching from the gardens of the Tuileries to the square courtyard of the Louvre. A few metres away, under the arcades of the rue de Rivoli, the pace quickens with bustling shops and chaotic traffic. Parallel to rue de Rivoli, rue St-Honoré runs from place Vendôme to Les Halles, leaving in its wake the Comédie Française and the manicured gardens of the Palais Royal.

The Forum des Halles and rue St-Denis seem kilometres away but are already visible, soliciting unwary passers-by with bright lights, jostling crowds and painted ladies. The mostly pedestrian zone between the Centre Pompidou and the Forum des Halles (with rue Étienne Marcel to the north and rue de Rivoli to the south) is filled with people day and night, just as it was for the 850-odd years when part of it served as Paris' main *halles* (marketplace).

The Bourse (Stock Exchange) is the financial heart of the 2e arrondissement to the north, the Sentier district (around the Sentier metro and rue d'Aboukir with rue de Cléry), the centre of the city's garment trade and the Opéra, its ode to music and dance. From rue de la Paix, where glittering jewellery shops display their wares, to blvd Poissonnière and blvd de Bonne Nouvelle, where stalls and fast-food outlets advertise with garish neon signs, this arrondissement is a real hotchpotch.

MUSÉE DU LOUVRE Map p86

☎ 01 40 20 53 17; www.louvre.fr; permanent collections/permanent collections & temporary exhibits €9/13, after 6pm Wed & Fri €6/11, permanent collections free for under 18yr & after 6pm Fri for 18-25yr, 1st Sun of the month free; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon, Thu, Sat & Sun, to 10pm Wed & Fri; 🚇 Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre

The vast Palais du Louvre was constructed as a fortress by Philippe-Auguste in the early 13th century and rebuilt in the mid-16th century for use as a royal residence. The Revolutionary Convention turned it into a national museum in 1793.

The paintings, sculptures and artefacts on display in the Louvre Museum have been assembled by French governments over the past five centuries. Among them are works of art and artisanship from all

over Europe and collections of Assyrian, Etruscan, Greek, Coptic and Islamic art and antiquities. The Louvre's *raison d'être* is essentially to present Western art from the Middle Ages to about 1848 (at which point the Musée d'Orsay across the river takes over), as well as the works of ancient civilisations that formed the starting point for Western art.

When the museum opened in the late 18th century it contained 2500 paintings and *objets d'art*; today some 35,000 are on display. The 'Grand Louvre' project inaugurated by the late President Mitterrand in 1989 doubled the museum's exhibition space, and new and renovated galleries have opened in recent years devoted to *objets d'art* such as Sèvres porcelain and the crown jewels of Louis XV (Room 66, 1st floor, Apollo Gallery, Denon Wing).

Daunted by the richness and sheer size of the place (the side facing the Seine is 700m long and it is said that it would take nine months to see every piece of art in the museum), locals and visitors alike often find the prospect of an afternoon at a smaller museum far more inviting, meaning the Louvre may be the most actively avoided museum in the world. Eventually, most people do their duty and visit, but many leave overwhelmed, unfulfilled, exhausted and frustrated at having got lost on their

way to da Vinci's *La Joconde*, better known as *Mona Lisa* (Room 6, 1st floor, Salle de la Joconde, Denon Wing; see boxed text, p88). Since it takes several serious visits to get anything more than a brief glimpse of the works on offer, your best bet – after checking out a few that you really want to see – is to choose a particular period or section of the Louvre and pretend that the rest is in another museum somewhere across town.

The most famous works from antiquity include the *Seated Scribe* (Room 22, 1st floor, Sully Wing), the *Code of Hammurabi* (Room 3, ground floor, Richelieu Wing) and that armless duo, the *Venus de Milo* (Room 7, ground floor, Denon Wing) and the *Winged Victory of Samothrace* (opposite Room 1, 1st floor, Denon Wing). From the Renaissance, don't miss Michelangelo's *The Dying Slave* (ground floor, Michelangelo Gallery, Denon Wing) and works by Raphael, Botticelli and Titian (1st floor, Denon Wing). French masterpieces of the 19th century include Ingres' *The Turkish Bath* (Room 60, 2nd floor, Sully Wing), Gérault's *The Raft of the Medusa* (Room 77, 1st floor, Denon Wing) and works by Corot, Delacroix and Fragonard (2nd floor, Denon Wing).

The main entrance and ticket windows in the Cour Napoléon are covered by the 21m-high *Grande Pyramide*, a glass pyramid designed by the Chinese-born American architect IM Pei. You can avoid the queues outside the pyramid or at the Porte des Lions entrance by entering the Louvre complex via the Carrousel du Louvre entrance (Map p86), at 99 rue de Rivoli, or by following the 'Musée du Louvre' exit from the Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre metro station. Buy your tickets in advance from the ticket machines in the Carrousel du Louvre, online or by ringing ☎ 08 92 68 36 22 or 08 25 34 63 46, or from the *billetteries* (ticket offices) of Fnac (p302) for an extra €1.10, and walk straight in without queuing. Tickets are valid for the whole day, so you can come and go as you please. They are also valid for the *Musée National Eugène Delacroix* (p121) on the same day.

The Louvre is divided into four sections: the Sully, Denon and Richelieu Wings and Hall Napoléon. Sully creates the four sides of the Cour Carrée (literally 'square courtyard') at the eastern end of the complex. Denon stretches along the Seine to the south; Richelieu is the northern wing running along rue de Rivoli.

TRANSPORT: LOUVRE & LES HALLES

Bus Louvre (rue de Rivoli) for 27 over Pont St-Michel, up blvd St-Michel to Jardin du Luxembourg, rue Claude Bernard (for rue Mouffetard) & Place d'Italie; rue de Rivoli (near Louvre Rivoli metro) for 69 to Invalides, Champ de Mars (Eiffel Tower) and for 72 for place de la Concorde, Grand Palais, Alma Marceau, Bois de Boulogne & Porte de St-Cloud; Châtelet for 38 to blvd St-Michel & Jardin du Luxembourg, for 47 to Place Monge (rue Mouffetard), Place d'Italie and 13e (Chinatown), for 67 to Pigalle & for 85 to Barbès & Porte de Clignancourt & Porte de St-Ouen flea markets

Metro & RER Bourse, Châtelet, Châtelet-Les Halles, Concorde, Étienne Marcel, Les Halles, Louvre-Rivoli, Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre, Pont Neuf, Rambuteau, Tuileries

Boat Musée du Louvre Batobus stop (quai du Louvre)

The split-level public area under the Grande Pyramide is known as the *Hall Napoléon* (🕒 9am-10pm Wed-Mon). The hall has an exhibit on the history of the Louvre, a bookshop, restaurant, café, auditoriums for concerts, lectures and films, and *CyberLouvre* (🕒 10am-5.45pm Wed-Mon), an internet research centre with online access to some 35,000 works of art. The centrepiece of the *Carrousel du Louvre* (p201), the shopping centre that runs underground from the pyramid to the *Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel* (p85), is the *pyramide inversée* (inverted glass pyramid), also the work of Pei.

Free English-language maps of the complex (entitled *Louvre Plan/Information*) can be obtained from the circular information desk in the centre of the Hall Napoléon. Excellent publications to guide you if you are doing the Louvre on your own are *Destination Louvre: A Guided Tour* (€7.50), *Louvre: Guide to the Masterpieces* (€8) and the hefty, 475-page *A Guide to the Louvre* (€17). Much more esoteric are the specialist titles *Cats in the Louvre* and the competing *Dogs in the Louvre*, each priced at €15. An attractive and useful memento is the DVD entitled *Louvre: The Visit* (€26). All are available from the museum bookshop.

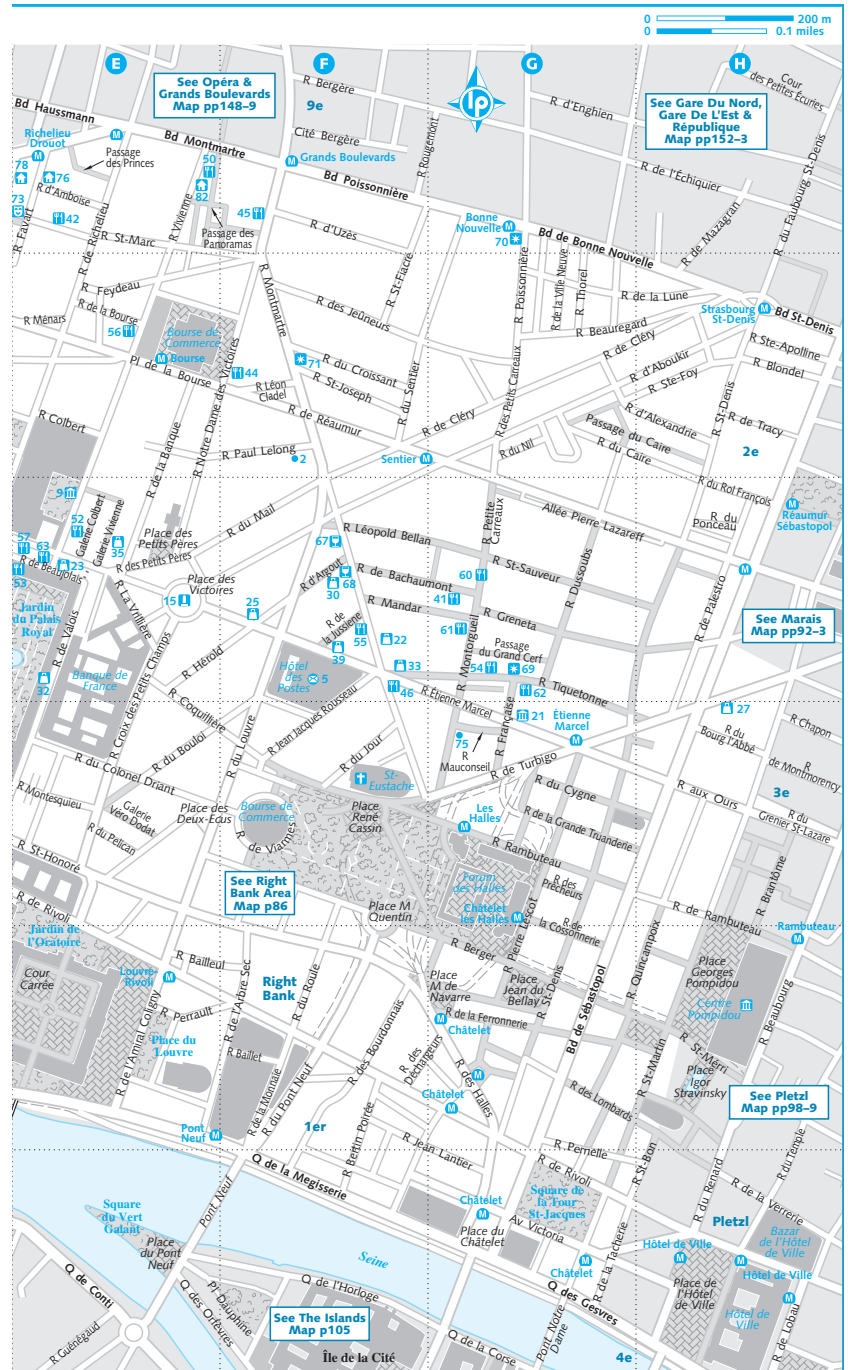
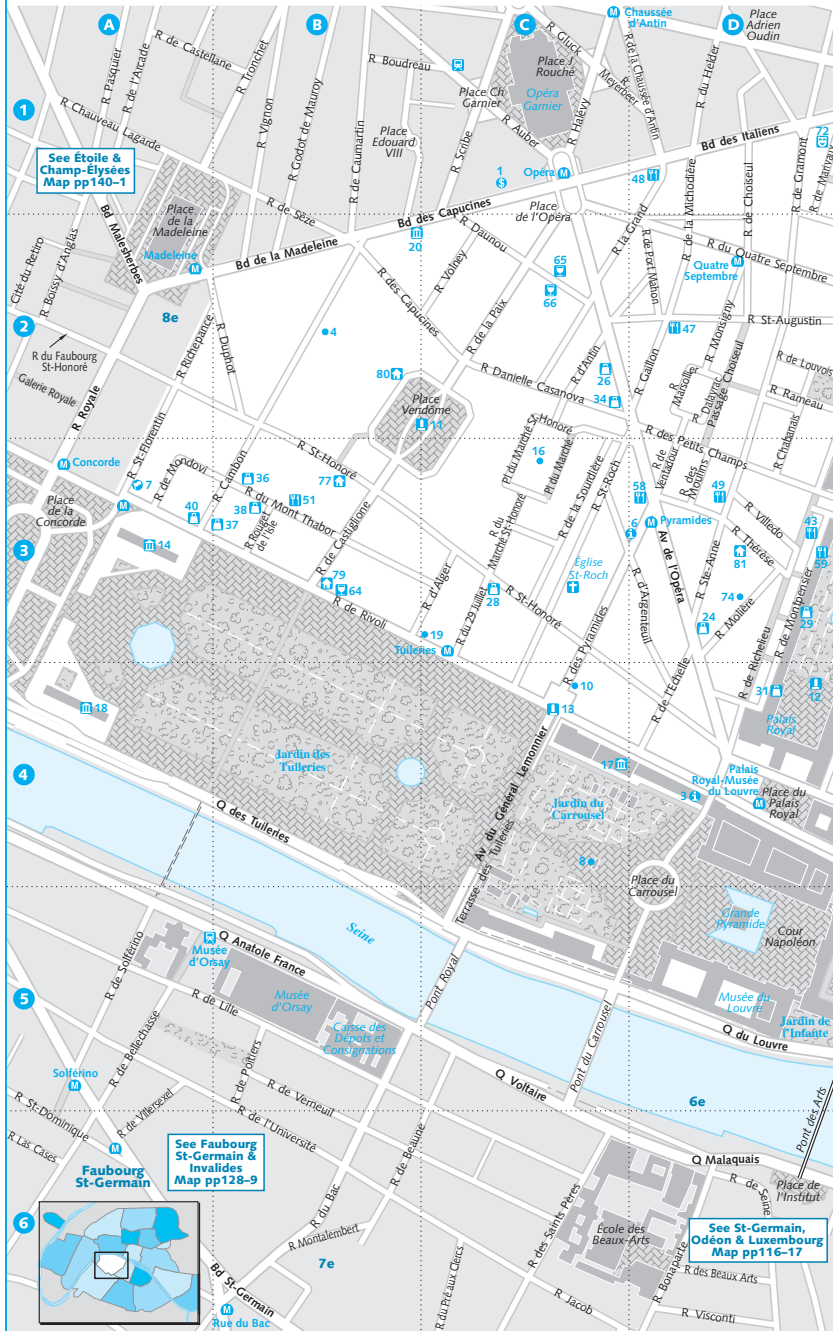
English-language **guided tours** (🕒 01 40 20 52 63) lasting 1½ hours depart from the area under the Grande Pyramide, marked *Accueil des Groupes* (Groups Reception), at 11am, 2pm and (sometimes) 3.45pm

top picks

LOUVRE & LES HALLES

- Musée du Louvre (above)
- Musée de l'Orangerie (p87)
- Centre Pompidou (p88)
- Jardin des Tuileries (p85)
- Église St-Eustache (p89)

LOUVRE & LES HALLES



LOUVRE & LES HALLES

INFORMATION

CCO Bureau de Change.....	1	C1
Cours de Cuisine Olivier Berté.....	2	F2
Espace du Tourisme d'Île de France.....	3	D4
École Ritz Escoffier.....	4	B2
Main Post Office.....	5	F3
Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau (Main Branch).....	6	D3
US Consulate.....	7	A3

SIGHTS (pp80–90)

Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel.....	8	C4
Cabinet des Médailles et Monnaies.....	9	E3
Cityrama.....	10	C4
Colonne Vendôme.....	11	C2
Daniel Buren Sculpture.....	12	D4
Galerie Colbert.....	(see 52)	
Galerie National du Jeu de Paume.....	(see 14)	
Galerie de Montpensier.....	(see 31)	
Galerie de Valois.....	(see 32)	
Jeanne d'Arc Statue.....	13	C4
Jeu de Paume.....	14	A3
Les Arts Décoratifs.....	(see 17)	
Louis XIV Memorial.....	15	E3
Marché de St-Honoré.....	16	C3
Musée de la Mode et du Textile (Les Arts Décoratifs).....	(see 17)	
Musée de la Publicité (Les Arts Décoratifs).....	17	C4
Musée de l'Orangerie.....	18	A4
Paris Vision.....	19	C3
Théâtre-Musée des Capucines.....	20	B2
Tour Jean Sans Peur.....	21	G4

SHOPPING

A Simon.....	22	F3
Anna Joliet.....	23	E3
Antoine.....	24	D3
Bonpoint.....	25	F3
Brentano's.....	26	C2
Canicrèche.....	27	H4
Colette.....	28	C3
Didier Ludot.....	29	D3
Erotokritos Branch.....	30	F3
Galerie de Montpensier.....	31	D4
Galerie de Valois.....	32	E3
Kiliwatch.....	33	F3
Kindal.....	34	C2
Legrand Filles & Fils.....	35	E3
Maria Luisa Accessories.....	36	B3
Maria Luisa Femme.....	37	B3
Maria Luisa Homme.....	38	B3
Marithé & François Girbaud.....	39	F3
WH Smith.....	40	A3

EATING

Aux Crus de Bourgogne.....	41	G3
Aux Lyonnais.....	42	E1
Aux Trois Éléphants.....	(see 69)	
Baan Boran.....	43	D3
Café Moderne.....	44	F2
Chez Papa Grands Boulevards Branch.....	45	F1
Comptoir de la Gastronomie.....	46	F3
Drouant.....	47	D2
Hippopotamus Opéra Branch.....	48	D1
Kunitoraya.....	49	D3
L'Arbre à Cannelle.....	50	E1
L'Ardoise.....	51	B3
Le Grand Colbert.....	52	E3
Le Grand Vefour.....	53	E3
Le Loup Blanc.....	54	G3
Le Tambour.....	55	F3

Le Vaudeville.....	56	E2
Macéo.....	57	E3
Monoprix Opéra.....	58	D3
Restaurant du Théâtre.....	59	D3
Rue Montorgueil Market.....	60	G3
Stohrer.....	61	G3
Villa Papillon.....	62	C3
Willi's Wine Bar.....	63	E3

DRINKING

Angéline.....	64	B3
Footsie.....	65	C2
Harry's New York Bar.....	66	C2
Hemingway Bar.....	(see 80)	
Le Café Noir.....	67	F3
Le Cœur Fou.....	68	F3

NIGHTLIFE

Aux Trois Éléphants.....	69	G3
Le Rex Club.....	70	G1
Social Club.....	71	F2

ARTS

Agence Marivaux.....	72	D1
Opéra Comique.....	73	E1

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Spa Hamn & Thann.....	74	D4
Spa Nuxe.....	75	G4

SLEEPING

Apart'hotel Citadines Opéra Grands Boulevards.....	76	E1
Hôtel Costes.....	77	B3
Hôtel Favart.....	78	E1
Hôtel Meurice.....	79	B3
Hôtel Ritz Paris.....	80	B2
Hôtel Thérèse.....	81	D3
Hôtel Vivienne.....	82	E1

Monday to Saturday. Tickets cost €5 in addition to the cost of admission. Groups are limited to 30 people, so it's a good idea to sign up at least 30 minutes before departure time.

Self-paced audioguide tours in six languages, with 1½ hours of commentary, can be rented for €5 under the pyramid at the entrance to each wing.

LES ARTS DÉCORATIFS Map pp82–3

☎ 01 44 55 57 50; www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr; 107 rue de Rivoli, 1er; adult/18–25yr €8/6.50, under 18 free; ☎ 11am–6pm Tue, Wed & Fri, to 9pm Thu, 10am–6pm Sat & Sun; 📍 Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre

The Palais du Louvre contains three other museums collectively known as the Decorative Arts in its Rohan Wing. Admission, which may vary depending on the exhibitions, includes entry to all three.

The **Musée des Arts Décoratifs** (Applied Arts Museum), which begins on the 3rd floor,

displays furniture, jewellery and such *objets d'art* as ceramics and glassware from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance through the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods to modern times.

The **Musée de la Publicité** (Advertising Museum), which shares the 3rd floor, has some 100,000 posters in its collection dating as far back as the 13th century, and innumerable promotional materials touting everything from 19th-century elixirs and early radio advertisements to Air France as well as electronic publicity. Only certain items are exhibited at any one time; most of the rest of the space is given over to special exhibitions.

The **Musée de la Mode et du Textile** (Museum of Fashion & Textiles) on the 1st and 2nd floors has some 16,000 costumes dating from the 16th century to today, including *haute couture* creations by the likes of Chanel and Christian Lacroix. Most of the outfits are warehoused, however, and dis-

played during regularly scheduled themed exhibitions.

ARC DE TRIOMPHE DU CARROUSEL

Map pp82–3

place du Carrousel, 1er; 📍 Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre

Erected by Napoleon to celebrate his battlefield successes of 1805, this triumphal arch, which is set in the Jardin du Carrousel at the eastern end of the Jardin des Tuileries, was once crowned by the ancient Greek sculpture called *The Horses of St Mark's*, 'borrowed' from the portico of St Mark's Basilica in Venice by Napoleon but returned after his defeat at Waterloo in 1815. The quadriga (the two-wheeled chariot drawn by four horses) that replaced it was added in 1828 and celebrates the return of the Bourbons to the French throne after Napoleon's downfall. The sides of the arch are adorned with depictions of Napoleonic victories and eight pink-marble columns, atop each of which stands a soldier of the emperor's Grande Armée.

ÉGLISE ST-GERMAIN L'AUXERROIS

Map p86

☎ 01 42 60 13 96; 2 place du Louvre, 1er; ☎ 8am–7pm; 📍 Louvre-Rivoli or Pont Neuf

Built between the 13th and 16th centuries in a mixture of Gothic and Renaissance styles and with similar dimensions and ground plans to those of Notre Dame, this once royal parish church stands on a site at the eastern end of the Louvre that has been used for Christian worship since about AD 500. After being mutilated in the 18th century by clergy intent on 'modernisation', and damaged during the Revolution, the church was restored by the Gothic Revivalist architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc in

the mid-19th century. It contains some fine Renaissance stained glass.

LOUVRE DES ANTIQUAIRES Map p86

☎ 01 42 97 27 27; www.louvre-antiquaires.com;

2 place du Palais Royal; ☎ 11am–7pm Tue–Sun Sep–Jun, to 7pm Tue–Sat Jul & Aug; 📍 Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre

A tourist attraction in itself, this extremely elegant 'mall' houses some 140 antique shops spread over three floors and is filled with *objets d'art*, furniture, clocks, classical antiquities and jewellery. Visit the place as you would the Louvre across the road, bearing in mind that all the stuff here is up for grabs.

JARDIN DES TUILERIES Map pp82–3

☎ 01 40 20 90 43; ☎ 7am–9pm Apr, May & Sep, 7am–11pm Jun–Aug, 7.30am–7.30pm Oct–Mar; 📍 Tuileries or Concorde

The formal, 28-hectare Tuileries Garden, which begins just west of the Jardin du Carrousel, was laid out in its present form, more or less, in the mid-17th century by André Le Nôtre, who also created the gardens at **Vaux-le-Vicomte** (p372) and **Versailles** (p360). The Tuileries soon became the most fashionable spot in Paris for parading about in one's finery; today it is a favourite of joggers and forms part of the Banks of the Seine World Heritage Site as listed by Unesco in 1991. There are some lovely sculptures within the gardens, including Louise Bourgeois' *The Welcoming Hands* (1996), which faces place de la Concorde.

The **Voie Triomphale** (Triumphal Way), also called the **Axe Historique** (Historic Axis), the western continuation of the Tuileries' east-west axis, follows the av des Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe and, ultimately, to the Grande Arche in the skyscraper district of **La Défense** (p179).

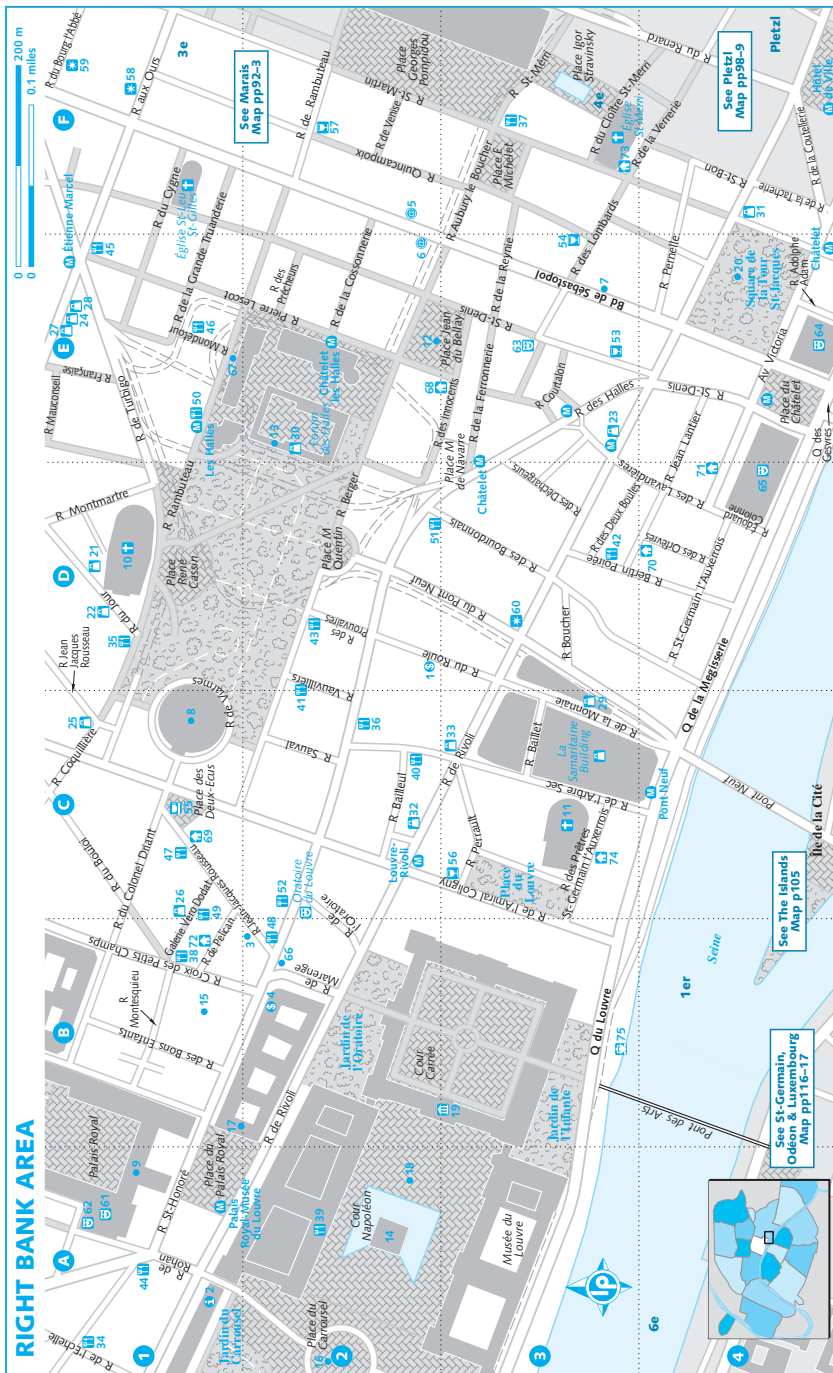
THE INS AND OUTS OF PARIS

When a building is put up in a location where they've run out of consecutive street numbers in Paris, a new address is formed by fusing the number of an adjacent building with the notation *bis* (twice), *ter* (thrice) or even *quater* (four times). In essence, the street numbers 17bis and 89ter are the equivalent of 17a and 89b in English.

The *portes cochères* (street doors) of most apartment buildings in Paris can be opened only by *digicode* (entry code), which is usually alphanumeric (eg 26A10) and changed periodically; the days of the concierges, who would vet every caller before allowing them in, are well and truly over.

The doors of many apartments are unmarked: the occupants' names are nowhere in sight and there isn't even an apartment number. To know which door to knock on, you'll usually be given cryptic instructions, such as *cinquième étage, premier à gauche* (5th floor, first on the left) or *troisième étage, droite droite* (3rd floor, turn right twice).

In France (and in this book), the 1st floor is the floor above the *rez-de-chaussée* (ground floor).



RIGHT BANK AREA

RIGHT BANK AREA

INFORMATION

- Best Change.....1 D2
- Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris.....(see 8)
- Espace du Tourisme d'Île de France.....2 A1
- Laverie Libre Service.....3 B2
- Le Change du Louvre.....4 B2
- Manga Square.....5 F2
- Milk.....6 E2
- Pharmacie des Halles.....7 E3

SIGHTS

- Bourse de Commerce.....8 C1
- Carrousel du Louvre Entrance... (see 2)
- Comédie Française.....(see 61)
- Conseil d'État.....9 A1
- Église St-Eustache.....10 D1
- Église St-Germain L'Auxerrois...11 C3
- Fontaine des Innocents.....12 E2
- Forum des Halles.....13 E2
- Grande Pyramide.....14 A2
- Immeuble des Bons Enfants.....15 B1
- Inverted Glass Pyramid.....16 A2
- Louvre des Antiquaires.....17 B1
- Mini Pei Pyramids.....18 A2
- Musée du Louvre.....19 B3
- Palais Royal.....(see 9)
- Tour St Jacques.....20 E4

SHOPPING

- agnès b enfant.....21 D1
- agnès b femme.....(see 21)
- agnès homme.....22 D1
- André.....23 E3
- Barbara Bui.....24 E1
- Carrousel du Louvre Entrance.....(see 2)

- E Dehillerin.....25 C1
- Forum des Halles.....(see 13)
- Galerie Véro Dodat.....26 C1
- Kabuki Femme.....27 E1
- Kabuki Homme.....28 E1
- Les Halles.....30 E2
- Magazin Z.....31 F4
- Rue de Rivoli.....32 C2
- Surface to Air.....33 C3

EATING

- Au Dauphin.....34 A1
- Au Pied de Cochon.....35 D1
- Baan Boran à Emporter.....36 C2
- Café Beaubourg.....37 F3
- Café de l'Époque.....38 B1
- Café Marly.....39 A2
- Chaz La Vieille.....40 C2
- Djakarta Bali.....41 D2
- Franprix Châtelet.....42 D3
- Franprix Les Halles.....43 D2
- Higuma.....44 A1
- Joe Allen.....45 E1
- L'Autobus Impérial.....46 E1
- L'Épi d'Or.....47 C1
- Le Petit Mâchon.....48 B2
- Le Véro Dodat.....49 C1
- Léon de Bruxelles Les Halles Branch.....50 E1
- Saveurs Végét' Halles.....51 D2
- Scoop.....52 C2

DRINKING

- Café Oz.....53 E3
- Kong.....(see 29)
- L'Imprévu.....54 E3
- Le Café des Initiés.....55 C1

- Le Fumoir.....56 C3
- Le Troisième Lieu.....57 F2

NIGHTLIFE

- Le Dépôt.....58 F1
- Les Bains Douches.....59 F1
- Slow Club.....60 D3

ARTS

- Comédie Française.....61 A1
- Comédie Française Studio Théâtre.....(see 2)
- Discount Ticket Window.....62 A1
- Fnac Forum des Halles.....(see 30)
- Galerie du Carrousel du Louvre... (see 2)
- Le Baiser Salé.....63 E3
- Sunset & Sundside.....(see 63)
- Théâtre de la Ville.....64 E4
- Théâtre du Châtelet.....65 D4
- Virgin Megastore.....(see 2)

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

- Club Med Gym.....66 B2
- Maison Rouge Libre.....67 E1

SLEEPING

- Apart'hotel Citadines Les Halles...68 E3
- Centre International de Séjour BVJ Paris-Louvre.....69 C1
- Grand Hôtel de Champagne.....70 D4
- Hôtel Britannique.....71 D4
- Hôtel de Lille.....72 B1
- Hôtel St-Merry.....73 F3
- Le Relais du Louvre.....74 C3

TRANSPORT

- Batobus Stop.....75 B3
- Noctambus (Night Bus) Stops... (see 20)

JEU DE PAUME Map pp82-3

☎ 01 47 03 12 50; www.jeudepaume.org; 1 place de la Concorde, 8e; adult/senior, student & 13-18yr €6/3; 🕒 noon-9pm Tue, to 7pm Wed-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat & Sun; 🚶 Concorde

The Galerie du Jeu de Paume – Site Concorde (Jeu de Paume National Gallery at Concorde), which stages innovative exhibitions of contemporary art, is housed in an erstwhile *jeu de paume* (real, or royal, tennis court), built in 1861 during the reign of Napoleon III, in the northwestern corner of the Jardin des Tuileries. A branch of the gallery, the *Jeu de Paume – Site Sully* (p96) in the Hôtel de Sully in the Marais (4e) concentrates on top-notch photography. A joint ticket to both galleries costs €8/4 adult/concession.

MUSÉE DE L'ORANGERIE Map pp82-3

☎ 01 44 77 80 07; www.musee-orangerie.fr; Jardin des Tuileries, 1er; adult/senior, student & 13-18yr €6.50/4.50, 1st Sun of the month free; 🕒 12.30-7pm Wed, Thu & Sat-Mon, to 9pm Fri; 🚶 Concorde

This museum in the southwestern corner of the Jardin des Tuileries is, with the Jeu de Paume, all that remains of the once palatial Palais des Tuileries, which was razed during the *Paris Commune* (p26) in 1871. It exhibits important impressionist works, including an eight-panel series of Monet's *Decorations des Nymphéas* (Water Lilies) in two huge oval rooms purpose-built in 1927 to the artist's specifications, as well as paintings by Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, Renoir, Sisley, Soutine and Utrillo.

PLACE VENDÔME Map pp82-3

Tuileries or Opéra

This octagonal square, and the arcaded and colonnaded buildings around it, was built between 1687 and 1721. In March 1796, Napoleon married Josephine, Viscountess of Beauharnais, in the building that's at No 3 in the southwest corner. Today, the buildings around the square house the posh *Hôtel Ritz Paris* (p336) and some of the city's most fashionable boutiques, especially

MONA LISA: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE SMILE

So much has been written – most recently (and most widely read) by Dan Brown in his best-selling novel *The Da Vinci Code* – about the painting the French call *La Joconde* and the Italians *La Gioconda*, yet so little has been known of the lady behind that enigmatic smile. For centuries admirers speculated on everything from the possibility that the subject was mourning the death of a loved one to that she might have been in love – or in bed – with her portraitist.

Mona (actually *monna* in Italian) is a contraction of *madonna*, while *Gioconda* is the feminine form of the surname *Giocondo*. With the emergence of several clues in recent years, it has been established almost certainly that the subject was Lisa Gherardini (1479–1539?), the wife of Florentine merchant Francesco del Giocondo, and that the painting was done between 1503 and 1506 when she was around 25 years old. At the same time, tests done in 2005 with ‘emotion recognition’ computer software suggest that the smile on ‘Madam Lisa’ is at least 83% happy. And one other point remains unequivocally certain despite occasional suggestions to the contrary: she was not the lover of Leonardo, who preferred his *Vitruvian Man* to his *Mona*.

jewellery stores – place Vendôme has been synonymous with the bauble trade since the Second Empire of the mid-19th century.

In the centre of the square stands the 43.5m-tall **Colonne Vendôme** (Vendôme Column) which consists of a stone core wrapped in a 160m-long bronze spiral that’s made from hundreds of Austrian and Russian cannons captured by Napoleon at the Battle of Austerlitz in 1805. The 425 bas-reliefs on the spiral celebrate Napoleon’s victories between 1805 and 1807. The statue on top depicts Napoleon in classical Roman dress.

PALAIS ROYAL Map pp82–3

place du Palais Royal, 1er; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; **M** Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre The Royal Palace, which accommodated a young Louis XIV for a time in the 1640s, lies to the north of place du Palais Royal and the Louvre. Construction was begun in 1624 by Cardinal Richelieu, though most of the present neoclassical complex dates from the latter part of the 18th century. It now contains the governmental **Conseil d’État** (State Council; Map p86) and is closed to the public.

The colonnaded building facing place André Malraux is the **Comédie Française** (p315; Map p86), founded in 1680 and the world’s oldest national theatre.

Just north of the palace is the **Jardin du Palais Royal** (Map pp82–3; ☎ 01 47 03 92 16; 6 rue de Montpensier, 1er; ☎ 7.30am–10pm Apr & May, 7am–11pm Jun–Aug, 7am–9.30pm Sep, 7.30am–8.30pm Oct–Mar), a lovely park surrounded by two arcades. On the eastern side, **Galerie de Valois** (Map pp82–3) shelters designer fashion

shops, art galleries and jewellers, while **Galerie de Montpensier** (Map pp82–3) on the western side still has a few old shops remaining.

At the southern end there’s a controversial **sculpture** (Map pp82–3) of black-and-white striped columns of various heights by Daniel Buren. It was started in 1986, interrupted by irate Parisians and finished – following the intervention of the Ministry of Culture and Communication – in 1995. The story (invented by Buren?) goes that if you toss a coin and it lands on one of the columns, your wish will come true.

CABINET DES MÉDAILLES ET MONNAIES Map pp82–3

☎ 01 53 79 82 26; www.bnf.fr; 58 rue de Richelieu, 2e; admission free; ☎ 1–5.45pm Mon–Fri, 1–4.15pm Sat; **M** Bourse

Housed in the original home of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France is this enormous hoard of coins, medals and tokens numbering more than 500,000. There’s also an important collection of antiques, including items confiscated during the French Revolution from Ste-Chapelle and the abbey at St-Denis, including silverware, jewellery and the so-called Dagobert’s Throne, dating from the 7th century, on which French kings were once crowned.

CENTRE POMPIDOU Map pp98–9

☎ 01 44 78 12 33; www.centrepompidou.fr; place Georges Pompidou, 4e; **M** Rambuteau The Centre National d’Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou (Georges Pompidou National Centre of Art & Culture), also known as the Centre Beaubourg, has

amazed and delighted visitors since it was inaugurated in 1977, not just for its outstanding collection of modern art but for its radical architectural statement (p49).

The **Forum du Centre Pompidou** (admission free; ☎ 11am–10pm Wed–Mon), the open space at ground level, has temporary exhibits and information desks. The 4th and 5th floors of the centre exhibit a fraction of the 50,000-plus works of the **Musée National d’Art Moderne** (MNAM; National Museum of Modern Art; adult €10–12, senior & 18–25yr €8–10, under 18yr free, 6–9pm Wed free for 18–25yr, 1st Sun of the month free; ☎ 11am–9pm Wed–Mon), France’s national collection of art dating from 1905 onward, and including the work of the surrealists and cubists as well as pop art and contemporary works.

The huge **Bibliothèque Publique d’Information** (BPI; ☎ 01 44 78 12 33; www.bpi.fr; ☎ noon–10pm Mon & Wed–Fri, 11am–10pm Sat & Sun), entered from rue du Renard, takes up part of the 1st as well as the entire 2nd and 3rd floors of the centre. The 6th floor has two galleries for **temporary exhibitions** (usually now included in the higher entrance fee) and a restaurant from the trendy Costes stable called **Georges** (p232), with panoramic views of Paris. There are **cinemas** (adult/senior & 18–25yr €6/4) and other entertainment venues on the 1st floor and in the basement.

West of the centre, **Place Georges Pompidou** and the nearby pedestrian streets attract buskers, musicians, jugglers and mime artists, and can be a lot of fun. South of the centre on place Igor Stravinsky, the fanciful **mechanical fountains** (Map pp98–9) of skeletons, hearts, treble clefs and a big pair of ruby-red lips, created by Jean Tinguely and Niki de St-Phalle, are a positive delight.

The **Atelier Brancusi** (Map pp98–9; 55 rue Rambuteau, 4e; admission free; ☎ 2–6pm Wed–Mon), across place Georges Pompidou to the west of the main building, was designed by Renzo Piano and contains almost 160 examples of the work of Romanian-born sculptor Constantin Brancusi (1876–1957) as well as drawings, paintings and glass photographic plates.

FORUM DES HALLES Map p86

☎ 01 44 76 96 56; www.forum-des-halles.com; 1 rue Pierre Lescaut, 1er; ☎ shops 10am–7.30pm; **M** Les Halles or Châtelet les Halles Les Halles, the city’s main wholesale food market, occupied the area just south of

the Église St-Eustache from the early 12th century until 1969, when it was moved lox, stock and lettuce leaf to the southern suburb of Rungis, near Orly. In its place, this unspeakably ugly, four-level, underground shopping centre with 180 shops was constructed in the glass-and-chrome style of the late 1970s; it’s slated to be gutted and rebuilt by 2010. Topping the complex on the street level is a popular **garden** with a rather stunning sculpture by Henri de Miller (1953–99) called *Listen*. In the warmer months, street musicians, fire-eaters and other performers display their talents here, especially at **place Jean du Bellay**, which is adorned by a multi-tiered Renaissance fountain, the **Fontaine des Innocents** (1549). It is named after the Cimetière des Innocents, a cemetery formerly on this site from which two million skeletons were disinterred after the Revolution and transferred to the **Catacombes** (p122).

ÉGLISE ST-EUSTACHE Map p86

☎ 01 42 36 31 05; www.saint-eustache.org in French; 2 impasse St-Eustache, 1er; audioguide €3; ☎ 9.30am–7pm Mon–Fri, 10am–7pm Sat, 9am–7.15pm Sun; **M** Les Halles This majestic church, one of the most beautiful in Paris, is just north of the gardens next to the Forum des Halles. Constructed between 1532 and 1637, St-Eustache is primarily Gothic, though a neoclassical façade was added on the western side in the mid-18th century. Inside, there are some exceptional Flamboyant Gothic arches holding up the ceiling of the chancel, though most of the ornamentation is Renaissance and even classical. Above the western entrance, the gargantuan organ, with 101 stops and 8000 pipes dating from 1854, is used for

MUSEUM CLOSING TIMES

The vast majority of museums in Paris close on Mondays though more than a dozen, including the Louvre, the Centre Pompidou, the Musée Picasso and the Musée National du Moyen Age, are closed on Tuesdays instead. It is also important to remember that all museums and monuments in Paris shut their doors or gates between 30 minutes and an hour before their actual closing times, which are the ones we list in this chapter. Therefore if we say a museum or monument closes at 6pm, for example, don’t count on getting in much later than 5pm.

concerts (long a tradition here) and at Sunday Mass (11am and 6.30pm).

BOURSE DE COMMERCE Map p86

☎ 01 55 65 55 65; 2 rue de Viarmes, 1er; admission free; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Fri; 🚶 Les Halles

At one time the city's grain market, the circular Trade Exchange was capped with a copper dome in 1811. The murals running along internal walls below the galleries were painted in 1889 and restored in 1998. They represent French trade and industry through the ages.

TOUR JEAN SANS PEUR Map pp82-3

☎ 01 40 26 20 28; www.tourjeansanspeur.com in French; 20 rue Étienne Marcel, 2e; adult/student & 7-18yr €5/3; 🕒 1.30-6pm Wed-Sun Apr-Oct, 1.30-6pm Wed, Sat & Sun Nov-Mar; 🚶 Étienne Marcel The Gothic, 29m-high Tower of John the Fearless was built by the Duke of Bourgogne as part of a splendid mansion in the

early 15th century, so he could take refuge from his enemies at the top. It is one of the very few examples of feudal military architecture extant in Paris. Visitors can ascend the 140 steps of the spiral staircase to the turret on top. A guided tour at 3pm costs €8.

TOUR ST-JACQUES Map p86

square de la Tour St-Jacques, 4e; 🚶 Châtelet The Flamboyant Gothic, 52m-high St James Tower just north of place du Châtelet is all that remains of the Église St-Jacques la Boucherie, which was built by the powerful butchers guild in 1523 as a starting point for pilgrims setting out for the shrine of St James at Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The church was demolished by the revolutionary Directory in 1797, but the bell tower was spared so it could be used to drop globules of molten lead in the manufacture of shot.

MARAIS & BASTILLE

Drinking p286; Eating p237; Shopping p201; Sleeping p337

The Marais, the area of the Right Bank north of Île St-Louis, was exactly what its name in French implies – 'marsh' or 'swamp' – until the 13th century, when it was converted to farmland. In the early 17th century, Henri IV built the place Royale (today's place des Vosges), turning the area into Paris' most fashionable residential district and attracting wealthy aristocrats who then erected their own luxurious private mansions.

When the aristocracy moved out of Paris to Versailles and Faubourg St-Germain during the late 17th and the 18th centuries, the Marais and its town houses passed into the hands of ordinary Parisians. The 110-hectare area was given a major face-lift in the late 1960s and early '70s.

Though the Marais has become a coveted trendy address in recent years, it remains home to a long-established Jewish community. The historic Jewish quarter – the so-called Pletzl – starts in rue des Rosiers, then continues along rue Ste-Croix de la Bretonnerie to rue du Temple, where expensive boutiques sit side-by-side with Jewish bookshops and stores selling religious goods and *cacher* (kosher) grocery shops, butchers, restaurants and takeaway falafel joints. Don't miss the **Art Nouveau synagogue** (Map pp98-9; 10 rue Pavée, 4e) designed in 1913 by Hector Guimard, who was also responsible for the city's famous metro entrances (see boxed text, p156). You'll also find a lot of gay and lesbian bars and restaurants in this area as well.

After years as a run-down immigrant neighbourhood notorious for its high crime rate, the Bastille area has undergone a fair degree of gentrification, which started with the advent of the Opéra Bastille almost two decades ago. The courtyards and alleyways of the 11e arrondissement used to belong to artisans and labourers; the areas around rue du Faubourg St-Antoine, rue de Charonne and rue de la Roquette buzzed with the sound of cabinet makers, joiners, gilders and the like at work. Today most of that's gone, replaced with artists and their lofts. But the old spirit lives on in some hidden parts of the 11e, and the areas to the east of place de la Bastille in particular retain their lively atmosphere and ethnicity.

HÔTEL DE VILLE Map pp98-9

☎ 39 75; www.paris.fr; place de l'Hôtel de Ville, 4e; 🚶 Hôtel de Ville

After having been gutted during the Paris Commune of 1871, Paris' city hall was rebuilt in luxurious neo-Renaissance style from 1874 to 1882. The ornate façade is decorated with 108 statues of noteworthy Parisians. There's a **Salon d'Accueil** (Reception Hall; 29 rue de Rivoli, 4e; 🕒 10am-7pm Mon-Sat), which dispenses information and brochures and is used for temporary (and very popular) exhibitions, usually with a Paris theme. Some

exhibits take place in the **Salle St-Jean** (5 rue Lobau, 4e), which is entered from the eastern side of the building.

PLACE DES VOSGES Map pp98-9

🚶 St-Paul or Bastille

Inaugurated in 1612 as place Royale and thus the oldest square in Paris, Place des Vosges (4e) is an ensemble of 36 symmetrical houses with ground-floor arcades, steep slate roofs and large dormer windows arranged around a large square. Only the earliest houses were built of brick; to save time, the rest were given timber frames and faced with plaster, which was later painted to resemble brick. The square received its present name in 1800 to honour the Vosges *département* (administrative division) for being the first in France to pay its taxes.

The author Victor Hugo lived in an apartment on the 3rd floor of the square's Hôtel de Rohan-Guéméné from 1832 to 1848, moving here a year after the publication of *Notre Dame de Paris* (The Hunchback of Notre Dame); he completed *Ruy Blas* while in residence here. The **Maison de Victor Hugo** (Map pp92-3; Victor Hugo House; ☎ 01 42 72 10 16; www.musee-hugo.paris.fr; 6 place des Vosges,

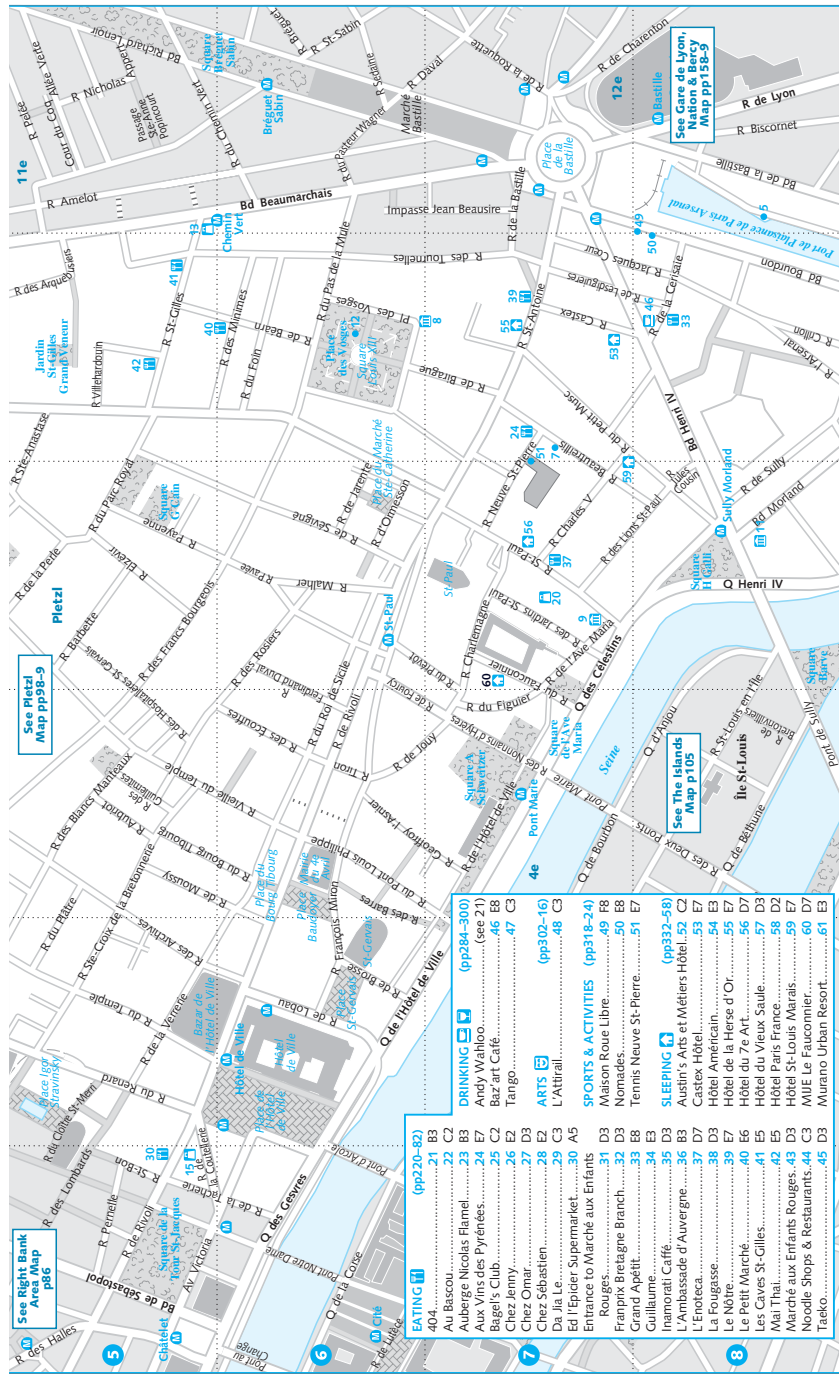
TRANSPORT: **MARAIS & BASTILLE**

Bus Rue des Francs Bourgeois for 29 to Bastille & Gare de Lyon; rue de Rivoli for 76 through the 11e via rue de Charonne to 20e & Porte de Bagnolet

Metro Arts et Métiers, Bastille, Chemin Vert, Hôtel de Ville, Pont Marie, Rambuteau, St-Paul

Boat Hôtel de Ville Batobus stop (quai de l'Hôtel de Ville); Canauxrama pier at Port de Arsenal (12e) opposite 50 blvd de la Bastille for canal boat to Bassin de la Villette (13 quai de la Loire)

MARAIS



4e; temporary exhibits adult/14-26yr/senior & student €7/3.50/5.50, permanent collections free, under 14yr free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) is now a municipal museum devoted to the life and times of the celebrated novelist and poet, with an impressive collection of his personal drawings and portraits.

HÔTEL DE SULLY Map pp98-9

62 rue St-Antoine, 4e; ☎ St-Paul

This aristocratic mansion dating from the early 17th century today houses the headquarters of the **Centre des Monuments Nationaux** (Monum; ☎ 01 44 61 20 00; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; ☎ 9am-12.45pm & 2-6pm Mon-Thu, 9am-12.45pm & 2-5pm Fri), the body responsible for many of France's historical monuments; there are brochures and lots of information available on sites nationwide. Here you'll also find the **Jeu de Paume – Site Sully** (☎ 01 42 74 47 75; www.jeudepaume.org; adult/senior, student & 13-18yr €5/2.50; ☎ noon-7pm Tue-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat & Sun), a branch of the more famous **Galerie de Jeu de Paume** (p87), with excellent rotating photographic exhibits. Visiting both galleries costs €8/4. The **Hôtel de Sully bookshop** (p202) is excellent, and the two **Renaissance-style courtyards** (p193) are worth the trip alone.

MUSÉE CARNAVALET Map pp98-9

☎ 01 44 59 58 58; www.carnavalet.paris.fr in French; 23 rue de Sévigné, 3e; temporary exhibits adult/14-26yr/senior & student €7/3.50/5.50, permanent collections free, under 14yr free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; ☎ St-Paul or Chemin Vert This museum, subtitled **Musée de l'Histoire de Paris** (Paris History Museum), is housed in two **hôtels particuliers** (private mansions): the mid-16th-century, Renaissance-

style **Hôtel Carnavalet**, home to the letter-writer **Madame de Sévigné** from 1677 to 1696, and the **Hôtel Le Peletier de St-Fargeau**, which dates from the late 17th century.

The artefacts on display in the museum's sublime rooms chart the history of Paris from the Gallo-Roman period to modern times. Some of the nation's most important documents, paintings and other objects from the French Revolution are here (Rooms 101 to 113), as is Fouquet's stunning Art Nouveau jewellery shop from the rue Royale (Room 142) and Marcel Proust's cork-lined bedroom from his apartment on **blvd Haussmann** (Room 147), where he wrote most of the 7350-page literary cycle *À la Recherche du Temps Perdu* (Remembrance of Things Past).

MUSÉE PICASSO Map pp98-9

☎ 01 42 71 25 21; www.musee-picasso.fr in French; 5 rue de Thorigny, 3e; adult/18-25yr €7.70/5.70, under 18yr free, 1st Sun of the month free; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Wed-Mon Apr-Sep, 9.30am-5.30pm Wed-Mon Oct-Mar; ☎ St-Paul or Chemin Vert

The Picasso Museum, housed in the stunning **Hôtel Salé**, built for a wealthy farmer called **Aubert de Fontenay** in 1656, forms one of Paris' best-loved art collections. It includes just over 3500 drawings, engravings, paintings, ceramic works and sculptures from the *grand maître* (great master), which the heirs of **Pablo Picasso** (1881-1973) donated to the French government in lieu of paying inheritance taxes. Among the collection is his *Girl with Bare Feet*, painted when Picasso was only 14. You can also view part of Picasso's personal art collection, which includes works by **Braque**, **Cézanne**, **Matisse**, **Modigliani**, **Degas** and **Rousseau**.

MUSÉE COGNACQ-JAY Map pp98-9

☎ 01 40 27 07 21; www.cognacq-jay.paris.fr in French; 8 rue Elzévir, 3e; permanent collections free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; ☎ St-Paul or Chemin Vert

This museum in the **Hôtel de Donon** brings together oil paintings, pastels, sculpture, *objets d'art*, jewellery, porcelain and furniture from the 18th century assembled by **Ernest Cognacq** (1839-1928), founder of **La Samaritaine** department store (now undergoing a complete over-

top picks

MARAIS & BASTILLE

- **Place des Vosges** (p91)
- **Hôtel de Sully** (opposite)
- **Musée Carnavalet** (opposite)
- **Musée Picasso** (opposite)
- **Mémorial de la Shoah** (p100)

haul) and his wife **Louise Jay**. Although **Cognacq** appreciated little of his collection, boasting to all who would listen that he had never visited the **Louvre** and was only acquiring collections for the status, the artwork and *objets d'art* give a pretty good idea of upper-class tastes during the Age of Enlightenment.

ARCHIVES NATIONALES Map pp98-9

☎ 01 40 27 60 96; www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr in French; 60 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 3e; ☎ Rambuteau or St-Paul

France's National Archives are housed in the **Soubise wing** of the impressive, early-18th-century **Hôtel de Rohan-Soubise**, which also contains the **Musée de l'Histoire de France** (Museum of French History; ☎ 01 40 27 62 18; www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/chan in French; adult/senior & 18-25yr €3/2.30, under 18yr free, 1st Sun of the month free; ☎ 10am-12.30pm & 2-5.30pm Mon & Wed-Fri, 2-5.30pm Sat & Sun; ☎ Rambuteau or St-Paul). The museum contains antique furniture and 18th-century paintings but primarily documents – everything from medieval incunabula and letters written by **Joan of Arc** to the wills of **Louis XIV** and **Napoleon**. The ceiling and walls of the interior are extravagantly painted and gilded in the **rococo** style; look out for the **Cabinet des Singes**, a simian-filled room painted by **Christophe Huet** between 1749 and 1752.

MUSÉE DES ARTS ET MÉTIERS

Map pp92-3

☎ 01 53 01 82 00; www.arts-et-metiers.net; 60 rue de Réaumur, 3e; temporary exhibits adult/student & 6-18yr €5.50/3.50, permanent collections free, under 5yr free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue, Wed & Fri-Sun, to 9.30pm Thu; ☎ Arts et Métiers The Arts & Crafts Museum, the oldest museum of science and technology in Europe, is a must for anyone with an interest in

how things work. Housed in the 18th-century priory of **St-Martin des Champs**, some 3000 instruments, machines and working models from the 18th to 20th centuries are displayed across three floors. Taking pride of place is **Foucault's** original pendulum, which he introduced to the world in 1855. There are lots of workshops and other activities here for children. An audioguide costs €2.50.

MUSÉE DE LA CHASSE ET DE LA NATURE Map pp98-9

☎ 01 53 01 92 40; www.chassanature.org, in French; **Hôtel Guénégaud**, 62 rue des Archives, 3e; adult/student & 18-25yr €6/4.50, under 18yr free; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun; ☎ Rambuteau or Hôtel de Ville

The **Hunting and Nature Museum** may sound like an oxymoron to the politically correct, but in France, where hunting is a very big deal, to show your love for nature is to go out and shoot something – or so it would seem. The delightful **Hôtel Guénégaud**, dating from 1651 and now open after a two-year renovation, is positively crammed with weapons, paintings, sculpture and *objets d'art* related to hunting and, of course, lots and lots of trophies – horns, antlers, heads.

MUSÉE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE DU JUDAÏSME Map pp98-9

☎ 01 53 01 86 60; www.mahj.org; 71 rue du Temple, 3e; adult/student & 18-26yr €6.80/4.50 incl audioguide, under 18yr free; ☎ 11am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm Sun; ☎ Rambuteau

The **Museum of the Art & History of Judaism**, housed in the sumptuous **Hôtel de St-Aignan** (1650), traces the evolution of Jewish communities from the Middle Ages to the present, with particular emphasis on the history of the Jews in France but also that of communities in other parts of Europe and North Africa. Highlights include documents relating to the **Dreyfus Affair** (p26) and works by **Chagall**, **Modigliani** and **Soutine**. Temporary exhibits cost an extra €5.50/4 and a combined ticket is €8.50/6.

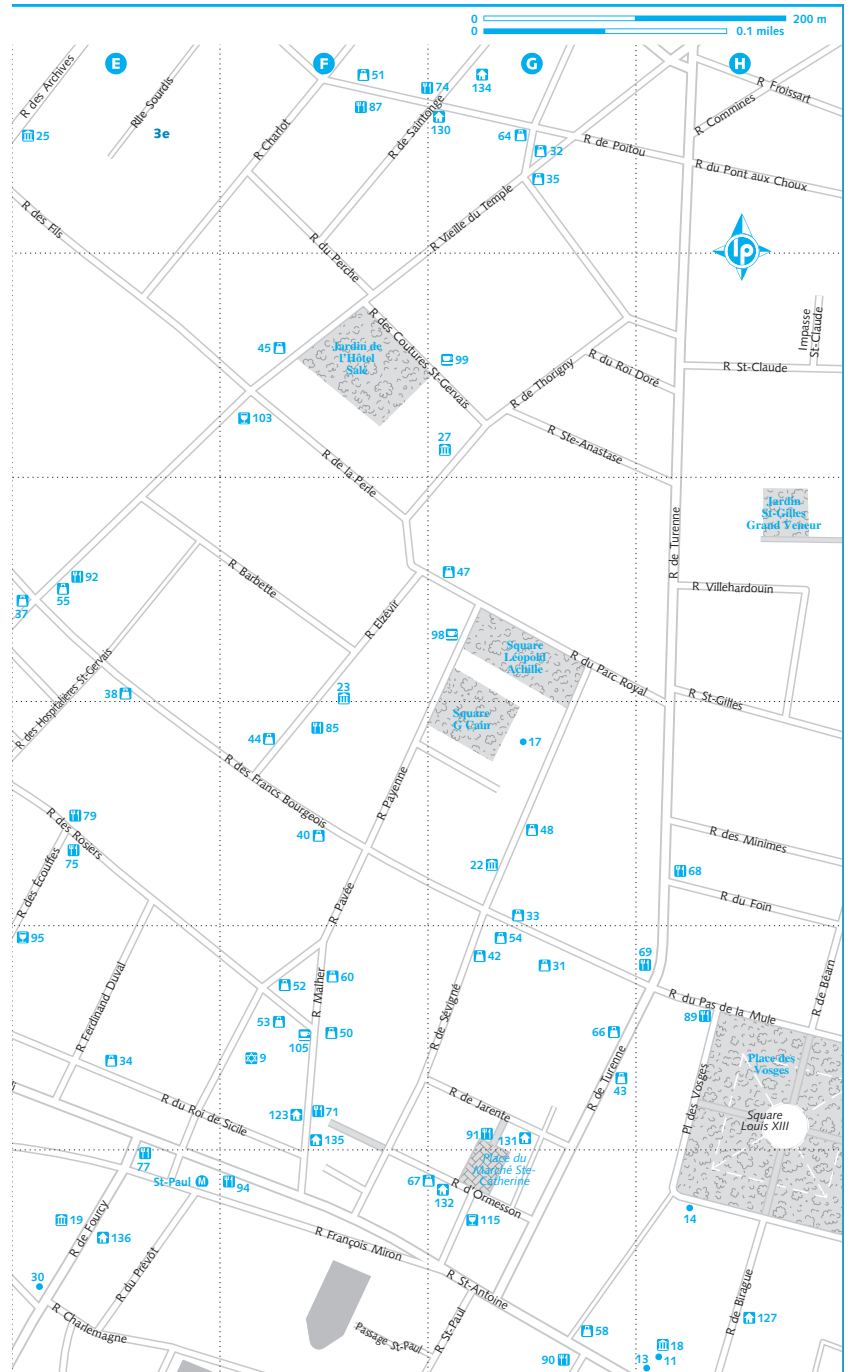
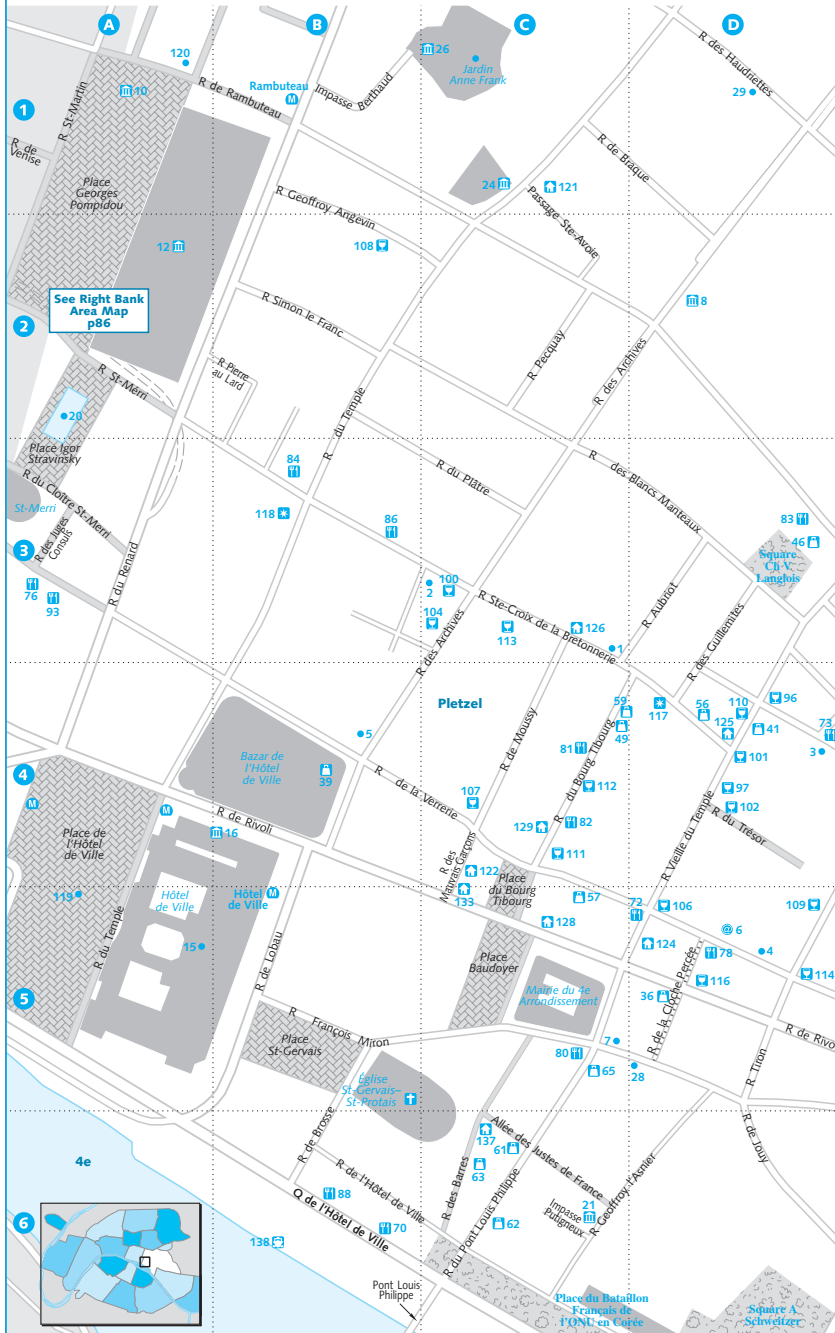
MUSÉE DE LA POUPÉE Map pp98-9

☎ 01 42 72 73 11; www.museedelapoupeeparis.com; impasse Berthaud, 3e; adult/aged 3-11yr/senior & 12-25yr €7/3/5, adult €4 10am-1pm Sat & Sun; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; ☎ Rambuteau Frightening to some – all those beady eyes and silent screams – the **Doll Museum** is

IF WALLS COULD TALK

Centuries of history are inscribed on the façades and pediments of the 4e arrondissement and in the narrow streets, alleys, porches and courtyards; today the **Marais** is one of the few neighbourhoods of Paris that still has most of its pre-Revolution architecture intact. These include the house at 3 rue Volta (Map pp92-3) in the 3e arrondissement, parts of which date back to 1292; the one at 51 rue de Montmorency, also in the 3e and dating back to 1407 which is now a restaurant called **Auberge Nicolas Flamel** (p245); and the half-timbered 16th-century building at 11 and 13 rue François Miron (Map pp98-9) in the 4e.

PLETZL



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INFORMATION

ANPE Hôtel de Ville Branch.....	1	C3
Laverie Libre Service.....	2	C3
Laverie Libre Service.....	3	D4
Laverie Libre Service Primus.....	4	D5
Pharmacie de la Mairie.....	5	B4
Web 46.....	6	D5

SIGHTS (pp91–103)

16th-Century Half-Timbered Houses.....	7	C5
Archives Nationales.....	8	D2
Art Nouveau Synagogue.....	9	F5
Atelier Brancusi.....	10	A1
Bibliothèque Publique d'Information.....	(see 12)	
Centre des Monuments Nationaux.....	11	H6
Centre Pompidou.....	12	A2
Forum du Centre Pompidou.....	(see 12)	
Hôtel Carnavalet.....	(see 22)	
Hôtel de Donon.....	(see 23)	
Hôtel de St-Aignan.....	(see 24)	
Hôtel de Sully.....	13	H6
Hôtel de Sully (Courtyard Entrance).....	14	H6
Hôtel de Ville (Mairie de Paris).....	15	A5
Hôtel Guénégaud.....	(see 25)	
Hôtel Hénault de Cantorbe.....	(see 19)	
Hôtel de Ville Salon d'Accueil.....	16	B4
Hôtel Le Peletier de St-Fargeau.....	17	G4
Hôtel Salé.....	(see 27)	
Jeu de Paume – Site Sully.....	18	H6
Maison Européenne de la Photographie.....	19	E6
Mechanical Fountains.....	20	A2
Mémorial de la Shoah.....	21	C6
Musée Carnavalet.....	22	G4
Musée Cognacq-Jay.....	23	F3
Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme.....	24	C1
Musée de l'Histoire de France.....	(see 8)	
Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature.....	25	E1
Musée Nationale d'Art Moderne.....	(see 12)	
Musée de la Poupée.....	26	C1
Musée Picasso.....	27	G2
Paris Historique.....	28	D5
Robert Combas Mural.....	29	D1
Winemaker Relief.....	30	E6

Á L'Olivier.....	36	D5
Bains Plus.....	37	E3
Barbara Bui.....	38	E3
Bazar de l'Hôtel de Ville (BHV).....	39	B4
Boutique Paris-Musées.....	40	F4
Cacao et Chocolat.....	41	D4
Cherry Chau.....	42	G5
Clothing Boutiques.....	43	G5
CSAO Boutique & Gallery.....	44	F4
Erotokritos.....	45	F2
Fragonard.....	46	D3
Galerie & Atelier Pucinello.....	47	G3
L'Agenda Modern.....	48	G4
L'Artisan Parfumeur.....	49	C4
L'Eclaireur Marais Branch.....	50	F5
L'Habilleur.....	51	F1
L'Ours du Marais.....	52	F5
L'Eclaireur.....	53	F5
La Charrie et les Étoiles.....	54	G5
Le Palais des Thés.....	55	E3
Les Mots à la Bouche.....	56	D4
Les Ruchers du Roy.....	57	C5
Librairie de l'Hôtel de Sully.....	58	G6
Mariage Frères 6e Branch.....	59	C4
Marithé & François Girbaud Branch.....	60	F5
Monastica.....	61	C6
Mémoires Graphiques.....	62	C6
Produits des Monastères.....	63	C6
Shine.....	64	G1
Sic Amor.....	65	C5
Tumbleweed.....	66	G5
Vert d'Absinthe.....	67	G6
Pitchi Poi.....	91	G5
Robert et Louise.....	92	E3
Supermarché G20.....	93	A3
Supermarché G20 Bastille.....	94	F6

DRINKING ☑☑ (pp284–300)		
3W Kafé.....	95	E5
Amnésia.....	96	D4
Au Petit Fer à Cheval.....	97	D4
Centre Culturel Suédois.....	98	G3
L'Apparement Café.....	99	G2
L'Open Café.....	100	C3
L'Étoile Manquante.....	101	D4
La Chaise au Plafond.....	102	D4
La Perle.....	103	F2
Le Central Bar.....	(see 125)	
Le Cox.....	104	C3
Le Loir dans la Thèrière.....	105	F5
Le Pick-Clops.....	106	D5
Le Quetzal.....	107	C4
Le Scaron.....	108	B2
Les Jacasses.....	109	D5
Les Étages.....	110	D4
Little Café.....	111	C4
Lizard Lounge.....	112	C4
Mixer Bar.....	113	C3
Nyx.....	114	D5
Pure Malt.....	115	G6
Stolly's.....	116	D5
NIGHTLIFE ✨ (pp302–16)		
Point Virgule.....	117	D4
Raided Bar.....	118	B3
SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp318–24)		
Patinoire de l'Hôtel de Ville.....	119	A5
Vit'Halles Beaubourg.....	120	A1
SLEEPING ☑ (pp332–58)		
Allô Logement Temporaire.....	121	C1
Grand Hôtel du Loiret.....	122	C4
Grand Hôtel Malher.....	123	F5
Hôtel Caron de Beaumarchais.....	124	D5
Hôtel Central Marais.....	125	D4
Hôtel de la Bretonnerie.....	126	C3
Hôtel de la Place des Vosges.....	127	H6
Hôtel de Nice.....	128	C5
Hôtel du Bourg Tibourg.....	129	C4
Hôtel du Petit Moulin.....	130	G1
Hôtel Jeanne d'Arc.....	131	G5
Hôtel Pratic.....	132	G6
Hôtel Rivoli.....	133	C5
Hôtel Saintonge Marais.....	134	G1
Hôtel Sévigné.....	135	F5
MIJE Le Fourcy.....	136	E6
MIJE Maubuisson.....	137	C6
TRANSPORT (pp388–95)		
Batobus Stop.....	138	B6

more for adults than for children. There are around 500 of the lifeless creatures, dating back to 1800, all arranged in scenes representing Paris through the centuries. There are temporary exhibitions (think Barbie and Cindy and 'France's best plush animals') as well as a 'hospital' for antique dolls.

MÉMORIAL DE LA SHOAH Map pp98–9

☎ 01 42 77 44 72; www.memorialdelashoah.org; 17 rue Geoffroy-l'Asnier, 4e; admission free; ☎ 10am–6pm Sun–Wed & Fri, to 10pm Thu; 📍 St-Paul

Established in 1956, the Memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr has metamor-

TAKING ON PARIS' MUSEUMS

Warm-up exercises, half-hour breathers, a portable seat, bottled water and an energy-providing snack... It might sound as if you're preparing for a trek in the Alps, but these are some of the recommendations for tackling Paris' more than 100 museums. And with almost three-dozen major ones free of charge on at least one day of the week, the temptation to see more is now greater than ever.

Take the Louvre, for example. Encompassing some 40 sq hectares, the museum has nine enormous departments spread over 60,000 sq metres of gallery space and more than 8 million visitors a year, all elbowing each other to see what they want to see in a limited amount of time. It's hardly surprising that many people feel worn out almost before they've descended into the Cour Napoléon.

To avoid museum fatigue wear comfortable shoes and make use of the cloakrooms. Be aware that standing still and walking slowly promote tiredness; sit down as often as you can. Reflecting on the material and forming associations with it causes information to move from your short- to long-term memory; your experiences will thus amount to more than a series of visual 'biters'.

Tracking and timing studies suggest that museum-goers spend no more than 10 seconds viewing an exhibit and another 10 seconds reading the label as they try to take in as much as they can before succumbing to exhaustion. To avoid this choose a particular period or section to focus on or join a guided tour of the highlights.

phosed into the Memorial of the Holocaust and a documentation centre. The permanent collection and temporary exhibits relate to the Holocaust and the German occupation of parts of France and Paris during WWII; the film clips of contemporary footage and interviews are heart-rending and the displays instructive and easy to follow. The actual memorial to the victims of the Shoah, a Hebrew word meaning 'catastrophe' and synonymous in France with the Holocaust, stands at the entrance, where there is a wall inscribed with the names of 76,000 men, women and children deported from France to Nazi extermination camps. A guided tour (☎ 01 53 01 17 86) in English departs at 3pm on the second Sunday of each month.

MAISON EUROPÉENNE DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE Map pp98–9

☎ 01 44 78 75 00; www.mep-fr.org; 5-7 rue de Fourcy, 4e; adult/senior & 8-25yr €6/3, under 8 free, 5-7.45pm Wed free; ☎ 11am-7.45pm Wed-Sun; 📍 St-Paul or Pont Marie

The European House of Photography, housed in the overly renovated Hôtel Hénault de Cantorbe (dating from the early 18th century), has cutting-edge temporary exhibits (usually retrospectives on single photographers), as well as an enormous permanent collection on the history of photography and its connections with France. There are frequent showings of short films and documentaries on weekend afternoons. The Japanese garden at the entrance is a delight.

PARIS HISTORIQUE Map pp98–9

☎ 01 48 87 74 31; www.paris-historique.org in French; 44-46 rue François Miron, 4e; admission free; ☎ 11am-8pm Mon-Sat, 2-7pm Sun; 📍 St-Paul The information centre for the Association for the Conservation and Appreciation of Historic Paris should be on your tick list if you are interested in medieval Paris and, especially, the Marais. It provides information, has a research library, organises exhibitions and leads guided tours (adult/student & child €9/4) of the area at 2pm or 2.30pm daily except Sunday.

MUSÉE DE LA CURIOSITÉ ET DE LA MAGIE Map pp92–3

☎ 01 42 72 13 26; www.museedelamagie.com, in French; 11 rue St-Paul, 4e; adult/3-12yr €9/7; ☎ 2-7pm Wed, Sat & Sun, 2-7pm daily Easter & Christmas school holidays; 📍 St-Paul

The Museum of Curiosity & Magic in the 16th-century caves (cellars) of the house of the Marquis de Sade examines the ancient arts of magic, optical illusion and sleight of hand, with regular magic shows (last one at 6pm) included. But some visitors may feel that the displays – optical illusions and wind-up toys – and very basic magic tricks do not justify the extremely high admission fee. An audioguide costs €3.

PLACE DE LA BASTILLE Map pp94–5

📍 Bastille The Bastille, built during the 14th century as a fortified royal residence, is the most famous monument in Paris that no longer exists. The notorious prison – the quintessential symbol

IT'S A FREE-FOR-ALL

The permanent collections at 11 of the 15 *musées municipaux* (city museums), run by the **Mairie de Paris** (www.paris.fr), are free. Temporary exhibitions always incur a separate admission fee.

City museums taking part in this scheme include the following:

Maison de Balzac (p136)

Maison de Victor Hugo (p91)

Musée Atelier Zadkine (p121)

Musée Bourdelle (p165)

Musée Carnavalet (p96)

Musée Cernuschi (p146)

Musée Cognacq-Jay (p96)

Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (p135)

Musée de la Vie Romantique (p171)

Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris (Petit Palais; p139)

Musée Jean Moulin & Mémorial du Maréchal Leclerc de Hauteclocque et de la Libération de Paris (p123)

At the same time, the *musées nationaux* (national museums) in Paris have reduced rates for those aged over 60 and between 18 and 25, and sometimes for everyone else on one day or part of a day per week (eg Sunday morning). They are always free for those under 18 years of age, and for everyone on the first Sunday of each month (although not always year-round – see the following list). Again, you will have to pay separately for temporary exhibitions.

The museums and monuments in question (and their free-admission days) are:

Arc de Triomphe (p138) 1st Sunday of the month, November to March only.

Basilique de St-Denis (p182) 1st Sunday of the month, November to March only.

Château de Vincennes (p176) 1st Sunday of the month, November to May only.

La Conciergerie (p106) 1st Sunday of the month, November to March only.

Musée d'Art et d'Histoire (p183)

Musée de l'Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (p113)

Musée de l'Histoire de France (Archives Nationales; p97)

Musée de l'Orangerie (p87)

Musée d'Orsay (p130)

Musée du Louvre (p80)

Musée du Quai Branly (p134)

Musée Ernest Hébert (p120) Currently under renovation.

Musée Guimet des Arts Asiatiques (p135)

Musée National d'Art Moderne (Centre Pompidou; p89)

Musée National du Moyen Âge (Musée de Cluny; p114)

Musée National Eugène Delacroix (p121)

Musée National Gustave Moreau (p150)

Musée Picasso (p96)

Musée Rodin (p130)

Panthéon (p114) 1st Sunday of the month, November to March only.

Ste-Chapelle (p107) 1st Sunday of the month, November to March only.

Tours de Notre Dame (p106) 1st Sunday of the month, November to March only.

torium with 2700 seats. There are 1¼-hour **guided tours** (☎ 01 40 01 19 70; adult/under 10yr/senior, student & 11-25yr €11/6/9) of the building, which generally depart at around 1.15pm from Monday to Saturday. Tickets go on sale just 10 minutes before departure at the **box office** (130 rue de Lyon, 12e; ☎ 10.30am-6.30pm Mon-Sat).

MUSÉE DU FUMEUR Map pp94-5

☎ 01 46 59 05 51; www.museedufumeur.net; 7 rue Pache, 11e; adult/concession €4/3; ☎ 2-7pm; 🚶 Voltaire

The Smoking Museum traces the history of one of mankind's greatest vices: the smoking of tobacco (as well as lots and lots of other substances of various strengths and weaknesses). Hard-core butt-fiends will feel vindicated, though the museum takes an impartial stance, providing (as it states on its website) 'a vantage point for the observation of changing behaviours'. Done up as an old tobacco warehouse, the museum has a wonderful collection of portraits as well as a superb book-and-gift shop.

of royal despotism – was demolished shortly after a mob stormed it on 14 July 1789 and freed a total of just seven prisoners. The site where it once stood, place de la Bastille (11e and 12e), is now a very busy traffic roundabout.

In the centre of the square is the 52m-high **Colonne de Juillet** (July Column), whose shaft of greenish bronze is topped by a gilded and winged figure of Liberty. It was erected in 1833 as a memorial to those killed in the street battles that accompanied the July Revolution of 1830 – they are

buried in vaults under the column – and was later consecrated as a memorial to the victims of the February Revolution of 1848.

OPÉRA BASTILLE Map pp94-5

☎ 08 92 89 90 90; www.opera-de-paris.fr, in French; 2-6 place de la Bastille, 12e; 🚶 Bastille Paris' giant 'second' opera house, designed by the Canadian architect Carlos Ott, was inaugurated on 14 July 1989, the 200th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille. It has three theatres, including the main audi-

THE ISLANDS

Eating [p248](#); Shopping [p208](#); Sleeping [p342](#)

Paris' twin set of islands could not be more different: with its quaint car-free lanes, legendary ice-cream maker and bijou portfolio of street plaques celebrating famous residents of the past, Île St-Louis is a tourist joy. Its Pandora's box of boutiques lining the only central street might not be worth the trip in itself, but browse and there's no saying what gem you might find – antique spice jars, rose-petal massage oil, a hand-painted glass pharmacy jar from the 1930s...

At the island's western end, the area around Pont St-Louis and Pont Louis-Philippe is one of the city's most romantic spots. On summer days, lovers mingle with cello-playing buskers and teenaged skateboarders. After nightfall, the Seine dances with the watery reflections of street-lights, headlamps, stop signals and the dim glow of curtained windows. Occasionally, tourist boats with super-bright floodlamps cruise by. There's no doubt: you are really in Paris.

Stand on the square in front of Notre Dame on big-brother Île de Cité and there is no doubt where you are: two seconds dodging snap-happy tourists, street sellers pushing €1 Eiffel Tower key rings and backpackers guarding piles of packs while their mates check out the cathedral in a taste of the best and worst of Paris. Sensibly, not very many Parisians live on this island.

ÎLE DE LA CITÉ

The site of the first settlement in Paris (c 3rd century BC) and later the centre of the Roman town of Lutetia (in French, Lutèce), Île de la Cité remained the centre of royal and ecclesiastical power even after the city spread to both banks of the Seine during the Middle Ages. As the institutions on the island grew, so did the island. Buildings on the middle part of the island were demolished and rebuilt during Baron Haussmann's urban renewal scheme of the late 19th century (see [p27](#)); the population – considered the poorest in the city – fell from 15,000 in 1860 to 5000 less than a decade later.

The Île de la Cité, mainly in the 4e arrondissement (its western tip is in the 1er) is home to two institutions devoted to maintaining public order: the judiciary (Palais de Justice) and the police (Préfecture de Police).

CATHÉDRALE DE NOTRE DAME DE PARIS

[Map p105](#)
☎ 01 42 34 56 10; www.cathedraledeparis.com;
place du Parvis Notre Dame, 4e; audioguide €5;
🕒 7.45am-6.45pm, information desk 9.30am-6pm
Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat; 🚗 Cité

This is the heart of Paris – so much so that distances from Paris to every part of metropolitan France are measured from [place du Parvis Notre Dame](#), the square in front of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Paris. A bronze star across the street from the cathedral's main entrance marks the exact location of *point zéro des routes de France*. Nearby, Charlemagne (742–814), emperor of the Franks, rides his steed under the trees.

Notre Dame, the most visited site in Paris with 10 million people crossing its threshold a year, is not just a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture but has also been the focus of Catholic Paris for seven centuries.

Built on a site occupied by earlier churches – and, a millennium before that, a Gallo-Roman temple perhaps dedicated to the god *Mithra* (see boxed text, [p19](#)) – it was begun in 1163 according to the design of Bishop Maurice de Sully and largely completed by the early 14th century. The cathedral was badly damaged during the Revolution; architect Eugène Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc carried out extensive renovations between 1845 and 1864. The cathedral is on a very grand scale; the interior alone is 130m long, 48m wide and 35m high and can accommodate more than 6000 worshippers.

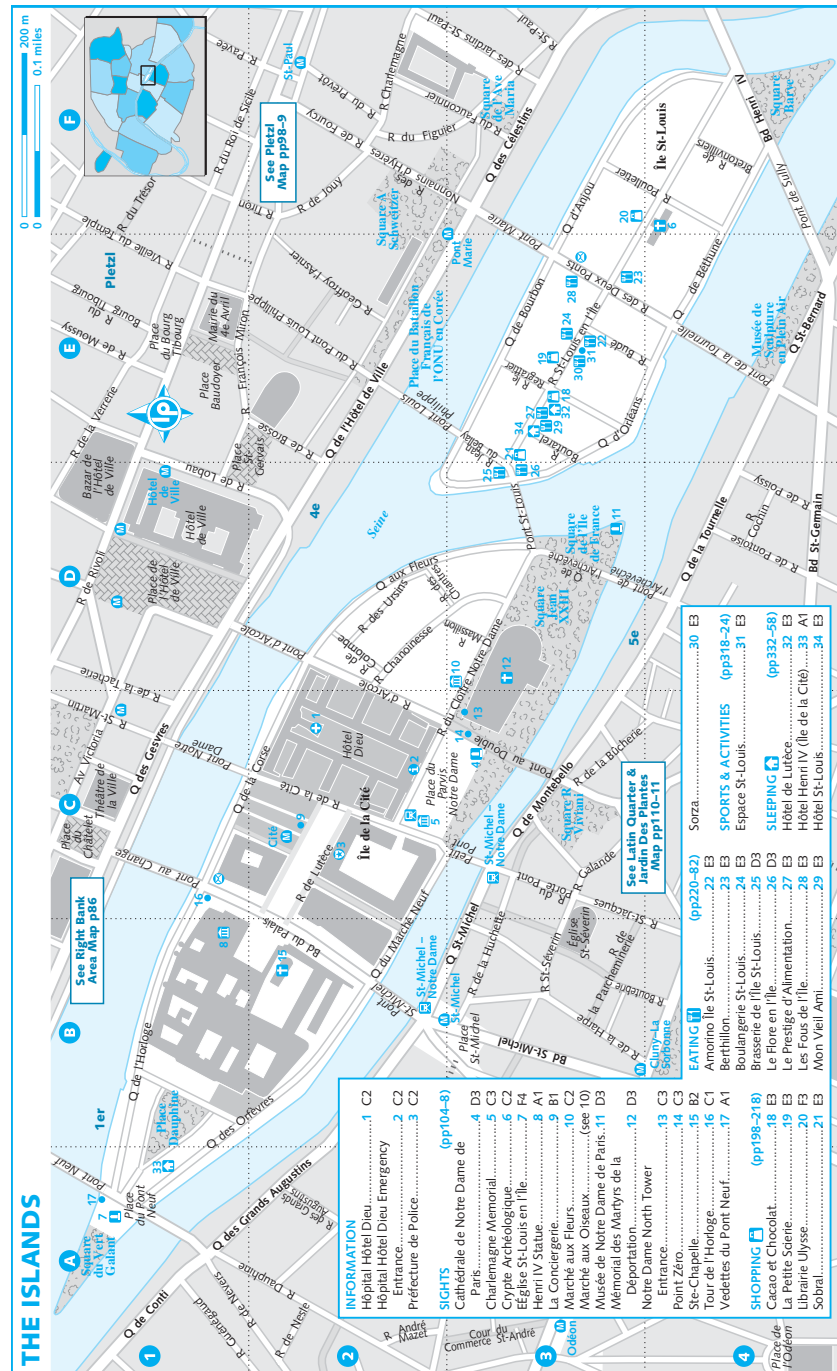
Notre Dame is known for its sublime balance, though if you look closely you'll see all sorts of minor asymmetrical elements introduced to avoid monotony, in accordance with standard Gothic practice. These include the slightly different shapes of each

TRANSPORT: THE ISLANDS

Bus Île de la Cité for 47 through the Marais to Gare de l'Est, 21 to Opéra & Gare St-Lazare; Île St Louis for 67 to Jardin des Plantes, Mosquée de Paris & Place d'Italie; 87 through Latin Quarter to Place St-Sulpice, Sèvres Babylone, École Militaire & Champ de Mars

Metro & RER Cité, Pont Marie, Pont Neuf, St-Michel Notre Dame, Sully Morland

Boat Notre Dame Batobus stop (quai Montebello)



top picks

THE ISLANDS

- Cathédrale de Notre Dame de Paris (p104)
- Ste-Chapelle (opposite)
- La Conciergerie (right)
- Pont Neuf (opposite)

of the three main **portals**, whose statues were once brightly coloured to make them more effective as a *Biblia pauperum* – a ‘Bible of the poor’ to help the illiterate understand Old Testament stories, the Passion of the Christ and the lives of the saints. One of the best views of Notre Dame is from square Jean XXIII, the little park behind the cathedral, where you can view the forest of ornate **flying buttresses** that encircle the chancel and support its walls and roof.

Inside, exceptional features include three spectacular **rose windows**, the most renowned of which are the 10m-wide one over the western façade above the 7800-pipe organ, and the window on the northern side of the transept, which has remained virtually unchanged since the 13th century. The central choir, with its carved wooden stalls and statues representing the Passion of the Christ, is also noteworthy. There are free 1½-hour **guided tours** (🕒 2pm Wed & Thu, 2.30pm Sat) of the cathedral, given in English.

The **trésor** (treasury; adult/3-12yr €3/1; 🕒 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat, 1-6pm Sun) in the southeastern transept contains artwork, liturgical objects, church plate and first-class relics, some of them of dubious origin. Among these is the **Ste-Couronne**, the ‘Holy Crown’, which is purportedly the wreath of thorns placed on Jesus’ head before he was crucified, and was brought here in the mid-13th century. It is exhibited between 3pm and 4pm on the first Friday of each month, 3pm to 4pm every Friday during Lent, and 10am to 5pm on Good Friday.

The entrance to the **Tours de Notre Dame** (Towers of Notre Dame; 📞 01 53 10 07 02; www.monum.fr; rue du Cloître Notre Dame; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €7.50/4.80/free, 1st Sun of the month Oct-Mar free; 🕒 10am-6.30pm Apr-Sep, to 7.30pm Jan-Mar & Oct-Dec) is from the **North Tower**. Climb the 422 spiralling steps to the top of the **western façade**, where you’ll find yourself face-to-face with

the cathedral’s most frightening gargoyles, the 13-tonne bell **Emmanuel** (all of the cathedral’s bells are named) in the **South Tower**, and, last but not least, a spectacular view of Paris.

LA CONCIERGERIE Map p105

📞 01 53 40 60 97; www.monum.fr; 2 blvd du Palais, 1er; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €8/6/free, 1st Sun of the month Oct-Mar free; 🕒 9.30am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb; 📍 Cité

The Conciergerie was built as a royal palace in the 14th century for the concierge of the Palais de la Cité, but later lost favour with the kings of France and became a prison and torture chamber. During the Reign of Terror (1793–94) it was used to incarcerate alleged enemies of the Revolution before they were brought before the Revolutionary Tribunal, which met next door in the Palais de Justice. Among the 2700 prisoners held in the dungeons here before being sent in tumbrels to the guillotine were Queen Marie-Antoinette (see a reproduction of her cell) and, as the Revolution began to turn on its own, the radicals Danton, Robespierre and, finally, the judges of the Tribunal themselves.

The 14th-century **Salle des Gens d’Armes** (Cavalrymen’s Hall) is a fine example of the Rayonnant Gothic style. It is the largest surviving medieval hall in Europe. The **Tour de l’Horloge** (Map p105; crn blvd du Palais & quai de l’Horloge, 1er), built in 1353, has held a public clock aloft since 1370.

A joint ticket with Ste-Chapelle (opposite) costs adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €11.50/9/free.

CRYPTE ARCHÉOLOGIQUE Map p105

📞 01 55 42 50 10; 1 place du Parvis Notre Dame, 4e; adult/14-26yr/under 14yr €3.50/1.60/free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; 📍 Cité

The Archaeological Crypt is under the square in front of Notre Dame. The 117m-long and 28m-wide area displays *in situ* the remains of structures built on this site during the Gallo-Roman period, a 4th-century enclosure wall, the foundations of the medieval foundlings hospice and a few of the sewers sunk by Haussman.

MARCHÉ AUX FLEURS Map p105

place Louis Lépin, 4e; 🕒 8am-7.30pm Mon-Sat; 📍 Cité

The Île de la Cité’s flower market has brightened up this square since 1808. On

Sundays it becomes a **Marché aux Oiseaux** (bird market; 🕒 9am-7pm).

MÉMORIAL DES MARTYRS DE LA DÉPORTATION Map p105

square de l’Île de France, 4e; 🕒 10am-noon, 2-7pm Apr-Sep, 10am-noon, 2-5pm Oct-Mar; 📍 St-Michel Notre Dame

The Memorial to the Victims of the Deportation, erected in 1962, is a haunting monument to the 160,000 residents of France – including 76,000 Jews – killed in Nazi concentration camps during WWII. A single barred ‘window’ separates the bleak, rough concrete courtyard from the waters of the Seine.

The **Tomb of the Unknown Deportee** is flanked by hundreds of thousands of bits of back-lit glass, and the walls are etched with inscriptions from celebrated writers and poets.

MUSÉE DE NOTRE DAME DE PARIS

Map p105

📞 01 43 25 42 92; 10 rue du Cloître Notre Dame, 4e; adult/3-12yr €3/1.50; 🕒 2.30-6pm Wed, Sat & Sun; 📍 Cité

This small museum traces the cathedral’s history and life on the Île de la Cité from Gallo-Roman times to today, via scale models, contemporary paintings, engravings and lithographs. An interesting document is a petition signed by Victor Hugo, the artist Ingres and others who sparked the campaign to restore the cathedral.

PONT NEUF p105

📍 Pont Neuf

The sparkling white stone spans of Paris’ oldest bridge, ironically called ‘New Bridge’, have linked the western end of the Île de la Cité with both river banks since 1607

SEINE-FUL PURSUITS

The Seine is more than just Paris’ dustless highway or the line dividing the Right and Left Banks. The river’s award-winning role comes in July and August, when some 5km of its banks are transformed into **Paris Plages** (p114), ‘beaches’ with real sand, water fountains and sprays. But the river banks can be just as much fun at the weekend during the rest of the year when the **Paris Respire** (p320) scheme goes into effect. The banks between the Pont Alexandre III (Map pp140–1) and the Pont d’Austerlitz (Map pp158–9) have been listed as a Unesco World Heritage Site since 1991, but the choicest spots for sunning, picnicking and maybe even a little romancing are the delightful Square du Vert Gallant, 1er (metro Pont Neuf), the little park at the tip of the Île de la Cité named after that rake Henri IV (see above); and the Quai St-Bernard, 5e, just opposite the Jardin des Plantes. Here you’ll find the **Musée de la Sculpture en Plein Air** (Open-Air Sculpture Museum; Map pp110–11; 📞 01 43 26 91 90; square Tino Rossi, 5e; admission free; 🕒 24hr; 📍 Quai de la Rapée). A salad beneath a César or a baguette beside a Brancusi is a pretty classy way to see the Seine up close, short of actually getting on it by joining a cruise (see p406).

when Henri IV inaugurated it by crossing the bridge on a white stallion. The occasion is commemorated by an equestrian **statue of Henri IV**, who was known to his subjects as the Vert Galant (‘jolly rogue’ or ‘dirty old man’, depending on your perspective). View the bridge’s seven arches, decorated with humorous and grotesque figures of barbers, dentists, pickpockets, loiterers etc, from the river.

Pont Neuf and nearby place Dauphine were used for public exhibitions in the 18th century. In the last century the bridge itself became an *objet d’art* on at least three occasions: in 1963, when School of Paris artist Nonda built, exhibited and lived in a huge Trojan horse of steel and wood on the bridge; in 1984 when the Japanese designer Kenzo covered it with flowers; and in 1985 when the Bulgarian-born ‘environmental sculptor’ Christo famously wrapped the bridge in beige fabric.

STE-CHAPELLE Map p105

📞 01 53 40 60 97; www.monum.fr; 4 blvd du Palais, 1er; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €6.50/4.50/free, 1st Sun of the month Oct-Mar free; 🕒 9.30am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Nov-Feb; 📍 Cité

The place to visit on a sunny day! Security checks make it long and snail-slow to get into this gemlike Holy Chapel, the most exquisite of Paris’ Gothic monuments, tucked away within the walls of the **Palais de Justice** (Law Courts). But once in, be dazzled by Paris’ oldest and finest stained glass – the light on sunny days is extraordinary.

Built in just under three years (compared with nearly 200 for Notre Dame), Ste-Chapelle was consecrated in 1248. The chapel was conceived by Louis IX to house his personal collection of holy relics

(including the Holy Crown now kept in the treasury at Notre Dame). The chapel's exterior can be viewed from across the street from the law courts' magnificently gilded 18th-century gate, which faces rue de Lutèce.

A joint ticket with the [Conciergerie](#) (p106) costs adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €11.50/9/free.

ÎLE ST-LOUIS

Downstream from Île de la Cité and entirely in the 4e arrondissement, St-Louis was actually two uninhabited islets called Île Notre Dame

(Our Lady Isle) and Île aux Vaches (Cows Island) in the early 17th century. That was until a building contractor called Christophe Marie and two financiers worked out a deal with Louis XIII to create one island and build two stone bridges to the mainland. In exchange they could subdivide and sell the newly created real estate. This they did with great success, and by 1664 the entire island was covered with fine, airy, grey-stone houses facing the quays and water.

The only sight as such, French Baroque [Église St-Louis en l'Île](#) (Map p105; 19bis rue St-Louis en l'Île, 4e; ☎ 9am-noon & 3-7pm Tue-Sun; 🚶 Pont Marie) was built between 1664 and 1726.

LATIN QUARTER & JARDIN DES PLANTES

Drinking p290; Eating p249; Shopping p208; Sleeping p343

There is no better strip to see, smell and taste the Quartier Latin (Latin Quarter), 5e, than rue Mouffetard, a thriving market street that is something of a local mecca with its titillating lineup of patisseries, *fromageries* and fishmongers, interspersed by the odd *droguerie-quincailerie* (hardware store) – easily spotted by the jumble of laundry baskets, buckets etc piled on the pavement in front. Knowing what's happening is easy here: go into Le Verre à Pied (p290), order *un café* at the bar and the market-stall holders will soon start chatting to you. Or try Cavé La Bourgogne (p291), where old ladies with pet lapdogs gather each day at 10.30am for a coffee and a chinwag.

The centre of Parisian higher education since the Middle Ages, the Latin Quarter is so-called because conversation between students and professors was in Latin until the Revolution. Academia remains a focal point of life – the Sorbonne is here – though its near monopoly on Parisian academic life is not what it was. But bury your nose in one of the quarter's late-opening bookshops, linger in a café, eat cheap in its abundance of budget restaurants or clink drinks during a dozen different happy hours and there will almost certainly be a student or academic affiliated with the Sorbonne sitting next to you.

Come the warmer months, everyone spills over to place St-Michel, place de la Sorbonne and other pigeon-filled squares. Movie buffs watch classics on rue des Écoles, and activists and sympathisers join under the same banner at the Mutualité to chant slogans and fight the good fight. Fancy a *piéd à terre* around the corner from the Sorbonne? A 40-sq-metre, contemporary loft-style apartment costs around €430,000.

ARÈNES DE LUTÈCE Map pp110–11

49 rue Monge, 5e; admission free; ☎ 9am-5.30 to 9.30pm Apr-Oct, 8am-5.30 to 9.30pm Nov-Mar; 🚶 Place Monge

The 2nd-century Roman amphitheatre, Luteia Arena, once sat around 10,000 people for gladiatorial combats and other events. Found by accident in 1869 when rue Monge was under construction, it's now used by neighbourhood youths for playing football, and by old men for *boules* and *pétanque*.

CENTRE DE LA MER Map pp110–11

☎ 01 44 32 10 90; www.oceano.org, in French; Institut Océanographique; 195 rue St-Jacques, 5e; adult/3-12yr €4.60/2; ☎ 9am-12.30pm & 1.30-6pm Tue-Sun; 🚶 Luxembourg

France has a long history of success in the field of oceanography (think Jacques Cousteau and, well, Jules Verne), and the Sea Centre cruises through that science, as well as marine biology, via temporary exhibitions, aquariums, scale models and audiovisuals. Kids will love the aquariums and the audiovisuals.

ÉGLISE ST-ÉTIENNE DU MONT

Map pp110–11

☎ 01 43 54 11 79; 1 place Ste-Geneviève, 5e; ☎ 8am-noon & 2-7pm Tue-Sat, 9am-noon & 2.30-7pm Sun; 🚶 Cardinal Lemoine

The Church of Mount St Stephen, built between 1492 and 1655, contains Paris' only surviving [rood screen](#) (1535), separating the chancel from the nave; the others were removed during the late Renaissance because they prevented the faithful assembled in the nave from seeing the priest celebrate Mass. In the nave's southeastern corner, a chapel contains the [tomb of Ste Geneviève](#). A highly decorated [reliquary](#) nearby contains all that is left of her earthly remains – a finger bone. Ste Geneviève, patroness of Paris, was born at Nanterre in AD 422 and turned away Attila the Hun from Paris in AD 451.

TRANSPORT: LATIN QUARTER & JARDIN DES PLANTES

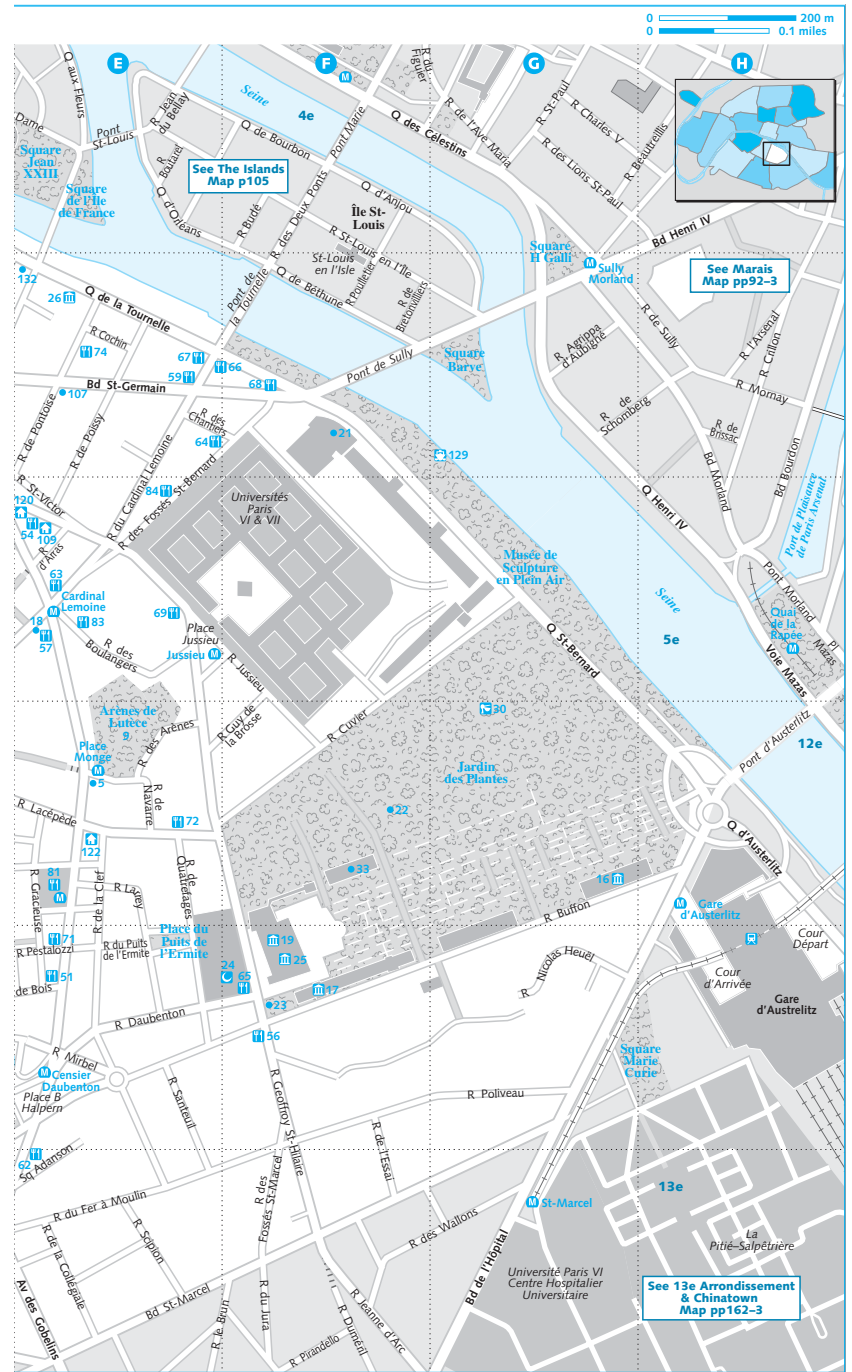
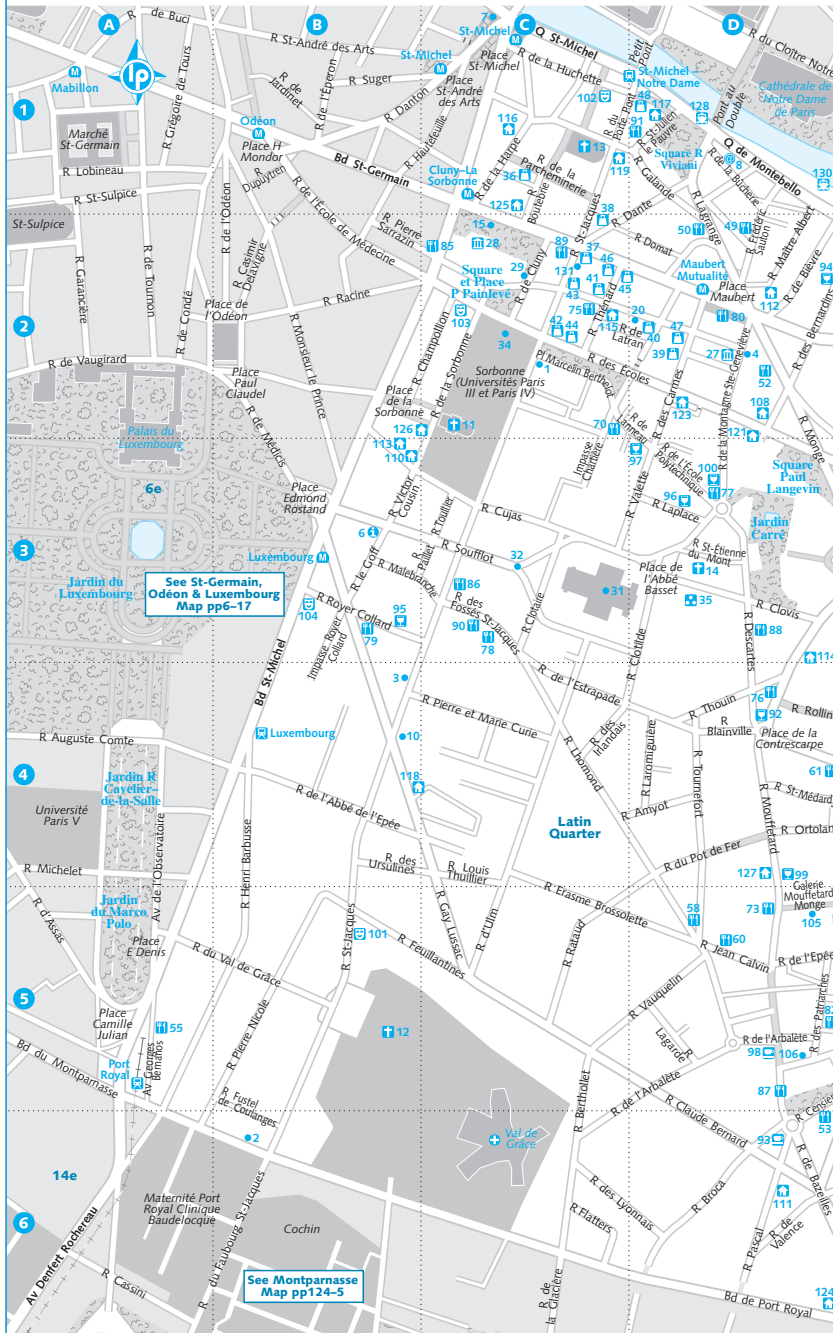
Bus Panthéon for 89 to Jardin des Plantes & 13e (Bibliothèque National de France François Mitterrand); Blvd St-Michel for 38 to Centre Pompidou, Gare de l'Est & Gare du Nord; rue Gay Lussac for 27 to Île de la Cité, Opéra & Gare St-Lazare

Metro & RER Cardinal Lemoine, Censier Daubenton, Cluny-La Sorbonne, Gare d'Austerlitz, Jussieu, Luxembourg, Maubert Mutualité, Place Monge, St-Michel

Boat Jardin des Plantes Batobus stop (quai St-Bernard)

Train Gare d'Austerlitz

LATIN QUARTER & JARDIN DES PLANTES



LATIN QUARTER & JARDIN DES PLANTES

INFORMATION

Cours de Langue et Civilisation	
Françaises de la Sorbonne.....	1 C2
LaV'Net.....	2 B6
Laverie Libre Service.....	3 B4
Laverie Libre Service.....	4 D2
Laverie Libre Service.....	5 E4
Milk.....	6 B3
Société Touristique de Services (STS)	7 C1
Zeidnet.....	8 D1

SIGHTS (pp109-14)

Arènes de Lutèce.....	9 E4
Centre de la Mer.....	10 B4
Chapelle de la Sorbonne.....	11 C2
Église Notre Dame du Val-de-Grâce.....	12 B5
Église St-Séverin.....	13 C1
Église St-Étienne du Mont.....	14 D3
Forêt de la Licorne.....	15 C2
Galerie d'Anatomie Comparée et de Paléontologie.....	16 G4
Galerie de Minéralogie et de Géologie.....	17 F5
Gepetto & Vélos.....	18 E3
Grande Galerie de l'Évolution.....	19 F5
Hôtel Marignan.....	20 D2
Institut du Monde Arabe.....	21 F2
Jardin Alpin.....	22 F4
Jardin des Plantes Entrance.....	23 F5
Medieval Garden.....	(see 15)
Mosquée de Paris.....	24 F5
Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle.....	25 F5
Musée de l'Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris.....	26 E2
Musée de la Préfecture de Police.....	27 D2
Musée National du Moyen Age.....	28 C2
Musée National du Moyen Age Entrance.....	29 C2
Ménagerie du Jardin des Plantes.....	30 G4
Panthéon.....	31 C3
Panthéon Entrance.....	32 C3
Serres Tropicales (Jardin d'Hiver).....	33 F4
Sorbonne.....	34 C2
Tour Clovis.....	35 D3

SHOPPING (pp198-218)

Abbey Bookshop.....	36 C1
Album.....	37 C2
Album.....	38 C2

Aspasie & Mathieu.....	39 D2
Au Vieux Campeur.....	40 D2
Au Vieux Campeur.....	41 C2
Au Vieux Campeur.....	42 C2
Au Vieux Campeur.....	43 C2
Au Vieux Campeur.....	44 C2
Librairie de Voyage.....	45 C2
Librairie Eyrolles.....	46 C2
Magie.....	47 D2
Shakespeare & Company.....	48 D1

EATING (pp220-82)

Al Dar.....	49 D2
Alef-Bet.....	50 D2
Aux Cérises de Lutèce.....	51 E5
Boulangerie Eric Kayser.....	52 D2
Boutique Censier.....	53 D6
Breakfast in America.....	54 E3
Bullier University Restaurant.....	55 A5
Censier University Restaurant.....	56 F5
Champion.....	57 E3
Chez Léna et Mimille.....	58 D5
Chez René.....	59 E2
Châtelet University Restaurant.....	60 D5
Ed.....	61 D4
Founti Agadir.....	62 E6
Kootchi.....	63 E3
L'AOO.....	64 E2
La Mosquée de Paris.....	65 F5
La Tour d'Argent.....	66 E2
La Tour d'Argent Boutique.....	67 E2
Le Baba Bourgeois.....	68 F2
Le Buisson Ardent.....	69 E3
Le Coupe-Chou.....	70 C2
Le Foyer du Vietnam.....	71 E5
Le Jardin des Pâtes.....	72 E4
Le Marché Franprix.....	73 D5
Le Petit Pontoise.....	74 E2
Le Pré Verre.....	75 C2
Les Cinq Saveurs d'Ananda.....	76 D4
Les Pipos.....	77 D3
Les Vignes du Panthéon.....	78 C3
Machu Picchu.....	79 B3
Marché Maubert.....	80 D2
Marché Monge.....	81 E4
Mavrommatis.....	82 D5
Mayju.....	83 E3
Moissonnier.....	84 E3
Monoprix.....	85 C2
Perraudin.....	86 C3
Rue Mouffetard Market.....	87 D5
Savannah Café.....	88 D3
Shubi Wasabi.....	89 C2
Tashi Delek.....	90 C3
The Tea Caddy.....	91 D1

DRINKING (pp284-300)

Café Delmas.....	92 D4
Cave La Bourgogne.....	93 D6
Curio Parlor Cocktail Club.....	94 D2
Le Crocodile.....	95 B3
Le Piano Vache.....	96 D3
Le Pub St-Hilaire.....	97 D3
Le Verre à Pied.....	98 D5
Le Vieux Chêne.....	99 D4
Le Violon Dingue.....	100 D3

ARTS (pp302-16)

Café Universel.....	101 B5
Caveau de la Huchette.....	102 C1
Le Champô.....	103 C2
Le Petit Journal St-Michel.....	104 B3

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp318-24)

Bowling Mouffetard.....	105 D5
Gepetto & Vélos.....	106 D5
Hammam de la Mosquée de Paris.....	(see 24)
Piscine Pontoise.....	107 E2

SLEEPING (pp332-58)

Centre International de Séjour	
BVJ Paris-Quartier Latin.....	108 D2
Familia Hôtel.....	109 E3
Hôtel Cluny Sorbonne.....	110 B3
Hôtel de l'Espérance.....	111 D6
Hôtel de Notre Dame Maître Albert.....	112 D2
Hôtel des 3 Collèges.....	113 B3
Hôtel des Grand Ecoles.....	114 D3
Hôtel du Collège de France.....	115 C2
Hôtel du Levant.....	116 C1
Hôtel Esmeralda.....	117 D1
Hôtel Gay Lussac.....	118 B4
Hôtel Henri IV	
Rive Gauche.....	119 C1
Hôtel Minerve.....	120 E3
Hôtel Résidence Henri IV.....	121 D2
Hôtel St-Christophe.....	122 E4
Hôtel St-Jacques.....	123 D2
Port Royal Hôtel.....	124 D6
Résidence Le St-Germain.....	125 C1
Select Hôtel.....	126 C2
Young & Happy Hostel.....	127 D4

TRANSPORT (pp388-95)

Bateaux Parisiens Stop.....	128 D1
Batobus Stop.....	129 G2
Batobus Stop.....	130 D1
Eurolines.....	131 C2
Free Scoot.....	132 E2

INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE

Map pp110-11

☎ 01 40 51 38 38; www.imarabe.org; 1 place Mohammed V, 5e; M Cardinal Lemoine or Jussieu The Institute of the Arab World, set up by France and 20 Arab countries to promote cultural contacts between the Arab world and the West, is housed in a highly praised building (1987) that successfully mixes modern and traditional Arab and Western elements. Thousands of *mushrabiyyah* (or *mouche-arabes*, photo-electrically sensitive

apertures built into the glass walls), inspired by the traditional latticed-wood windows that let you see out without being seen, are opened and closed by electric motors in order to regulate the amount of light and heat that reach the interior of the building.

The museum (adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €5/4/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun), spread over three floors and entered via the 7th floor, displays 9th- to 19th-century art and artisanship from all over the Arab world, as well as instruments from astronomy and other fields of scientific

endeavour in which Arab technology once led the world. Temporary exhibitions (enter from quai St-Bernard; Map pp110-11) involve a separate fee; combined tickets are available.

JARDIN DES PLANTES Map pp110-11

☎ 01 40 79 56 01, 01 40 79 54 79; 57 rue Cuvier, 5e; ☎ 8am-5.30pm to 8pm (seasonal); M Gare d'Austerlitz, Censier Daubenton or Jussieu Paris' 24-hectare botanical garden, founded in 1626 as a medicinal herb garden for Louis XIII, is idyllic to stroll or jog around. You'll find a *rosary, iris garden*, the Eden-like *Jardin d'Hiver* (Winter Garden) or *Serres* (Greenhouses), renovated in 2008; the *Jardin Alpin* (Alpine Garden; Sat & Sun admission adult/4-15yr/under 4yr €1/0.50/free; ☎ 8-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 1-5pm Sat & Sun Apr-Oct), with 2000 mountainous plants; and the gardens of the *École de Botanique*, where students of the School of Botany 'practice' and green-fingered Parisians savvy up on horticultural techniques.

During the Prussian siege of Paris in 1870, most of the animals in the *Ménagerie du Jardin des Plantes* (adult/4-15yr/under 4yr €7/5/free; ☎ 9am-5pm) were eaten by starving Parisians. Though a recreational animal park, the medium-sized zoo dating to 1794 in the northern section of the garden does much research into the reproduction of rare and endangered species.

A two-day combined ticket covering all of the Jardin des Plantes sights, including the park's mightily impressive *Grande Galerie de l'Évolution* (right), costs €20/15.

MOSQUÉE DE PARIS Map pp110-11

☎ 01 45 35 97 33; www.mosquee-de-paris.org, in French; 2bis place du Puits de l'Ermitte, 5e; adult/senior & 7-25yr €3/2; ☎ 9am-noon & 2-6pm Sat-Thu; M Censier Daubenton or Place Monge Paris' central mosque, with its striking 26m-high minaret, was built in 1926 in the ornate Moorish style popular at the time. Visitors must be modestly dressed and remove their shoes at the entrance to the prayer hall. The complex includes a North African-style restaurant (p251) and hammam (p318).

MUSÉE DE L'ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE-HÔPITAUX DE PARIS Map pp110-11

☎ 01 40 27 50 05; www.aphp.fr/musee, in French; Hôtel de Miramion, 47 quai de la Tourneelle, 5e; adult/13-18yr/under 13yr €4/2/free, 1st Sun of

the month free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun Sep-Jul; M Maubert Mutualité

A museum devoted to the history of Parisian hospitals since the Middle Ages may not sound like a crowd-pleaser, but some of the paintings, sculptures, drawings and medical instruments are very evocative of their times.

MUSÉE NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE Map pp110-11

☎ 01 40 79 30 00; www.mnhn.fr; 57 rue Cuvier, 5e; M Censier Daubenton or Gare d'Austerlitz Housed in three buildings on the southern edge of the Jardin des Plantes, the National Museum of Natural History was created in 1793 and became a site of significant scientific research in the 19th century.

A highlight for kids: life-sized elephants, tigers and rhinos play safari in the *Grande Galerie de l'Évolution* (Map pp110-11; Great Gallery of Evolution; 36 rue Geoffroy St-Hilaire, 5e; adult/4-13yr/under 4yr €8/6/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon), where imaginative exhibits on evolution and humanity's effect on the global ecosystem, including global warming, fill 6000 sq metres. Rare specimens of endangered and extinct species dominate the *Salle des Espèces Menacées et des Espèces Disparues* (Hall of Threatened and Extinct Species) on level 2, while the *Salle de Découverte* (Room of Discovery) on level 1 houses interactive exhibits for kids.

Giant natural crystals dance with sunlight in the *Galerie de Minéralogie et de Géologie* (Mineralogy & Geology Gallery; Map pp110-11; 36 rue Geoffroy St-Hilaire; adult/4-13yr/under 4yr €7/5/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Mon). Free guided tours (in French) depart the fourth Saturday of the month at 3pm.

Displays on comparative anatomy and palaeontology (the study of fossils) fill the *Galerie d'Anatomie Comparée et de Paléontologie* (Map

top picks

LATIN QUARTER & JARDIN DES PLANTES

- Musée National du Moyen Age (p114)
- Grande Galerie de l'Évolution (Musée Nationale d'Histoire Naturelle; above)
- Institut du Monde Arabe (opposite)
- Panthéon (p114)
- Centre de la Mer (p109)

pp110-11; 2 rue Buffon; adult/4-13yr/under 4yr €6/4/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Mon). Free guided tours (in French) depart the second Saturday of the month at 3pm.

MUSÉE NATIONAL DU MOYEN AGE

Map pp110-11
☎ 01 53 73 78 00; www.musee-moyenage.fr; 6 place Paul Painlevé, 5e; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €7.50/5.50/free, 1st Sun of the month free; ☎ 9.15am-5.45pm Wed-Mon; M Cluny-La Sorbonne or St-Michel

The National Museum of the Middle Ages occupies both a *frigidarium* (cooling room), which holds remains of Gallo-Roman *thermes* (baths) dating from around AD 200, and the 15th-century **Hôtel des Abbés de Cluny**, Paris' finest example of medieval civil architecture. Inside, spectacular displays include statuary, illuminated manuscripts, weapons, furnishings and *objets d'art* made of gold, ivory and enamel. But nothing compares with *La Dame à la Licorne* (The Lady with the Unicorn), a sublime series of late-15th-century tapestries from the southern Netherlands hung in circular room 13 on the 1st floor. Five of them are devoted to the senses while the sixth is the enigmatic *À Mon Seul Désir* (To My Sole Desire), a reflection on vanity.

Small gardens northeast of the museum, including the **Jardin Céleste** (Heavenly Garden) and the **Jardin d'Amour** (Garden of Love), are planted with flowers, herbs and shrubs that appear in masterpieces hanging throughout the museum. To the west the **Forêt de la Licorne** (Unicorn Forest) is based on the illustrations in the tapestries.

PANTHÉON Map pp110-11

☎ 01 44 32 18 00; www.monum.fr; place du Panthéon, 5e; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €7.50/4.80/free, 1st Sun of the month Oct-Mar free; ☎ 10am-6.30pm Apr-Sep, to 6pm Oct-Mar; M Luxembourg

The domed landmark was commissioned by Louis XV around 1750 as an abbey church dedicated to Ste Geneviève in

thanksgiving for his recovery from an illness, but due to financial and structural problems it wasn't completed until 1789 – not a good year for church openings in Paris. Two years later the Constituent Assembly turned it into a secular mausoleum and bricked up most of the windows.

The Panthéon is a superb example of 18th-century neoclassicism. It reverted to its religious duties two more times after the Revolution but has played a secular role ever since 1885, when God was evicted in favour of Victor Hugo. Among the crypt's 80 or so permanent residents are Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Louis Braille, Émile Zola and Jean Moulin. The first woman to be interred in the Panthéon was the two-time Nobel Prize-winner Marie Curie (1867-1934), reburied here (along with her husband, Pierre) in 1995.

SORBONNE Map pp110-11

12 rue de la Sorbonne, 5e; M Luxembourg or Cluny-La Sorbonne

The *crème de la crème* of academia flock to this distinguished university, one of the world's most famous. Founded in 1253 by Robert de Sorbon, confessor to Louis IX, as a college for 16 impoverished theology students, the Sorbonne soon grew into a powerful body with its own government and laws. Today, it embraces most of the 13 autonomous universities – 35,500-odd students in all – created when the University of Paris was reorganised after the student protests of 1968. Until 2015, when an ambitious, 10-year modernisation programme costing €45 million will be complete, parts of the complex will be under renovation.

Place de la Sorbonne links Blvd St-Michel and the **Chapelle de la Sorbonne**, the university's gold-domed church, built between 1635 and 1642 and currently being restored at a cost of €13.6 million; it should reopen in 2009. The remains of Cardinal Richelieu (1585-1642) lie in a very camp tomb here, with an effigy of a cardinal's hat suspended above it.

ST-GERMAIN, ODÉON & LUXEMBOURG

Drinking p291; Eating p254; Shopping p209; Sleeping p346

From the packed pavement terraces of literary café greats Les Deux Magots (p292) and Café de Flore (p292), where Sartre, de Beauvoir and other postwar Left Bank intellectuals drank, to the pocket-sized studios of lesser-known romantic and Russian cubist artists, this quarter, born out of a 6th-century abbey, oozes panache. Yet weave your way through the shopaholic crowds on Blvd St-Germain, past flagship *prêt-à-porter* stores and vast white spaces showcasing interior design, and there's little hint of St-Germain des Prés' legendary bohemia. The arrival of the fashion industry changed all that jazz years ago.

Yet there is a startling cinematic quality to this soulful part of the Left Bank, where Pierre and Jean-Pierre Heckmann restore antique ivory in their 1930s family shop (p209), gourmets talk bread and wine with local legends like Apolliana Poilâne (p223) and Juan Sánchez (p211), and well-dressed ladies take their 1960s cast-offs to vintage dealers on rue de Buci. Artists and writers, students and journalists, actors and musicians cross paths in the shadow of the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, the Académie Française and the Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe.

Despite the passing fashions, village life has survived in this pricey 6e arrondissement (a 200-sq-metre apartment in an elegant 18th-century mansion on the boulevard costs €3.2 million). Stroll past the portfolio of designer boutiques on rue du Cherche Midi, past Patrick Blanc's flamboyant vegetal wall growing inside No 7, past the constant crowd gathered at the foot of guillotined revolutionary leader Georges Danton on Carrefour de l'Odéon, past the heaps of organic veg at the Rue Raspail market and the stalls groaning under the weight of fresh fruit on rue de Seine and watch it leap out at you. *La vie germanopratine* (St-Germain life) is *belle*.

ÉGLISE ST-GERMAIN DES PRÉS

Map pp116-17
☎ 01 55 42 81 33; 3 place St-Germain des Prés, 6e; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Sat, 9am-8pm Sun; M St-Germain des Prés

Paris' oldest church still standing, this Romanesque church of St Germanus of the Fields was built in the 11th century on the site of a 6th-century abbey and was the dominant church in Paris until the arrival of Notre Dame. It has been altered many times since, but the **Chapelle de St-Symphorien** (to the right as you enter) was part of the original abbey and is believed to be the resting place of St Germanus (AD 496-576), the first bishop of Paris. The Merovingian kings were buried here during the 6th and

TRANSPORT: ST-GERMAIN, ODÉON & LUXEMBOURG

Bus Blvd St-Germain for 86 to Odéon, Pont Sully (Île St-Louis), Bastille, Ledru Rollin (Marché d'Aligre), place de la Nation & Zoo; rue de Rennes for 96 to place Châtelet, Hôtel de Ville, St-Paul (Marais), rue Oberkampf & rue de Ménilmontant

Metro & RER Luxembourg, Mabillon, Odéon, Pont Neuf, Port Royal, St-Germain des Prés, St-Sulpice

Boat St-Germain des Prés Batobus stop (quai Malaquais)

top picks

ST-GERMAIN, ODÉON & LUXEMBOURG

- Jardin du Luxembourg (p119)
- Église St-Sulpice (below)
- Musée National Eugène Delacroix (p121)
- Fondation Dubuffet (p119)

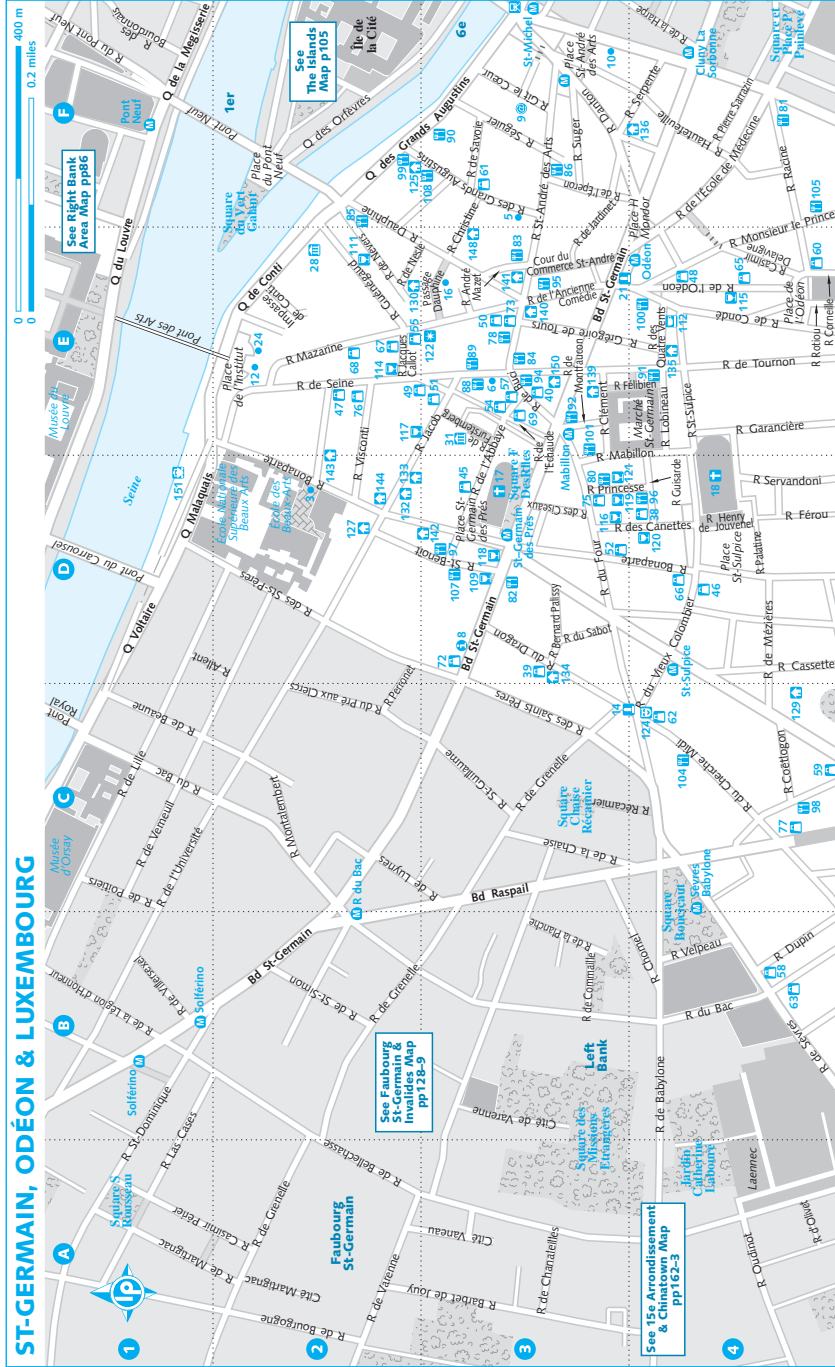
7th centuries, but their tombs disappeared during the Revolution. The **bell tower** over the western entrance has changed little since 990, although the spire dates only from the 19th century. The vaulted ceiling is a starry sky that seems to float forever upward.

ÉGLISE ST-SULPICE Map pp116-17

☎ 01 46 33 21 78; place St-Sulpice, 6e; ☎ 7.30am-7.30pm; M St-Sulpice

In 1646 work started on the twin-towered Church of St Sulpicius, lined inside with 21 side chapels, and took six architects 150 years to finish. What draws most people is not its lovely Italianate façade with two rows of superimposed columns, nor its neoclassical décor influenced by the Counter-Reformation; rather, this church

ST-GERMAIN, ODÉON & LUXEMBOURG



ST-GERMAIN, ODÉON & LUXEMBOURG

INFORMATION

Copy-Top Montparnasse.....	1	B6
Cyber Latin.....	2	C5
École des Beaux-Arts.....	3	D2
Étudiants de l'Institut		
Catholique.....	4	C5
Julice Laverie.....	5	F3
Julice Laverie.....	6	E3
Laverie Libre Service.....	7	D7
Multi Change.....	8	D3
Netvision.....	9	F3
Pharmacie Bader.....	10	F3

SIGHTS (pp105–21)

Académie Française.....	(see 12)	
Alliance Française.....	11	C6
Bibliothèque Mazarine.....	12	E2
Carousel.....	13	D6
Centaur Statue.....	14	C3
Children's Playground.....	(see 13)	
Club Med Gym.....	15	B6
Eurocentres.....	16	E3
Église St-Germain des Prés.....	17	D3
Église St-Sulpice.....	18	D4
Fondation Dubuffet.....	19	A5
Fontaine des Médiçi.....	20	E5
Georges Danton Statue.....	21	E3
Grand Bassin.....	22	E5
Hôtel de la Monnaie.....	(see 28)	
Hôtel du Petit Luxembourg.....	23	D5
Institut de France.....	24	E2
Jardin du Luxembourg.....	25	D5
Maréchal Ney Statue.....	26	E8
Musée Atelier Zadkine.....	27	D7
Musée de la Monnaie		
de Paris.....	28	E2
Musée du Luxembourg.....	29	D5
Musée Ernest Hébert.....	30	B5
Musée National Eugène		
Delacroix.....	31	E3
Orchards.....	32	D6
Palais du Luxembourg.....	(see 36)	
Pavillon Davioud.....	33	D6
Rucher du Luxembourg		
(Apiary).....	34	D6
Shetland Ponies for Hire.....	35	E5
Sénat.....	36	E5
Tennis Courts.....	37	D5

SHOPPING (pp198–218)

Au Plat d'Étain.....	38	D4
Boutiluis.....	39	D3
Cacao et Chocolat.....	40	E3
Chercheminippes (Children's		
wear).....	41	A5
Chercheminippes (Menswear).....	42	A6
Chercheminippes (Women's		
Prêt à Porter).....	43	B5
Chercheminippes (Womens		
Haute Couture).....	44	A6
Flamant Home Interiors.....	45	D3
Formes.....	46	D4
Galerie Downtown.....	47	E2
Galerie Hélène Poreé.....	48	E4

Galerie Loevenbruck.....	49	E2
Galerie Omega.....	(see 122)	
Hapart.....	50	E3
Huilerie J Leblanc et Fils.....	51	E3
Ivoire.....	52	D3
L'Embellie.....	53	C5
La Dernier Goutte.....	54	E3
La Galerie Moderne.....	55	E2
La Maison de Poupée.....	56	D5
Le Dépôt-Vente de Buci.....	57	E3
Le Palais des Thés.....	(see 131)	
Le Petit Bateau.....	58	E8
Les Beaux Drapes de Jeanine		
Cros.....	59	C4
Librairie Le Moniteur.....	60	E4
Mariage Frères.....	61	F3
Marthé et François Girbaud.....	62	C4
Mouton à Cinq Pattes.....	63	B4
Mouton à Cinq Pattes.....	64	B5
Odimex Paris.....	65	E4
Pierre Hermé.....	66	D4
Pièce Unique.....	67	E2
Pièce Unique Variations.....	68	E2
Ragtime.....	69	E3
Rouge et Noir.....	70	C7
Rue de Rennes.....	71	C6
Shu Uemura.....	72	D3
Taschen.....	73	D3
Tea & Tattered Pages.....	74	A5
Village Voice.....	75	D3
Voyageurs & Curieux.....	76	E2
Véronique Delachaux.....	77	C4

EATING (pp220–82)

Amorino.....	78	E3
Amorino Luxembourg Branch.....	79	D6
Bar à Soupe et Quenelles		
Giraudet.....	80	D3
Bouillon Racine.....	81	F4
Brasserie Lipp.....	82	D3
Centre Régional des Œuvres		
Universitaires et Scolaires		
Mazet.....	83	E3
Champion.....	84	E3
Charcuterie Charles.....	85	F2
Chez Allard.....	86	F3
Chez Les Filles.....	87	B5
Così.....	88	E3
Fish la Boissonnerie.....	89	E3
Fogón St-Julien.....	90	F3
Gérard Mulot.....	91	E4
Huilerie Regis.....	92	E3
Indonesia.....	93	E5
L'Arbucini.....	94	E3
La Jacobine.....	95	E3
Le Mâchon d'Henri.....	96	D4
Le Petit Zinc.....	97	D3
Le Salon d'Hélène.....	98	C4
Les Bouquinistes.....	99	F2
Les Éditeurs.....	100	E4
Mabillon University		
Restaurant.....	101	E3
Mamie Gâteaux.....	102	B5
Marché Raspail.....	103	C5

DRINKING (pp284–300)

Alcazar.....	(see 122)	
Café de Flore (Sartre & de		
Beauvoir).....	109	D3
Centre de Dégustation Jacques		
Vive.....	110	D5
Highlander.....	111	E2
Kilali.....	112	E4
L'Urgence Bar.....	113	F5
La Palette.....	114	E2
Le 10.....	115	E4
Le Comptoir des Cannelles.....	116	D3
Le Zéro de Conduite.....	117	E2
Les Deux Magots.....	118	D3
Little Temple Bar.....	119	D3
O'Neil.....	120	D4
Rue Princesse.....	121	D3

NIGHTLIFE (pp302–15)

The Wagg.....	122	E5
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ARTS (pp302–15)

Fnac Montparnasse.....	123	B6
Théâtre du Vieux Colombier.....	124	C4

SLEEPING (pp332–58)

Apart'hotel Citadines		
St-Germain des Prés.....	125	F2
Hôtel Aviatic.....	126	B6
Hôtel d'Angleterre.....	127	D2
Hôtel Danemark.....	128	C7
Hôtel de L'Abbaye		
St-Germain.....	129	C4
Hôtel de Nesle.....	130	E2
Hôtel de Sèvres.....	131	B5
Hôtel des 2 Continents.....	132	D2
Hôtel des Marronniers.....	133	D2
Hôtel du Dragon.....	134	D3
Hôtel du Globe.....	135	E4
Hôtel du Lys.....	136	F4
Hôtel La Ste-Beuve.....	137	C6
Hôtel Le Clos Médicis.....	138	F5
Hôtel Le Clément.....	139	E3
Hôtel Le Petit Trianon.....	140	E3
Hôtel St-André des Arts.....	141	E3
Hôtel St-Germain des Prés		
(Henry Miller et al).....	142	D3
L'Hôtel.....	143	D2
La Villa.....	144	D2
Mayet Hôtel.....	145	A5
Pension Au Palais Gourmand.....	146	C6
Pension Les Marronniers.....	147	D6
Relais Christine.....	148	E3
Résidence Le Régent.....	149	F5
Welcome Hôtel.....	150	E3

TRANSPORT (pp388–95)

Batobus Stop.....	151	D1
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Poilaëne.....	104	C4
Polidor.....	105	F4
Sensing.....	106	C7
Yen.....	107	D3
Ze Kitchen Galerie.....	108	F3

DRINKING (pp284–300)

Alcazar.....	(see 122)	
Café de Flore (Sartre & de		
Beauvoir).....	109	D3
Centre de Dégustation Jacques		
Vive.....	110	D5
Highlander.....	111	E2
Kilali.....	112	E4
L'Urgence Bar.....	113	F5
La Palette.....	114	E2
Le 10.....	115	E4
Le Comptoir des Cannelles.....	116	D3
Le Zéro de Conduite.....	117	E2
Les Deux Magots.....	118	D3
Little Temple Bar.....	119	D3
O'Neil.....	120	D4
Rue Princesse.....	121	D3

NIGHTLIFE (pp302–15)

The Wagg.....	122	E5
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ARTS (pp302–15)

Fnac Montparnasse.....	123	B6
Théâtre du Vieux Colombier.....	124	C4

SLEEPING (pp332–58)

Apart'hotel Citadines		
St-Germain des Prés.....	125	F2
Hôtel Aviatic.....	126	B6
Hôtel d'Angleterre.....	127	D2
Hôtel Danemark.....	128	C7
Hôtel de L'Abbaye		
St-Germain.....	129	C4
Hôtel de Nesle.....	130	E2
Hôtel de Sèvres.....	131	B5
Hôtel des 2 Continents.....	132	D2
Hôtel des Marronniers.....	133	D2
Hôtel du Dragon.....	134	D3
Hôtel du Globe.....	135	E4
Hôtel du Lys.....	136	F4
Hôtel La Ste-Beuve.....	137	C6
Hôtel Le Clos Médicis.....	138	F5
Hôtel Le Clément.....	139	E3
Hôtel Le Petit Trianon.....	140	E3
Hôtel St-André des Arts.....	141	E3
Hôtel St-Germain des Prés		
(Henry Miller et al).....	142	D3
L'Hôtel.....	143	D2
La Villa.....	144	D2
Mayet Hôtel.....	145	A5
Pension Au Palais Gourmand.....	146	C6
Pension Les Marronniers.....	147	D6
Relais Christine.....	148	E3
Résidence Le Régent.....	149	F5
Welcome Hôtel.....	150	E3

TRANSPORT (pp388–95)

Batobus Stop.....	151	D1
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croix between 1855 and 1861. The monumental, 20m-tall **organ loft** dates from 1781. Listen to it in its full glory during 10.30am Mass on Sunday or the occasional Sunday-afternoon organ concert, which usually starts at 4pm.

FONDATION DUBUFFET Map pp116–17

☎ 01 47 34 12 63; www.dubuffetfondation.com, in French; 137 rue de Sèvres, 6e; adult/under 10yr €4/free; ☎ 2-6pm Mon-Fri; **M** Duroc Situated in a lovely 19th-century *hôtel particulier* at the end of a courtyard, the foundation houses the collection of Jean Dubuffet (1901–85), chief of the Art Brut school (a term he himself coined to describe all works of artistic expression not officially recognised). Much of his work is incredibly modern and expressive.

INSTITUT DE FRANCE pp116–17

☎ 01 44 41 44 41; www.institut-de-france.fr; 23 quai de Conti, 6e; **M** Mabillon or Pont Neuf The French Institute, created in 1795, brought together five of France's academies of arts and sciences. The most famous of these is the *Académie Française* (French Academy), founded in 1635 by Cardinal Richelieu. Its 40 members, known as the Immortels (Immortals), have the Herculean (some say impossible) task of safeguarding the purity of the French language.

The domed building housing the institute, across the Seine from the Louvre's eastern end, is a masterpiece of French neoclassical architecture. There are 1½-hour **tours** (adult/18-25yr €8/6) at 3pm one Sunday a month. Contact the **Centre des Monuments Nationaux** (Centre of National Monuments; ☎ 01 44 54 19 30; www.monum.fr) for schedules or check *Pariscope* or *L'Officiel des Spectacles* (p302) under 'Promenades & Loisirs/Visites Conférences'.

France's oldest public library, the **Bibliothèque Mazarine** (Mazarine Library; ☎ 01 44 41 44 06; www.bibliotheque-mazarine.fr; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, closed two weeks Aug) founded in 1643, is in the same building. You can visit the bust-lined, late-17th-century reading room or consult the library's collection of 500,000 volumes, using a free, two-day admission pass obtained by leaving your ID at the office to the left of the entrance. An annual membership/10-visit *carte* to borrow books costs €15/10 and requires two photos.

JARDIN DU LUXEMBOURG Map pp116–17

☎ 7.30 to 8.15am-5 to 10pm (seasonal);

M Luxembourg

Keen to know what the city does on its time off? Then stroll around the formal terraces, chestnut groves and green lawns of this 23-hectare park, where Parisians of all ages flock in all weathers. Be it jogging, practising t'ai chi, gossiping with girlfriends on one of the garden's signature sage-green chairs (fancy one to take home? See p216), reading or romancing, the Jardin du Luxembourg is the voyeur's spot to peek on Parisians.

Urban **orchards** hang heavy with dozens of apple varieties in the southern part of the *jardin* (garden). Bees have produced honey in the nearby **Rucher du Luxembourg** since the 19th century; don't miss the annual Fête du Miel (Honey Festival), two days of tasting and buying the aviary's sweet harvest in late September in the **Pavillon Davioud** (55bis rue d'Assas). This ornate pavilion is also the spot where green-fingered Parisians partake in gardening courses with the **École d'Horticulture** (64 Blvd St-Michel, 6e). For sports-minded souls, there are six **tennis courts** (p322).

The park is a backdrop to the **Palais du Luxembourg**, built in the 1620s for Marie de Médici, Henri IV's consort, to assuage her longing for the Pitti Palace in Florence, where she had spent her childhood. Since 1958 the palace has housed the **Sénat** (Senate, upper house of French parliament; reservations ☎ 01 44 54 19 49; www.senat.fr; rue de Vaugirard, 6e; adult/18-25yr €8/6) which can be visited by guided tour at 10.30am one Saturday per month. East of the palace is the Italianate **Fontaine des Médiçi**, an ornate fish pond (1630).

Top spot for sun-soaking – there's always loads of chairs here – is the southern side of the palace's 19th-century, 57m-long **Orangerie** (1834) where lemon and orange trees, palms, grenadiers and oleanders shelter from the cold. A little further is the **Musée du Luxembourg** (☎ 01 42 34 25 95; www.museedu-luxembourg.fr; 19 rue de Vaugirard, 6e; up to adult/10-25yr/under10yr €11/9/free; ☎ 10.30am-10pm Mon & Fri, 10.30am-7pm Tue-Thu & Sat, to 7pm Sun), housed in two galleries built for the palace to showcase artworks. It hosts very prestigious temporary art exhibitions; admission prices vary. Next door the heavily guarded **Hôtel du Petit Luxembourg** (rue de Vaugirard, 6e) was the modest 16th-century pad where Marie de Médici lived while Palace du Luxembourg

was the setting for a crucial discovery in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*.

The frescoes in the **Chapelle des Sts-Anges** (Chapel of the Holy Angels), first to the

right as you enter, depict Jacob wrestling with the angel (to the left) and Michael the Archangel doing battle with Satan (to the right) and were painted by Eugène Dela-

was being built. The president of the Senate has called it home since 1825.

Luxembourg Garden offers all the delights of a Parisian childhood a century ago. At the octagonal **Grand Bassin**, model sailboats can be rented, and nearby, **Shetland ponies** take tots for rides. At the pint-sized **Théâtre des Marionnettes du Jardin du Luxembourg** (☎ 01 43 26 46 47; ticket €4; 🕒 3.15pm Wed, 11am & 3.15pm Sat & Sun, daily during school hols) marionette shows guarantee a giggle, whether you understand French or not. Complete the day with a romp around the kids' **playground** (adult/child/under 15 months €2.60/1.60/free; 🕒 10am-park close) – the green half is for kids aged seven to 12 years, the blue half for under-sevens – or a summertime waltz on the old-fashioned **carousel** (merry-go-round).

MUSÉE DE LA MONNAIE DE PARIS

Map pp116–17

☎ 01 40 46 55 35; www.monnaieparis.fr;
11 quai de Conti, 6e; adult/under 16yr €5/free;
🕒 11am–5.30pm Tue–Fri, noon–5.30pm Sat & Sun;
🚶 Pont Neuf

The Parisian Mint Museum traces the history of French coinage from antiquity to the present and displays presses and other minting equipment. There are some excellent audiovisual and other displays, which help to bring to life this otherwise niche subject.

The museum building, the **Hôtel de la Monnaie**, became the royal mint during the 18th century and is still used by the Ministry of Finance to produce commemorative medals and coins, as well as official weights and measures. One-hour tours of the *ateliers* (workshops) leave at 2.15pm on Wednesday and Friday (€3); advance reservations only.

MUSÉE ERNEST HÉBERT

Map pp116–17
☎ 01 42 22 23 82; 85 rue du Cherche Midi, 6e;
🕒 12.30–6pm Mon & Wed–Fri, 2–6pm Sat & Sun;
🚶 St-Placide

Portrait painter Ernest Hébert (1817–1908) did likenesses of society people of the Second Empire and the *belle époque* and was thus not short of a sou or two. The

artist's wonderful 18th-century townhouse and its baubles – not his saccharine, almost cloying portraits – is the draw here, though. The museum was closed for renovations at research time but should be open by the time you read this.

MUSÉE NATIONAL EUGÈNE DELACROIX

Map pp116–17

☎ 01 44 41 86 50; www.musee-delacroix.fr; 6 rue de Furstemberg, 6e; adult/under 18yr €5/free, 1st Sun of the month free; 🕒 9.30am–5pm Wed–Mon;
🚶 Mabillon or St-Germain des Prés

The Eugène Delacroix Museum, in a courtyard off a leafy 'square', was the romantic artist's home and studio when he died in 1863, and contains many of his oils, watercolours, pastels and drawings. If you want to see his major works, such as *Liberty Leading the People*, visit the **Musée du Louvre** (p80)

or the **Musée d'Orsay** (p130); here you'll find many of his more intimate works (eg *An Unmade Bed*, 1828) and his paintings of Morocco.

MUSÉE ATELIER ZADKINE

Map pp116–17
☎ 01 55 42 77 20; www.zadkine.paris.fr, in French; 100bis rue d'Assas, 6e; admission free;
🕒 10am–6pm Tue–Sun

This museum covers the life and work of Russian cubist sculptor Ossip Zadkine (1890–1967), who arrived in Paris in 1908, and lived and worked in this cottage for almost 40 years. Zadkine produced an enormous catalogue of clay, stone, bronze and wood sculptures: one room displays figures he sculpted in contrasting walnut, pear, ebony, acacia, elm and oak. The occasional temporary exhibition commands a token admission fee.

IMMORTAL REMAINS

Paris loves to immortalise people from its past with statues and monuments and has done so especially since the mid-19th century. Père Lachaise, Montmartre and Montparnasse Cemeteries are bursting with wonderfully evocative likenesses of heroes and villains, poets and philosophers, and revolutionaries and autocrats, and there's a resident stone or bronze celebrity in even the tiniest park or square. The following is a selection of the larger-than-life characters you might bump into on your way around Paris.

St-Denis, patron saint of France (also known as Dionysius of Paris), introduced Christianity to Paris and was beheaded by the Romans for his pains. You can see him carrying his unfortunate head under his arm on the carved western portal of the **Cathédrale de Notre Dame** (Map p105).

Ste-Geneviève, the patroness of Paris, was born at Nanterre in AD 422 and turned Attila the Hun away from the city in AD 451. Now she stands, ghostly pale and turning her back on Paris, high above the **Pont de la Tourmelles** (Map p105), just south of Île St Louis in the 5e. Plucky **Jeanne d'Arc** (Joan of Arc) tried unsuccessfully to wrest Paris from the English almost a millennium later; her gilded likeness now stands in **place des Pyramides** (Map pp82–3), next to 192 rue de Rivoli, 1er.

Henri IV, known as the Vert Galant ('jolly rogue' or 'dirty old man', depending on your perspective), sits astride his white stallion on the **Pont Neuf** (Map p105) in the 1er, exactly as he did when he inaugurated the 'New Bridge' in 1607. **Charlemagne**, emperor of the Franks, rides his steed under the trees in front of **Cathédrale de Notre Dame** (Map p105), while a poor imitation of the Sun King, **Louis XIV**, prances in **place des Victoires** (Map pp82–3) in the 2e. **Georges Danton**, a leader of the Revolution and later one of its guillotined victims, stands with his head very much intact near the site of his house at **carrefour de l'Odéon** (Map pp116–17) in the 6e.

Napoleon, horseless and in Roman drag, stands atop the column in **place Vendôme** (Map pp82–3) in the 1er. The latest addition is a 3.6m-tall bronze of **General Charles de Gaulle** in full military regalia at the bottom of **av des Champs-Élysées** (Map pp140–1), ready to march down to the Arc de Triomphe in a liberated Paris on 26 August 1944.

But it's not just people who are immortalised. An illuminated bronze replica of New York's **Statue of Liberty** (Map pp166–7) faces the Big Apple from a long and narrow artificial island in the Seine. And have a look at the impressive **Centaur statue** in the centre of **carrefour de la Croix Rouge** (Map pp116–17) in the 6e, which was sculpted by César Baldaccini. Impossible to miss, the statue of the mythological half-horse, half-man has disproportionate gonads the size of grapefruits. Now that's what we call larger than life.

MONTPARNASSE

Drinking p293; Eating p258; Shopping p212; Sleeping p349

Less flamboyant than the Latin Quarter, less hip than Bastille and less audacious than Bercy, the unpretentious 14e arrondissement strikes a better balance than some perhaps: buzzing cafés, brasseries where Picasso and his mates put 1930s Paris to rights, a cemetery with bags of personality (think Sartre, Serge Gainsbourg) and urban grit in the form of a train station and a tall, ugly tower are its modern-day attributes.

Peer long and hard (and long and hard again) at the touristy restaurants and cafés around the unfortunate 1960s Gare Montparnasse complex and glimmers of the area's bohemian past occasionally emerge: after WWI writers, poets and artists of the avant-garde abandoned Montmartre on the Right Bank and crossed the Seine, shifting the centre of Paris' artistic ferment to the area around blvd du Montparnasse. Chagall, Modigliani, Léger, Soutine, Miró, Kandinsky, Stravinsky, Hemingway, Ezra Pound and Cocteau, as well as such political exiles as Lenin and Trotsky, all hung out here, talking endlessly in the cafés and restaurants for which the quarter became famous. It remained a creative hub until the mid-1930s.

Drift south, away from the energising hubbub of the train station area and its neon-lit nightlife, and green spaces unfold in the shape of delightful Parc Montsouris and Cité Universitaire, a lush oasis for students, wedged between parkland and the din of Parisian traffic belting along the ring road encircling Paris.

CATACOMBES Map pp124–5

☎ 01 43 22 47 63; www.catacombes.paris.fr in French; 1 av Colonel Henri Roi-Tanguy, 14e; adult/14-26yr/under 14yr €7/3.50/free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun; 🚶 Denfert Rochereau

Paris' most gruesome and macabre sight: in 1785 it was decided to solve the hygiene and aesthetic problems posed by Paris' overflowing cemeteries by exhuming the bones and storing them in the tunnels of three disused quarries. The Catacombes is one such ossuary, created in 1810. After descending 20m (130 steps) from street level, visitors follow 1.7km of underground corridors in which a mind-boggling amount of bones and skulls of millions of Parisians are neatly packed along each and every wall. During WWII these tunnels were used as a headquarters by the Resistance; so-

called *cataphiles* looking for cheap thrills are often caught roaming the tunnels at night (there's a fine of €60).

The route through the Catacombes begins at a small, dark-green *belle époque*-style building in the centre of a grassy area of av Colonel Henri Roi-Tanguy. The exit is at the end of 83 steps on rue Remy Dumoncel (metro Mouton Duvernet), 700m southwest of av Colonel Henri Roi-Tanguy.

CIMETIÈRE DU MONTPARNASSE

Map pp124–5

☎ 01 44 10 86 50; 3 blvd Edgar Quinet, 14e; ☎ 8 or 8.30am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm Sun mid-Mar-Oct, 8am or 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, 9am-5.30pm Sun Nov-mid-Mar; 🚶 Edgar Quinet or Raspail Montparnasse Cemetery received its first 'lodge' in 1824. It contains the tombs of

LA POLLUTION CANINE: WATCH YOUR STEP

Every sixth person in France owns a dog, and Parisians are no exception. Problem is, that's a lot of dog dirt – an estimated 150,000 pooches here produce some 16 tonnes of the stuff every day, a lot of which ends up on the streets. The Paris municipality has made some valiant attempts in the past, most notably with the introduction of the *motocrottes* (motorised pooper-scooters) by then mayor Jacques Chirac in 1982. At one stage, the city was spending up to €11 million each year to keep the city's pavements free of *la pollution canine*, but the machines were abandoned in 2004 as both expensive and ineffective. Plastic-bag dispensers with the words '*J'aime mon chien, je ramasse*' (I love my dog, I pick up) have been placed strategically throughout the city, but the campaign has had less-than-howling success: only 60% of dog owners admit to doing their own scooping. Evidence to this effect takes the form of 'souvenirs' left by recently walked poodles and other breeds, often found smeared along the pavement (www.fillyfrance.com) by daydreaming strollers, one assumes – or guidebook writers absorbed in jotting down something important. And it gets more serious than that: more than 600 people are admitted to hospital each year after slipping on a *crotte*. Until Parisians – and their beloved canines – change their dirty ways, the word on the street remains the same: watch your step.

illustrious personages such as poet Charles Baudelaire, writer Guy de Maupassant, playwright Samuel Beckett, sculptor Constantin Brancusi, painter Chaim Soutine, photographer Man Ray, industrialist André Citroën, Captain Alfred Dreyfus of the infamous affair (see p26), actress Jean Seberg, philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre and his lover, writer Simone de Beauvoir, and the crooner Serge Gainsbourg, whose grave in division No 1 just off av Transversale is a pilgrimage site for fans, who place metro tickets atop his tombstone, a reference to his famous song 'Le Poinçonneur des Lilas' (The Ticket Puncher of Lilas).

FONDATION CARTIER POUR L'ART CONTEMPORAIN Map pp124–5

☎ 01 42 18 56 50; www.fondation.cartier.fr; 261 blvd Raspail, 14e; adult/11-26yr/under 10yr €6.50/4.50/free; ☎ 11am-10pm Tue, to 8pm Mon & Wed-Sun; 🚶 Raspail

This stunning contemporary building, designed by Jean Nouvel, is a work of art. It hosts temporary exhibits on contemporary art (from the 1980s till today) in a wide variety of media – from painting and photography to video and fashion.

GARE MONTPARNASSE Map pp124–5

place Raoul Dautry, 14e; 🚶 Montparnasse Bienvenue This sprawling train station, fronted by an ice-skating rink (p321) in winter, has several unusual attractions on its rooftop. The *Jardin de l'Atlantique* (Atlantic Garden; place des Cinq Martyrs du Lycée Buffon, 15e), whose 3.5 hectares of landscaped terraces veil the top of the station, offers a bit of greenery and tranquility in the heart of a very busy district. The futuristic *Observatoire Météorologique*

'sculpture' in the centre of the garden measures precipitation, temperature and wind speed.

Next to the garden the small *Musée Jean Moulin* (☎ 01 40 64 39 44; www.ml-leclerc-moulin.paris.fr, in French; 23 allée de la 2e DB, 15e; temporary exhibitions adult/14-25yr €4/2, permanent collections free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) is devoted to the WWII German occupation of Paris, with its focus on the Resistance and its leader, Jean Moulin (1899–1943). The attached *Mémorial du Maréchal Leclerc de Hauteclocque et de la Libération de Paris* shows a panoramic film on the eponymous general (1902–47), who led the Free French units during the war and helped to liberate the city in 1944.

To reach all these attractions, board the bubble lift on the pavement opposite 25 blvd de Vaugirard (15e) and ascend one floor. From there take the escalator and follow the signs to the garden and museums.

TOUR MONTPARNASSE Map pp124–5

☎ 01 45 38 52 56; www.tourmontparnasse56.com; rue de l'Arrivée, 15e; adult/student & 16-20yr/7-15yr/

STEVE'S TOP PARIS DAY

After an evening of merrymaking at my *bon vivant* friend's *belle époque* apartment near place de la République, as far as I care to/can move my carcass the following morning (usually a Sunday) is to the wonderful *Marché Bastille* (p231), to stock up on fortifying oysters and foie gras. But I'll need more of a cure than that after all the *mousseux* (sparkling wine) of the previous evening, so I've now set my Navsat for the *Spa Harnn & Thann* (p318) for a soak and a rubdown. Then I'll slip-slide toward the *Musée du Quai Branly* (p134) for both its startling Oceanic art and *Les Ombres restaurant* (p260) in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, or the *Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine* (p134) and the adjoining *Café de l'Homme* (p260), with its arresting views of said *madame*. Still a bit cobwebby, I'll cross the Seine to *Ladurée* (p234) for a sugar fix (pastel-coloured macarons will do the trick) and the *Champs-Élysées* (p138). Some say the broad boulevard is now the height of tack, but I've loved it ever since I was a student and my Moroccan kinda-sorta boyfriend and I stood beneath the *Arc de Triomphe* (p138) one New Year's Eve shouting '*C'est pour nous! C'est pour nous!*' (It's for us! It's for us!) at the top of our lungs as the cars raced around, blowing their horns and flashing their headlights. Season be damned. I might just do that again right now.

MONTPARNASSE



See 15e Arrondissement Map pp166-7

See 13e Arrondissement & Chinatown Map pp162-3

INFORMATION

- Cyber Cube.....1 E1
 First Church of Christ Scientist...2 G3
 Fusac.....3 D3
 Hôtel de Police.....4 E2

SIGHTS

- (pp122-6)
 Catacombes.....5 F3
 Cimetière du Montparnasse.....6 E2
 Fondation Cartier pour L'Art Contemporain.....7 F2
 Memorial du Maréchal Leclerc de Hautecloque et de la Libération de Paris.....(see 8)
 Musée Jean Moulin.....8 D1
 Observatoire Météorologique Sculpture.....9 D1
 Pari Roller Ramble.....(see 31)
 Tour Montparnasse.....10 D1

SHOPPING

- (pp198-218)
 Cacherel.....11 E4
 Dorotennis.....(see 14)
 Marché aux Puces de la Porte de Vanves.....12 B4
 Naf Naf.....13 D3
 Séréquanone.....14 E4
 SR Store.....(see 11)
 SR Store.....15 E4

EATING

- (pp220-82)
 Atac.....16 D1
 Boulevard Edgar Quinet Food Market.....17 E1
 Inno.....18 D1
 La Cagouille.....(see 22)
 La Closenier des Lilas.....19 F1
 La Coupole.....20 E1
 La Fourmée d'Augustine.....21 C3
 Le Dôme.....22 E1
 Marché Brancusi.....(see 20)

NIGHTLIFE

- (pp302-15)
 Le Redlight.....26 D1

ARTS

- (pp302-15)
 Dancing de la Coupole.....(see 20)
 Kiosque Théâtre Montparnasse.....27 D1
 Le Petit Journal Montparnasse.....28 D2

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

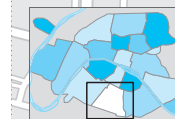
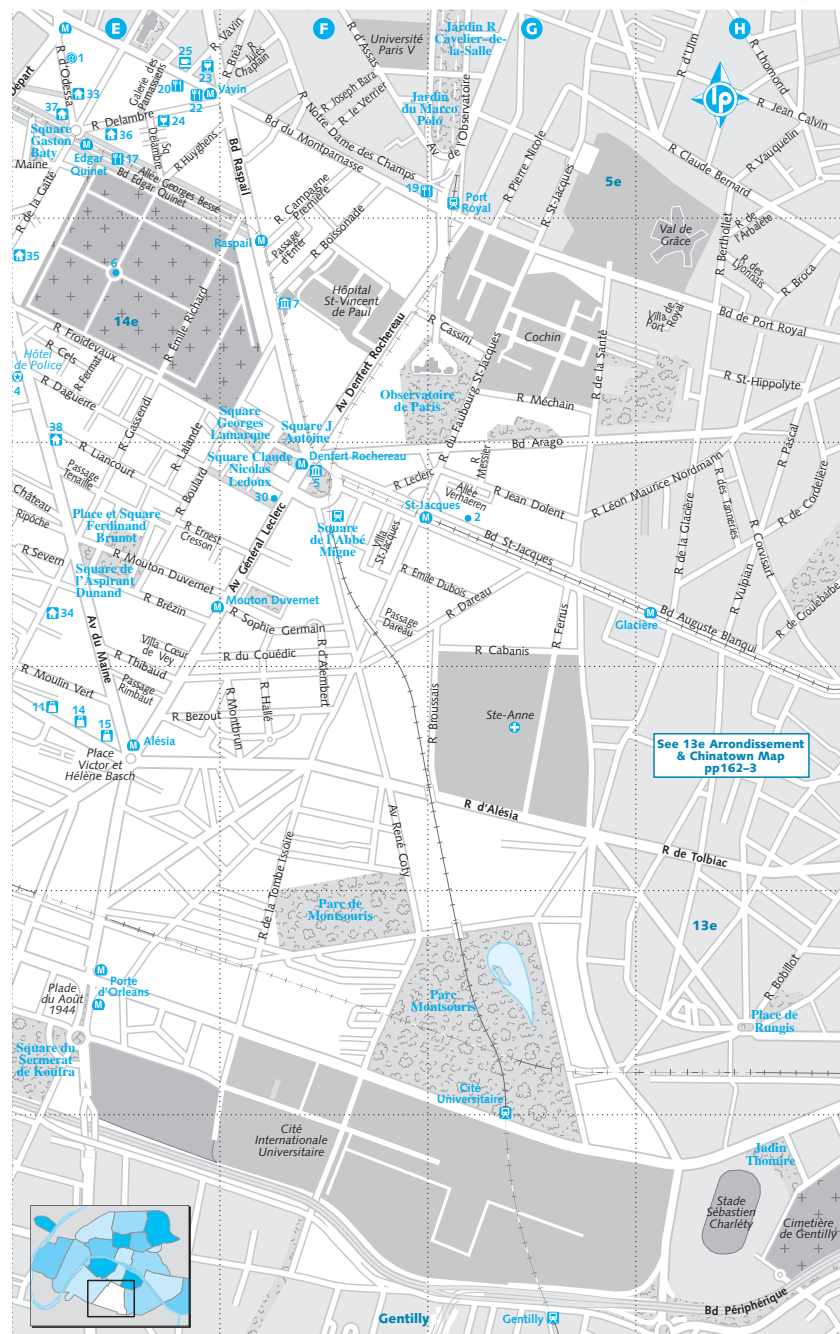
- (pp318-24)
 AMF Bowling de Montparnasse.....29 D2
 Maison Roue Libre.....30 F3
 Patinoire de Montparnasse.....31 D1

SLEEPING

- (pp332-58)
 Apart'hotel Citadines Maine Montparnasse.....32 D2
 Celtic Hôtel.....33 E1
 Hôtel de Blois.....34 E3
 Hôtel de l'Espérance.....35 E2
 Hôtel Delambre.....36 E1
 Hôtel Odessa.....37 E1
 Petit Palace Hôtel.....38 E2

TRANSPORT

- (pp388-95)
 Air France Buses.....39 D2
 easyCar.....40 D2

0 400 m
0 0.2 miles

under 7yr €9.50/6.80/4/free; ☎ 9.30am-11.30pm
Apr-Sep, to 10.30pm Sun-Thu, to 11pm Fri & Sat Oct-
Mar; 🚶 Montparnasse Bienvenue

The 210m-high Montparnasse Tower, a startlingly ugly, oversized lipstick tube built in 1973 with steel and smoked glass and housing offices for 5000 workers, affords spectacular views over the city. A lift whisks visitors up in 38 seconds to the indoor observatory on the 56th floor, with exhibition centre, video clips, multimedia terminals and Paris' highest café. Finish with a hike up the stairs to the open-air terrace on the 59th floor. To know what you're looking at, buy the multilingual *Paris vu d'en haut* guide (€3) from the ticket office before hiking up.

TRANSPORT: MONTPARNASSE

Bus Gare Montparnasse for 91 to Gare d'Austerlitz, Gare de Lyon & Bastille, for 92 to Charles de Gaulle-Étoile, for 94 to Sèvres Babylone (Le Bon Marché); blvd du Montparnasse for 82 to Invalides & Eiffel Tower; rue de Rennes for 95 to St-Germain des Prés, Quai Voltaire, Louvre, Palais Royal, Opéra & Lamarck-Caulaincourt (Montmartre); blvd Raspail (metro stop Vavin) for 68 to via Opéra, Louvre & Musée d'Orsay

Metro Denfert Rochereau, Duroc, Edgar Quinet, Falguière, Montparnasse Bienvenue, Pasteur, Raspail, St-Placide

Train Gare Montparnasse

FAUBOURG ST-GERMAIN & INVALIDES

Drinking p293; Eating p259; Shopping p212; Sleeping p350

Staid and with no nightlife to speak of, agreed, but this 7e arrondissement – a formal world of exquisite ironwork, flashing gold leaf, Seine-side art galleries and conventional manners – has a timeless beauty and extravagance all of its own. And when it all gets too stiff, take a stroll through pedestrian rue Cler and its bustling street market.

In the 18th century, Faubourg St-Germain, the area between the Seine and rue de Babylone (1km south), was Paris' most fashionable neighbourhood. Elegant mansions ran riot on rue de Lille, rue de Grenelle and rue de Varenne, now an overdose of embassies, cultural centres and government ministries; Hôtel Matignon at 57 rue de Varenne has been the official residence of the French prime minister since the start of the Fifth Republic (1958), and it was to the stylish pad at No 53 that Edith Wharton moved in 1910 to write *Le Temps de l'Innocence* (The Age of Innocence). Play voyeur and peek at dreamy *hôtels particuliers* for sale in the windows of Sotheby's real-estate agent Propriétés Parisiennes (www.proprietesparisiennes.fr) at 7bis rue des St-Pères.

Framing all this Parisian refinement is the Eiffel Tower in the skyline, the gracious curve of the Seine at eye level and, underfoot, the smooth lawns of Les Invalides, where it always feels like Sunday. If you suddenly find yourself leaping on a bike (see p389) and pedalling along the river to watch the kaleidoscope of the National Assembly, the cavernous railway-station shell of the Musée d'Orsay and Quai Voltaire's bijou art galleries flash by, don't be surprised. Just make sure you jump off at 5bis rue Verneuil to see the quarter's finest example of over-the-top extravagance – the house where Parisian singer, sexpot and *provocateur* Serge Gainsbourg lived from 1969 until his death in 1991. Neighbours have long since given up scrubbing off the reappearing graffiti and messages from fans.

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE Map pp128–9

☎ 01 40 63 60 00; www.assemblee-nat.fr; 33 quai d'Orsay & 126 rue de l'Université, 7e; 🚶 Assemblée Nationale or Invalides

The lower house of the French parliament, known as the National Assembly, meets in the 18th-century Palais Bourbon, which fronts the Seine. Tours are available through local deputies, making citizens and residents the only ones eligible. Next door is the Second Empire-style *Ministère des Affaires Étrangères* (Ministry of Foreign Affairs; ☎ 01 43 17 53 53; 37 quai d'Orsay, 7e), built between 1845 and 1855.

TRANSPORT: FAUBOURG ST-GERMAIN & INVALIDES

Bus Quai d'Orsay for 63 to St-Germain, Odéon, Gare d'Austerlitz & Gare de Lyon, for 83 to Grand Palais, Rond Point des Champs Élysées & rue du Faubourg St-Honoré; Musée d'Orsay for 73 to place de la Concorde, av des Champs-Élysées & La Défense

Metro & RER Assemblée Nationale, École Militaire, Invalides, Musée d'Orsay, Rue du Bac, Solférino, La Tour Maubourg

Boat Musée d'Orsay Batobus stop (quai de Solférino); Paris Canal Croisières pier at quai Anatole France (7e) near the Musée d'Orsay for canal boat to stop Bassin de la Villette (19-21 quai de la Loire)

HÔTEL DES INVALIDES Map pp128–9

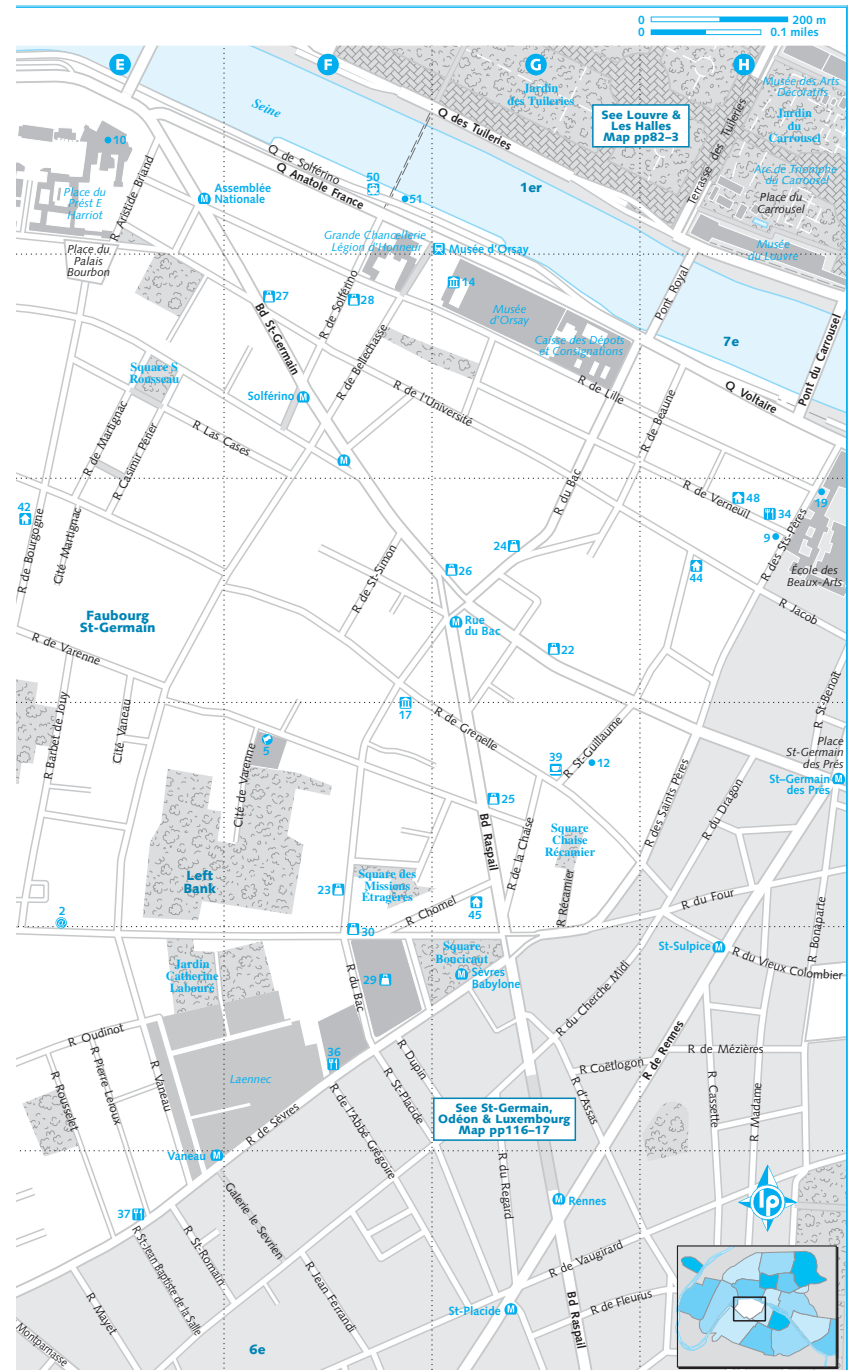
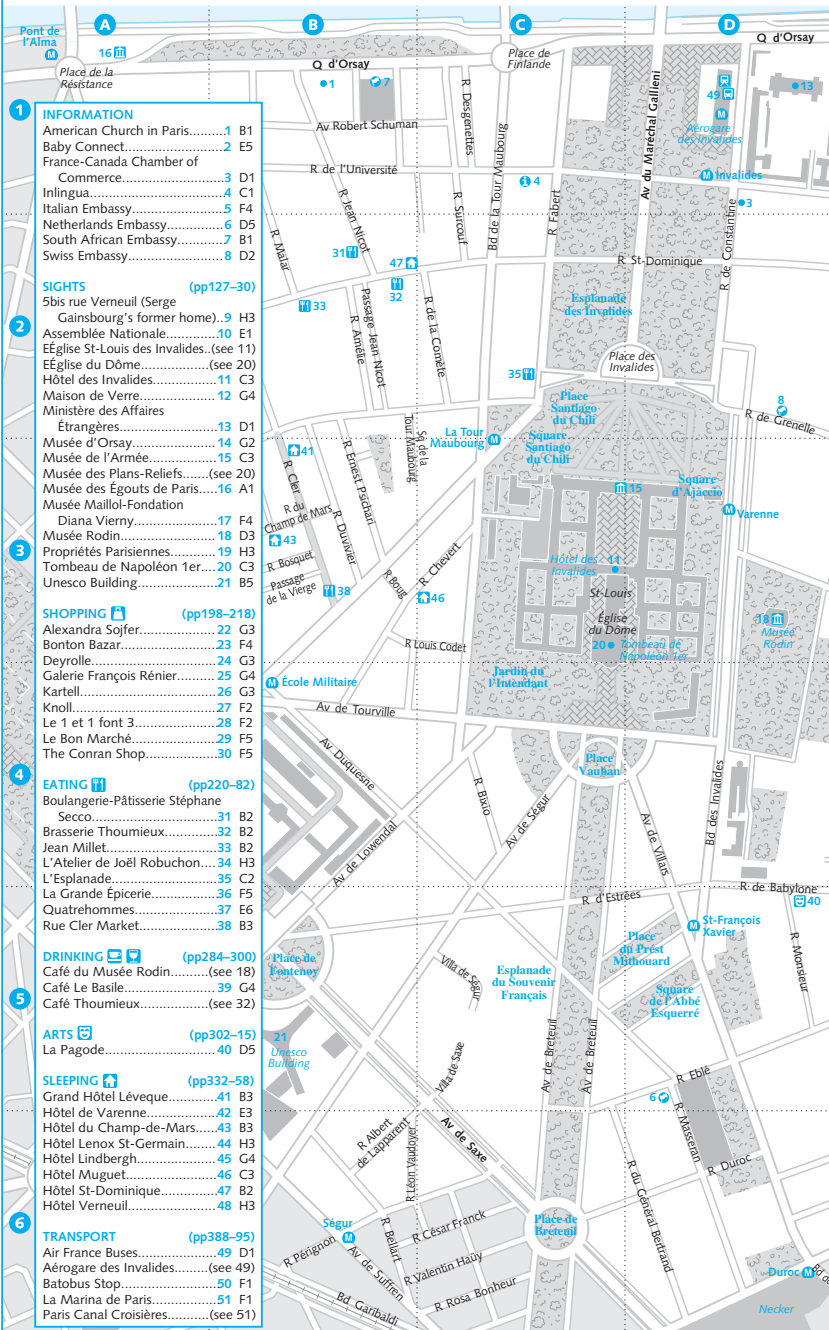
🚶 Invalides, Varenne or La Tour Maubourg
A 500m-long expanse of lawn known as the *Eplanade des Invalides* separates Faubourg St-Germain from the Eiffel Tower area. At the southern end of the esplanade, laid out between 1704 and 1720, is the final resting place of Napoleon, the man many French people consider to be the nation's greatest hero.

Hôtel des Invalides was built in the 1670s by Louis XIV to provide housing for 4000 *invalides* (disabled war veterans). On 14 July 1789, a mob forced its way into the building and, after fierce fighting, seized 32,000 rifles before heading on to the prison at Bastille and the start of the French Revolution.

North of Hôtel des Invalides' main courtyard, in the so-called *Cour d'Honneur*, is the *Musée de l'Armée* (Army Museum; ☎ 01 44 42 38 77; www.invalides.org; 129 rue de Grenelle, 7e; adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €8/6/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Sep, to 5pm Oct-Mar, closed 1st Mon of the month) – the nation's largest collection on French military history.

South is *Église St-Louis des Invalides*, once used by soldiers, and *Église du Dôme* (☎ 10am-7pm mid-Jun–mid-Sep, to 6pm Apr–mid-Jun & Sep, to 5pm mid-Sep–Mar) which, with its sparkling golden dome (1677–1735), is one of the finest religious edifices erected under Louis XIV. It

FAUBOURG ST-GERMAIN & INVALIDES



received the remains of Napoleon in 1840. The very extravagant **Tombeau de Napoléon 1er** (Napoleon's Tomb) (📍 10am–6pm Apr–Sep, to 5pm Oct–Mar, closed 1st Mon of the month), in the centre of the church, comprises six coffins fitting into one another like a Russian *matryoshka* doll.

Admission to the Army Museum includes entry to all the sights in Hôtel des Invalides, including the **Musée des Plans-Reliefs** (📍 01 45 51 95 05; 🕒 10am–6pm Apr–Sep, to 5pm Oct–Mar, closed 1st Mon of the month), an esoteric museum full of scale models of towns, fortresses and châteaux across France.

MUSÉE DES ÉGOUTS DE PARIS pp128–9

☎ 01 53 68 27 81; place de la Résistance, 7e; adult/student & 6–16yr €4.20/3.40, under 6yr free; 🕒 11am–5pm Sat–Wed May–Sep, to 4pm Sat–Wed Oct–Dec & Feb–Apr; 🚶 Pont de l'Alma

The Paris Sewers Museum is a working museum whose entrance, a rectangular maintenance hole topped with a kiosk, is across the street from 93 quai d'Orsay, 7e. Raw sewage flows beneath your feet as you walk through 480m of odoriferous tunnels, passing artefacts illustrating the development of Paris' waste-water disposal system. The sewers keep regular hours except – God forbid – when rain threatens to flood the tunnels, and in January, when it is closed.

MUSÉE D'ORSAY Map pp128–9

☎ 01 40 49 48 14; www.musee-orsay.fr; 62 rue de Lille, 7e; adult/18–30yr/under 18yr €8/5.50/free, 1st Sun of the month free; 🕒 9.30am–6pm Tue, Wed, Fri–Sun, to 9.45pm Thu; 🚶 Musée d'Orsay or Solférino

In a former train station (1900) facing the Seine, this museum displays France's national collection of paintings, sculptures, *objets d'art* and other works produced between the 1840s and 1914, including the fruits of the impressionist, postimpressionist and Art Nouveau movements.

Many visitors head straight to the upper skylight-lit level to see the impressionist paintings by Monet, Renoir, Pissarro, Sisley, Degas and Manet and the postimpressionist works by Van Gogh, Cézanne, Seurat and Matisse. But there's a great deal to see on the ground floor, too, including early works by Manet, Monet, Renoir and Pissarro. The middle level has some magnificent Art Nouveau rooms.

English-language **guided tours** (information ☎ 01 40 49 48 48; adult/13–17yr €7.50/5.70 plus admis-

sion fee), last 1½ hours and include 'Masterpieces of the Musée d'Orsay', departing 11.30am Tuesday to Saturday. Buy tickets in advance at www.fnac.com or at **Kiosque du Musée d'Orsay** (🕒 9am–5.50pm Tue–Fri), in front of the museum. Those who prefer their own pace can DIY with a 1½-hour **audioguide tour** (€5) covering 80 major works.

Museum tickets are valid all day, meaning you can leave and re-enter the museum as you please. The reduced entrance fee of €5.50 applies to everyone after 4.15pm (6pm on Thursday). Those visiting the **Musée Rodin** (below) the same day save €2 with a combined ticket (€12).

MUSÉE RODIN Map pp128–9

☎ 01 44 18 61 10; www.musee-rodin.fr; 79 rue de Varenne, 7e; adult/18–25yr/under 18yr permanent or temporary exhibition plus garden €6/4/free, both exhibitions plus garden €9/7/free, 1st Sun of the month free, garden only €1; 🕒 9.30am–5.45pm Tue–Sun Apr–Sep, to 4.45pm Tue–Sun Oct–Mar; 🚶 Varenne

The Rodin Museum is one of the most relaxing spots in the city, with its garden bespeckled with sculptures and shade trees in which to contemplate *The Thinker*. Rooms on two floors of the 18th-century Hôtel Biron display vital bronze and marble sculptures by Auguste Rodin, including casts of some of his most celebrated works: *The Hand of God*, *The Burghers of Calais*, *Cathedral*, that perennial crowd-pleaser *The Thinker* and the sublime, the incomparable, that romance-hewn-in-marble called *The Kiss*. There are also some 15 works by Camille Claudel (1864–1943), sister to the writer Paul and Rodin's mistress. The garden closes its gates later than the museum: at 6.45pm April to September and at 5pm October to March.

MUSÉE MAILLOL-FONDATION DINA VIERNY Map pp128–9

☎ 01 42 22 59 58; www.museemailloil.com; 61 rue de Grenelle, 7e; adult/16–25yr/under 16yr €8/6/free; 🕒 11am–6pm Wed–Mon; 🚶 Rue du Bac

This splendid little museum focuses on the work of sculptor Aristide Maillol (1861–1944) who died in a car crash. It also includes works by Matisse, Gauguin, Kandinsky, Cézanne and Picasso, all from the private collection of Odessa-born Dina Vierny (b 1915–), Maillol's principal model for 10 years from the age of 15. The museum is located in the stunning 18th-century Hôtel Bouchardon.

EIFFEL TOWER AREA & 16E ARRONDISSEMENT

Eating p260; Sleeping p351

Paris' very symbol, the Eiffel Tower, is surrounded by open areas on both banks of the Seine, which take in both the 7e and the 16e arrondissements.

On the Right Bank, Passy is among the city's most prestigious neighbourhoods. The wide avenues radiating out from the place du Trocadéro et du 11 November are lined with sober, elegant buildings from the Haussmann era. Luxury boutiques abound, frequented by posh customers who desert the area come nightfall. It's here, on the banks of the Seine, that the architectural curiosity known as the 'Maison Ronde' – the Maison de Radio France – was constructed. Just north, the Maison de Balzac keeps alive the memory of the illustrious author of *Le Père Goriot*. Further north, the ultrabourgeois av Foch thumbs its nose at the restless av de la Grande Armée, teeming with motorbike fanatics. The 16e arrondissement also hosts football meets at the Parc des Princes and, as summer approaches, the thud of tennis balls on clay can be heard at Stade Roland Garros. There are some fabulous cultural institutions here, including the Musée du Quai Branly, Musée Guimet des Arts Asiatiques, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and the three excellent museums of the Palais de Chaillot. At the same time there are lots and lots of smaller and lesser-known museums on such diverse subjects as wine, crystal and pens.

EIFFEL TOWER pp132–3

☎ 01 44 11 23 23; www.tour-eiffel.fr; 🚶 lifts 9am–midnight mid-Jun–Aug, 9.30am–11pm Sep–mid-Jun; stairs 9am–midnight mid-Jun–Aug, 9.30am–6pm Sep–mid-Jun; 🚶 Champ de Mars–Tour Eiffel or Bir Hakeim

La Tour Eiffel faced massive opposition from Paris' artistic and literary elite when it was built for the 1889 Exposition Universelle (World Fair), marking the centenary of the Revolution.

The 'metal asparagus', as some Parisians snidely called it, was almost torn down in 1909 but was spared because it proved an ideal platform for the transmitting antennas needed for the newfangled science of

radiotelegraphy. It welcomed two million visitors the first year it opened and more than three times that number – 6.9 million in 2007 – make their way to the top each year.

The Eiffel Tower, named after its designer, Gustave Eiffel, is 324m high, including the TV antenna at the tip. This figure can vary by as much as 15cm, however, as the tower's 7300 tonnes of iron, held together by 2.5 million rivets, expand in warm weather and contract when it's cold.

Three levels are open to the public. The lifts (in the east, west and north pillars), which follow a curved trajectory, cost €4.80 to the 1st platform (57m above the ground), €7.80 to the 2nd (115m) and €12 to the 3rd (276m). Children aged three to 11 pay €2.50, €4.30 or €6.70. If you're feeling fit and/or energetic you can avoid the lift queues by taking the stairs (over/under 25yr €4/3.10) in the south pillar as far as the 2nd platform.

TRANSPORT: EIFFEL TOWER AREA & 16E ARRONDISSEMENT

Bus Quai Branly for 82 to Trocadéro (Varsovie), Palais de Chaillot, Porte Maillot, Palais des Congrès & Neuilly; Champ de Mars for 42 to av Montaigne, Madeleine, Opéra (blvd Haussmann) & Gare du Nord & for 69 to Invalides, Musée d'Orsay, Louvre, Châtelet, Marais, Bastille & Gambetta; Trocadéro for 22 to Charles de Gaulle–Étoile, Grands Boulevards, Gare St-Lazare & Opéra

Metro & RER Alma-Marceau, Bir Hakeim, Champ de Mars–Tour Eiffel, École Militaire, Iéna, Kennedy Radio France, Passy, Pont de l'Alma, Porte Dauphine, Trocadéro, Victor Hugo

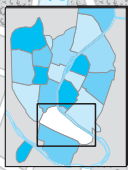
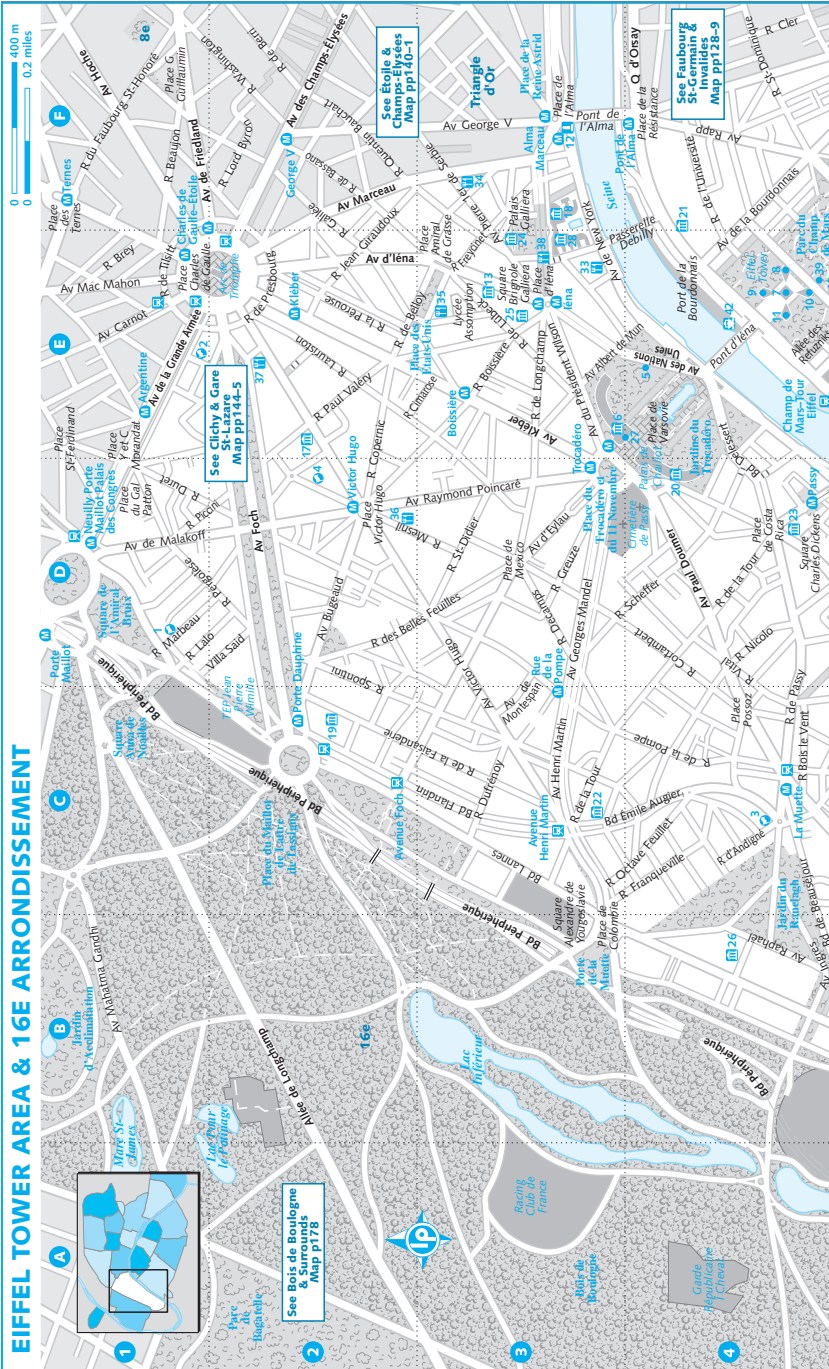
Boat Eiffel Tower Batobus stop (Port de la Bourdonnais)

PALAIS DE CHAILLOT Map pp132–3

place du Trocadéro et du 11 November, 16e; 🚶 Trocadéro

The two curved, colonnaded wings of the Palais de Chaillot, built for the 1937 Exposition Universelle held in Paris, and the terrace in between them afford an exceptional panorama of the Jardins du Trocadéro (named after a Spanish stronghold near Cádiz captured by the French in 1823), the Seine and the Eiffel Tower.

EIFFEL TOWER AREA & 16^e ARRONDISSEMENT



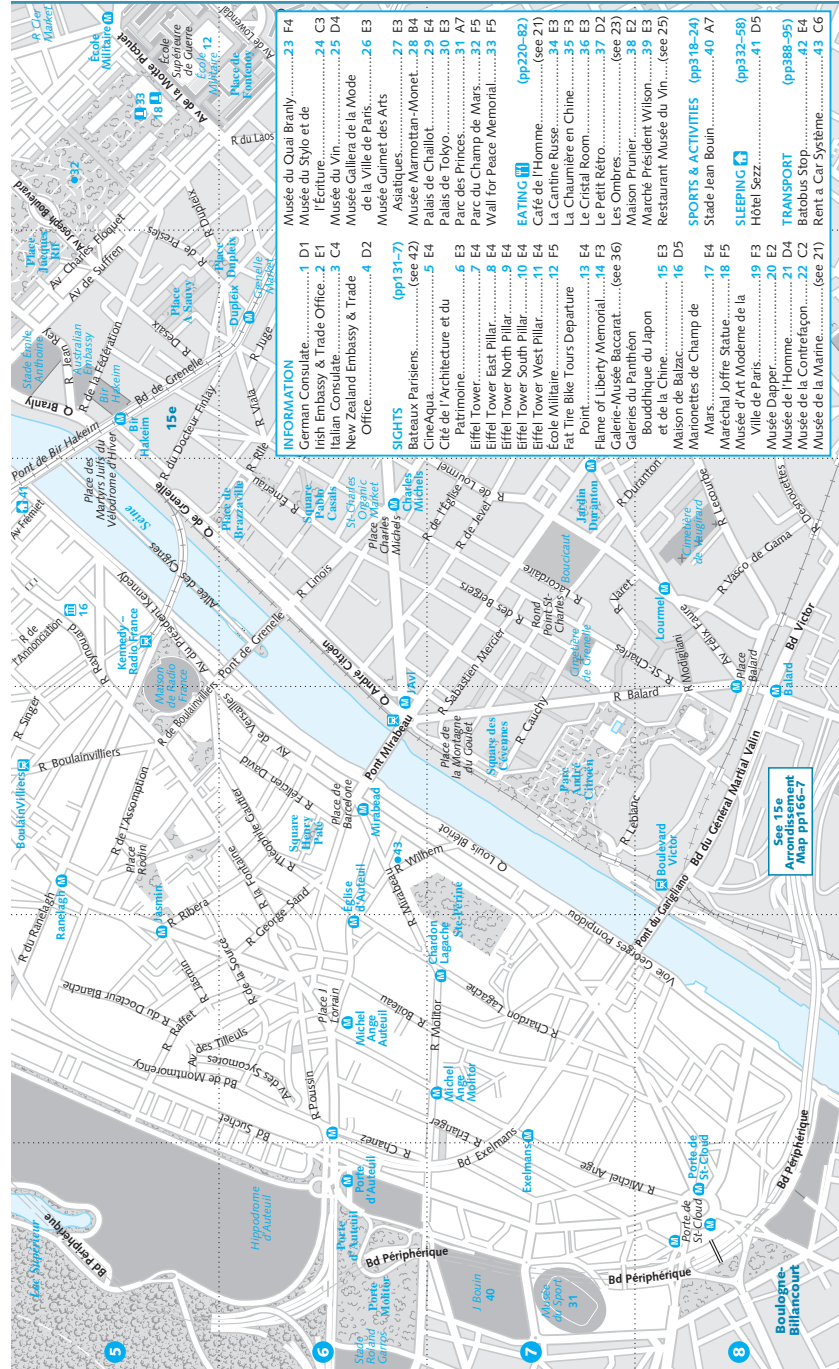
See Bois de Boulogne
Map p178



See Eiffel & Champs-Élysées
Map pp140-1

See Faubourg St-Jacques & Invalides
Map pp128-9

See Clichy & Gare St-Lazare
Map pp145-5



INFORMATION

- 1 D1 German Consulate.....
- 2 E1 Irish Embassy & Trade Office.....
- 3 C4 Italian Consulate.....
- 4 D2 New Zealand Embassy & Trade Office.....

SIGHTS

- (pp131-7) Bateaux Parisiens.....
- (see 42) Cimetière de la Vierge.....
- 5 E4 Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine.....
- 6 E3 Eiffel Tower East Pillar.....
- 7 E4 Eiffel Tower North Pillar.....
- 10 E4 Eiffel Tower South Pillar.....
- 11 E4 École Militaire.....
- 12 F5 Fat Tire Bike Tours Departure Point.....
- 13 E4 Flamme of Liberty Memorial.....
- 14 F3 Galerie-Musée Baccarat.....
- (see 36) Galeries du Panthéon.....
- 15 E3 Bouddhique du Japon et de la Chine.....
- 16 D5 Maison de Balzac.....
- 17 E4 Mairie de Paris.....
- 18 F5 Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.....
- 19 E3 Musée Dapper.....
- 20 E2 Musée de l'Homme.....
- 21 D4 Musée de la Contrefaçon.....
- 22 C2 Musée de la Marine.....
- (see 21)
 - 23 F4 Musée du Quai Branly.....
 - 24 C3 Musée du Stylo et de l'Écriture.....
 - 25 D4 Musée du Vin.....
 - 26 E3 Musée de la Ville de Paris.....
 - 27 E3 Musée Guimet des Arts Asiatiques.....
 - (see 42) Musée Marmottan-Monnet.....
 - 29 B4 Palais de Chaillot.....
 - 30 E4 Parc des Princes.....
 - 31 F5 Parc du Champ de Mars.....
 - 32 E3 Wall for Peace Memorial.....
 - (pp20-82)
 - 33 F5 Café de l'Homme.....
 - (see 21) La Cantinière.....
 - 34 E3 La Chaumière en Chine.....
 - 35 E3 Le Cristal Room.....
 - 36 D2 Les Ombres.....
 - (see 23) Le Petit Rétro.....
 - 37 D2 Les Embraves.....
 - 38 E2 Maison Prunier.....
 - 39 E3 Marché Président Wilson.....
 - (see 25) Restaurant Musée du Vin.....

See 15^e Arrondissement
Map pp166-7

The palace's western wing contains two interesting museums. The **Musée de l'Homme** (Museum of Mankind; ☎ 01 44 05 72 72; www.mnhn.fr; 17 place du Trocadéro et du 11 November, 16e; adult/4-16yr & student €7/5; 🕒 10am-5pm Mon, Wed-Fri, to 6pm Sat & Sun), straight ahead as you enter, focuses on human development, ethnology, population and population growth; it's a branch of the **Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle** (p113).

The **Musée de la Marine** (Maritime Museum; ☎ 01 53 65 69 69; www.musee-marine.fr; 17 place du Trocadéro et du 11 November, 16e; adult/student & 18-25yr €6.50/4.50, under 18yr free; 🕒 10am-6pm Wed-Mon), to the right of the main entrance, examines France's naval adventures from the 17th century until today and boasts one of the world's finest collections of model ships, as well as ancient figureheads, compasses, sextants, telescopes and paintings.

In the palace's eastern wing is the new **Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine** (☎ 01 58 51 52 00; www.citechaillot.fr in French; 1 place du Trocadéro et du 11 November, 16; adult/student & 18-25yr €8/5, under 18yr free; 🕒 11am-7pm Mon, Wed & Fri-Sun, to 9pm Thu), a mammoth 23,000 sq metres of space spread over three floors and devoted to French architecture and heritage. The Galerie d'Architecture Moderne & Contemporaine (Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Architecture) on the 2nd floor examines current trends in France but the highlight (and core) of the museum is the collection of 350 wood and plaster casts (*moulages*) of cathedral portals, columns and altars, and replicas of murals and stained glass originally created for the 1878 Exposition Universelle. The views of the Eiffel Tower from the windows are equally monumental.

CINEAQUA Map pp132-3

☎ 01 40 69 23 23; www.cineaqua.com; 2 av des Nations Unies, 16e; adult/13-17yr/3-12yr €19.50/15.50/12.50, under 3yr free; 🕒 10am-8pm On the eastern side of the Jardins du Trocadéro is Europe's newest and most ambitious aquarium, with 500 species 'tanked' in more than 3500 sq metres of space. The aquarium is divided into regions (Indo-Pacific, Caribbean etc), there are two or three films related to marine life and the seas playing at any one time, and there is much emphasis on the ecology and green issues. The shark tank and the enormous tank forming the backdrop to the café-restaurant are phenomenal.

PARC DU CHAMP DE MARS Map pp132-3

📍 **Champ de Mars-Tour Eiffel or École Militaire** Running southeast from the Eiffel Tower, the grassy Field of Mars (named after the Roman god of war) was originally used as a parade ground for the cadets of the 18th-century **École Militaire** (Military Academy; Map pp128-9), the vast, French-classical building (1772) at the southeastern end of the park in the 7e, which counts none other than Napoleon Bonaparte among its graduates. The wonderful **Wall for Peace memorial** (2000; www.wallforpeace.com) of steel and etched glass facing the academy and the statue of Maréchal Joffre (1870-1931) are by Clara Halter.

On 14 July 1790 the Fête de la Fédération (Federation Festival) was held on the Champ de Mars to celebrate the first anniversary of the storming of the Bastille. Four years later it was the location of the Fête de l'Être-Suprême (Festival of the Supreme Being), at which Robespierre presided over a ceremony that established a revolutionary 'state religion'.

The **Marionettes du Champ de Mars** (☎ 01 48 56 01 44; allée du Général Marquerite, 7e; 📍 École Militaire) stage puppet shows (€3) in a covered and heated *salle* (hall) in the park at 3.15pm and 4.15pm on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

MUSÉE DU QUAI BRANLY Map pp132-3

☎ 01 56 61 70 00; www.quaibranly.fr; 37 quai Branly, 7e; adult/18-25yr & student €8.50/6, permanent collections free for under 18yr & after 6pm Sat for 18-25yr, 1st Sun of the month free; 🕒 11am-7pm Tue, Wed & Sun, to 9pm Thu-Sat 📍 Pont de l'Alma or Alma-Marceau

Opened to great fanfare in mid-2006, the architecturally impressive (see p50) but unimaginatively named Quai Branly Museum introduces the art and cultures of Africa, Oceania, Asia and the Americas through innovative displays, film and musical recordings. With *Là où dialoguent les cultures* (Where cultures communicate) as its motto, the museum is one of the most dynamic and forward-thinking in the world. The anthropological explanations are kept to a minimum; what is displayed here is meant to be viewed as art. A day pass allowing entry to the temporary exhibits as well as the permanent collection costs adult/concession €13/9.50; an audioguide is €5. And don't miss the views from the 5th-floor restaurant **Les Ombres** (p260).

top picks

EIFFEL TOWER AREA & 16^E ARRONDISSEMENT

- Eiffel Tower (p131)
- Musée du Quai Branly (opposite)
- Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine (p131)
- Musée Guimet des Arts Asiatiques (right)
- CineAqua (opposite)

FLAME OF LIBERTY MEMORIAL

Map pp132-3

📍 Alma-Marceau

This bronze sculpture – a replica of the one topping New York's Statue of Liberty – was placed here in 1987 on the centenary of the launch of the *International Herald Tribune* newspaper, as a symbol of friendship between France and the USA. On 31 August 1997 in the place d'Alma underpass below, Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed in a devastating car accident along with her companion, Dodi Fayed, and their chauffeur, Henri Paul, and the Flame of Liberty became something of a memorial to her, decorated with flowers, photographs, graffiti and personal notes. It was renovated and cleaned in 2002 and, this being the age of short (or no) memories, apart from a bit of sentimental graffiti on a wall nearby there are no longer any reminders of the tragedy that happened so close by and had so much of the Western world in grief at the time.

MUSÉE D'ART MODERNE DE LA VILLE DE PARIS Map pp132-3

☎ 01 53 67 40 00; www.mam.paris.fr in French; 11 av du Président Wilson, 16e; temporary exhibits from adult €5-9, 13-25yr, senior & student €2.50-5.50, permanent collections free, under 13yr free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue, Wed & Fri-Sun, to 10pm Thu; 📍 Iéna

The Modern Art Museum of the City of Paris was established in 1961. The museum is housed in what was the Electricity Pavilion at the time of the 1937 Exposition Universelle, and displays works representative of just about every major artistic movement of the 20th and nascent 21st centuries: Fauvism, cubism, Dadaism, surrealism, the School of Paris, expressionism, abstraction-

ism and so on. Artists who have works on display include Matisse, Picasso, Braque, Soutine, Modigliani and Chagall.

PALAIS DE TOKYO pp132-3

☎ 01 47 23 38 86; www.palaisdetokyo.com; 13 av du Président Wilson, 16e; adult/senior & 18-26yr €6/4.50, under 18yr free; 🕒 noon-midnight Tue-Sun; 📍 Iéna

The Tokyo Palace, like the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris next door in yet another 1937 Exposition Universelle building, opened in 2002 as a Site de Création Contemporain (Site for Contemporary Arts). It has no permanent collection and plans no exhibitions of a single artist or theme but showcases ephemeral artwork, installations and performances. It's event-driven rather than static and the whole idea is to get the viewer as close to the works of art and the artists as possible.

MUSÉE GALLIERA DE LA MODE DE LA VILLE DE PARIS Map pp132-3

☎ 01 56 52 86 00; www.galliera.paris.fr, in French; 10 av Pierre 1er de Serbie, 16e; adult/14-26yr/student & senior €7/3.50/5.50, under 14yr free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; 📍 Iéna

The Fashion Museum of the City of Paris, housed in the 19th-century Palais Galliera, warehouses some 90,000 outfits and accessories – from canes and umbrellas to fans and gloves – from the 18th century to the present day and exhibits them along with items borrowed from collections abroad offering tremendously successful temporary exhibitions. The sumptuous Italianate palace and gardens dating from the mid-19th century are worth a visit in themselves.

MUSÉE GUIMET DES ARTS ASIATIQUES pp132-3

☎ 01 56 52 53 00; www.museeguimet.fr; 6 place d'Iéna, 16e; temporary exhibits adult €6.50-8.50, 18-25, student & senior €4.50-6, permanent collections free, under 18yr free; 🕒 10am-6pm Wed-Mon; 📍 Iéna

The Guimet Museum of Asiatic Arts is France's foremost repository for Asian art and has sculptures, paintings, *objets d'art* and religious articles from Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Tibet, Cambodia, China, Japan and Korea. Part of the collection, comprising Buddhist paintings and sculptures brought to Paris in 1876 by collector Émile Guimet, is housed in the

Galleries du Panthéon Bouddhique du Japon et de la Chine (Buddhist Pantheon Galleries of Japan & China; ☎ 01 47 23 61 65; 19 av d'Iéna; admission free; 🕒 10am-6pm Wed-Mon; 🚶 (M) Iéna) in the scrumptious Hôtel Heidelberg a short distance to the north. Don't miss the wonderful **Japanese garden** (🕒 1-5pm Wed-Mon) here.

GALERIE-MUSÉE BACCARAT Map pp132-3 ☎ 01 40 22 11 00; www.baccarat.com; 11 place des États-Unis, 16e; adult/student & 18-25yr €5/3.50, under 18yr free; 🕒 10am-6.30pm Mon, Wed & Sat; 🚶 (M) Boissière or Kléber

Showcasing 1000 stunning pieces of crystal, many of them custom-made for princes and dictators of desperately poor former colonies, this flashy museum is at home in its striking new rococo-style premises designed by Philippe Starck in the ritzy 16e. It is also home to a superb restaurant called – what else? – **Le Cristal Room** (p260).

MUSÉE DAPPER Mappp132-3

☎ 01 44 00 91 75; www.dapper.com.fr; 35 rue Paul Valéry, 16e; adult/senior & student €6/3, under 18yr free, last Wed of the month free; 🕒 11am-7pm Wed-Sun; 🚶 (M) Victor Hugo

This fantastic museum of sub-Saharan African and Caribbean art collected and exhibited by the nonprofit Dapper Foundation (in a 16th-century *hôtel particulier* with wonderful 21st-century add-ons) stages a couple of major exhibitions each year. The collection consists mostly of carved wooden figurines and masks, which famously influenced the work of Picasso, Braque and Man Ray. The ever-active auditorium sponsors African and Caribbean cultural events year-round – from concerts and storytelling to films and marionette performances.

MUSÉE DU VIN Map pp132-3

☎ 01 45 25 63 26; www.museedevinparis.com; rue des Eaux, 5 square Charles Dickens, 16e; adult/student/senior €8.90/7/7.50, under 14yr free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; 🚶 (M) Passy

The not-so-comprehensive Wine Museum, headquarters of the prestigious International Federation of Wine Brotherhoods, introduces visitors to the fine art of viticulture with various mock-ups and displays of tools. Admission includes a glass of wine at the end of the visit. Entry is free if you have lunch at the attached **Restaurant Musée du Vin** (p261).

top picks

FOR CHILDREN

- Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie (p172)
- Centre Kapla (p396)
- CineAqua (p134)
- Exploradôme (p178)
- Jardin d'Acclimatation (p178)
- Musée des Arts et Métiers (p97)
- Palais de la Découverte (p139)
- Jardin du Luxembourg (p119)

MAISON DE BALZAC Map pp132-3

☎ 01 55 74 41 80; www.balzac.paris.fr, in French; 47 rue Raynouard, 16e; temporary exhibits adult/14-26yr/senior & student €4/2/3, permanent collections free, under 14yr free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; 🚶 (M) Passy or Kennedy Radio France

This pretty, three-storey spa house in Passy, about 800m southwest of the Jardins du Trocadéro, is where the realist novelist Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850) lived and worked from 1840 to 1847, editing the entire *Comédie Humaine* and writing various books. There's lots of memorabilia, letters, prints and portraits and is probably for die-hard Balzac fans only.

MUSÉE DU STYLO ET DE L'ÉCRITURE pp132-3

☎ 06 07 94 13 21; 3 rue Guy de Maupassant, 16e; adult/senior & student €2/1; 🕒 2-6pm Sun; 🚶 (M) Av Henri Martin or Rue de la Pompe

The Museum of the Pen and of Penmanship has the most important collection of writing utensils in the world – with pens dating back to the mid-18th century – as well as paper and calligraphy. It can be visited on other days if you phone and book in advance.

MUSÉE DE LA CONTREFAÇON

Mappp132-3

☎ 01 56 26 14 00; 16 rue de la Faisanderie, 16e; adult/12-16yr €4/3, under 12yr free; 🕒 2-5.30pm Tue-Sun; 🚶 (M) Porte Dauphine

This fascinating museum east of Porte Dauphine is the real thing, dedicated to the not-so-fine art of counterfeiting. Apparently nothing is sacred to the manufacturers of ersatz: banknotes, liqueurs, designer clothing, even Barbie and Ken dolls. What makes this museum, established by the Union des

Fabricants (Manufacturers' Union), so interesting is that it displays the real against the fake and lets you spot the difference. Most of the time it's as plain as the nose (the real, not the plastic one) on your face.

MUSÉE MARMOTTAN-MONET pp132-3

☎ 01 44 96 50 33; www.marmottan.com; 2 rue Louis Boilly, 16e; adult/8-25yr €9/5.50, under 8yr free; 🕒 11am-9pm Tue, to 6pm Wed-Sun; 🚶 (M) La Muette

This museum, two blocks east of the Bois de Boulogne between Porte de la Muette and Porte de Passy, has the world's largest collection of works by impressionist painter Claude Monet (1840-1926) – about a hundred – as well as paintings by Gauguin, Sisley, Pissarro, Renoir, Degas, Manet and Berthe Morisot. It also contains an important collection of French, English, Italian and Flemish miniatures from the 13th to the 16th centuries.

ÉTOILE & CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

Drinking p294; Eating p261; Shopping p212; Sleeping p352

The 8e arrondissement was born under a lucky star, it would seem. Its avenues radiate from place de l'Étoile – officially place Charles de Gaulle – bathing in the glow of fame. First among them is the av des Champs-Élysées. From the Arc de Triomphe in the northwest to the place de la Concorde in the southeast, this broad boulevard rules supreme. On New Year's Eve and after major sporting victories there's always a huge party here. Like a splendid, regal hostess, the avenue receives its guests, makes them mingle and moves them along. And the guests keep coming. Just a short walk away, the av Montaigne haughtily displays its designer wares. And members of the jet set go shopping along av George V and rue du Faubourg St-Honoré. Here, fashion, art and luxury hotels go hand in hand. Only the finest are on display, as in the neighbourhood's theatres and museums, such as the Grand Palais and Petit Palais.

ARC DE TRIOMPHE Map pp140–1

☎ 01 55 37 73 77; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; viewing platform adult/18–25yr €9/6.50, under 18yr free, 1st Sun of the month Nov–Mar free; 🕒 10am–11pm Apr–Sep, to 10.30pm Oct–Mar; 🏛 Charles de Gaulle-Étoile

The Triumphal Arch is 2km northwest of place de la Concorde in the middle of place Charles de Gaulle (aka place de l'Étoile), the world's largest traffic roundabout and the meeting point of 12 avenues (and three arrondissements). It was commissioned in 1806 by Napoleon to commemorate his imperial victories but remained unfinished when he started losing – at first battles and then whole wars. It was finally completed under Louis-Philippe in 1836. Among the armies to march triumphantly through the Arc de Triomphe were the Germans in 1871, the Allies in 1919, the Germans again in 1940 and the Allies again in 1944.

The most famous of the four high-relief panels at the base is to the right, facing the arch from the av des Champs-Élysées side. Entitled *Départ des Volontaires de 1792* (Departure of the Volunteers of 1792) and also known as *La Marseillaise* (France's national anthem), it is the work of François Rude. Higher up, a frieze running around

the whole monument depicts hundreds of figures, each one 2m high.

From the viewing platform on top of the arch (50m up via 284 steps and well worth the climb) you can see the dozen broad avenues – many of them named after Napoleonic victories and illustrious generals – radiating towards every compass point. Av de la Grande Armée heads northwest to the skyscraper district of **La Défense** (p179), where the **Grande Arche**, a hollow cube measuring 110m on each side, defines the western end of the Grand Axe (the 'Great Axis' linking the Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe). Tickets to the viewing platform of the Arc de Triomphe are sold in the underground passageway that surfaces on the even-numbered side of av des Champs-Élysées. It is the only *sane* way to get to the base of the arch and is *not* linked to nearby metro tunnels.

AVENUE DES CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

Map pp140–1

🏛 Charles de Gaulle-Étoile, George V, Franklin D Roosevelt or Champs-Élysées Clemenceau Av des Champs-Élysées (the name refers to the 'Elysian Fields' where happy souls dwell in the hereafter, according to Greek myth) links place de la Concorde with the Arc de Triomphe. The avenue has symbolised the style and *joie de vivre* of Paris since the mid-19th century and remains a popular tourist destination.

Some 400m north of av des Champs-Élysées is rue du Faubourg St-Honoré (8e), the western extension of rue St-Honoré. It has renowned couture houses, jewellers, antique shops and the 18th-century **Palais de l'Élysée** (cnr rue du Faubourg St-Honoré & av de Marigny, 8e; 🏛 Champs-Élysées Clemenceau), which is the official residence of the French president.

At the bottom of av des Champs-Élysées, on place Clemenceau, is a 3.6m-tall bronze **statue of General Charles de Gaulle** in full military gear ready to march down the broad avenue to the Arc de Triomphe in a liberated Paris on 26 August 1944.

GRAND PALAIS Map pp140–1

☎ 01 44 13 17 17, reservations 08 92 68 46 94; www.grandpalais.fr, in French; 3 av du Général Eisenhower, 8e; with/without booking adult €11/10, student & 13–25yr €10/8, under 13yr free;

🕒 10am–10pm Fri–Mon & Wed, to 8pm Thu;

🏛 Champs-Élysées Clemenceau

The 'Great Palace', erected for the 1900 Exposition Universelle, houses the **Galerias Nationales du Grand Palais** beneath its huge Art Nouveau glass roof. Special exhibitions, among the biggest the city stages, last three or four months. You'll understand just how popular most of the exhibitions here are – and the importance of booking in advance – when you see the queues (especially at the weekend) looping halfway round the building.

PETIT PALAIS Map pp140–1

☎ 01 53 43 40 00; www.petitpalais.paris.fr, in French; av Winston Churchill, 8e; temporary exhibits adult/14–26yr/senior & student €9/4.50/6.50, permanent collections free, under 14yr free;

🕒 10am–6pm Wed–Sun, to 8pm Tue; 🏛 Champs-Élysées Clemenceau

The 'Little Palace', like the Grand Palais opposite also built for the 1900 Exposition Universelle, is home to the **Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris**, the Paris municipality's Museum of Fine Arts. It specialises in medieval and Renaissance *objets d'art* like porcelain and clocks, tapestries, drawings and 19th-century French painting and sculpture.

PALAIS DE LA DÉCOUVERTE Map pp140–1

☎ 01 56 43 20 21; www.palais-decouverte.fr, in French; av Franklin D Roosevelt, 8e; adult/senior, student & 5–18yr €7/4.50, under 5yr free; 🕒 9.30am–6pm Tue–Sat, 10am–7pm Sun;

🏛 Champs-Élysées Clemenceau

The Palace of Discovery, inaugurated during the 1937 Exposition Universelle and thus the world's first interactive museum, is a fascinating place to take kids thanks to its hands-on exhibits on astronomy, biology, medicine, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, physics and earth sciences. The

top picks

ÉTOILE & CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

- Arc de Triomphe (opposite)
- Av des Champs-Élysées (opposite)
- Petit Palais (left)
- Place de la Madeleine (below)
- Place de la Concorde (below)

planetarium (admission €3.50) usually has four shows a day (in French) at 11.30am, 2pm, 3.15pm and 4.30pm; call or consult the website for current schedules.

PLACE DE LA CONCORDE Map pp140–1

🏛 Concorde

Place de la Concorde was laid out between 1755 and 1775. The 3300-year-old pink granite **obelisk** with the gilded top standing in the centre of the square was presented to France in 1831 by Muhammad Ali, viceroy and pasha of Egypt. Weighing 230 tonnes and towering 23m over the cobblestones, it once stood in the Temple of Ramses at Thebes (now Luxor). The eight **female statues** adorning the four corners of the square represent France's largest cities (at least in the second half of the 18th century).

In 1793, Louis XVI's head was lopped off by a guillotine set up in the northwest corner of the square near the statue representing the city of Brest. During the next two years, another guillotine – this one near the entrance to the Jardin des Tuileries – was used to behead 1343 more people, including Marie-Antoinette and, six months later, the Revolutionary leader Danton. Shortly thereafter, Robespierre lost his head here, too. The square was given its present name after the Reign of Terror in the hope that it would become a place of peace and harmony.

PLACE DE LA MADELEINE Map pp140–1

🏛 Madeleine

Ringed by fine-food shops, the place de la Madeleine is 350m north of place de la Concorde, at the end of rue Royale. The square is named after the 19th-century neoclassical church in its centre, the **Église de Ste-Marie Madeleine** (Church of St Mary Magdalene; ☎ 01 44 51 69 00; www.eglise-lamadeleine.com, in French; place de la

TRANSPORT: ÉTOILE & CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

Bus av des Champs-Élysées for 73 to La Défense (west) & Musée d'Orsay (east), for 42 to Grands Boulevards, Opéra & Gare du Nord

Metro Champs-Élysées Clemenceau, Charles de Gaulle-Étoile, Franklin D Roosevelt, George V

Boat Champs-Élysées Batobus stop (Port des Champs-Élysées)

ÉTOILE & CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

INFORMATION

American Cathedral in Paris.....1 B5
 American Chamber of Commerce.....2 D3
 Belgian Embassy.....3 A3
 Canadian Embassy.....4 C5
 Canadian Government
 Department of Commercial &
 Economic Affairs.....(see 4)
 Franco-British Chamber of
 Commerce & Industry.....5 G5
 German Embassy.....6 D6
 La Boutique Orange.....7 G5

NewWorks Champs-Élysées
 Branch.....8 D4
 Pharmacie des Champs.....9 C6
 Spanish Embassy.....10 B6
 St Joseph's Catholic Church.....11 B3
 UK Consulate.....12 G4
 UK Embassy & Trade Office.....13 F5
 US Embassy & Trade Office.....14 F5

SIGHTS (pp138-42)

Arc de Triomphe.....15 A3
 Av des Champs-Élysées.....16 C4

Bateaux Mouches.....17 C6
 Belle Époque Toilets.....18 G5
 Chapelle Expiatoire.....19 G3
 Charles de Gaulle Statue.....20 E5
 Église de Ste-Marie
 Madeleine.....21 G5
 Flower Market.....(see 38)
 Galeries Nationales du Grand
 Palais.....(see 22)
 Grand Palais.....22 E6
 Musée des Beaux-Arts de la
 Ville de Paris.....(see 26)
 Obelisk.....23 F6
 Palais de l'Élysée.....24 F4
 Palais de la Découverte.....25 D6
 Petit Palais.....26 E6
 Place de la Concorde.....27 F6
 Place de la Madeleine.....28 G5

See Clichy &
 Gare St-Lazare
 Map pp144-5

See Eiffel Tower Area
 & 16e Arrondissement
 Map pp132-3

SHOPPING (pp198-218)

Boutique Maille.....29 G5
 Chanel.....30 D5
 Christian Dior.....31 C5
 Christian Lacroix.....32 E4
 Darty.....33 A2
 Eres.....34 G4
 Espace IGN.....35 D4
 Fauchon.....36 G4
 Fauchon.....37 G4
 Flower Market.....38 G5
 Givenchy.....39 B6
 Guerlain.....40 C4
 Hermès.....41 G5
 Hédiard.....42 B5
 Hédiard.....43 G4
 Jean-Paul Gaultier.....44 B4
 La Maison de la Truffe.....45 G4
 Les Caves Augé.....46 F3
 Louis Vuitton.....47 B4
 Mariage Frères 8e Branch.....48 B2

EATING (pp220-82)

Bistro Roman Champs-Élysées
 Branch.....51 B4
 Bistrot du Sommelier.....52 F3
 Bugsy's.....53 F4
 Bœuf sur le Toit.....54 D4
 Chez Papa 8e Branch.....55 G4
 Dalloyau.....56 E4
 Dragons Élysées.....57 C4
 Franprix.....58 F4
 Grandorge.....59 A2
 Kok Ping.....60 B4
 L'Étoile Verte.....61 A3
 Ladurée.....62 C4
 Market.....63 E4
 Monoprix.....64 C4
 Spoon.....65 C5

NIGHTLIFE (pp302-15)

Crazy Horse.....68 B6
 Le Lido de Paris.....69 B4
 Queen.....70 C4

ARTS (pp302-15)

Agence Perrossier & SOS
 Théâtres.....71 G5
 Fnac Champs-Élysées.....72 C4
 Kiosque Théâtre Madeleine.....73 G4
 Salle Playel.....74 B2

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp318-24)

Espace Jolya.....75 C5

SLEEPING (pp332-58)

Hôtel Alison.....76 F4
 Hôtel de Clillon.....77 G5
 Hôtel de Sèze.....78 H4
 Hôtel des Champs-Élysées.....79 D4
 Hôtel Le A.....80 D4

DRINKING (pp284-300)

Buddha Bar.....66 G5
 Cricketeer.....67 G4

TRANSPORT (pp388-95)

Air France Buses.....81 A3
 Batobus Stop.....82 E6

See Louvre &
 Les Halles
 Map pp82-3

Madeleine, 8e; ☎ 9.30am-7pm). Constructed in the style of a Greek temple, what is now simply called 'La Madeleine' was consecrated in 1842 after almost a century of design changes and construction delays. It is surrounded by 52 Corinthian columns standing 20m tall, and the marble-and-gilt interior is topped by three sky-lit cupolas. You can hear the massive organ being played at Mass at 11am and 7pm on Sunday.

The **monumental staircase** on the south side affords one of the city's most quintessential Parisian panoramas: down rue Royale to place de la Concorde and its obelisk and across the Seine to the Assemblée Nationale. The gold dome of the Invalides appears in the background.

Paris' cheapest *belle époque* attraction is the **public toilet** (☎ 10am-noon & 1-6.15pm) on

the east side of La Madeleine, which dates from 1905. There has been a **flower market** (☎ 8am-8pm) on the east side of the church since 1832.

CHAPELLE EXPIATOIRE Map pp140-1

☎ 01 44 32 18 00; www.monuments-nationaux.fr; square Louis XVI, 8e; adult/18-25yr €5/3.50, under 18yr free; ☎ 1-5pm Thu-Sat; M St-Augustin
The austere, neoclassical Atonement Chapel, opposite 36 rue Pasquier, sits atop the section of a cemetery where Louis XVI, Marie-Antoinette and many other victims of the Reign of Terror were buried after their executions in 1793. It was erected by Louis' brother, the restored Bourbon king Louis XVIII, in 1815. Two years later the royal bones were removed to the **Basilique de St-Denis** (p182).

CLICHY & GARE ST-LAZARE

Drinking p294; Eating p263; Sleeping p352

This area stretches from the elegant residential districts of the *haute bourgeoisie* (upper middle class) that surround 8.25-hectare Parc de Monceau in the 8e eastward to the Gare St-Lazare, an impressive iron structure built in 1851, and then north to Clichy and the 17e arrondissement.

The 17e is a veritable kaleidoscope of different identities. Its southern neighbourhoods – with their beautiful, Haussmann-era buildings – seem almost like an extension of the 8e and 16e arrondissements, while its northern neighbourhoods assert their working-class, anarchistic identity. The wide av de Wagram, av des Ternes and av de Villiers have both residential and commercial aspects and boast some fine restaurants and shops. A maze of small streets with a pronounced working-class character stretches out around the av de Clichy, a pocket of old Paris that has somehow managed to survive.

The Clichy-Batignolles district to the west of the av de Clichy is a new *quartier* boasting socially integrated housing around a 10-hectare park.

MUSÉE JACQUEMART-ANDRÉ Map pp144-5

☎ 01 45 62 11 59; www.musee-jacquemart-andre.com; 158 blvd Haussmann, 8e; adult/7-17yr & student incl audioguide €10/7.30, under 7yr free; ☎ 10am-6pm; M Miromesnil

The Jacquemart-André Museum, founded by collector Édouard André and his portraitist wife Nélie Jacquemart, is in an opulent mid-19th-century residence on one of Paris' posher avenues. It has furniture, tapestries and enamels, but is most noted for its paintings by Rembrandt and Van Dyck and Italian Renaissance works by Bernini, Botticelli, Carpaccio, Donatello, Mantegna, Tintoretto, Titian and Uccello. Don't miss the **Jardin d'Hiver** (Winter Garden), with its marble statuary, tropical plants and double-helix marble staircase. Just off it is the delightful *fumoir* (the erstwhile smoking room) filled with exotic objects collected by Jacquemart during her travels. The **salon de thé** (tearoom; ☎ 11.45am-5.45pm) is one of the most beautiful in the city.

MUSÉE NISSIM DE CAMONDO Map pp144-5

☎ 01 53 89 06 50; www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr; 63 rue de Monceau, 8e; adult/18-25yr €6/4.50,

**TRANSPORT:
CLICHY & GARE ST-LAZARE**

Bus Place de Clichy for 68 to Opéra, Musée d'Orsay, rue du Bac, St-Germain & blvd Raspail; Gare St-Lazare for 21 to Opéra, Latin Quarter, Jardin du Luxembourg & Cité Universitaire

Metro Malesherbes, Monceau, Place de Clichy, Rome, St-Lazare, Villiers, Europe

Train Gare St-Lazare

under 18yr free; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Wed-Sun; M Monceau or Villiers

The Nissim de Camondo Museum, housed in a sumptuous mansion modelled on the Petit Trianon at Versailles (p360), displays 18th-century furniture, wood panelling, tapestries, porcelain and other *objets d'art* collected by Count Moïse de Camondo, a Sephardic Jewish banker who settled in Paris from Constantinople in the late 19th century. He bequeathed the mansion and his collection to the state on the proviso that it would be a museum named in memory of his son Nissim (1892-1917),

NICOLA'S TOP PARIS DAY

When Matthias sought to convince me a dozen years ago that France was the country we should plump for, he sensibly whisked me to Paris, where we spent a whirlwind week of perfect days. . . zigzagging around Daniel Buren's zebra columns at the **Palais Royal** (p88), visiting **Musée Picasso** (p96) and **Musée Rodin** (p130), marvelling at that incredible blue at **Ste-Chapelle** (p107), ogling at the view of **La Grande Arche** (p180) slotted like a toy brick inside the **Arc de Triomphe** (p138) from place de la Concorde and the Champs-Élysées, eating ice cream on Île St-Louis (p249) and lounging *forever* in the **Jardin du Luxembourg** (p119) on those mythical sage-green chairs we then yearned to buy for years (**Fermob** (p216) was finally allowed to reproduce the 1923 original – mine's fuschia pink, his, boy-blue). These still are my perfect Parisian days, pebble-dashed with fave-of-the-moment food/drink addresses: **Le Coupe-Chou** (p250), **Le Cristal del Sel** (p276), **Le Pré Verre** (p252), **Le Verre à Pied** (p290), the **Curio Parlor Cocktail Club** (p290) and **Quatrehommes** (p259).

CLICHY & GARE ST-LAZARE

INFORMATION	DRINKING	(pp284-300)
Hôtel de Police (Carte de Séjour).....1	Bar à Vins du Cinéma des Cinéastes.....(see 20)	
Institut Parisien de Langue & de Civilisation Françaises.....2	Le Wepler.....18	H4
Japanese Embassy.....3	Lush Bar.....19	H4
Pharmacie Européenne.....4		H4
SIGHTS	ARTS	(pp302-16)
Musée Cernuschi.....5	Cinéma des Cinéastes.....20	H4
Musée des Arts de l'Asie.....(see 6)	Fnac Ettoile.....21	C5
Musée Jacquemart-André.....6	Fnac St-Lazare.....22	H6
Musée Nissim de Camondo.....7		
Parc de Monceau.....8		
SLEEPING	SLEEPING	(pp332-58)
Austins' St-Lazare Hôtel.....23	H6	
Hôtel Aurore Montmartre.....24	H5	
Hôtel Britannia.....25	H6	
Hôtel Eldorado.....26	H4	
New Orient Hôtel.....27	G5	
SHOPPING	TRANSPORT	(pp388-95)
Fromagerie Alléosse.....9	ADA Car Rental.....28	G5
	Bus from Beauvais Airport.....29	A5
	Parking Pershing.....30	A5
EATING		
Au Bon Coin.....10	G4	
AA la Grande Bleue.....11	G2	
Bistro des Dames.....(see 26)		
Charlot, Roi des Coquillages.....12	H4	
Joy in Food.....(see 13)		
La Gaieté Cosaque.....13	G4	
La Maffiosa di Termini.....14	H4	
La Tête de Goinfre.....15	G3	
Marché des Batignolles.....16	G5	
Rue Poncelet & Rue Bayen (Market).....17	C5	

0 200 m
0.1 miles

See Eiffel Tower Area & 16e Arrondissement Map pp132-3

See Montmartre & Pigalle Map p169

See Opéra & Grands Boulevards Map pp148-9

See Ettoile & Champs-Élysées Map pp146-1

a pilot killed in action during WWI. The museum is run by the same group responsible for the trio of museums in the Rohan Wing of the Palais du Louvre called **Les Arts Décoratifs** (p84).

MUSÉE CERNUSCHI Map pp144–5

☎ 01 53 96 21 50; www.cernuschi.paris.fr, in French; 7 av Vélasquez, 8e; temporary exhibits adult/14-26yr/student & senior €7/3.50/5.50, permanent collections free, under 14yr free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; 🚶 Villiers

The Cernuschi Museum, renovated and its exhibition space redefined and enlarged in recent years, houses the city of Paris' Musée des Arts de l'Asie (Asian Arts Museum). In essence it's a collection of ancient Chinese art (funerary statues, bronzes, ceramics)

top picks

SQUARES

- Place des Vosges (p91)
- Place du Marché Ste-Catherine (Map pp98–9)
- Place de la Contrescarpe (p193)
- Rue de Furstemberg (Map pp116–17)
- Village St-Paul (p192)

and some works from Japan assembled during an 1871–73 world tour by the Milan banker and philanthropist Henri Cernuschi (1821–96), who settled in Paris before the unification of Italy.

OPÉRA & GRANDS BOULEVARDS

Drinking p295; Eating p264; Shopping p215; Sleeping p353

Place de l'Opéra, site of Paris' world-famous opera house, abuts the eight contiguous 'Grands Boulevards' (Madeleine, Capucines, Italiens, Montmartre, Poissonnière, Bonne Nouvelle, St-Denis and St-Martin) that stretch from elegant place de la Madeleine in the 8e eastwards to the up-and-coming place de la République (Map pp94–5) in the 3e, a distance of just under 3km. The Grands Boulevards were laid out under Louis XIV in the 17th century on the site of obsolete city walls and served as a centre of café and theatre life through much of the 18th and 19th centuries, reaching the height of fashion during the *belle époque* (p26). North of the western end of the Grands Boulevards is blvd Haussmann (8e and 9e), the heart of the commercial and banking district and known for some of Paris' most famous department stores, including Galeries Lafayette and Le Printemps.

PALAIS GARNIER Map pp148–9

www.operadeparis.fr, in French; place de l'Opéra, 9e; 🚶 Opéra

This renowned opera house was designed in 1860 by Charles Garnier to showcase the splendour of Napoleon III's France. Unfortunately, by the time it was completed – 15 years later – the Second Empire was but a distant memory and Napoleon III had been dead for two years. Still, this is one of the most impressive monuments erected in Paris during the 19th century; today it stages ballets, classical music concerts and, of course, opera (p315). If you're not catching a performance here, it can be visited on English-language **guided tours** (☎ 08 25 05 44 05; <http://visites.operadeparis.fr>; adult/10-25yr/senior €12/6/10; 🕒 11.30am & 2.30pm daily Jul & Aug, 11.30am & 2.30pm Wed, Sat & Sun Sep-Jun).

The Palais Garnier also houses the **Musée de l'Opéra** (☎ 08 92 89 90 90, 01 40 01 24 93; adult/senior, student & 10-25yr €8/5, under 10yr free; 🕒 10am-5pm Sep-Jun, to 6pm Jul & Aug), which contains three centuries' worth of costumes, backdrops, scores and other memorabilia. Included in the admission to the museum is a self-paced visit to the opera house itself, as long as there's not a daytime rehearsal or matinee scheduled (in which case it closes at 1pm).

MUSÉE DU PARFUM Map pp148–9

☎ 01 47 42 04 56; www.fragonard.com; 9 rue Scribe, 2e; admission free; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9.30am-4pm Sun mid-Mar–Oct; 🚶 Opéra

The Perfume Museum, run by the *parfumerie* Fragonard (but under extensive renovation when we last visited), is a fragrant collection opposite the Palais Garnier, tracing the history of scent and perfume-making from ancient Egypt (those mum-

mies wouldn't have smelled very nice undoused) to today's designer brands. A short distance to the south is the **Théâtre-Musée des Capucines** (Map pp82–3; ☎ 01 42 60 37 14; 39 blvd des Capucines, 2e; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Sat; 🚶 Opéra), a kind of branch located in an early 20th-century theatre that concentrates largely on bottling (for example, in crystal flasks from Bohemia) and packaging the heady substance. There's a decent short film here and, of course, a shop selling Fragonard scents.

MUSÉE GRÉVIN Map pp148–9

☎ 01 47 70 85 05; www.grevin.com; 10 blvd Montmartre, 9e; adult/6-14yr/under 6yr/senior & student €18.50/11/9.50/16; 🕒 10am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to 7pm Sat & Sun; 🚶 Grands Boulevards

This large waxworks museum inside the passage Jouffroy boasts an impressive 300 wax figures. They largely look more like caricatures than characters, but where else do you get to see Marilyn Monroe, Charles de Gaulle and Spider Man face to face, or the original death masks of some of the French Revolution leaders? The recently renovated **Palais des Mirages** (Hall of Mirrors), created for the 1889 Exposition Universelle, dazzles, but the admission fee is positively outrageous and just won't stop a-growin' each year.

MUSÉE DE LA FRANC-MAÇONNERIE

Map pp148–9
☎ 01 45 23 74 07; 16 rue Cadet, 9e; admission €2; 🕒 2-6pm Tue-Sat; 🚶 Cadet or Peletier

This museum, housed in the colossal and quite impressive Grande Orient de France building, provides a brief introduction to the secretive world of Freemasonry, which grew out of medieval stonemasons' guilds of the 16th century. A visit to the museum

OPÉRA & GRANDS BOULEVARDS

See Clichy & Gare St-Lazare Map pp77-7?

INFORMATION

American Express Bureau de
Change.....1 B5
CCO Bureau de Change.....2 B6
Négatif +.....3 H4

SIGHTS (pp147-50)

L'Open Tour.....4 B5
Musée de l'Opéra.....(see 41)
Musée de la Franc-Maçonnerie.....5 F4
Musée du Parfum.....6 B6
Musée Grévin.....7 F6
Musée National Gustave Moreau.....8 D3
Palais Garnier.....(see 41)
Passage Jouffroy.....9 F5
Théâtre-Musée des Capucines.....10 B6

SHOPPING (pp198-218)

Galerias Lafayette.....11 B5
Galerias Lafayette.....12 C5
Hôtel Drouot.....13 A5
La Maison du Miel.....14 A5
Lafayette Maison.....15 B5
Le Printemps de l'Homme.....16 B5
Le Printemps de la Beauté et
Maison.....17 B5
Le Printemps de la Mode.....18 B5
Musical Instrument Shops.....19 E2
Postage Stamp Shops.....20 E2
Wochdom.....21 E2

See Étoile & Champs-Élysées Map pp140-1

See Gare du Nord, Gare de l'Est & République Map pp152-3

See Louvre & Les Halles Map pp82-3

See Montmartre & Pigalle Map p169

EATING (pp220-82)

Arnaud Delmontel.....22 E2
Au Général La Fayette.....23 E4
Casa Olympe.....24 D4
Chartier.....25 E6
Chez Haynes.....26 F3
Food Shops.....27 E2
Franprix Rodier.....28 F3
Jean.....29 D4

DRINKING (pp284-300)

O'Sullivan's.....38 F6

ARTS (pp302-15)

Au Limonaire.....39 F5
L'Olympia.....40 B6
Palais Garnier.....(see 41)
Palais Garnier Box Office.....41 C6

SLEEPING (pp332-58)

Hôtel Chopin.....42 F5
Hôtel des Arts.....43 F6
Hôtel Langlois.....44 C4
Hôtel Peletier-Hausmann Opéra.....45 E5
Hôtel Résidence des 3 Poussins.....46 D3
Hôtel Victoria.....47 F6
Hôtel Residence Cardinal.....48 B2
Woodstock Hostel.....49 F2

TRANSPORT (pp388-95)

Roissybus.....50 B5

See Gare du Nord, Gare de l'Est & République Map pp152-3

See Louvre & Les Halles Map pp82-3

with a guided tour of the building (in French) at 10.30am Wednesday or 2.30pm Saturday costs €6.

MUSÉE NATIONAL GUSTAVE MOREAU

Map pp148–9
☎ 01 48 74 38 50; www.musee-moreau.fr; 14 rue de La Rochefoucauld, 9e; adult/18-25yr & everyone on Sun €7/5, under 18yr free, 1st Sun of the month free; 🕒 10am-12.45pm & 2-5.15pm Wed-Mon; 🚶 M Trinité

The Gustave Moreau Museum is dedicated to the eponymous symbolist painter's work. Housed in what was once Moreau's studio, the two-storey museum is crammed with 4800 of his paintings, drawings and sketches. Some of Moreau's paintings are

TRANSPORT: OPÉRA & GRANDS BOULEVARDS

Bus Opéra for 20 to République, Bastille & Gare de Lyon, for 22 to Charles de Gaulle-Étoile, for 29 to place des Victoires, Marais & Bastille, and for 39 to Palais Royal and St-Germain des Prés

Metro Cadet, Grands Boulevards, Opéra, Chaussée d'Antin, Richelieu Drouot

fantastic – in both senses of the word. We particularly like *La Licorne* (The Unicorn), inspired by *La Dame à la Licorne* (The Lady with the Unicorn) cycle of tapestries in the [Musée National du Moyen Age](#) (p114).

GARE DU NORD, GARE DE L'EST & RÉPUBLIQUE

Drinking p295; Eating p266; Shopping p215; Sleeping p354

Two sorts of foot traffic give the 10e arrondissement its distinctive feel. The banks of the Canal St-Martin draw leisurely strollers, while travellers part (and are reunited) on the platforms of the Gare du Nord and Gare de l'Est. Outside, the cafés and brasseries do a brisk trade, catering to travellers and locals. Nearby, the blvd de Magenta rushes like a swollen river, the noisy, impatient crowd spreading through the adjoining streets and pouring out onto the place de la République.

The buzzy, working-class area around blvd de Strasbourg and rue du Faubourg St-Denis, especially south of blvd de Magenta, is home to large communities of Indians, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis, West Indians, Africans, Turks and Kurds. Indeed, strolling through passage Brady (p268) is almost like stepping into a back alley in Mumbai or Dhaka.

Canal St-Martin – especially the quai de Jemmapes and the quai de Valmy, with their rows of plane and chestnut trees – seems a world away. Barges appear, pass silently, then vanish behind a lock. Little iron bridges and walkways span the still water. Rundown not so long ago, the canal has a new lease on life, helped in large part by the upmarket restaurants and bistros lining it.

CANAL ST-MARTIN

Map pp152–3
🚶 M République, Jaurès, Jacques Bonsergent
The tranquil, 4.5km-long St-Martin Canal links the 10e with [Parc de la Villette](#) (Map pp174–5) in the 19e via the Bassin de la Villette and Canal de l'Ourcq, and the canal makes its famous dogleg turn in this arrondissement. Its shaded towpaths are a wonderful place for a romantic stroll or a bike ride and take you past nine locks, metal bridges and ordinary Parisian neighbourhoods. Parts of the waterway – built between 1806 and 1825 to link the Seine with the 108km-long Canal de l'Ourcq – are higher than the surrounding land. The best way to see the canal is on tour from a [canal boat](#) (p406).

TRANSPORT: GARE DU NORD, GARE DE L'EST & RÉPUBLIQUE

Bus Gare de l'Est for 30 to Barbès, Pigalle, Place Clichy, Parc de Monceau, place des Ternes, place de l'Étoile & Trocadéro, for 31 to Barbès, Château Rouge, 18e arrondissement Mairie, Batignolles & place de l'Étoile, for 32 to Rond Point des Champs Élysées, av Champs-Élysées & Passy, for 39 for Palais Royal, St-Germain, rue de Sèvres & Porte de Versailles, for 47 for Centre Pompidou & Châtelet

Metro & RER Château d'Eau, Gare de l'Est, Gare du Nord, République, Strasbourg St-Denis

Train Gare de l'Est, Gare du Nord

PORTE ST-DENIS & PORTE ST-MARTIN

Map pp152–3
cnr rue du Faubourg St-Denis & blvd St-Denis, 10e; 🚶 M Strasbourg St-Denis
St Denis Gate, a 24m-high triumphal arch, was built in 1673 to commemorate Louis XIV's campaign along the Rhine. On the northern side, carvings represent the fall of Maastricht in the same year (note the gilded fleur-de-lys).

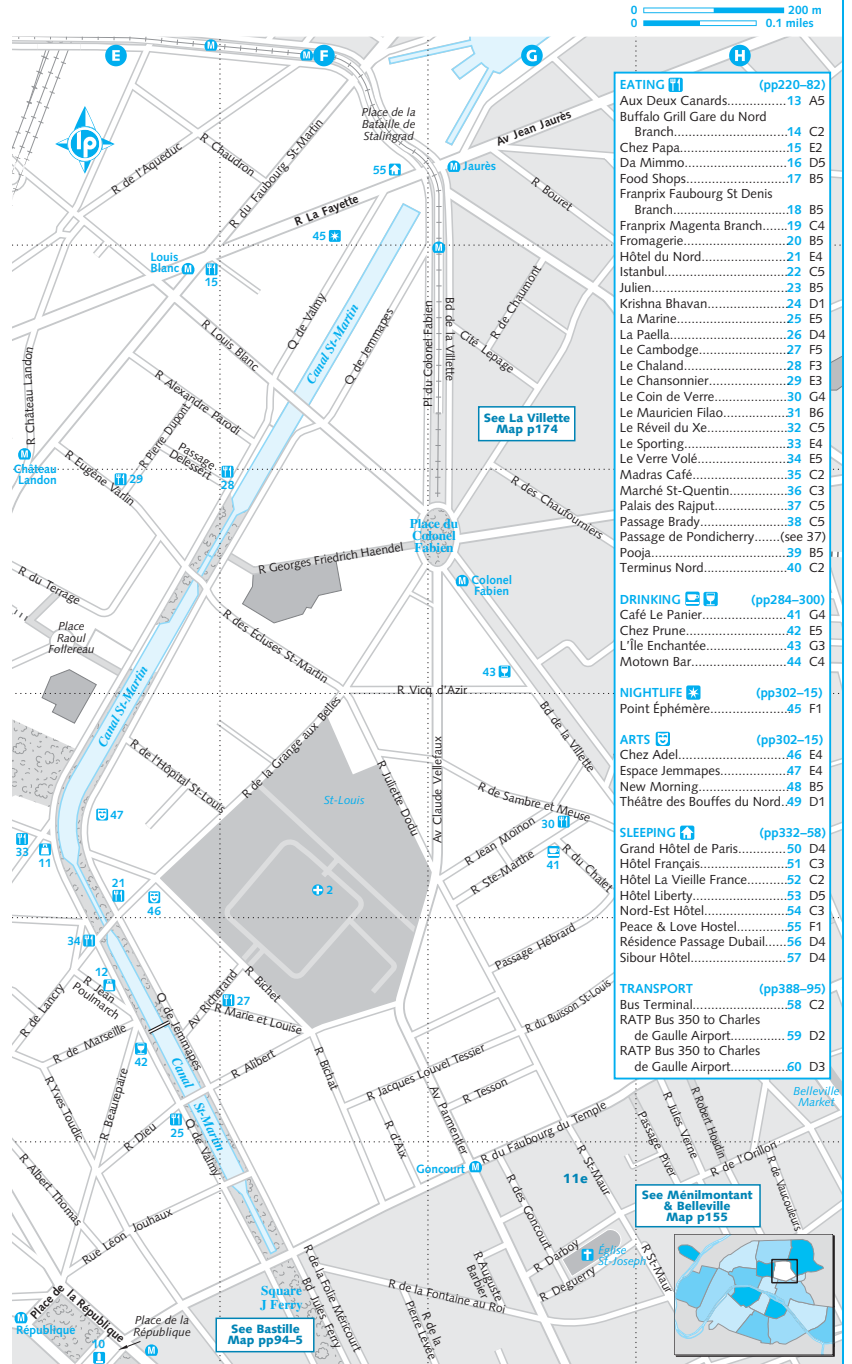
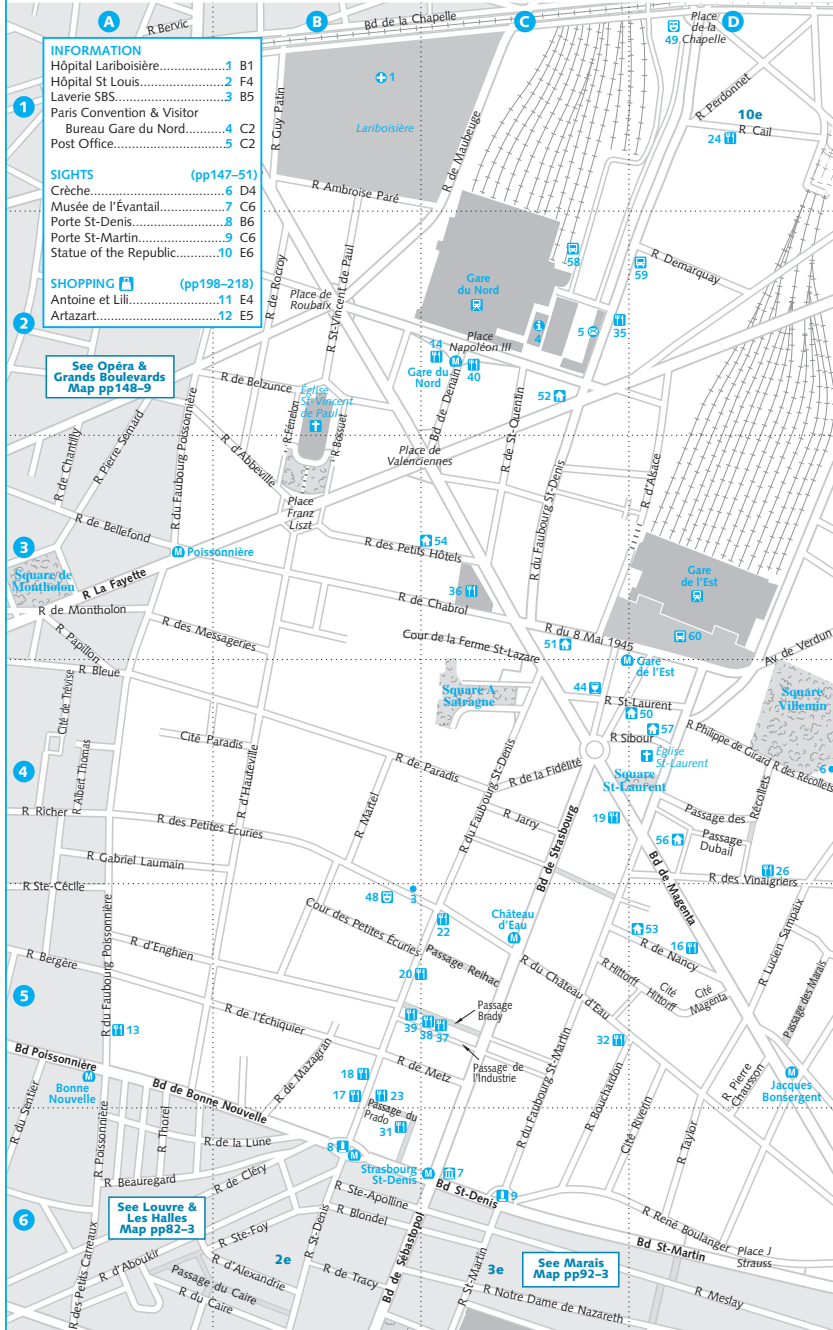
Two blocks east is a similar arch, the less impressive, 17m-high Porte St-Martin (St Martin Gate) at the corner of rue du Faubourg St-Martin and blvd St-Denis. It was erected two years after Porte St-Denis to commemorate the capture of Besançon and the Franche-Comté region by Louis XIV's armies.

MUSÉE DE L'ÉVANTAIL

Map pp152–3
☎ 01 42 08 90 20; 2 blvd de Strasbourg, 10e; adult/student/senior €6/3/4; 🕒 2-6pm Mon-Wed; 🚶 M Strasbourg St-Denis

Big fans of this museum, we always find it almost impossible to walk by without checking in on our favourite items – screen, folding and *brisé* (the kind with overlapping struts) fans. Around 900 of the breeze-makers are on display, dating as far back as the mid-18th century. The small museum is housed in what was once a well-known fan manufactory, and its original showroom, dating from 1893, is sublime. It's open every weekday during the school holidays.

GARE DU NORD, GARE DE L'EST & RÉPUBLIQUE



MÉNILMONTANT & BELLEVILLE

Drinking [p296](#); Eating [p296](#)

A solidly working-class *quartier* with little to recommend it until the 1990s, Ménilmontant, which shares the 11e arrondissement with Bastille, now boasts almost as many restaurants, bars and clubs as the Marais, especially along rue de Ménilmontant. On the other hand, the inner-city 'village' of Belleville, centred on blvd de Belleville in the 20e to the east, remains for the most part unpretentious and working class – though that too is changing – and is home to large numbers of immigrants, especially Muslims and Jews from North Africa and Vietnamese and ethnic Chinese from Indochina. For the most part, the 20e arrondissement has retained its working-class character. The city centre is far away, the Eiffel Tower but a beacon on the horizon; this Paris is rough and rebellious, friendly and alive. The multicultural tone of rue de Belleville and rue de Ménilmontant is amplified by blvd de Belleville, blvd de Ménilmontant and blvd de Charonne. The air is filled with the aroma of coriander, saffron and cumin, and the exotic sounds of African and Asian languages. A colourful, abundant market spills out over the footpaths of blvd de Belleville.

PARC DE BELLEVILLE [Map p155](#)

M Couronnes

A few blocks east of blvd de Belleville, this lovely park occupies a hill almost 200m above sea level, set amid 4.5 hectares of greenery. Little known by visitors, the park (which opened in 1992) offers some of the best views of the city. The [Maison de l'Air](#) ([☎](#) 01 43 28 47 63; 27 rue Piat, 20e; admission free; [🕒](#) 1.30–5.30pm Tue–Fri, to 6.30pm Sat & Sun Mar–Oct, to 5.30pm Tue–Sun Nov–Feb; **M** Pyrénées) stages temporary exhibitions related to ecology and the environment.

MUSÉE ÉDITH PIAF [Map p155](#)

[☎](#) 01 43 55 52 72; 5 rue Crespin du Gast, 11e; admission free; [🕒](#) by appointment 1–6pm Mon–Wed, 10am–noon Thu; **M** Ménilmontant
Some 1.5km from the birthplace of the iconic chanteuse Édith Piaf (see [p311](#)) and closer to her final resting place in the Cimetière du

TRANSPORT: MÉNILMONTANT & BELLEVILLE

Bus Rue de Ménilmontant for 96 to rue Oberkampf, St-Paul, Hôtel de Ville, blvd St-Michel, Odéon & rue de Rennes; rue des Pyrénées for 26 to Parc des Buttes-Chaumont, Gare du Nord & Gare St-Lazare

Metro Belleville, Couronnes, Ménilmontant, Oberkampf, Pyrénées

Père Lachaise, this museum follows the life and career of the 'urchin sparrow' through memorabilia, recordings and video.

CIMETIÈRE DU PÈRE LACHAISE [Map p155](#)

[www.pere-lachaise.com](#); [🕒](#) 8am–6pm Mon–Fri, 8.30am–6pm Sat, 9am–6pm Sun mid–Mar–early Nov, 8am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 8.30am–5.30pm Sat, 9am–5.30pm Sun early Nov–mid–Mar; **M** Philippe Auguste, Gambetta or Père Lachaise

GRAVE CONCERNS AT PÈRE LACHAISE

Camp as a row of tents and as fresh as a daisy, Oscar Wilde (1854–1900) is apparently as flamboyant in death as he was on his hotel deathbed, when he proclaimed 'My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death – one of us has got to go.' It seems that the Père Lachaise grave of the Irish playwright and humorist, who was sentenced to two years in prison in 1895 for gross indecency stemming from his homosexual relationship with Lord Alfred 'Bosie' Douglas (1870–1945), has been attracting admirers, who plaster the ornate tomb with indelible lipstick kisses.

But Wilde's tomb is not the only grave concern at Père Lachaise these days. A security guard had to be posted near the grave of rock singer Jim Morrison (1943–71) not long ago after fans began taking drugs and having sex on his tomb. The cemetery's conservation office has even issued a leaflet outlining the rules of conduct when visiting the grave. Meanwhile, up in division 92, a protest by women has seen the removal of a metal fence placed around the grave of one Victor Noir, pseudonym of the journalist Yvan Salman (1848–70), who was shot and killed by Pierre Bonaparte, great-nephew of Napoleon, at the age of just 22. According to legend, a woman who strokes the amply filled crotch of Monsieur Noir's prostrate bronze effigy will enjoy a better sex life or become pregnant. Apparently some would-be lovers and mothers were rubbing a bit too enthusiastically and the larger-than-life-size package was being worn down, the (now dismantled) fence was built to protect the statue.

The world's most visited cemetery, Père Lachaise (named after a confessor of Louis XIV) opened its one-way doors in 1804. Its 69,000 ornate, even ostentatious, tombs of the rich and/or famous form a verdant, 44-hectare sculpture garden. Among the 800,000 people buried here are: the composer Chopin; the playwright Molière; the poet Apollinaire; writers Balzac, Proust, Gertrude Stein and Colette; the actors Simone Signoret, Sarah Bernhardt and Yves Montand; the painters Pissarro, Seurat, Modigliani and Delacroix; the *chanteuse* (singer) Édith Piaf; the dancer Isadora Duncan; and even those immortal 12th-century lovers, Abélard and Héloïse (see [p33](#)), whose remains were disinterred and reburied here together in 1817 beneath a neogothic tombstone.

Particularly visited graves are those of [Oscar Wilde](#), interred in Division 89 in 1900, and 1960s rock star [Jim Morrison](#), who died in an flat at 17–19 rue Beaubertils (4e; [Map pp92–3](#)) in the Marais in 1971 and is buried in Division 6.

On 27 May 1871, the last of the Commune insurgents, cornered by government forces, fought a hopeless, all-night battle among the tombstones. In the morning, the 147 survivors were lined up against the [Mur des Fédérés](#) (Wall of the Federalists), shot and buried where they fell in a mass grave. It is in the southeastern section of the cemetery.

Père Lachaise has five entrances, two of which are on blvd de Ménilmontant. Maps indicating the location of noteworthy graves are available for free from the [conservation office](#) ([☎](#) 01 55 25 82 10; 16 rue du Repos, 20e) in the southwestern corner of the cemetery.

MÉNILMONTANT & BELLEVILLE

INFORMATION

Laverie Libre Service Primus.....1 B2

SIGHTS (pp154–5)

Cimetière du Père Lachaise.....2 C4

Conservation Office.....2 C4

Édith Piaf's Birthplace.....3 B1

Maison de l'Air.....4 C2

Musée Édith Piaf.....5 B2

Wall Paintings.....6 B1

EATING **(F)** (pp198–218)

Bistro Florentin.....7 A3

Dong Huong.....8 B2

El Paladar.....9 A2

Lao Siam.....10 B1

Le Baratin.....11 B1

Le Krung Thép.....12 B2

Le Porokhane.....13 B2

Marché Belleville.....14 B2

New Nioullaville.....15 B2

Reuan Thai.....16 B2

Tai Yien.....17 B1

DRINKING **(F)** (pp284–300)

Au Chat Noir.....18 B2

Au Chat Garage.....19 A2

Café Charbon.....20 B3

Cannibale Café.....21 B2

L'Autre Café.....22 A2

La Caravane.....23 A2

On Cherche Encore.....24 A2

NIGHTLIFE **(F)** (pp302–15)

Cithéa Nova.....25 B3

Le Nouveau Casino.....26 B3

ARTS **(F)** (pp302–15)

Habana Jazz.....27 B2

La Java.....28 A2

Le Vieux Belleville.....29 C2

UNDERGROUND ART

Museums and galleries are not the sole proprietors of art in Paris. Indeed, it is all around you – even in metro stations. Almost half of the 373 stations were given a face-lift to mark the centenary of the world-famous Métropolitain in 2000, and many of them were assigned specific themes, usually relating to the *quartier* or the name of the station (eg Montparnasse Bienvenüe looks at the creation of the metro since it was an engineer named Fulgence Bienvenüe who oversaw the building of the first 91km from 1886). Work has continued apace at even more stations ever since.

Line 14 – the so-called ‘Météor’ between St-Lazare and Olympiades in the 13e – is a particularly arty one, especially on the way down to the platforms, where art is projected onto the walls at different levels. At varying times, other stations and lines might have temporary exhibitions. In 2008 line 10 made use of a ghost station (Croix Rouge, between Sèvres-Babylone and Mabilion) to tease with pink neon and demure black curtains, promoting an X-rated exhibition on erotic art and pornography at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

Though very much ‘above ground’, the nine works of art that follow the 8km course of tram line T3 (p395) through the 13e, 14e and 15e includes a giant ‘Telephone’ by Sophie Calle and Frank Gehry and a wonderful ‘Skate Park’ by Peter Kogler.

The following list is just a sample of the most interesting stations from an artistic perspective. The specific platform is mentioned for those stations served by more than one line.

Abesses (Map p169; line 12) The noodle-like pale-green metalwork and glass canopy of the station entrance is one of the finest examples of the work of Hector Guimard (1867–1942), the celebrated French Art Nouveau architect whose signature style once graced most metro stations. For a complete list of the metro stations that retain *édicules* (shrine-like entranceways) designed by Guimard, see www.parisinconnu.com.

Arts et Métiers (Map pp92–3; line 11 platform) The copper panelling, portholes and mechanisms of this station recall Jules Verne, Captain Nemo and collections of the nearby Musée des Arts et Métiers.

Bastille (Map pp94–5; line 5 platform) A large ceramic fresco features scenes taken from newspaper engravings published during the Revolution, with illustrations of the destruction of the infamous prison.

Bibliothèque (Map pp162–3; line 14) This enormous station – all screens, steel and glass, and the terminus of the high-speed (and driverless) Météor – resembles a hi-tech cathedral.

Bonne Nouvelle (Map pp148–9; platforms on lines 8 & 9) The theme here is cinema, presumably because of all the movie theatres along the Grands Boulevards.

Carrefour Pleyel (line 13) This station just south of St-Denis (Map p182) and named in honour of composer and piano-maker Ignace Joseph Pleyel (1757–1831) focuses on classical music.

Champs-Élysées Clemenceau (Map pp140–1; transfer corridor btwn lines 1 & 13) The elegant frescoes in blue enamelled faïence recall Portuguese *azulejos* tiles and so they should: they were installed as part of a cultural exchange between Paris and Lisbon.

Cluny–La Sorbonne (Map pp110–11; line 10 platform) A large ceramic mosaic replicates the signatures of intellectuals, artists and scientists from the Latin Quarter through history.

Concorde (Map pp82–3; line 12 platform) On the walls of the station, what look like children’s building blocks in white and blue ceramic are 45,000 tiles that spell out the text of the *Déclaration des Droits de l’Homme et du Citoyen* (Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen), the document setting forth the principles of the French Revolution.

Louvre–Rivoli (Map p86; line 1 platform & corridor) Statues, bas-reliefs and photographs offer a small taste of what to expect at the Musée du Louvre above ground.

Palais Royal–Musée du Louvre (Map p86) The zany entrance on the place du Palais Royal (a kind of back-to-the-future look at the Guimard entrances), designed by young artist Jean-Michel Othoniel, is made up of two crown-shaped cupolas (one representing the day, the other night) consisting of 800 red, blue, amber and violet glass balls threaded on an aluminium structure.

Parmentier (Map pp94–5; line 3) The theme in this station is agricultural crops, particularly the potato – it was the station’s namesake, Antoine-Auguste Parmentier (1737–1817), who brought the spud into fashion in France.

Pont Neuf (Map p105; line 7) With the former mint and the Musée de la Monnaie de Paris just above it, the focus here is on medals and coins.

Tuileries (Map pp82–3; line 1) Huge collages of B&W and colour photographs depict events in Paris since 1900.

GARE DE LYON, NATION & BERCY

Drinking p297; Eating p271; Shopping p216; Sleeping p355

The southern part of the 12e arrondissement is a fairly well-to-do *quartier*, and at the weekend hordes of cyclists and soccer players head for the woods. Walkers can stroll along the Promenade Plantée, a path along the viaduct above av Daumesnil. Within the arches, there are upmarket shops, galleries and cafés. On the other side of the Gare de Lyon, there’s the Parc de Bercy, where an orchard, vegetable patch and garden have replaced the old wine market.

Long cut off from the rest of the city but now joined to the Left Bank by the driverless Météor metro line (number 14), the vehicular Pont Charles de Gaulle and the stunning new Passerelle Simone de Beauvoir footbridge linking Parc de Bercy with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Bercy has some of Paris’ most important new buildings, including Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy, serving as both an indoor sports arena and a venue for concerts, ballet and theatre; the giant Ministère de l’Économie, des Finances et de l’Industrie; the stunning Cinémathèque Française and the Docks en Seine (p161), across the river. The development of Bercy Village, a row of former *chais* (wine warehouses) dating from 1877 that now houses bars and restaurants, and the arrival of river barges fitted out with music clubs have given the 12e a new lease on life after dark.

VIADUC DES ARTS Map pp158–9

📍 Gare de Lyon or Daumesnil

The arches beneath this disused railway viaduct running along av Daumesnil south-east of place de la Bastille are a showcase for trendy designers and artisans; if you need your Gobelins tapestry restored, porcelain repainted or the bottom of your antique saucepan re-coppered, this is the place to come. The top of the viaduct forms a leafy, 4.5km-long promenade called the **Promenade Plantée** (Map pp158–9; 🕒 8am–5.45pm to 9.30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–5.45pm to 9.30pm Sat & Sun seasonal), which offers excellent views of the surrounding area. Don’t miss the spectacular Art Deco **police station** (Map pp158–9; 85 av Daumesnil, 12e) at the start of rue de Rambouillet, which is topped with a dozen huge, identical marble torsos.

MAISON ROUGE Map pp158–9

☎ 01 40 01 08 81; www.lamaisonrouge.org; 10 **blvd de la Bastille, 12e**; **adult/student, senior & 13–18yr €6.50/4.50, under 13yr free**; 🕒 11am–7pm **Wed–Sun, to 9pm Thu**; 📍 **Quai de Rapée** Subtitled ‘Fondation Antoine de Galbert’ after the man who endowed it, this cutting-edge gallery shows contemporary artists and has good access to seldom-seen works from private collections. There’s a decent restaurant here and an excellent art bookshop called Bookstorming.

PARC DE BERCY Map pp158–9

rue Paul Belmondo, 12e; 🕒 8am–5.45pm to 9.30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–5.45pm to 9.30pm Sat & Sun (seasonal); 📍 **Bercy or Cour St-Émilien**

TRANSPORT: GARE DE LYON, NATION & BERCY

Bus Gare de Lyon for 65 to Bastille, République, Gare de l’Est, Gare du Nord (via rue du Faubourg St-Denis); place de la Nation for 86 to Ledru Rollin (Marché d’Aligre), Bastille, Pont Sully (Île St-Louis) & Odéon; Bercy (rue de Bercy) for 24 quai St Bernard, blvd St-Michel, Pont Neuf, quai du Louvre, place de la Madeleine & place de la Concorde

Metro & RER Bercy, Cour St-Émilien, Daumesnil, Gare de Lyon, Nation

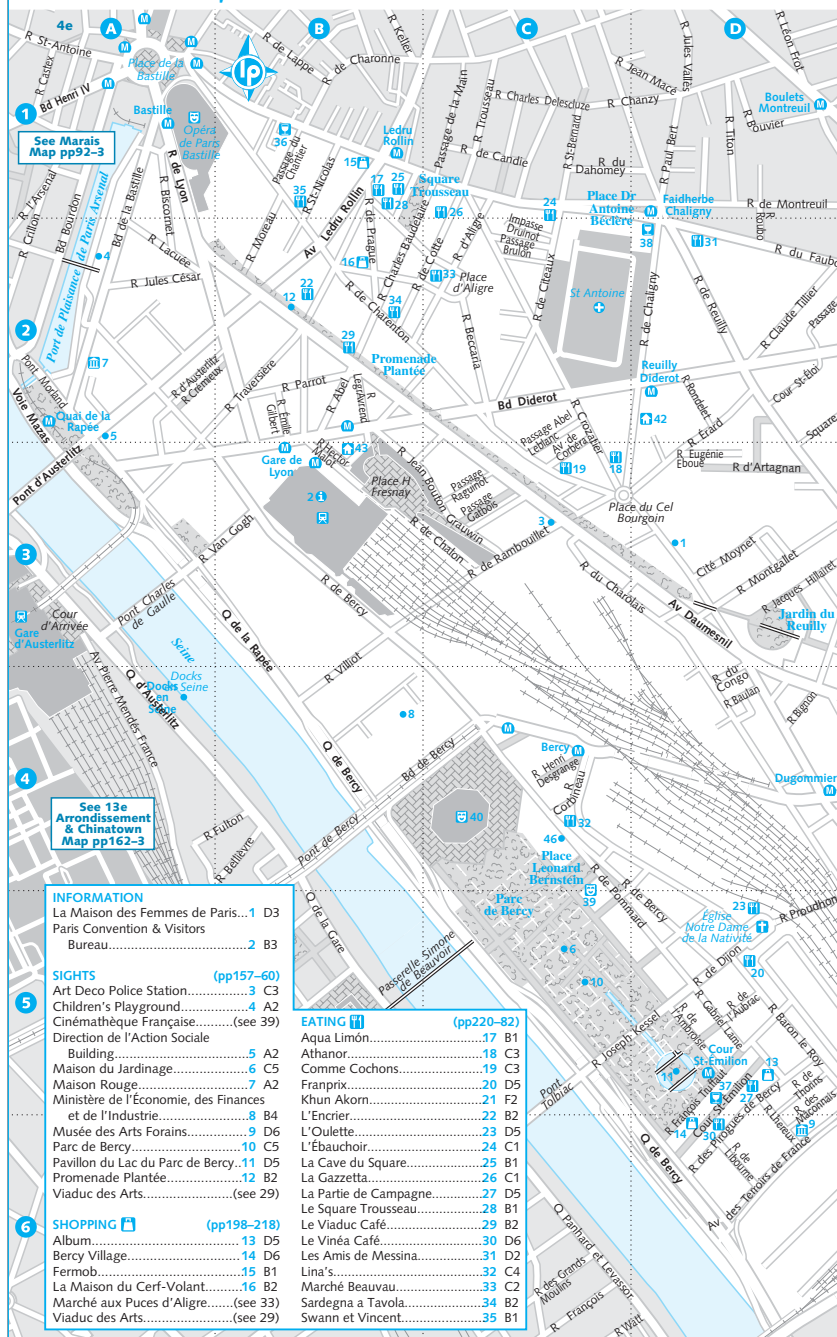
Train Gare de Lyon

This park, which links the Palais Omnisports with Bercy Village, is a particularly attractive, 13.5-hectare public garden. On an island in the centre of one of its large ponds is the **Pavillon du Lac du Parc de Bercy** (☎ 01 53 46 19 34; 🕒 10am–6pm Apr–Sep, 11am–5pm Oct–Mar), with temporary exhibitions. The **Maison du Jardinage** (☎ 01 53 46 19 19; 41 rue Paul Belmondo, 12e; 🕒 1.30–5.30pm Tue–Fri, to 6.30pm Sat & Sun Apr–Sep, to 5pm Tue–Sun Oct–Mar) in the centre of the park takes a close look at gardening and the environment, and offers courses.

CINÉMATÈQUE FRANÇAISE Map pp158–9

☎ 01 71 19 33 33; www.cinemathequefrancaise.com; 51 **rue de Bercy, 12e**; permanent collection **adult/under 12yr/senior & 12–26yr €5/2.50/4**, temporary exhibitions €8/5.50/6.50; 🕒 noon–7pm Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat, to 10pm Thu, to 8pm Sun; 📍 **Bercy** This national institution, better known for screening classic French and cutting-edge

GARE DE LYON, NATION & BERCY



See Marais Map pp22-3

See 13e Arrondissement & Chinatown Map pp162-3

INFORMATION

La Maison des Femmes de Paris...1 D3
 Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau...2 B3

SIGHTS (pp157-60)

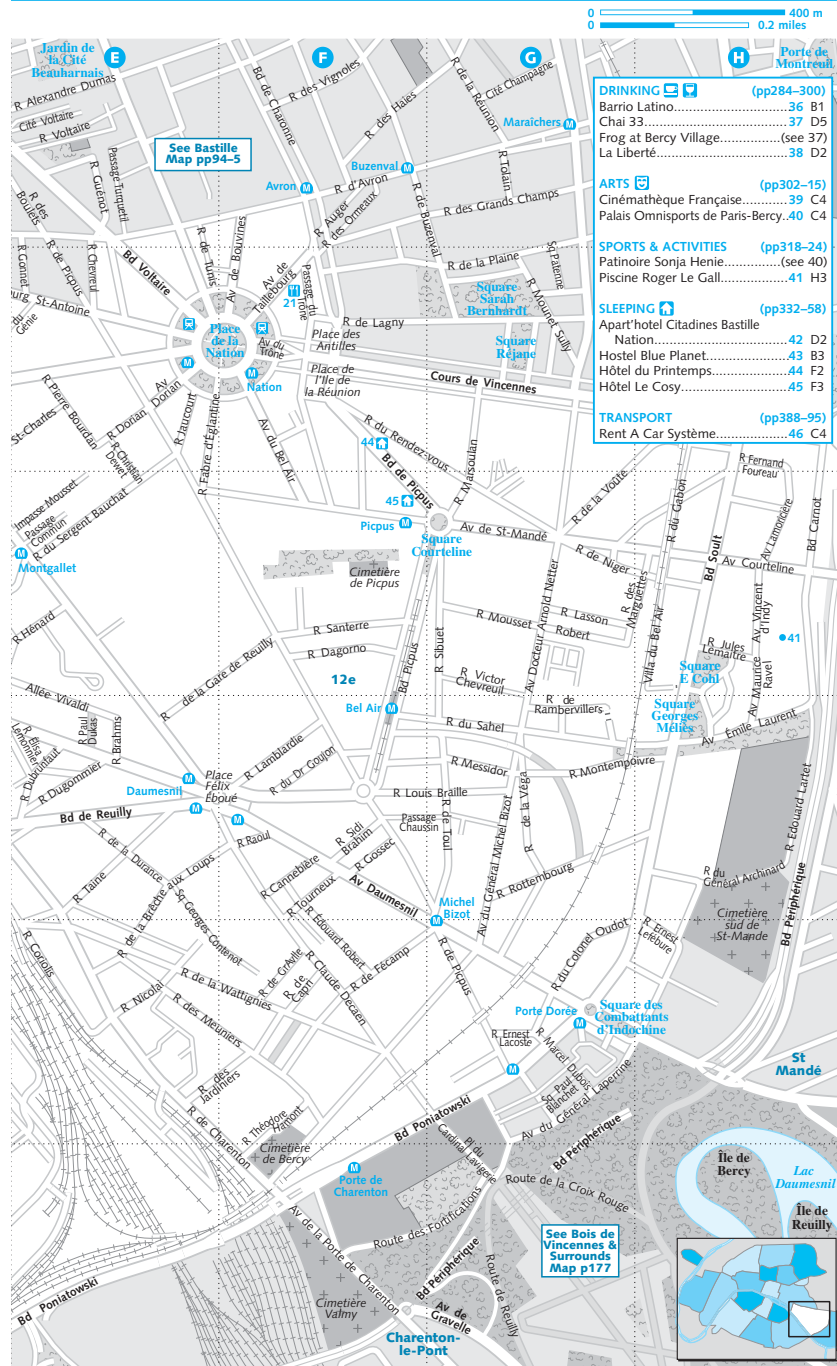
Art Deco Police Station...3 C3
 Children's Playground...4 A2
 Cinémathèque Française... (see 39)
 Direction de l'Action Sociale
 Building...5 A2
 Maison du Jardinage...6 C5
 Maison Rouge...7 A2
 Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de l'Industrie...8 B4
 Musée des Arts Forains...9 D6
 Parc de Bercy...10 C5
 Pavillon du Lac du Parc de Bercy...11 D5
 Promenade Plantée...12 B2
 Viaduc des Arts... (see 29)

SHOPPING (pp198-218)

Album...13 D5
 Bercy Village...14 D6
 Fermob...15 B1
 La Maison du Cerf-Volant...16 B2
 Marché aux Puces d'Aligre... (see 33)
 Viaduc des Arts... (see 29)

EATING (pp220-82)

Aqua Limon...17 B1
 Athanon...18 C3
 Comme Cochons...19 C3
 Franprix...20 D5
 Khun Akorn...21 F2
 L'Encrier...22 B2
 L'Oulette...23 D5
 L'Ébauchoir...24 C1
 La Cave du Square...25 B1
 La Gazzetta...26 C1
 La Partie de Campagne...27 D5
 Le Square Trousseau...28 B1
 Le Viaduc Café...29 B2
 Le Vinéa Café...30 D6
 Les Amis de Messina...31 D2
 Lina's...32 C4
 Marché Beauvau...33 C2
 Sardegna a Tavola...34 B2
 Swann et Vincent...35 B1



See Bastille Map pp94-5

DRINKING	(pp284-300)
Barrio Latino	36 B1
Chai 33	37 D5
Frog at Bercy Village	(see 37)
La Liberté	38 D2
ARTS	(pp302-15)
Cinémathèque Française	39 C4
Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy	40 C4
SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	(pp318-24)
Patinoire Sonja Henie	(see 40)
Piscine Roger Le Gall	41 H3
SLEEPING	(pp332-58)
Apart'hotel Citadines Bastille	
Nation	42 D2
Hostel Blue Planet	43 B3
Hôtel du Printemps	44 F2
Hôtel Le Cosy	45 F3
TRANSPORT	(pp388-95)
Rent A Car Système	46 C4

See Bois de Vincennes & Surrounds Map p177

foreign films, is housed in stunning post-modern premises with plenty of exhibition space for its permanent collection and temporary exhibitions. It also houses screening rooms, the Bibliothèque du Film (Film Library) for researchers and an excellent specialist bookshop. Enter from place Leonard Bernstein.

MUSÉE DES ARTS FORAINS Map pp158–9
☎ 01 43 40 16 22, 01 43 40 63 44; www.pavillons-de-bercy.com; Les Pavillons de Bercy, 53 av des

Terroirs de France, 12e; adult/child €12.50/4; ☎ by appointment; **M** Cour St-Émilion
The Museum of the Fairground Art, housed in several old wine warehouses in trendy Bercy Village, is a wonderful collection of old amusements from 19th-century funfairs – carousels, organs, stalls etc. Most of the items still work and are pure works of art. The place is usually only rented out for corporate events with minimum numbers but give a call or visit the website and try your luck.

13E ARRONDISSEMENT & CHINATOWN

Drinking p297; Eating p274; Sleeping p355

Serious change is afoot in the 13e arrondissement, a once nondescript area south of the Latin Quarter and Jardin des Plantes (5e) that is rapidly becoming the city's new star. Its renaissance was heralded in the 1990s by the controversial Bibliothèque Nationale de France and by the arrival of the high-speed Météor metro line, and is slated not to stop until 2015 (when the 26-year ZAC Paris Rive Gauche redevelopment project – see www.parisrivegauche.com – ends).

A glamorous strip of interior-design shops now fronts riverside Quai de la Gare immediately north of the National Library and MK2 entertainment complex (p314). There's the new river metro (p392). Then there's the swimming pool on the Seine (p323) that floats not quite in the shade of the latest designer bridge to grace the river, the Passerelle Simone de Beauvoir (2006) – across which Right Bank night owls from Bercy hotfoot it to a trio of music venues moored in front of the library. Indeed, Parisian socialites bemoan the fact Bibliothèque is the last stop on the line, but they know this is a great place to be after dark. Once the new library and university buildings for Paris' language and civilisation students open in 2010, there is no saying how many bars will open.

Cutting-edge architecture and design is one face of the 13e, a working-class district that will never lose its feisty spirit and down-to-earth grit. A place proud of its history, it has both a blvd Auguste Blanqui and place Nationale, a pairing propitious to the reconciliation between anarchism and patriotism.

Flit from Chinese restaurant to Vietnamese stall in the capital's Chinatown, the area between av d'Italie and av de Choisy, and you feel you've imperceptibly changed continents. Or trip past the graffiti-covered façade of **Les Frigos** (www.les-frigos.com; rue des Frigos, 13e), an established artists' squat with several galleries in a 1920s industrial building that used to be a train station for refrigerated wagons, and you could be in Berlin. In the Butte aux Cailles *quartier*, the jewel in this arrondissement's crown, people still sing revolutionary songs from the time of the Paris Commune over chichi cuisine.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

Map pp162–3
☎ 01 53 79 53 79, 01 53 79 40 41; www.bnf.fr;
11 quai François Mauriac, 13e; temporary exhibitions
adult/18-26yr/under 18yr from €7/5/free; ☎ 10am-7pm Tue-Sat, 1-7pm Sun; **M** Bibliothèque
The four glass towers of the €2 billion National Library of France – conceived as a 'wonder of the modern world' – opened in 1995. No expense was spared to carry out a plan that many said defied logic. While books and historical documents are shelved in the sunny, 23-storey and 79m-high towers (shaped like half-open books), patrons sit in artificially lit basement halls built around a 'forest courtyard' of 140 50-year-old pines, trucked in from the countryside. The towers have since been fitted with a complex (and expensive) shutter system and the basement is prone to flooding from the Seine. The national library contains around 12 million tomes stored on some 420km of shelves and can hold 2000 readers and 2000 researchers. Temporary exhibitions (entrance E) revolve around 'the word', focusing on everything from storytelling to bookbinding and French heroes. Using the study library costs €3.30/35

TRANSPORT: 13E ARRONDISSEMENT & CHINATOWN

Bus Bibliothèque Nationale de France François Mitterrand for 62 through 13e along rue Tolbiac to rue d'Alésia (14e) & rue de la Convention (15e); porte d'Italie for 47 to place d'Italie, rue Monge, quai St Michel, Hôtel de Ville & Gare de l'Est; place d'Italie for 67 to Mosquée de Paris, Jardin des Plantes, Île de St-Louis, Hôtel de Ville & Pigalle; Olympiades & Place d'Italie for 83, to Jardin de Luxembourg, St-Germain & Invalides

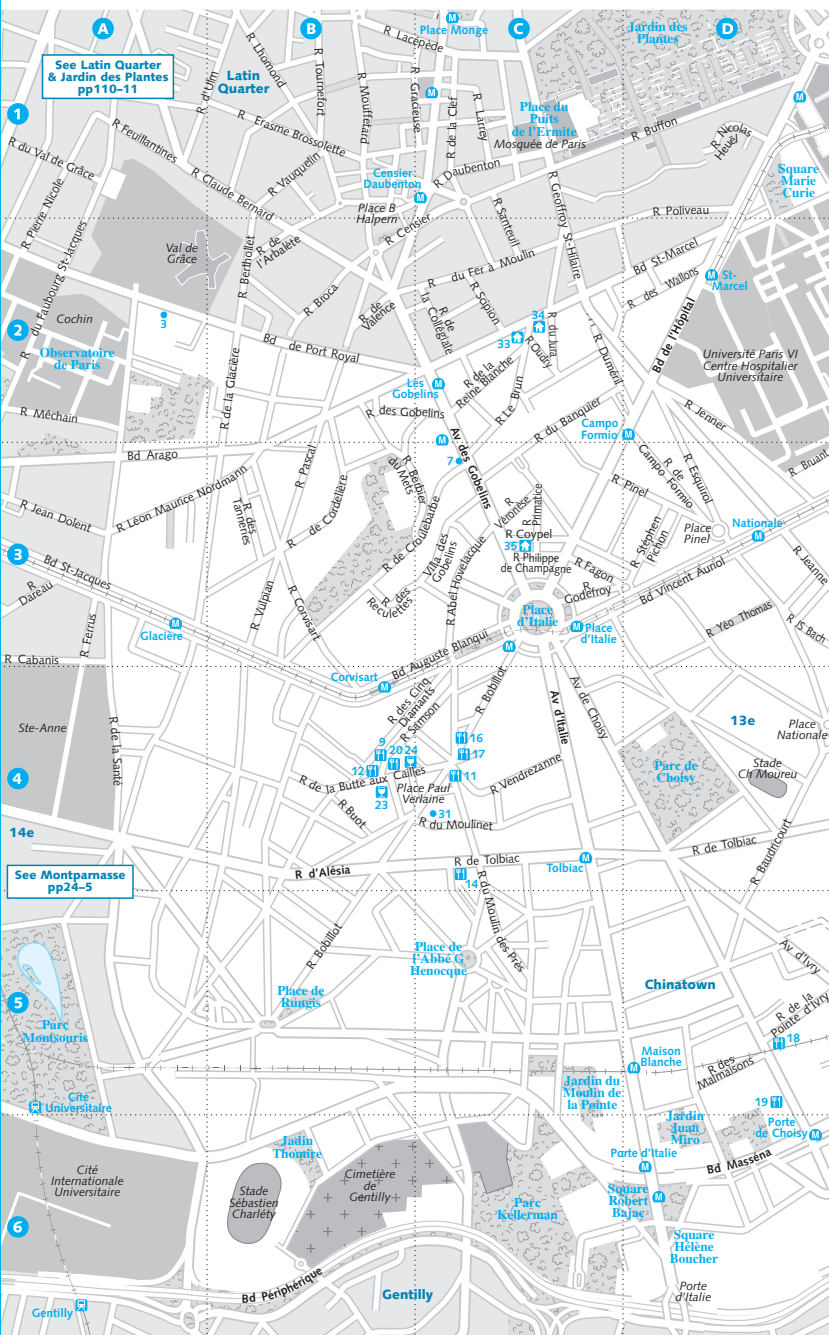
Metro & RER Bibliothèque François Mitterrand, Porte de Choisy, Porte d'Italie, Place d'Italie, Tolbiac, Olympiades

per day/year while the research library costs €7/53 for three days/year.

DOCKS EN SEINE

Map pp162–3
30 quai d'Austerlitz, 13e; **M** Gare d'Austerlitz
Watch this space! One of Paris' most exciting projects, Docks en Seine is a 20,000-sq-metre riverside warehouse – goods were once brought to it by barge – being

13E ARRONDISSEMENT & CHINATOWN



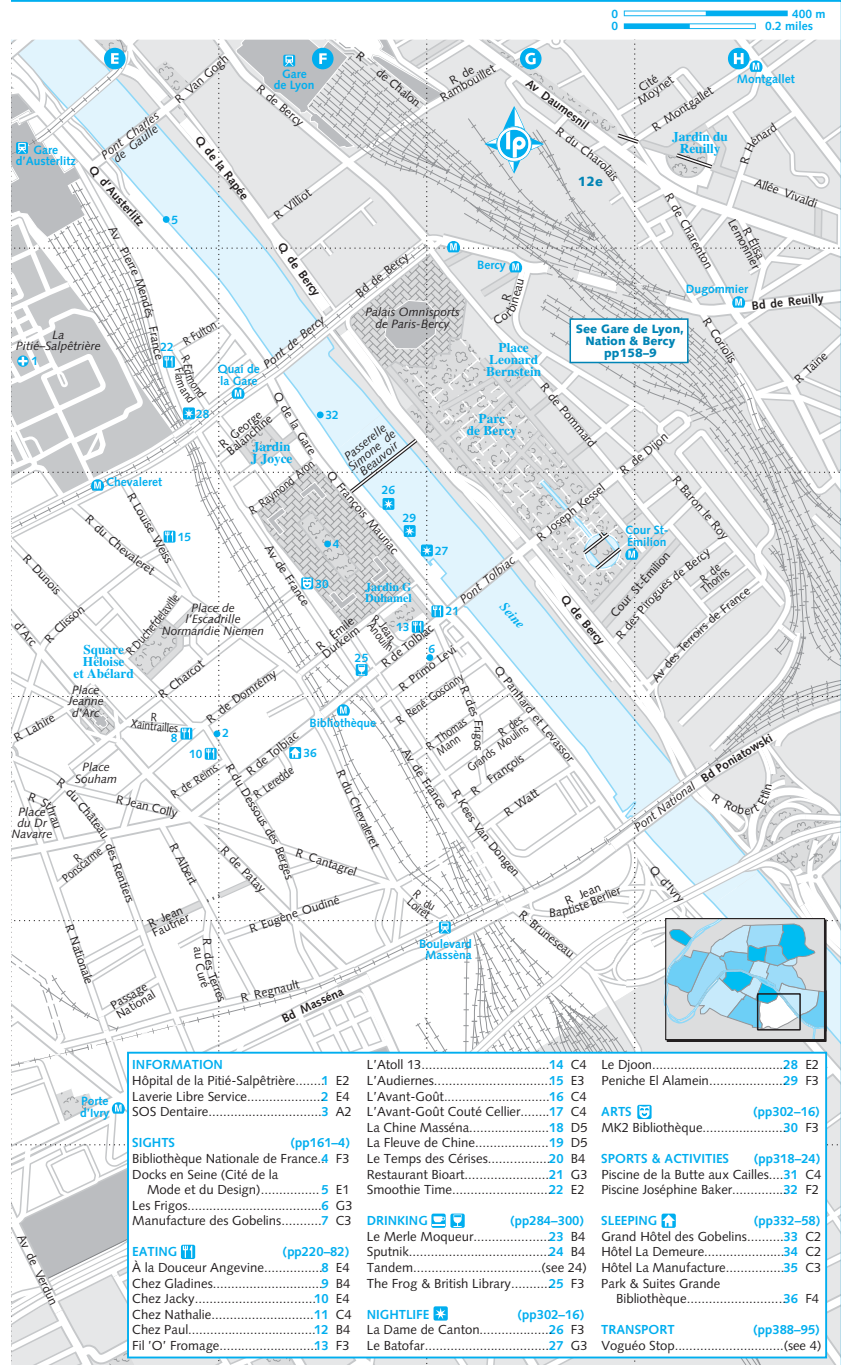
See Latin Quarter & Jardin des Plantes pp110-11

Latin Quarter

See Observatoire de Paris

See Montparnasse pp24-5

See Cité Internationale Universitaire



See Gare de Lyon, Nation & Bercy pp158-9

INFORMATION				
Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière.....	1	E2	L'Atoll 13.....14 C4	
Laverie Libre Service.....	2	E4	L'Audiernes.....15 E3	
SOS Dentaire.....	3	A2	Le Djoon.....28 E2	
SIGHTS (pp161-4)				
Bibliothèque Nationale de France 4	F3	L'Avant-Gout.....16 C4	Peniche El Alamein.....29 F3	
Docks en Seine (Cité de la Mode et du Design).....	5	E1	L'Avant-Gout Cauté Celler.....17 C4	
Les Frigos.....	6	G3	La Chine Masséna.....18 D5	
Manufacture des Gobelins.....	7	C3	La Fleuve de Chine.....19 D5	
EATING (pp220-82)				
À la Douceur Angevine.....	8	E4	Le Temps des Cérises.....20 B4	
Chez Gladines.....	9	B4	Restaurant Bioart.....21 G3	
Chez Jacky.....	10	E4	Smoothie Time.....22 E2	
Chez Nathalie.....	11	C4	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp318-24)	
Chez Paul.....	12	B4	Piscine de la Butte aux Cailles.....	31 C4
Fil 'O' Fromage.....	13	F3	Piscine Joséphine Baker.....	32 F2
DRINKING (pp284-300)				
SLEEPING (pp332-58)				
Le Merle Moqueur.....	23	B4	Grand Hôtel des Gobelins.....	33 C2
Sputnik.....	24	B4	Hôtel La Demeure.....	34 C2
Tandem (see 24)			Hôtel La Manufacture.....	35 C3
The Frog & British Library.....	25	F3	Park & Suites Grande Bibliothèque.....	36 F4
NIGHTLIFE (pp302-16)				
TRANSPORT (pp388-95)				
La Dame de Canton.....	26	F3	Vogüeo Stop.....	(see 4)
Le Batofar.....	27	G3		

transformed into a state-of-the-art cultural centre. Once complete in mid-2008, it will house a few shops, a restaurant etc and be renamed **Cité de la Mode et du Design** to reflect its principal inhabitant, the Institut Français de la Mode (French Fashion Institute), Paris' fashion school. A panoramic terrace, sun deck and waterside promenades will add jollifying touches to the 1907 industrial complex. For the best view of the startling lime-green 'wave' that dances across its vast, water-facing glass façade, cross the Seine over Pont Charles de Gaulle or hop aboard a **Vogüé river metro** (p392).

MANUFACTURE DES GOBELINS

Map pp162–3

☎ 01 44 08 52 00; 42 av des Gobelins, 13e; adult/7–25yr/under 7yr €8/6/free; tours 🕒 2pm & 3pm Tue–Thu; 🚶 Les Gobelins

The Gobelins Factory has been weaving *haute lisse* (high relief) tapestries on specialised looms since the 18th century along with Beauvais-style *basse lisse* (low relief) ones and Savonnerie rugs. The visit, by guided tour, takes you through the *ateliers* (workshops) and exhibits of the thousands of carpets and tapestries woven here.

15E ARRONDISSEMENT

Drinking p298; Eating p276; Shopping p217; Sleeping p356

After the war, entire battalions of steelworkers were drawn into the orbit of the 15e arrondissement, clocking in every morning at the Citroën factory or one of the neighbourhood's numerous aeronautical companies. Over the years, the area has become more gentrified and residential. Av de la Motte-Picquet, blvd Pasteur and av Félix Faure are peaceful places – too peaceful for some tastes. For Unesco, the area seemed just right, and not far away the republic's future of officers converge on the majestic École Militaire (p134).

But the 15e offers much more than bourgeois homes and institutions. Parisians flock to the shops and restaurants that line rue de la Convention, rue de Vaugirard (the longest street in Paris), rue St-Charles and rue du Commerce. On the quays, the towers of the Centre Beaugrenelle have long since abandoned their monopoly on futurism to the stylish, functional buildings occupied by TV stations Canal+ and France Télévision, and Parisians with their heart in the country can enjoy the Parc André-Citroën, one of the capital's most beautiful open spaces.

MUSÉE BOURDELLE Map pp124–5

☎ 01 49 54 73 73; www.bourdelle.paris.fr in French; 18 rue Antoine Bourdelle, 15e; adult/14–25yr/under 14yr €7/3.50/free; 🕒 10am–6pm Tue–Sun; 🚶 Falguière

The Bourdelle Museum contains monumental bronzes in the house and workshop where sculptor Antoine Bourdelle (1861–1929), a pupil of Rodin, lived and worked. The three sculpture gardens are particularly lovely and impart a flavour of *belle époque* and post-WWI Montparnasse. The museum usually has a temporary exhibition going on alongside its permanent collection (free on the rare occasion there's no exhibition).

MUSÉE DE LA POSTE Map pp166–7

☎ 01 42 79 24 24; www.museedelaposte.fr in French; 34 blvd de Vaugirard, 15e; permanent collection adult/under 18yr €5/free, temporary exhibition adult/13–18yr/under 13yr €6.50/5/free; 🕒 10am–6pm Mon–Sat; 🚶 Montparnasse Bienvenüe or Pasteur

Think travel and exploration, not stamps, when it comes to the inspired temporary exhibitions hosted at the Postal Museum.

The main collection – the history of the French postal service – is spread across several rooms on several floors and is equally impressive. Upon departure, don't miss the shop selling every imaginable French stamp, from Harry Potter designs to romantic red heart-shaped stamps.

MUSÉE DU MONTPARNASSE Map pp166–7

☎ 01 42 22 91 96; www.museedumontparnasse.net; 21 av du Maine, 15e; adult/12–18yr/under 12yr €6/5/free; 🕒 12.30–7pm Tue–Sun; 🚶 Montparnasse Bienvenüe

Housed in the studio of Russian cubist artist Marie Vassilieff (1884–1957) down a surprisingly leafy alleyway off av du Maine, Montparnasse Museum doesn't have a permanent collection; rather it recalls the great role Montparnasse played during various artistic periods of the 20th century, offered through temporary exhibitions.

MUSÉE PASTEUR Map pp166–7

☎ 01 45 68 82 83; www.pasteur.fr; Institut Pasteur, 25 rue du Docteur Roux, 15e; adult/student €3/1.50; 🕒 2–5.30pm Mon–Fri Sep–Jul; 🚶 Pasteur

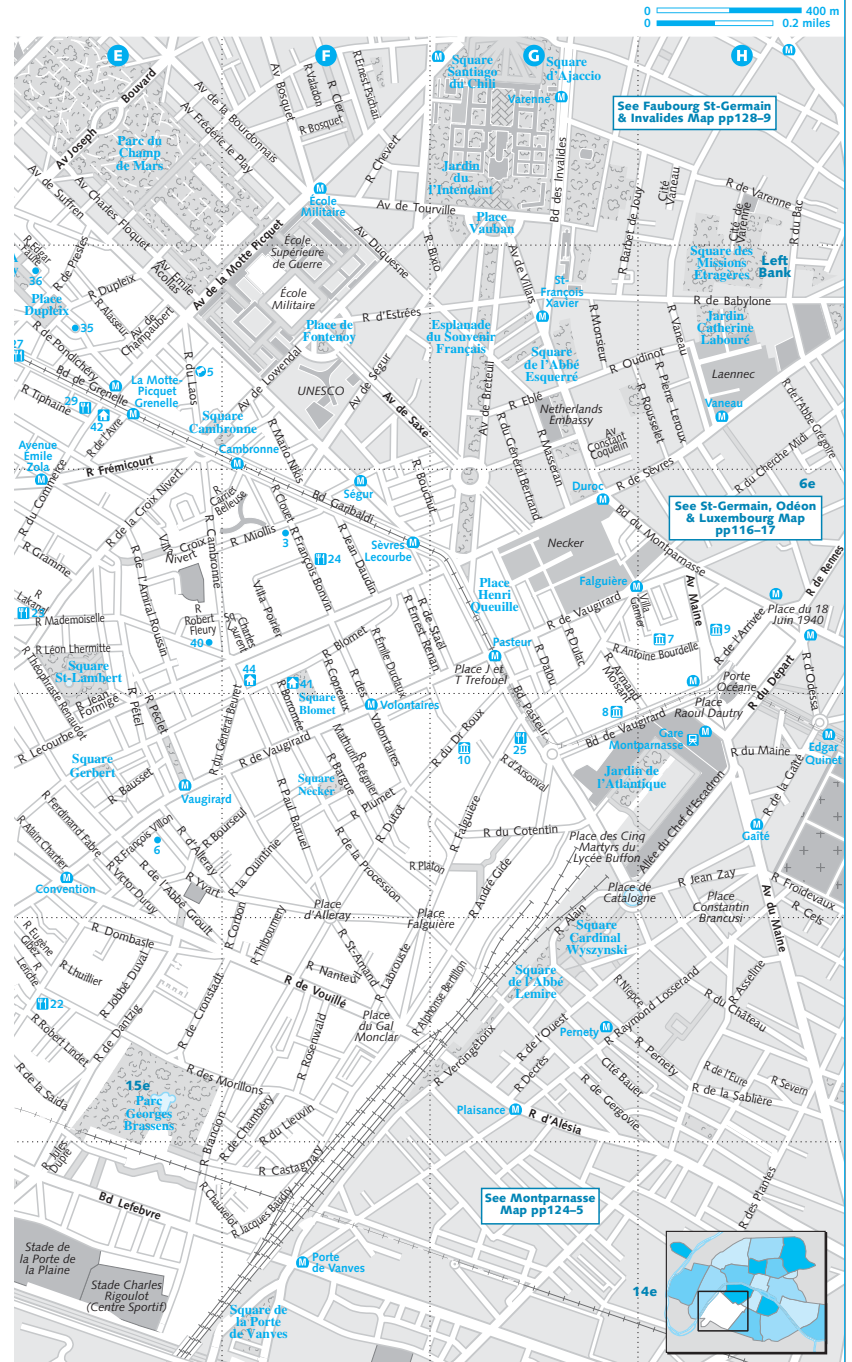
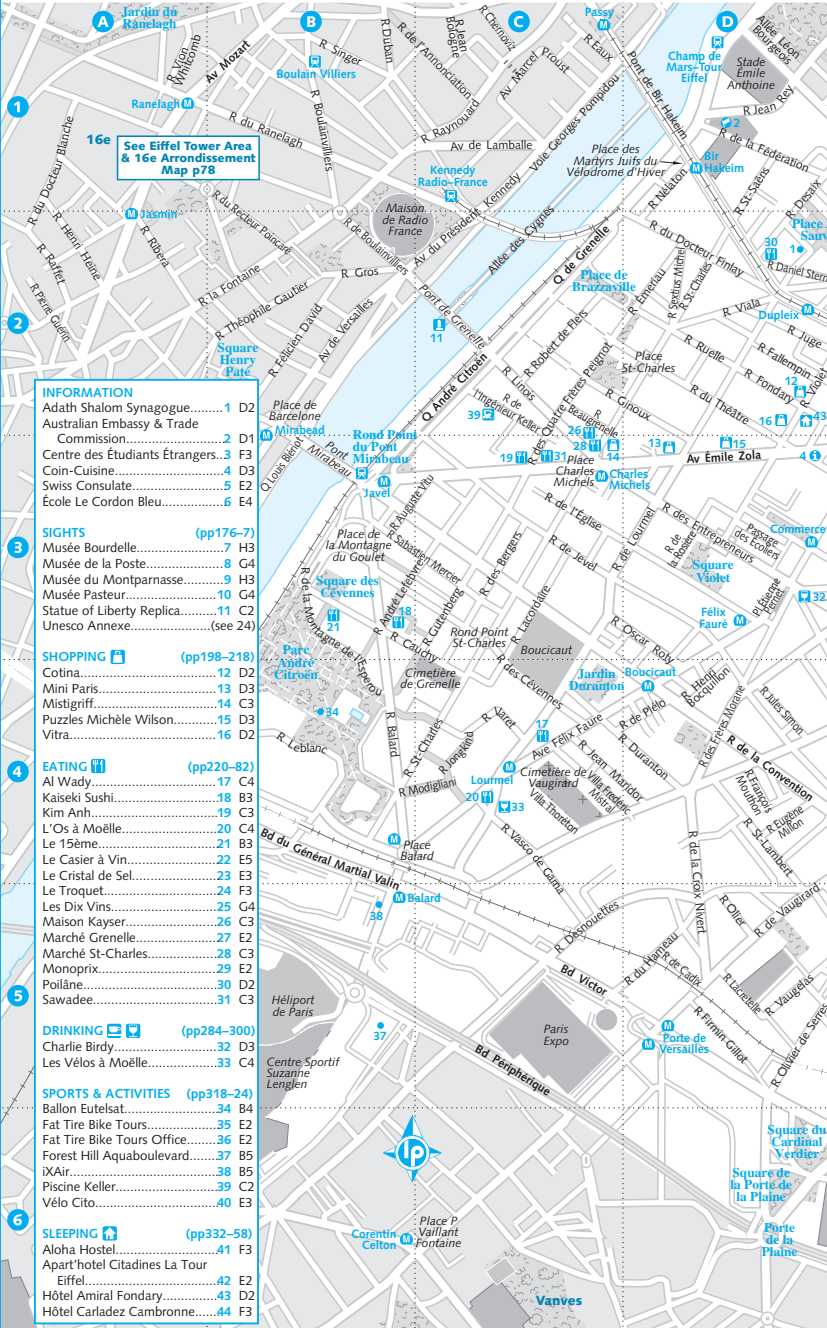
Housed in the apartment where the famous chemist and bacteriologist spent the last seven years of his life (1888–95), a tour of this museum takes you through Pasteur's private rooms, a hall with such odds and ends as gifts presented to him by heads of state and drawings he did as a young man. After Pasteur's death, the French government wanted to entomb his remains in the Panthéon, but his family, acting in accordance with his wishes, obtained permission to have him buried at his institute. The great savant lies in the basement crypt.

TRANSPORT: 15E ARRONDISSEMENT

Bus Blvd de Grenelle for 80 to Alma-Marceau, av Montaigne, av Matignon, Gare St-Lazare, Place Clichy & Lamarck Caulaincourt; rue de Vaugirard for 89 to Jardin du Luxembourg, Panthéon, Jardin des Plantes, Gare d'Austerlitz & Bibliothèque Nationale de France François Mitterrand

Metro Commerce, Convention, Duroc, La Motte-Picquet Grenelle, Vaugirard

15e ARRONDISSEMENT



MONTMARTRE & PIGALLE

Drinking [p298](#); Eating [p277](#); Shopping [p217](#); Sleeping [p357](#)

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries the bohemian lifestyle of Montmartre in the 18e attracted a number of important writers and artists. Although the activity shifted to Montparnasse after WWI, the 18e arrondissement thrives on crowds and a strong sense of community. When you've got the Butte de Montmartre (Montmartre Hill) and Sacré Cœur, what do you expect? Cascading steps, cobblestone streets, small houses with wooden shutters in narrow, quiet lanes; the charm of the *quartier* is immediately apparent. Rue Caulaincourt and av Junot flaunt their bourgeois credentials, while the streets around the square Willette, place des Abbesses and rue Lepic become steeper and narrower, the inhabitants younger and hipper.

The northern part of the 9e arrondissement has a rough-and-ready charm. The lights of the Moulin Rouge dominate blvd de Clichy, and a few blocks southeast is lively, neon-lit place Pigalle, one of Paris' main sex districts. But Pigalle is more than just a sleazy red-light district: the area around blvd de Clichy between Pigalle and Blanche metro stations may be lined with erotica shops and striptease parlours, but there are also plenty of trendy nightspots, clubs and cabarets. South of Pigalle, the district known as Nouvelles Athènes (New Athens), with its beautiful Graeco-Roman architecture and private gardens, has long been favoured by artists.

BASILIQUE DU SACRÉ CŒUR [Map p169](#)

☎ 01 53 41 89 00; [www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.com](#); place du Parvis du Sacré Cœur, 18e; 🕒 6am–10.30pm; 🇲 Anvers

Sacred Heart Basilica, perched at the very top of Butte de Montmartre, was built from contributions pledged by Parisian Catholics as an act of contrition after the humiliating Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71. Construction began in 1876, but the basilica was not consecrated until 1919. In a way, atonement here has never stopped; a perpetual prayer 'cycle' that began at the consecration of the basilica continues round the clock to this day.

Some 234 spiralling steps lead you to the basilica's **dome** (admission €5; 🕒 9am–7pm Apr–Sep, to 6pm Oct–Mar), which affords one of Paris' most spectacular panoramas; they say you can see for 30km on a clear day. Weighing in at 19 tonnes, the bell called **La Savoyarde** in the tower above is the largest in France. The chapel-lined **crypt**, visited in conjunction with the dome, is huge but not very interesting.

PLACE DU TERTRE [Map p169](#)

🇲 Abbesses

Half a block west of Église St-Pierre de Montmartre, which once formed part of a 12th-century Benedictine abbey, is what was once the main square of the village of Montmartre. These days it's filled with cafés, restaurants, tourists and rather obstinate portrait artists and caricaturists, who will gladly do your likeness. Whether

top picks MONTMARTRE & PIGALLE

- Basilique du Sacré Cœur (left)
- Place du Tertre (left)
- Musée de la Vie Romantique (p171)
- Cimetière de Montmartre (below)
- Musée de Montmartre (p170)

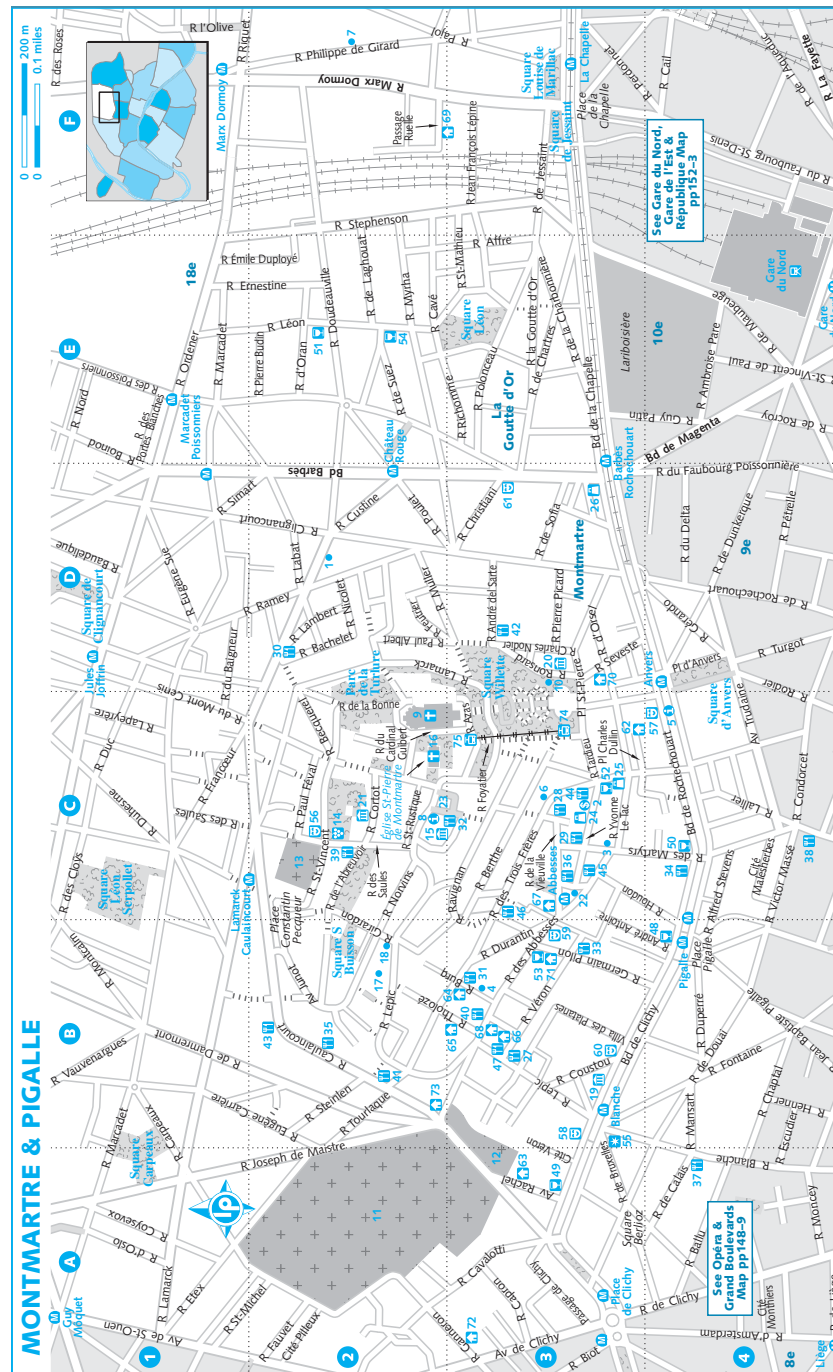
it looks even remotely like you is another matter.

CIMETIÈRE DE MONTMARTRE [Map p169](#)

🕒 8am–6pm Mon–Fri, 8.30am–6pm Sat, 9am–6pm Sun mid–Mar–early Nov, 8am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 8.30am–5.30pm Sat, 9am–5.30pm Sun early Nov–mid–Mar; 🇲 Place de Clichy

Established in 1798, this 11-hectare cemetery is perhaps the most celebrated necropolis in Paris after Père Lachaise. It contains the graves of writers Émile Zola, Alexandre Dumas and Stendhal, composers Jacques Offenbach and Hector Berlioz, artist Edgar Degas, film director François Truffaut and dancer Vaslav Nijinsky – among others. The entrance closest to the Butte de Montmartre is at the end of av Rachel, just off blvd de Clichy, or down the stairs from 10 rue Caulaincourt.

Maps showing the location of the tombs are available free from the [conservation office](#) (☎ 01 53 42 36 30; 20 av Rachel, 18e) at the cemetery's entrance.



MONTMARTRE & PIGALLE

INFORMATION		La Citadelle.....25 C3	Olympic Café.....54 E2
Cook'n with Class.....1 D2		Tati.....26 D3	
European Exchange Office.....2 C3			
Laverie Libre Service.....3 C3			
Laverie Libre Service.....4 B3			
Paris Convention & Visitors			
Bureau Kiosk.....5 C4			
Salon Lavoir Sided.....6 C3			
Sri Manikar Vinayakar Alayam			
Temple.....7 F2			
Syndicate d'Initiative de			
Montmartre.....8 C2			
Taxiphone Internet.....(see 36)			
SIGHTS (pp168-71)			
Basilique du Sacré Cœur.....9 C2			
Children's Playground.....10 D3			
Cimetière de Montmartre.....11 A2			
Cimetière de Montmartre			
Entrance.....12 A3			
Cimetière St-Vincent.....13 C2			
Close de Montmartre.....14 C2			
Dalí Espace Montmartre.....15 C3			
Église St-Pierre de			
Montmartre.....16 C2			
Moulin de la Galette.....17 B2			
Moulin Radet.....18 B2			
Musée de l'Érotisme.....19 B3			
Musée de la Halle St-Pierre.....20 D3			
Musée de Montmartre.....21 C2			
Place des Abbesses.....22 C3			
Place du Tertre.....23 C2			
SHOPPING (pp198-218)			
Gaspard de la Butte.....24 C3			
8 à Huit.....27 B3			
Au Grain de Folie.....28 C3			
Au Petit Budapest.....29 C3			
Aux Négociants.....30 D2			
Café Burq.....31 B3			
Chez Plumeau.....32 C3			
Chez Toinette.....33 B3			
Ed l'Épicier.....34 C4			
Franprix Supermarket.....35 B2			
Il Duca.....36 C3			
Isaan.....37 A4			
L'Épicerie.....38 C4			
La Maison Rose.....39 C2			
La Mascotte.....40 B3			
Le Café qui Parle.....41 B2			
Le Chéri Bibi.....42 D3			
Le Maquis.....43 B2			
Le Mono.....(see 66)			
Le Refuge des Fondus.....44 C3			
Le Relais Gascon.....45 C3			
Le Soleil Gourmand.....46 C3			
Les Domaines qui Montent.....47 B3			
DRINKING (pp284-300)			
Chào Bà Café.....48 B4			
Corcoran's Clichy.....49 A3			
Ice Kube.....(see 69)			
La Fourmi.....50 C4			
Lavoir Moderne Parisien.....51 E2			
Le Progrès.....52 C3			
Le Sancerre.....53 B3			
NIGHTLIFE (pp302-16)			
Folie's Pigalle.....55 B3			
ARTS (pp302-16)			
Au Lapin Agile.....56 C2			
L'Élysée-Montmartre.....57 D4			
La Cigale.....(see 50)			
Le Divan du Monde.....(see 34)			
Moulin Rouge.....58 B3			
Théâtre de la Ville-Salle des			
Abbesses.....59 B3			
Théâtre des Trois Baudets.....60 B3			
Virgin Megastore.....61 D3			
SLEEPING (pp332-58)			
Adagio Montmartre City			
Aparthotel.....62 C3			
Apart'hotel Citadines			
Montmartre.....63 A3			
Hôtel Bonsejour Montmartre.....64 B3			
Hôtel des Arts.....65 B3			
Hôtel du Moulin.....66 B3			
Hôtel Regyn's Montmartre.....67 C3			
Hôtel Utrillo.....68 B3			
Kube Hôtel.....69 F2			
Le Village Hostel.....70 D3			
Pratic Hôtel.....71 B3			
Style Hôtel.....72 A3			
Terrass Hôtel.....73 B2			
TRANSPORT (pp388-95)			
Funicular to Sacré Cœur.....74 C3			
Funicular Upper Station.....75 C3			

MUSÉE DE MONTMARTRE Map p169

☎ 01 49 25 89 39; www.museedemontmartre.fr, in French; 12 rue Cortot, 18e; adult/senior, student & 10-25yr €7/5.50, under 10yr free; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun; 🚶 Lamarck Caulaincourt

The Montmartre Museum displays paintings, lithographs and documents mostly relating to the area's rebellious and bohemian/artistic past. It is located in a 17th-century manor house, which is the oldest structure in the *quartier*, and also stages exhibitions of artists who are still living in the *quartier*. There's an excellent bookshop here that also sells small bottles of the wine produced from grapes grown in the [Close du Montmartre](#) (p185).

DALÍ ESPACE MONTMARTRE Map p169

☎ 01 42 64 40 10; www.daliparis.com; 11 rue Poulbot, 18e; adult/student & 8-26yr/senior €10/6/7, under 8yr free; ☎ 10am-6.30pm; 🚶 Abbesses

More than 300 works by Salvador Dalí (1904-89), the flamboyant Catalan surrealist printmaker, painter, sculptor and self-promoter, are on display at this surrealist-style basement museum located just west of

TRANSPORT: MONTMARTRE & PIGALLE

Bus 85 bus from Mairie du 18e, stop Muller for Montmartre/Sacré Cœur (10 to 15 minutes' walk) Bourse, Châtelet; place Pigalle for Montmartrobus through Montmartre from place Pigalle to 18e Mairie on place Jules Joffrin

Metro Abbesses, Anvers, Blanche, Lamarck Caulaincourt, Pigalle

Train The Petit Train de Montmartre (☎ 01 42 62 24 00; www.promotrain.fr; adult/child 3-12yr €5.50/3.50), a tourist 'train' with commentary, runs through Montmartre every 30 minutes or so from 10am or 10.30am to between 6pm and midnight daily, depending on the season

Funicular From square Willette to reach Butte de Montmartre

place du Tertre. The collection includes Dalí's strange sculptures (most in reproduction), lithographs, many of his illustrations and furniture (including the famous 'lips' sofa).

MUSÉE DE LA HALLE ST-PIERRE

Map p169

☎ 01 42 58 72 89; www.hallesaintpierre.org in French; 2 rue Ronsard, 18e; adult/student, senior & under 26yr €7.50/6; ☎ 10am-6pm daily Sep-Jul, noon-6pm Mon-Fri Aug; 🚶 Anvers

Founded in 1986, this museum and gallery is in the lovely old covered St Peter's Market across from square Willette and the base of the funicular. It focuses on the primitive and Art Brut schools; there is no permanent collection as such but the museum stages some three temporary exhibitions a year. There's a decent café on site.

MUSÉE DE L'ÉROTISME Map p169

☎ 01 42 58 28 73; www.musee-erotisme.com; 72 blvd de Clichy, 18e; adult/senior & student €8/5; ☎ 10am-2am; 🚶 Blanche

The Museum of Erotic Art tries to put some 2000 titillating statuary, stimulating sexual aids and fetishist items from days gone by on a loftier plane, with antique and modern erotic art from four continents spread over

seven floors and lots of descriptive information. But most of the punters know why they are here. Still, some of the exhibits are, well, breathtaking, to say the least.

MUSÉE DE LA VIE ROMANTIQUE

Map p169

☎ 01 55 31 95 67; www.vie-romantique.paris.fr, in French; 16 rue Chaptal, 9e; temporary exhibitions adult/14-26yr/student & senior €7/3.50/5.50; permanent collection free, under 14yr free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; 🚶 Blanche or St-Georges

One of our favourite small museums in Paris, the Museum of the Romantic Life is in a splendid location at the lovely Hôtel Scheffer-Renan in the centre of the district once known as 'New Athens'. The museum, at the end of a film-worthy cobbled lane, is devoted to the life and work of Amandine Aurore Lucile Dupin Baronne (1804-76) – better known to the world as George Sand – and her intellectual circle of friends and is full of paintings, *objets d'art* and personal effects. Don't miss the tiny but delightful garden.

LA VILLETTE

The Buttes-Chaumont, the Canal de l'Ourcq and the Parc de la Villette, with its wonderful museums and other attractions, create the winning trifecta of the 19e arrondissement. Combining the traditional with the innovative, the old-fashioned with the contemporary, this district makes a virtue of its contradictions. It may not possess the beauty of central Paris, but it is nonetheless full of delightful surprises. An aimless stroll or leisurely bike ride uncovers narrow streets lined with small houses. The Parc des Buttes-Chaumont, with its unusual rocky promontory, attracts local inhabitants at dawn, who run, cycle or do t'ai chi exercises. The quays along the Canal de l'Ourcq have been transformed over the past several years and have become one of the district's main attractions. But the centrepiece is the Parc de la Villette, the former abattoirs of which have made way for a cultural centre (Cité de la Musique), a concert hall (Zénith) and the impressive Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie and its museums.

PARC DE LA VILLETTE Map pp174-5

☎ 01 04 03 75 75; www.villette.com, in French; **M** Porte de la Villette or Porte de Pantin

This large park in the city's far northeastern corner, which opened in 1993, stretches from the **Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie** (below) southwards to the **Cité de la Musique** (opposite). Divided into two sections by the Canal de l'Ourcq, the park is enlivened by shaded walkways, imaginative street furniture, a series of themed gardens and fanciful, bright-red pavilions known as *folies*. At 35 hectares it is the largest open green space in central Paris and has been called 'the prototype of the urban park of the 21st century'.

Of the 10 themed gardens/playgrounds for kids, the best are the **Jardin du Dragon** (Dragon Garden), with an enormous dragon slide between the Géode and the nearest bridge, and the **Jardin des Dunes** (Dunes Garden) and **Jardin des Miroirs** (Mirror Gardens), which are across **Galerie de la Villette** (the covered walkway) from the **Grande Halle**, a wonderful old abattoir of wrought iron and glass now used for concerts, theatre performances, expos and conventions.

CITÉ DES SCIENCES ET DE L'INDUSTRIE Map pp174-5

☎ 01 40 05 80 00, reservations 08 92 69 70 72; www.cite-sciences.fr; 30 av Corentin Cariou, 19e; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sat, to 7pm Sun; **M** Porte de la Villette

The enormous City of Science and Industry, at the northern end of Parc de la Villette, has all sorts of hi-tech exhibits that are particularly well suited for children. You could easily spend a day here with the kids in tow.

Free attractions include the **Carrefour Numérique** (level -1; ☎ noon-7.45pm Tue, to 6.45pm Wed-Sun) internet centre; **Médiathèque** (levels 0 & -1; ☎ noon-7.45pm Tue, to 6.45pm Wed-Sun), with multimedia exhibits dealing with childhood, the history of science and health; **Cité des Métiers** (level -1; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, noon-6pm Sat), with information about trades, professions and employment; and a small **Aquarium** (level -2; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sat, to 7pm Sun).

A free and extremely useful map/brochure (in English) called *The Keys to the Cité* is available from the circular information counter at the main entrance to the complex.

The huge, rather confusingly laid-out **Explora** (levels 1 & 2; adult/7-25yr €8/6, with Planétarium €11/9, under 7yr free), the heart of the exhibitions at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, looks at everything from space exploration and automobile technology to genetics and sound. Tickets are valid for a full day and allow you to enter and exit at will.

TRANSPORT: LA VILLETTE

Bus Porte de la Villette for 75 to Buttes-Chaumont, Canal St-Martin, République, Centre Pompidou, Marais, rue des Archives, Hôtel de Ville & Châtelet

Metro Botzaris, Buttes-Chaumont, Porte de Pantin, Porte de la Villette

Boat Canauxrama Bassin de la Villette stop (13 quai de la Loire) for canal boat to Port de Plaisance de Paris-Arsenal (12e) south of place de la Bastille & Paris Canal Croisières stop (19-21 quai de la Loire) for boat to quai Anatole France (7e) near the Musée d'Orsay

The **Planétarium** (level 1; ☎ 11am-4pm Tue-Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun) has six shows a day on the hour (except at 1pm) on a screen measuring 1000 sq metres. Children under three are not admitted.

The highlight of the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie is the brilliant **Cité des Enfants** (Children's Village; level 0), with imaginative, hands-on demonstrations of basic scientific principles in two sections: for two- to seven-year-olds, and for five- to 12-year-olds. In the first, kids can explore, among other things, the conduct of water (waterproof ponchos provided), a building site and a maze. The second allows children to build toy houses with industrial robots, and stage news broadcasts in a TV studio; this being Paris a very popular and successful exhibition in 2008 was one called *Zizi Sexual* – love and sex explained to pre-teens. A third section has a special exhibition called *Ombres et Lumières* (Shadows and Light) devoted largely to the five-to-12 age group.

Visits to Cité des Enfants lasting 1½ hours begin four times a day: at 9.45am, 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.15pm on Tuesday to Friday and at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Saturday and Sunday. Each child (€6) must be accompanied by an adult (maximum two per family). During school holidays, book two or three days in advance by phone or via the internet.

The **Cinaxe** (☎ 01 42 09 85 83, reservations 01 40 05 12 12; admission €5.40, if holding another ticket to Cité des Sciences €4.80; ☎ screenings 11am-12.45pm & 2-5pm Tue-Sun), a cinema with hydraulic seating for 60 people, moves in synchronisation with the action on the screen. It's across the walkway from the southwestern side of the Cité des Sciences. Shows begin every 15 minutes.

The **Géode** (☎ 01 40 05 79 99, reservations 08 92 68 45 40; www.lageode.fr in French; 26 av Corentin Cariou; 19e, adult/senior & 3-25yr €9/5.50, 3-D film €11.50/9.50; ☎ 10.30am-6.30pm Tue-Sat, to 8.30pm Sun) is a 36m-high sphere with a mirrorlike surface of thousands of polished, stainless-steel triangles, and is one of Paris' architectural calling cards. Inside, high-resolution, 70mm films (45 minutes each) on topics such as virtual reality, special effects and nature are projected onto a 180-degree screen to surround you with the action. Headsets for an English soundtrack are

available for free. Reach the Géode via level 0 of the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie.

The **Argonaute** (admission €3, under 7yr free; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Tue-Sat, to 7pm Sun), a French Navy submarine commissioned in 1957 and dry-docked in the park in 1989, is just southeast of the Géode. The Argonaute is also accessible from level 0. It's open to children aged three and up.

CITÉ DE LA MUSIQUE Map pp174-5

☎ 01 44 84 44 84; www.cite-musique.fr; 221 av Jean Jaurès, 19e; ☎ noon-6pm Tue-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun; **M** Porte de Pantin

The City of Music, on the southern edge of Parc de la Villette, is a striking, triangular-shaped concert hall whose mission is to bring nonelitist music from around the world to Paris' multiethnic listeners. (For information on concerts and other musical events, see p310.) Next door is the prestigious **Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse** (National Higher Conservatory of Music & Dance; ☎ 01 40 40 45 45; www.cnsmdp.fr; 209 av Jean Jaurès, 19e; **M** Porte de Pantin), featuring concerts and dance performances.

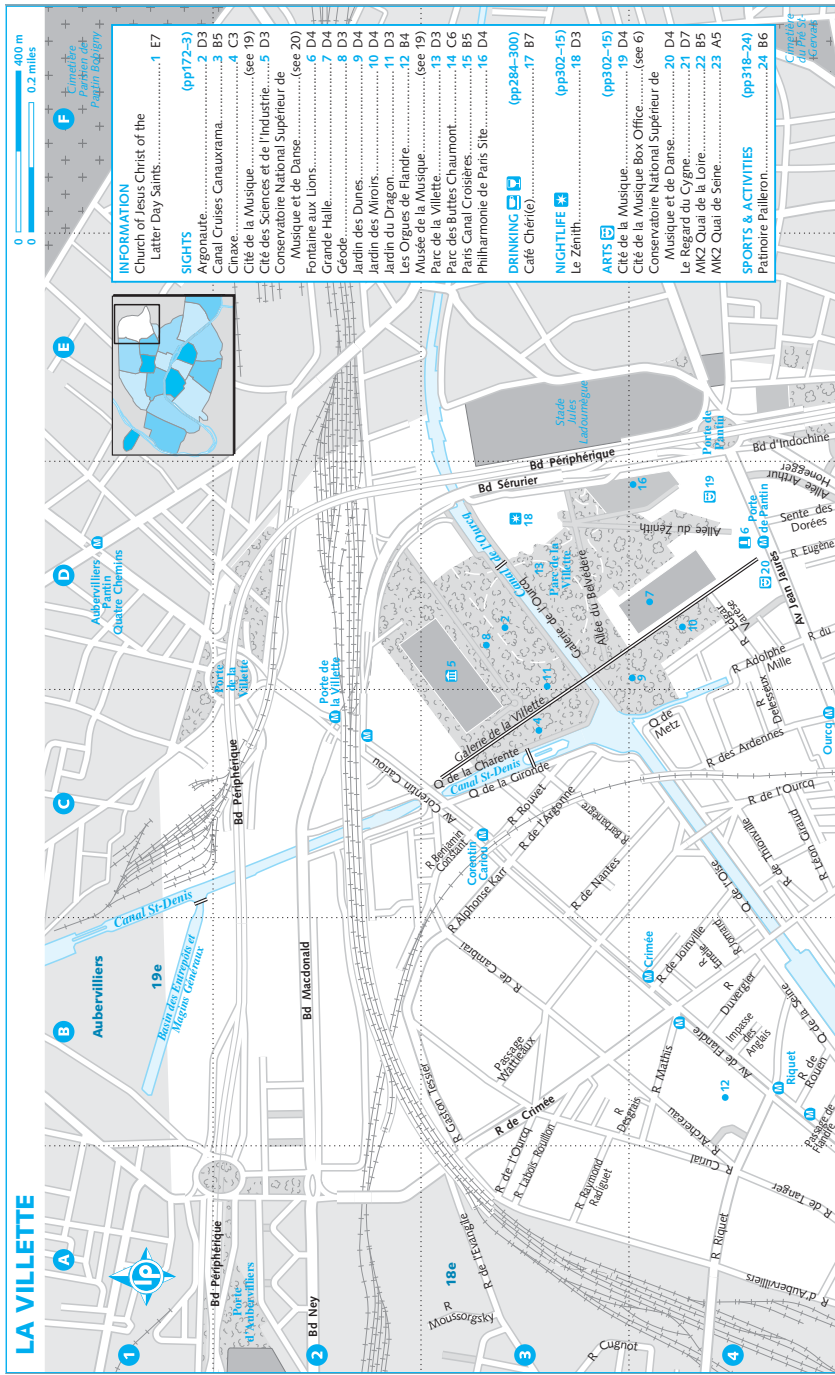
The **Musée de la Musique** (Music Museum; ☎ 01 44 84 44 84; adult/senior, student & 18-25yr €7/3.40, under 18yr free; ☎ noon-6pm Tue-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun) in the Cité de la Musique displays some 900 rare musical instruments (from a warehoused collection of 4500); you can hear many of them being played through the earphones included in the admission cost. The museum's **Médiathèque** (☎ 01 44 84 89 45; ☎ noon-6pm Tue-Sat) can answer your music questions via the internet; it has terminals with hundreds of music-related sites.

PARC DES BUTTES-CHAUMONT

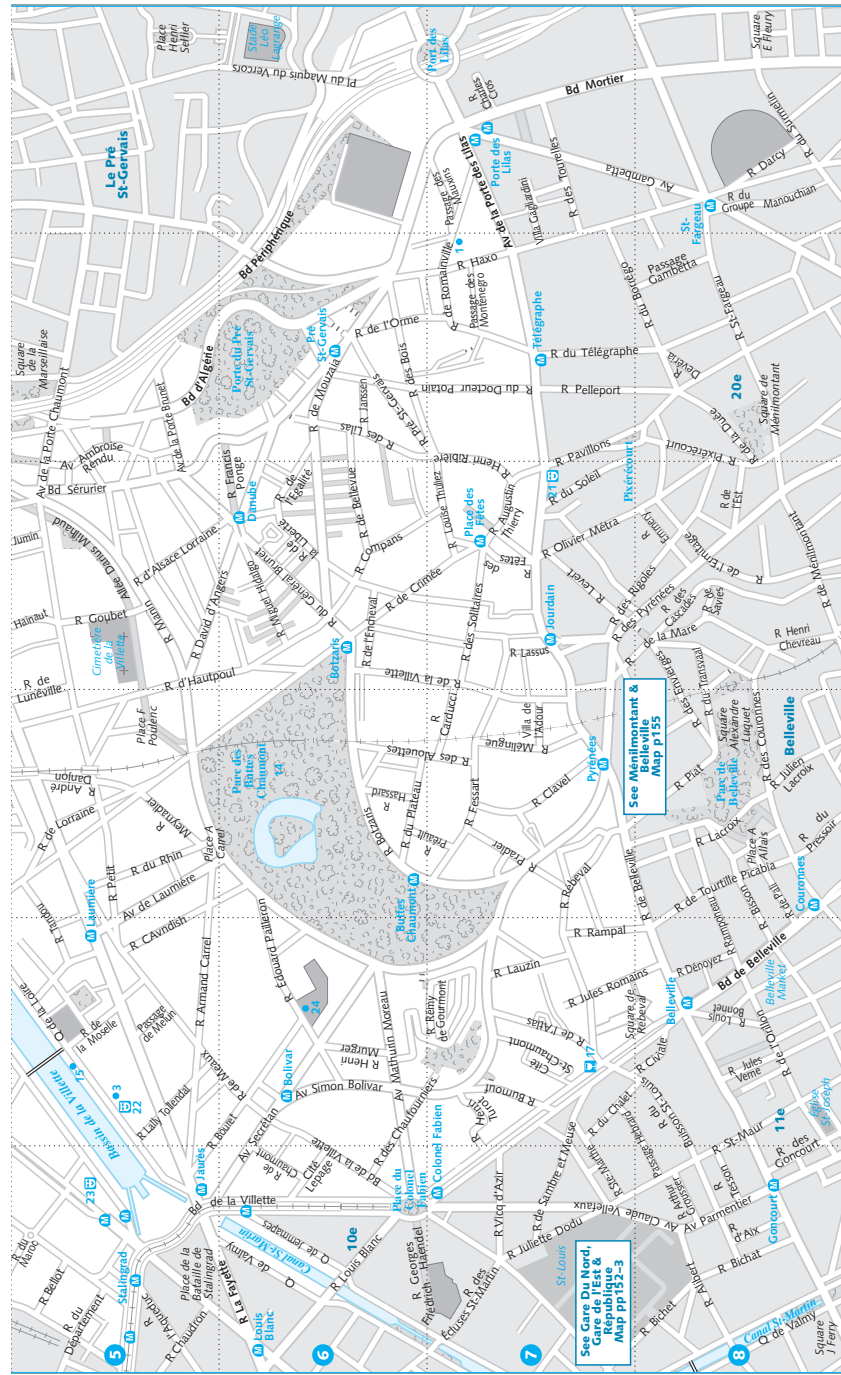
Map pp174-5

rue Manin & rue Botzaris, 19e; ☎ 7.30am-11pm May-Sep, to 9pm Oct-Apr; **M** Buttes-Chaumont or Botzaris

Encircled by tall apartment blocks, the 25-hectare Buttes-Chaumont Park is the closest thing in Paris to Manhattan's Central Park. The park's forested slopes hide grottoes and artificial waterfalls, and the lake is dominated by a temple-topped island linked to the mainland by two footbridges. Once a quarry and rubbish tip, the park was given its present form by Baron Haussmann in time for the opening of the 1867 Exposition Universelle.



LA VILLETTE



BEYOND CENTRAL PARIS

Eating [p281](#); Shopping [p217](#)

Several places just 'outside the walls' of central Paris are worth a visit. To the southeast and the southwest are the 'lungs' of Paris, the Bois de Vincennes and the Bois de Boulogne, both important recreational areas. The modern cityscape of La Défense, a mere 20 minutes away at the end of metro line 1 or RER line A, is so different from the rest of centuries-old Paris that it's worth a visit to put it all in perspective. To the north on metro line 13 is St-Denis, France's royal resting place and the site of an impressive medieval basilica.

BOIS DE VINCENNES & SURROUNDS

The 'Vincennes Wood' embraces 995 hectares in the southeastern corner of Paris, most just outside the *blvd Périphérique* (ring road).

AQUARIUM TROPICAL [Map p177](#)

☎ 01 53 59 58 60; [www.palais-portedoree.org](#), in French; Palais de la Porte Dorée, 293 av Daumesnil, 12e; adult/4-25yr €5.70/4.20; ☎ 10am-5.15pm Tue-Fri, to 7pm Sat & Sun; **M** Porte Dorée
Fish and sea creatures from around the globe swim in tanks spread throughout a dozen rooms at the Tropical Aquarium, on the western edge of Bois de Vincennes. It was established in 1931 in one of the few buildings left from the Exposition Coloniale of that year; a compelling [immigration museum \(right\)](#) is also here.

BOIS DE VINCENNES [Map p177](#)

blvd Poniatowski, 12e; **M** Porte de Charenton or Porte Dorée
On the wood's northern edge, [Château de Vincennes](#) (Palace of Vincennes; ☎ 01 48 08 31 20; [www.chateau-vincennes.fr](#); av de Paris, 12e; ☎ 10am-6pm May-Aug, to 5pm Sep-Apr; **M** Château de Vincennes) is a bona fide royal chateau with massive fortifications and a moat. The chateau grounds can be strolled for free, but the 52m-high [dungeon](#) (1369), a prison during

the 17th and 18th centuries, and the Gothic [Chapelle Royale](#) (Royal Chapel) can only be visited by [guided tour](#) (adult/18-25yr/under 18yr €7.50/4.80/free); call ahead for tour times.

South of the Château de Vincennes is the [Parc Floral de Paris](#) (☎ 01 49 57 24 84; [www.parcfloraldeparis.com](#); rte du Champ de Manoeuvre, 12e; adult/7-18yr €3/1.50; ☎ 9.30am-5pm seasonal; **M** Château de Vincennes), a vast green floral area with a butterfly garden, nature library and kids' play areas; it's host to some quite magical open-air concerts in summer. At its eastern edge, the [Jardin d'Agronomie Tropicale](#) (Garden of Tropical Agronomy; ☎ 01 43 94 73 33; 45bis av de la Belle Gabrielle; ☎ 11.30am-5.30pm Sat & Sun; **M** Nogent-sur-Mame) is a vestige of the 1907 Exposition Coloniale.

Some 600 animals call the 15-hectare [Parc Zoologique de Paris](#) (☎ 01 44 75 20 10; [www.mnhn.fr](#); 53 av de St-Maurice, 12e; adult/under 4yr €5/free; ☎ 9am-5pm or 6.30pm seasonal; **M** Porte Dorée), also known as the Zoo de Vincennes, home.

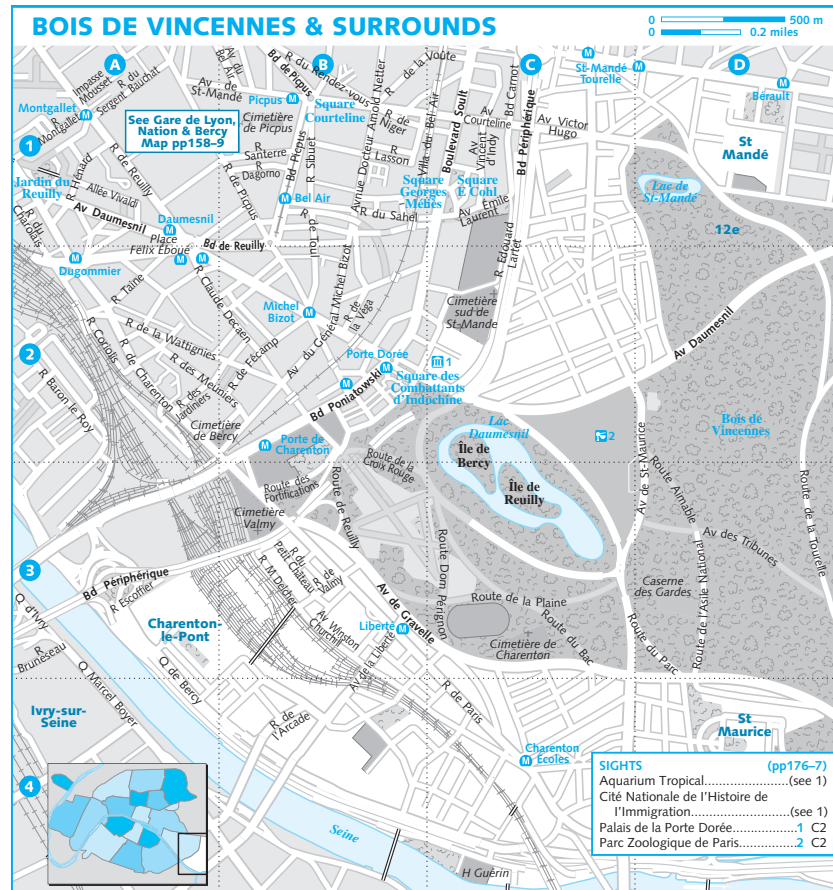
CITÉ NATIONALE DE L'HISTOIRE DE L'IMMIGRATION [Map p177](#)

☎ 01 53 59 58 60; [www.histoire-immigration.fr](#), in French; Palais de la Porte Dorée, 293 av Daumesnil, 12e; adult/18-26yr/under 18yr during exhibition periods €5.50/3.50/free, non-exhibition periods €3/2/free; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Tue-Fri, to 7pm Sat & Sun; **M** Porte Dorée
The National City of the History of Immigration, in the same building as the [Aquarium Tropical](#) (left), is not a museum to visit for a spot of light relief. A heavyweight, it documents the hot-potato topic of immigration to France through a series of informative historical displays, some more objective than others: many of the artworks portraying contemporary immigrant life are pretty emotive – take the video projections dealing with the Algerian family in Paris that has not seen its relatives in Algeria for 16 years, or the installation portraying life in a Parisian immigrant workers' dorm (for

TRANSPORT: BOIS DE VINCENNES & SURROUNDS

Bus Château de Vincennes for 46 to rue du Faubourg St-Antoine, place Voltaire, av de Paris, Gare de l'Est & Gare du Nord, for 56 to place de la Nation, place de la République, Gare de l'Est, Barbès, Porte de Clignancourt

Metro Château de Vincennes, Porte de Charenton, Porte Dorée



those interested, [www.mahophoto.com](#) has a great photo story on this).

BOIS DE BOULOGNE & SURROUNDS

The 845-hectare Boulogne Wood owes its informal layout to Baron Haussmann, who, inspired by London's Hyde Park, planted 400,000 trees here. Along with various gardens and other sights, the wood has 15km of cycle paths and 28km of bridle paths through 125 hectares of forested land. Be warned that the Bois de Boulogne becomes a distinctly adult playground after dark, especially along the Allée de Longchamp running northeast from the Étang des Réservoirs (Reservoirs Pond), where all kinds of prostitutes cruise for clients.

BOIS DE BOULOGNE [Map p178](#)

blvd Maillot, 16e; **M** Porte Maillot or Pont de Neuilly
The wood's enclosed [Parc de Bagatelle](#) (☎ 3975; ☎ 9.30am-5pm to 8pm seasonal), in the northwestern corner, is renowned for its beautiful gardens surrounding the [Château de Bagatelle](#) (☎ 01 40 67 97 00; route de Sèvres à Neuilly, 16e; adult/student & 7-18yr €3/1.50, under 7yr free; ☎ 9am-6pm Apr-Sep, to 5pm Oct-Mar), built in 1775. There are areas dedicated to irises (which bloom in May), roses (June to October) and water lilies (August). The [Pré Catalan](#) (Catalan Meadow; ☎ 9.30am-5-8pm seasonal) to the southeast includes the [Jardin Shakespeare](#), in which plants, flowers and trees mentioned in Shakespeare's plays are cultivated. Exhibitions, flower shows or other events in

TRANSPORT: BOIS DE BOULOGNE & SURROUNDS

Bus Porte d'Auteuil for 32 through the 16e arrondissement to av des Champs-Élysées, av Matignon, Trinité & Gare de l'Est; Porte Maillot for 73 to place de l'Étoile, av des Champs-Élysées, place de la Concorde & Musée d'Orsay

Metro & RER Av Foch, Pont de Neuilly, Porte d'Auteuil, Porte Dauphine, Porte Maillot

the park and gardens cost adult/concession €3/1.50.

Located at the southeastern end of the Bois de Boulogne is the **Jardin des Serres d'Auteuil** (☎ 01 40 71 75 23; av de la Porte d'Auteuil, 16e; ☎ 9.30am-5pm to 8pm seasonal; M) Porte

d'Auteuil), a garden with impressive conservatories that opened in 1898.

The 20-hectare **Jardin d'Acclimatation** (☎ 01 40 67 90 82; av du Mahatma Gandhi; adult/3-18yr €2.70/1.35, under 3yr free; ☎ 10am-7pm Jun-Sep, to 6pm Oct-May; M) Les Sablons), a kids-oriented amusement park whose name is another word for 'zoo' in French, includes the hi-tech **Exploradôme** (☎ 01 53 64 90 40; www.exploradome.com, in French; adult/4-18yr €5/3.50, under 4yr free), a tented structure devoted to science and the media.

The southern part of the wood takes in two horse-racing tracks, the **Hippodrome de Longchamp** for flat races and, for steeplechases, the **Hippodrome d'Auteuil**, as well as the **Stade Roland Garros**, home of the French Open tennis tournament (p323). Also here is the **Tenniseum-Musée de Roland Garros** (☎ 01 47 43 48 48;

www.rolandgarros.com; 2 av Gordon Bennett, 16e; adult/under 18yr €7.5/4, with stadium visit €15/10; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; M) Porte d'Auteuil), the world's most extravagant tennis museum, tracing the sport's 500-year history through paintings, sculptures and posters. Visitors to the museum can watch at least 200 hours of play from 1897 till today, including all of the French Open's men's singles matches since 1990 and interviews with all major players. Tours of the stadium take place at 11am in English and at 2.30pm and 4.30pm in French.

Rowing boats (☎ 01 42 88 04 69; per hr €10; ☎ 10am-6pm mid-Mar-mid-Oct) can be hired at **Lac Inférieur** (metro Av Henri Martin), the largest of the wood's lakes and ponds. They sometimes open at the weekend in winter. **Paris Cycles** (☎ 01 47 47 76 50; per hr €5; ☎ 10am-7pm mid-Apr-mid-Oct) hires out bicycles at two locations in the Bois de Boulogne: on av du Mahatma Gandhi (metro Les Sablons), across from the Porte Sablons entrance to the Jardin d'Acclimatation amusement park, and near the Pavillon Royal (metro Av Foch) at the northern end of Lac Inférieur.

LA DÉFENSE

It was one of the world's most ambitious civil-engineering projects when development of Paris' skyscraper business district, west of the 17e arrondissement, began in the 1950s. Today La Défense counts over 100 buildings, headquarters three-quarters of France's largest 20 corporations and showcases extraordinary monumental art (see p181). By day more than 150,000 city-dwellers – mainly suits and execs – transform the oversized, nocturnal ghost town into a hive of high-flying urban activity; 20,000 people live here.

Architecture buffs will have a field day. First-generation buildings like the **Centre des Nouvelles Industries et Technologies** (Centre for New Industries & Technologies) – a giant 'pregnant oyster' inaugurated in 1958, extensively rebuilt 30 years

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Skyscraper-camouflaged military installations, subterranean bunkers and a different James Bond gadget embedded in every mirrored window...forget it. There's nothing militaristic about La Défense except its name, derived from a simple sculpture: La Défense de Paris was erected on place de la Défense in 1883 to commemorate the defence of Paris during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71.

top picks

BEYOND CENTRAL PARIS

- **Basilique de St-Denis** (p182)
- **Grande Arche de la Défense** (p180)
- **Musée Marmottan-Monet** (p137)
- **Stade de France** (p183)
- **Château de Vincennes** (p176)

later and revamped in 2008 as a shopping centre – feel tired. But later generations still excite: the 187m-high **Total Coupole** (1985) shimmers metallic blue and silver as its rises 48 floors up to the sky. The twin towers of the 161m-tall **Cœur Défense** (Défense Heart) stand over a light-filled atrium bigger than Notre Dame's nave. Diagonally opposite, the elongated, oval-shaped **Tour EDF** (2001) – a triumphal solution to a relatively small space and as attractive a steel-and-glass skyscraper as you'll find – almost undulates in the breeze that forever whips across place de la Défense. New for 2008 is **Tour T1**, a 185m-high sail in glass, and Société Générale's **Tour Granite**, which post-September 11 was scaled down from 230m to 183m.

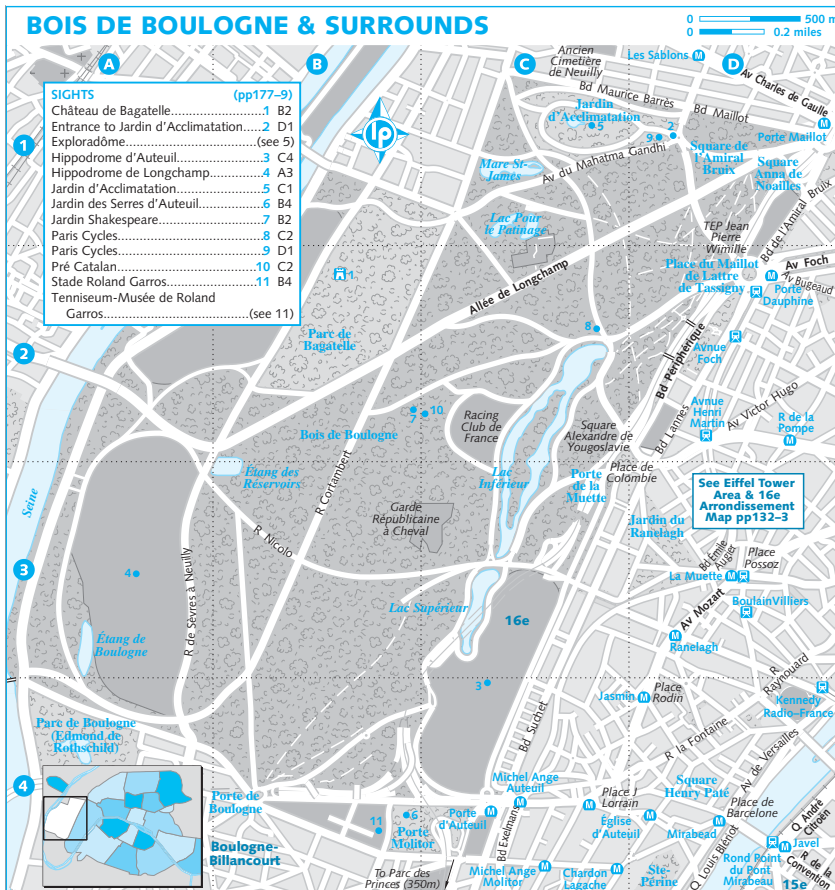
Sky-high future creations throw caution to the wind: the **Tour Air 2** (2012), a demolition-reconstruction job of the stubbier 1970s **Tour Aurore** on place des Reflets will measure 220m; the currently drab **Tour AXA** (1974) will hit 225m on the height chart and be rechristened **Tour CB31** in 2010. American architect Thom Mayne's **Tour Phare** (2012) will resemble a coiled sheet of woven metal and stand a record-breaking 300m tall, as will the **Tour Generali** (2012) which should practically tickle the clouds with its cluster of spiky spires. Most ground-breaking of all will be the 300m-tall **Tour Signal** (2012; www.tour-signal-ladefense.com), a project commissioned as a symbol of the area's third-millennium renaissance.

Reach La Défense by taking metro line 1 to the terminus (La Défense Grande Arche). RER Line A also serves that station; La Défense is in zone 3.

GARDENS & MONUMENTS Map p180

Le Parvis, place de la Défense & Esplanade du Général de Gaulle; M) **La Défense Grande Arche** or **Esplanade de la Défense**

The Parvis, place de la Défense and Esplanade du Général de Gaulle – a pleasant 1km walkway – is an open-air **contemporary**



TRANSPORT: LA DÉFENSE

Bus 73 from Musée d'Orsay, place de la Concorde or Charles de Gaulle-Étoile

Metro Line No 1 to La Défense Grande Arche (terminus)

RER Line A (station: La Défense Grande Arche); if you take the faster RER, remember that La Défense is in zone three and you must pay a supplement (€1.95) if you are carrying a travel pass for zones 1 and 2 only

art gallery. Calder, Miró, Agam, César and Torricini are among the international artists behind the colourful and often surprising sculptures and murals on **Voie des Sculptures** (Sculptures Way), the **Quartier du Parc** (Park District) west of the Grande Arche and **Jardins de l'Arche**, a 2km-long extension of the Axe Historique. Meandering around this skyscraper district in search of these works of art (see **opposite**) is fun.

GRANDE ARCHE DE LA DÉFENSE

Map p180

☎ 01 49 07 27 27; www.grandearche.com; 1 Parvis de la Défense; adult/6-17yr/under 6yr €9/7.50/free,

family pass €22, ☎ 10am-8pm Apr-Sep, to 7pm Oct-Mar; **M** La Défense Grande Arche
La Défense's draw card is the **Grande Arche** (Great Arch) – a remarkable, cube-like structure, 110m square, of white Carrara marble, grey granite and glass. It's constructed out of 3600 prefabricated cases, each 2.8m square and 800g in weight, and the entire construction rests on a dozen 30m-tall underground pillars. Scale the cigarettebutt-littered steps to the foot of this incredible arch for free and ponder its meaning as 'a window to the world, a symbol of hope for the future; that all men can meet freely'. Or pay to travel 1.6m per second to the 'roof' on the 35th floor, where temporary art exhibitions hang out alongside scaled models of the arch, a video showing its construction, a tacky-tacky souvenir shop and a soulless restaurant which, incredibly, boasts no view (avoid).

Most interesting is the outlook from the roof terrace over the 8km-long **Axe Historique** (Historic Axis), begun in 1640 by André Le Nôtre of Versailles fame and stretching from the Louvre's glass pyramid, along av des Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe, Porte Maillot and finally the Esplanade du

Général de Gaulle. The Grande Arche, home to government and business offices, marks the western end of this axis, although its maker, Danish architect Johan-Otto von Spretkelsen, deliberately placed the arch fractionally out of alignment with the Axe Historique (who wants perfection?!).

ÉGLISE NOTRE DAME DE LA PENTECÔTE

Map p180
☎ 01 47 75 83 25; <http://catholiques.aladefense.cef.fr>, in French; 1 place de la Défense; ☎ 8am-6.30pm Mon-Fri; **M** La Défense Grande Arche
When the crowds of suits gets you down, head for the futuristic Our Lady of the Pentecost Catholic Church and its sublime interior. Check out the flame-shaped pulpit, the image of the Virgin Mary that looks uncannily like the Buddha, and the individual chairs that unfold to create benches.

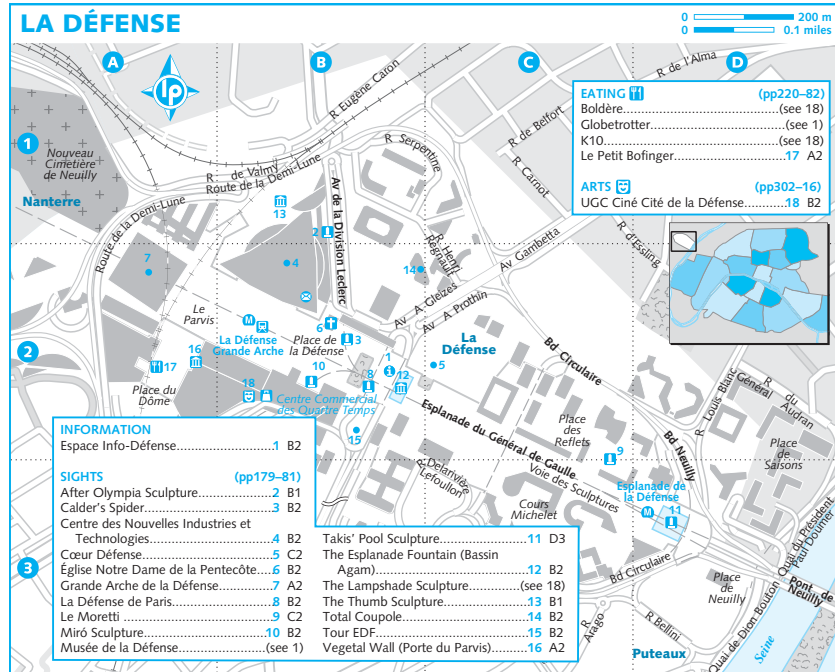
MUSÉE DE LA DÉFENSE

Map p180
☎ 01 47 74 84 24; www.ladefense.fr; 15 place de la Défense; admission free; ☎ 9am-5.15pm Mon-Fri; **M** La Défense Grande Arche
A trip to this space located just below the Espace-Info information centre is a real highlight. Drawings, architectural plans and scale models trace the development of the district from the 17th century to the present day. Especially fascinating are the projects that were never built: the 750m-tall Tour Tourisme TV (1961) by the Polak brothers; Hungarian-born artist Nicholas Schöffer's unspeakable Tour Lumière Cybernetique (1965), a 'Cybernetic Light Tower' that, at 324m, would stand at the same height as the Eiffel Tower; and the Tour sans Fin, a 'Never-Ending Tower' that would be 425m high, but just 39m in diameter. Ouch.

A WORK OF ART

La Défense is not only about architecture. A 12m-high thumb, an antique giant, a chunk of the Berlin Wall and a serpent that snakes underground with kids inside are among the many larger-than-life artworks that loiter between skyscrapers. Grab a copy of the illustrated *Guide to Works of Art* (€2.50) from La Défense's **information office** (p411) and hunt for art. Or stroll 'blind' and see what new treasures you find; a few more appear each year.

- *The Esplanade Fountain* (1975). Also called Bassin Agam or Fontaine Agam after its Palestinian kinetic-art creator, Yaacov Agam, this is actually a colourful, 86m-long pool tiled with Venetian mosaics and pierced by 66 fountains that dance to music at certain times of day (5pm to 7pm Sunday to Friday, to 8.30pm Friday and Saturday). Find it behind the tourist office.
- *Calder's Spider* (1974). It looks like a spider no one in their right mind would want to meet. Giant-sized and ferocious red, it struts its leggy stuff on place de la Défense.
- *Vegetal Wall* (2006). A mini version of the vertical garden that blooms on the **Musée du Quai Branly** (p134), this living wall of green shares the same creator, budding Parisian botanical artist Patrick Blanc. Find it next to the Porte du Parvis entrance of the Centre Commercial des Quatre Temps.
- *The Lampshade* (2006). Step inside the shopping centre through Porte du Parvis to see this fabulous light-sculpture hanging from the ceiling. Kiko Lopez crafted it from thousands of Swarovski crystals.
- *The Thumb* (1994). The 12m-tall bronze thumb that gives the thumbs-up on place Carpeaux is not any old thumb. Its maker, Marseille-born César, made it from a cast of his own. Left or right?
- *Le Moretti* (1990). Candy-striped with myriad reds, blues, yellows (19 colours in total), this industrial, 32m-tall ventilation shaft on place de l'Iris is one of several shafts in La Défense to be transformed as art. Nice-born Taymond Moretti (1931–2005) did it using 672 fibre-glass tubes. Lit at night, it's inspirational.
- *Takis' Pool* (1987). Plump on that historic axis is this large pool of water studded with 49 multi-coloured lights strung atop spiral metal poles of varying heights. The crystal-clear reflection of the surrounding buildings in the water is a quintessential photo-op.
- *The Four Heads* (2002). London artist Emily Young, one of several artists whose works mingle with skyscrapers in the Triangle de l'Arche district of La Défense, ranks among Britain's top female sculptors. Masculine stone heads are what you're looking for.
- *After Olympia* (1986–87). Olympia's Greek temple's ornamental façade is the inspiration behind the 23m-long heap of rusted painted steel on av de la Division Leclerc. The work of English sculptor Anthony Caro, its reflections in the glass buildings around it are as much a work of art as the work itself.
- *Miró figures* (1976). Ridiculing the strict symmetry of the surrounding blocks is this comic pair of bright blue, yellow and red figures in front of the Centre Commercial des Quatre Temp. In keeping with the oversized scale of things in La Défense, the Catalan surrealist's figures stand 11m and 12m tall.



ST-DENIS

Today just a suburb north of Paris' 18e arrondissement with a very mixed population, St-Denis was for some 1200 years the burial place of the kings of France. The ornate royal tombs, adorned with some truly remarkable statuary, and the Basilique de St-Denis (the world's first major Gothic structure) containing them are worth a visit and the town is easily accessible by metro in just 20 minutes or so. St-Denis also boasts the Stade de France, the futuristic stadium just south of the Canal de St-Denis where France beat Brazil to win the World Cup at home in 1998.

BASILIQUE DE ST-DENIS Map p182

☎ 01 48 09 83 54; www.monuments-nationaux.fr;
1 rue de la Légion d'Honneur; toms adult/senior,

student & 18-25yr €6.50/4.50, under 18yr free, 1st Sun of the month Nov-Mar free, basilica admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-6pm Sun Apr-Sep, 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun Oct-Mar; **M** Basilique de St-Denis

St-Denis Basilica was the burial place for all but a handful of France's kings and queens from Dagobert I (r 629-39) to Louis XVIII (r 1814-24), constituting one of Europe's most important collections of funerary sculpture; today the remains of 43 kings and 32 queens repose here. The single-towered basilica, begun around 1136, was the first major structure to be built in the Gothic style, serving as a model for other 12th-century French cathedrals, including the one at **Chartres** (p377). Features illustrating the transition from Romanesque to Gothic can be seen in the **choir** and **double ambulatory**, which

TRANSPORT: ST-DENIS

Metro Line 13 to Basilique de St-Denis station for the basilica and tourist office, to St-Denis-Porte de Paris station for the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire and the Stade de France (make sure to board a train heading for St-Denis Université, not for Gabriel Péri Asnières-Gennevilliers-Courtilles, as the line splits at La Fourche station)

RER Line B (station: La Plaine-Stade de France) for the Stade de France

Tram Line T1 links Bobigny Pablo Picasso station, the terminus of metro line 5, with Basilique de St-Denis station

are adorned with a number of 12th-century **stained-glass windows**. The **narthex** (the portico running along the western end of the basilica) also dates from this period. The **nave** and **transept** were built in the 13th century.

During the Revolution and the Reign of Terror, the basilica was devastated; remains from the royal tombs were dumped into the crypts, but most of the work was carried out by the Gothic Revivalist architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc from 1858 until his death in 1879. The **tombs** in the crypt are decorated with life-sized figures of the deceased. Those built before the Renaissance are adorned with **gisants** (recumbent figures). Those made after 1285 were carved from death masks and are thus fairly, well, lifelike; the 14 figures commissioned under Louis IX (St Louis; r 1214-70) are depictions of how earlier rulers *might* have looked. The oldest tombs (from around 1230) are those of Clovis I (d 511) and his son Childebert I (d 558). On no account should you miss the white marble catafalque tomb of Louis XII and Anne of Bretagne that dates from 1597. If you look carefully you'll see graffiti etched on the arms of the seated figures dating from the early 17th century. The Bourbon sepulchral

vault contains the remains of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette but not of the king's younger brother Charles X; there's a tomb, but his bones lie in a church in Nova Gorica in Slovenia.

Self-paced 1¼-hour audioguide tours of the basilica and tombs cost €4 (€6.50 for two sharing), available at the crypt ticket kiosk.

MUSÉE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE Map p182

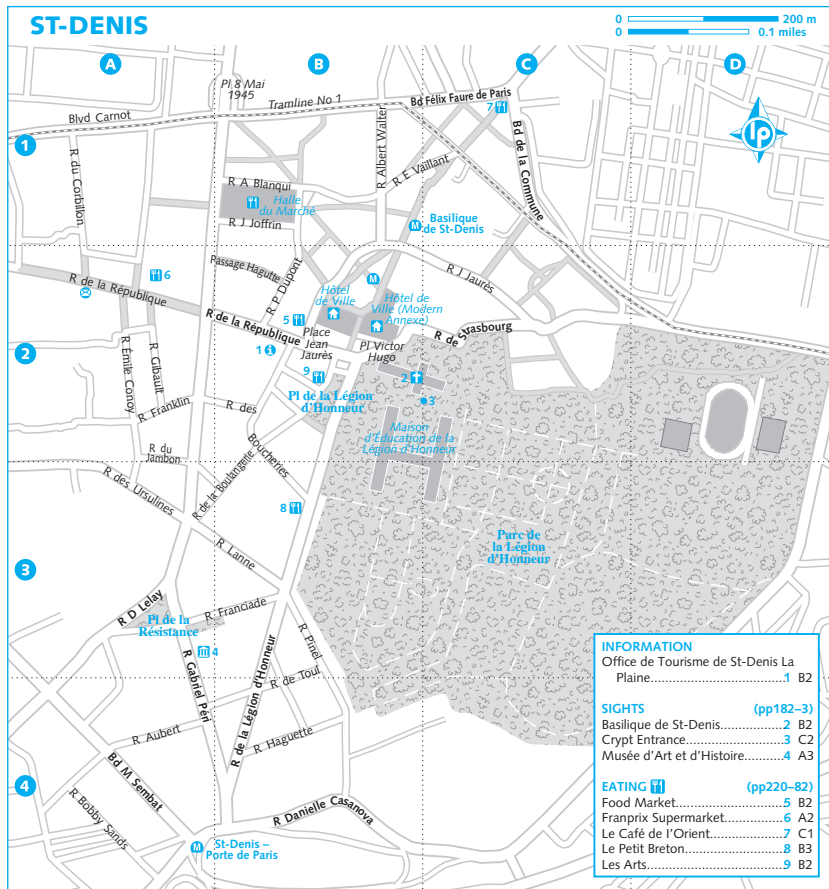
☎ 01 42 43 05 10; www.musee-saint-denis.fr, in French; 22bis rue Gabriel Péri; adult/student, senior & everyone on Sun €5/3, under 16yr free, 1st Sun of the month free; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon, Wed & Fri, to 8pm Thu, 2-6.30pm Sat & Sun; **M** St-Denis-Porte de Paris

To the southwest of the basilica is the Museum of Art and History, housed in a restored Carmelite convent founded in 1625 and later presided over by Louise de France, the youngest daughter of Louis XV. Displays include reconstructions of the Carmelites' cells, an 18th-century apothecary and, in the archaeology section, items found during excavations around the St Denis Basilica. There's a section on modern art, with a collection of work by a local son, the surrealist artist Paul Éluard (1895-1952), as well as an important collection of politically charged posters, cartoons, lithographs and paintings from the 1871 Paris Commune.

STADE DE FRANCE Map p182

☎ 08 92 70 09 00; www.stadefrance.com; rue Francis de Pressensé, ZAC du Cornillon Nord, 93216 St-Denis la Plaine; adult/student & 6-11yr €10/8, family pass €29, under 6yr free; ☎ tours on the hour in French 10am-5pm daily Apr-Aug, 4 to 5 daily Sep-Mar, in English 10.30am & 2.30pm Apr-Aug; **M** St-Denis-Porte de Paris

The 80,000-seat Stadium of France, just south of central St-Denis and in full view from rue Gabriel Péri, was built for the 1998 football World Cup, which France won by miraculously defeating Brazil 3-0. The futuristic and quite beautiful structure, with a roof the size of place de la Concorde, is used for football and rugby matches, major gymnastic events and big-ticket music concerts. It can be visited on guided tours only.



WALKING TOURS

MONTMARTRE ART ATTACK

Montmartre (from the French words *mont* for hill and *martyr*) has been a place of legend ever since St Denis was executed here c AD 250 and began his headless journey on foot to the village north of Paris that still bears his name (p182). In recent times the Montmartre of myth has been resurrected by music, books and especially films such as *Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain* (*Amélie* in English; 2002), which presented the district in various shades of rose, and *Moulin Rouge* (2001), which also made it pretty but gave it a bit more edge.

For centuries Montmartre was a simple country village filled with the *moulins* (mills) that supplied Paris with its flour. But when it was incorporated into the capital in 1860, its picturesque charm and low rents attracted painters and writers – especially after the Commune uprising of 1871 (see p26), which began here. The late 19th and early 20th centuries were Montmartre's heyday, when Toulouse-Lautrec drew his favourite cancan dancers and Picasso and Braque introduced the world to cubism.

After WWI such creative activity shifted to Montparnasse, but Montmartre retained an upbeat ambience that all the tourists in the world still can't spoil. The real attractions here, apart from the great views from the Butte de Montmartre (Montmartre Hill), are the area's little parks and steep, winding cobblestone streets, many of whose houses seem about to be engulfed by creeping vines and ivy.

In English-speaking countries, Montmartre's mystique of unconventionality has been magnified by the supposed notoriety of places like the Moulin Rouge, a nightclub on the edge of the Pigalle district that was founded in 1889 and is known for its scantily clad – ooohh la la! – chorus girls. The garish nightlife that Toulouse-Lautrec loved to portray has spread along Blvd de Clichy, and Pigalle has become decidedly sleazy, though really it's pretty tame stuff.

1 Moulin Rouge Begin the walk at the Blanche metro station. Diagonally opposite to the left is the legendary **Moulin Rouge** (p303) beneath its trademark red windmill.

2 Musée de l'Érotisme Appropriately located to the right is the **Musée de l'Érotisme** (p171),

an institution that portrays itself as educational rather than titillating. Yeah, right.

3 Café des Deux Moulins Walk up rue Lepic, which is lined with food shops, and halfway up on the left is the **Café des Deux Moulins** (☎ 01 42 54 90 50; 15 rue Lepic, 18e; ☎ 7am–2am), where our heroine Amélie worked in the eponymous film.

4 Van Gogh's house Follow the curve to the west; Théo Van Gogh owned the house at No 54; his brother, the artist Vincent, stayed with him on the 3rd floor for two years from 1886.

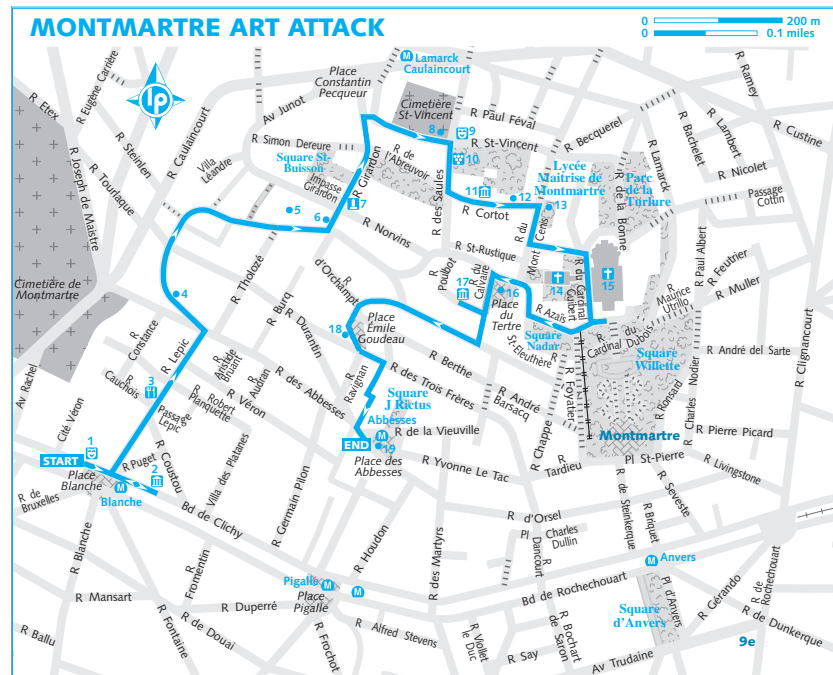
5 Moulin de la Galette Further along rue Lepic are Montmartre's famous twinned windmills. The Moulin de la Galette, the better known, was turned into a popular open-air dance hall in the late 19th century and was immortalised by Pierre-Auguste Renoir in his 1876 tableau *Le Bal du Moulin de La Galette*.

6 Moulin Radet About 100m to the east, at the corner of rue Girardon, is the Moulin Radet. Confusingly, it's now a restaurant called Le Moulin de la Galette.

7 Passe-Muraille statue Crossing through place Marcel Aymé, you'll see a curious statue of a man emerging from a stone wall. It's by the late actor Jean Marais and portrays Dutilleul, the hero of Marcel Aymé's short story *Le Passe-Muraille* (*The Walker through Walls*), who awakes one fine morning to discover he can do just what he's shown doing here.

8 Cimetière St-Vincent Turn left (north) into rue Girardon, cross through leafy square St-Buisson (Holy Bush) and past the charmingly named Allée des Brouillards (Fog Path) and descend the stairs from place Dalida into rue St-Vincent; on the other side of the wall is Cimetière St-Vincent, final resting place of the great and the good, including Maurice Utrillo (1883–1955), the so-called Painter of Montmartre.

9 Au Lapin Agile Just over rue des Saules is the celebrated cabaret **Au Lapin Agile** (p311), whose name seems to suggest a nimble rabbit but actually comes from *Le Lapin à Gill*, a mural of



WALK FACTS

Start Metro Blanche

End Metro Abbesses

Distance 2.5km

Time Two hours

Fuel stops Il Duca (p278), La Maison Rose (p280)

a rabbit jumping out of a cooking pot by caricaturist André Gill, which can still be seen on the western exterior wall. Among the cabaret's regulars was the poet Guillaume Apollinaire, the great proponent of cubism and futurism, who was killed in combat in 1918.

10 Close du Montmartre Turn right (south) onto rue des Saules. Just opposite is the Close du Montmartre, a small vineyard dating from 1933, whose 2000 vines produce an average of 850 bottles of wine each October (p15). They're auctioned off for charity in the 18e.

11 Musée de Montmartre You can buy sample bottles of the hooch at the **Musée de Montmartre** (p170), which is on rue Cortot at No 12–14, the first street on the left after the vine-

yard. The museum is housed in Montmartre's oldest building, a manor house built in the 17th century, and one-time home to painters Renoir, Utrillo and Raoul Dufy.

12 Eric Satie's house The celebrated composer lived from 1892 to 1898 in the house at 6 rue Cortot.

13 Water tower At the end of rue Cortot turn right (south) onto rue du Mont Cenis (the attractive water tower just opposite dates from the early 20th century), left onto (tiny) rue de Chevalier de la Barre and then right onto rue du Cardinal Guibert.

14 Église St-Pierre de Montmartre This will lead you past the back of Église St-Pierre de Montmartre. It was built on the site of a Roman temple to Mercury and did time as a 'Temple of Reason' under the Revolution and as a clothing factory during the Commune.

15 Basilique du Sacré Cœur The entrance to the **Basilique du Sacré Cœur** (p168) and the stunning vista over Paris from the steps and the place du Parvis du Sacré Cœur are just a few paces to the south.

16 Place du Tertre From the basilica follow rue Azaïs west, past the upper station of the funicular station, and then rue St-Eleuthère north into [place du Tertre \(p168\)](#) – arguably the most touristy place in all of Paris but buzzy and still fun.

17 Dalí Espace Montmartre Just off the southwestern side of the square is rue Poulbot, leading to the [Dalí Espace Montmartre \(p170\)](#) – surprisingly the only ‘art’ museum on the Butte.

18 Bateau Lavoir From place du Calvaire take the steps – actually rue du Calvaire – into rue Gabrielle, turning right (west) to reach place Émile Goudeau. At No 11bis is the so-called Bateau Lavoir, where Kees Van Dongen, Max Jacob, Amedeo Modigliani and Pablo Picasso, who painted his seminal *Les Demoiselles d’Avignon* (1907) here, once lived in great poverty, in an old piano factory later used as a laundry that Jacob dubbed the ‘Laundry Boat’ because of the way it swayed in a strong breeze. Originally at No 13, the Bateau Lavoir burned down in 1970 and was rebuilt in 1978 on this spot.

19 Abbesses metro entrance Take the steps down from place Émile Goudeau and follow rue des Abbesses south into place des Abbesses, where you can’t miss the Abbesses metro entrance designed by Hector Guimard (see boxed text, [p156](#)).

PARISIAN ROUND-THE-WORLD TOUR

And you thought it was all berets, baguettes and bistros... To be sure, Paris is and will always be *français* – the couturiers will continue to spin their glad rags, the *boulangeries* (bakeries) will churn out those long, crispy loaves and the terrace cafés will remain the places to watch the world go by. But it’s a much more international world nowadays, and *Paris Mondial* (World Paris), a diverse, dynamic, multicultural city, vibrates to its rhythms.

France ruled a considerable part of the world until the middle of the 20th century, and today its population includes a large number of immigrants and their descendants from its former colonies and protectorates in Africa, Indochina, the Middle East, India, the Caribbean and the South Pacific. At the same time, France has continued to accept significant

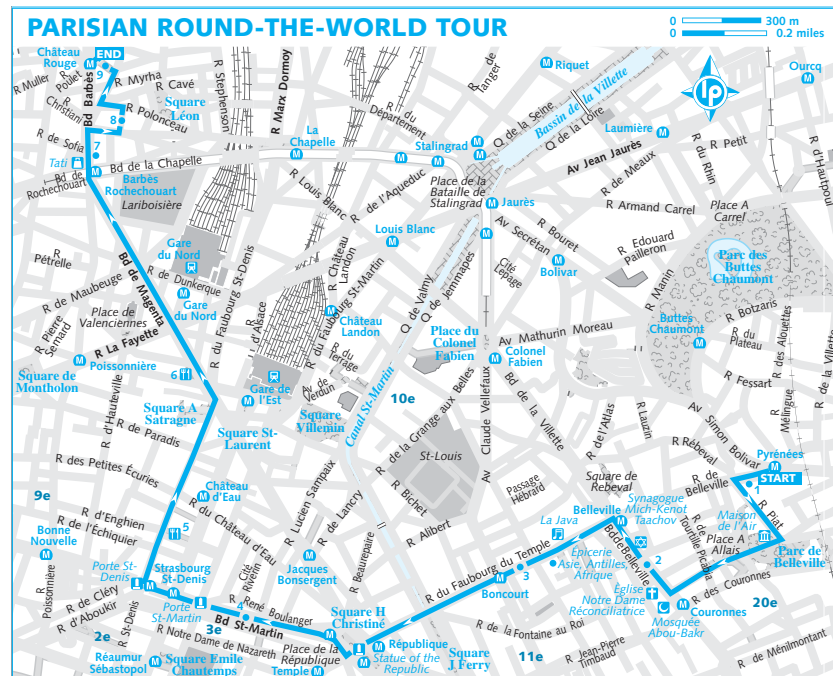
numbers of exiles and refugees from around the world. Most of these immigrants have settled in specific areas of the capital, especially Belleville in the 19e and 20e, rue du Faubourg St-Denis in the 10e and La Goutte d’Or and Château Rouge in the 18e. A stroll through these quarters will have you touring the globe without even boarding an aeroplane.

1 Birthplace of Édith Piaf Begin the walk at the Pyrénées metro stop in Belleville, a district where Jewish kosher and Muslim halal butchers share the same streets with cavernous Chinese noodle shops, their windows festooned with dripping *cha siu* (roast pork). Walk west on rue de Belleville, past the birthplace of Édith Piaf at No 72, and turn left (south) onto rue Piat, which you will be forgiven for thinking says ‘Piaf’. Rue Piat will bring you to the [Parc de Belleville \(p154\)](#) which, at 200m above sea level, affords some of the best views in what is a very flat city.

2 Boulevard de Belleville Descend the steps at 27 rue Piat, which lead to the [Maison de l’Air \(p154\)](#) exhibition space, and follow the path downhill to the right to passage de Pékin and rue de Pali Kao to blvd de Belleville. This boulevard is a microcosm of *Paris Mondial* and on market mornings (see [p231](#)), you might think you’ve been transported to the Mediterranean, Africa or even Asia. At No 39 is the Mosquée Abou Bakr as Sadiq, just a few doors down from the modern Église Notre Dame Réconciliatrice, a Sri Lankan Christian church at No 57. About 100m up on the right-hand – or Tunisian – side of the street is the Synagogue Michkenot Yaachov at No 118.

3 Rue du Faubourg du Temple Walk north up blvd de Belleville and turn left (west) onto rue du Faubourg du Temple. The walk along rue du Faubourg du Temple to place de la République is a long one and you can take the metro for a couple of stops. But in doing so you’d miss the vibrancy and assorted sights: [La Java \(p310\)](#) at No 105, where Piaf once warbled, and the Épicerie Asie, Antilles, Afrique, which sells goods from three worlds. Once you’ve crossed the placid Canal St-Martin, the enormous place de la République, where many political rallies and demonstrations in Paris start and/or end, and its statue of the Republic (erected in 1883), pops into view.

4 Boulevard St-Martin Make your way to place de la République’s northwest corner and



follow blvd St-Martin past the [Porte St-Martin](#) and the [Porte St-Denis \(p151\)](#).

5 Passage Brady Turn right (north) and follow rue du Faubourg St-Denis, the main artery linking Tamil Nadu with Turkey. [Passage Brady \(p268\)](#) at No 46, built in 1828 and once housing 100 tiny boutiques, is now a warren of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi cafés and restaurants and the perfect spot for a break and some refuelling. Alternatively you might pop into a Turkish *çay salonu* (tea house) or *döner yemek ve çorba salon* (kebab and soup restaurant), which offer kebabs, soup, *pide* (Turkish pizza, for lack of a better term) and *lahmacun* (thin pitta bread topped with minced meat, tomatoes, onions and fresh parsley) for a cheap and tasty snack.

6 Marché St-Quentin Turn left onto blvd de Magenta and carry on north past the 19th-century [Marché St-Quentin \(p231\)](#) and the Gare du Nord.

7 North African quarter The big pink sign announcing the [Tati department store \(p217\)](#) marks the start of La Goutte d’Or, the North African quarter called the ‘Golden Drop’ after a white

WALK FACTS

Start Metro Pyrénées
End Metro Château Rouge
Distance 8km
Time 3½ hours
Fuel stop Istanbul ([p268](#)), Passage Brady ([p268](#))

wine that was produced here in the 19th century. The district is contiguous with African Château Rouge and outside the metro station you’ll most likely be presented with the calling cards of various *médiums* (mediums) or *voyants* (fortune tellers) promising to effect the return of your estranged spouse, unrequited love or misspent fortune. From the Barbès Rochechouart metro stop walk north up blvd Barbès past numerous goldsmiths with dazzling window displays. Turn east into rue de la Goutte d’Or, a great souk of a street selling everything from gaudy tea glasses and pointy-toed leather *babouches* (slippers) to belly dancers’ costumes. From every direction the sounds of *rai* (a fusion of Algerian folk music and rock) fill the air.

8 Villa Poissonnière A gate at 42 rue de la Goutte d’Or gives way to Villa Poissonnière,

Nos 19, 32 and 46) and secondhand bookshops (No 74–76) are getting fewer and fewer. The *passage* has a long literary pedigree: Paul Verlaine (1844–96) drank absinthe here and Céline (1894–1961) grew up in his mother's shop at No 62, which now sells costume jewellery. Check out the Théâtre des Bouffes Parisiens, where comedies are performed, at No 61 (the main theatre is around the corner at 4 rue Monsigny, 2e).

10 Bourse de Commerce Leave passage Choiseul at 23 rue St-Augustin and walk eastwards to where the street meets rue du Quatre Septembre. The building across the square is the **Bourse de Commerce** (p90), built in 1826. Head north and walk up rue Vivienne, and then east along rue St-Marc.

11 Passage des Panoramas The entrance to the mazelike passage des Panoramas is at 10 rue St-Marc. Built in 1800, passage des Panoramas is the oldest covered arcade in Paris and the first to be lit by gas (1817). It was expanded in 1834 with the addition of four other interconnecting *passages*: Feydeau, Montmartre, St-Marc and Variétés. It's a bit faded around the edges now, but keep an eye open for Jean-Paul Belmondo's Théâtre des Variétés at No 17, the erstwhile vaudeville Théâtre d'Offenbach, from where spectators would come out to shop during the interval, and the old engraver Stern at No 47. Exit at 11 blvd Montmartre.

12 Passage Jouffroy Directly across the road, at 10–12 blvd Montmartre, is the entrance to passage Jouffroy. Passage Jouffroy, the last major *passage* to open in Paris (1846) – and the first to use metal and glass in its skylights and to have central heating – remains a personal favourite; no other *passage* offers so much or feels so alive. There are two hotels here, including the **Hôtel Chopin** (p354), as well as the **Musée Grévin** (p147) of wax figures. There are also some wonderful boutiques, including the bookshops Librairie du Passage (Nos 39 and 48), with lots of old postcards, and Paul Vulin (No 46–50); M&G Segas (No 34), where Toulouse-Lautrec bought his walking sticks; Brési-ophile (No 40) filled with colourful rocks and minerals; and Cinedoc (Nos 45–53) with film posters, books and postcards for collectors.

13 Passage Verdeau Leave passage Jouffroy at 9 rue de la Grange Batelière, cross the road to No 6, and enter passage Verdeau, the

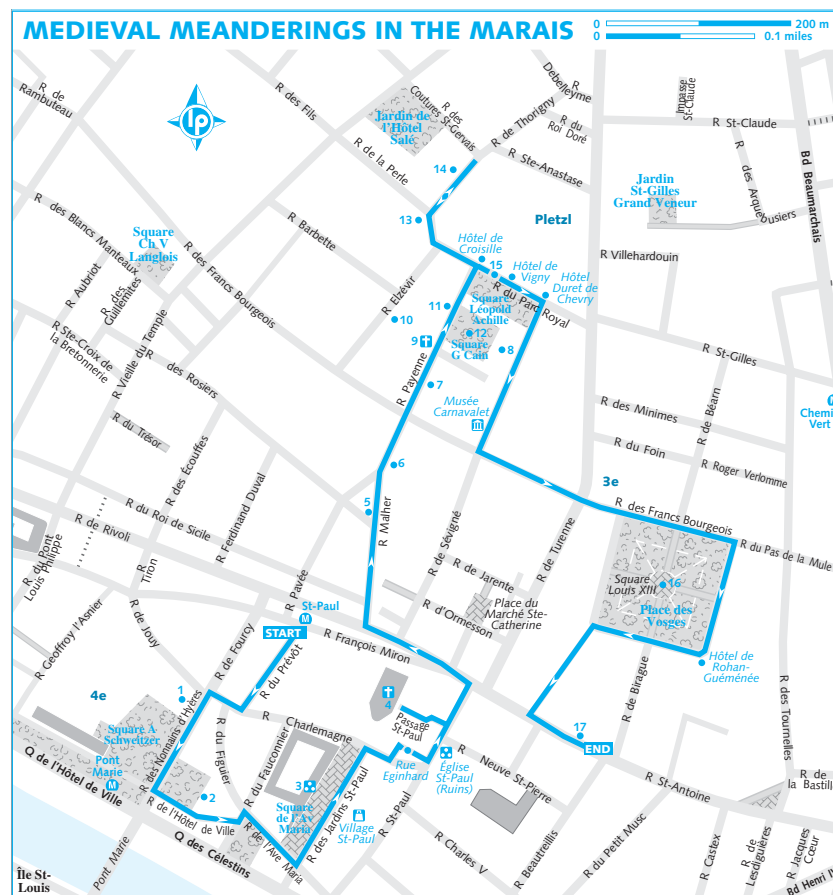
last and most modest of this stretch of covered arcades. Verdeau wasn't particularly successful because of its 'end-of-the-line' location. Still, there's lots to explore here: Le Cabinet des Curieux (No 12) with weird and curious objects; daguerreotypes at Photo Verdeau (No 14); vintage Tintin and comic books at Librairie Roland Buret (No 6); and needlepoint at Le Bonheur des Dames (No 8). The northern exit from passage Verdeau is at 31bis rue du Faubourg Montmartre.

MEDIEVAL MEANDERINGS IN THE MARAIS

Monks and the Knights Templar settled in the Marais as early as the 13th century, which explains the religious nature of many of its street names (eg rue du Temple, rue des Blancs Manteaux). But it wasn't until Henri IV began construction of place Royale (now place des Vosges) in the early 17th century that the aristocracy began building the *hôtels particuliers* (private mansions) and *pavillons* (somewhat less-grand houses) so characteristic of the district. These gold- and cream-coloured brick buildings are among the most beautiful Renaissance structures in the city and, because so many were built at more or less the same time, the Marais enjoys an architectural harmony unknown elsewhere in Paris.

The golden age of the Marais' *hôtels particuliers* was the 17th century, though construction continued into the first half of the 18th. The removal of the royal court – lock, stock and satin slipper – to Versailles in 1692 sounded the death knell for the Marais, and the mansions passed into the hands of commoners, who used them as warehouses, markets and shops. The quarter was given a major face-lift in the late 1960s and early '70s, and today many of the *hôtels particuliers* house government offices, libraries and museums.

1 Hôtel d'Aumont Begin the tour at St-Paul metro station on rue François Miron, 4e, facing rue de Rivoli. Walk south on narrow rue du Prévôt to rue Charlemagne, once called rue des Prestres (Street of the Priests). To the right (west) on the corner of rue des Nonnains d'Hyères at 7 rue de Jouy stands the majestic Hôtel d'Aumont, built around 1650 for a financier and one of the most beautiful *hôtels particuliers* in the Marais. It now contains offices of the Tribunal Administratif, the body that deals with – *sacré bleu!* – internal



disputes in the bloated and litigious French civil service.

2 Hôtel de Sens Continue south along rue des Nonnains d'Hyères, past the Hôtel d'Aumont's geometrical gardens on the right and turn left (east) onto rue de l'Hôtel de Ville. On the left at 1 rue du Figuier is Hôtel de Sens, the oldest private mansion in the Marais. Begun around 1475, it was built as the Paris digs for the powerful archbishops of Sens, under whose authority Paris fell at the time. When Paris was made an archbishopric, the Hôtel de Sens was rented out to coach drivers, fruit sellers, a hatter and even a jam-maker. It was heavily restored in mock Gothic style (complete with turrets) in 1911; today it houses the **Bibliothèque Forney** (Forney Library; ☎ 01 42 78 14 60; admission free; 🕒 1-7.30pm Tue,

WALK FACTS

Start Metro St-Paul

End Hôtel de Sully (Metro St-Paul)

Distance 2km

Time 1½ hours

Fuel stops Centre Culturel Suédois (p288), Ma Bourgogne (p239)

Fri & Sat, 10am–7.30pm Wed & Thu) and its temporary exhibitions.

3 Philippe-Auguste's enceinte Continue southeast along rue de l'Ave Maria and then go northeast along rue des Jardins de St-Paul. The two truncated and crumbling towers across the basketball courts on the left are all that remain of Philippe-Auguste's *enceinte*, a

fortified medieval wall built around 1190 and once guarded by 39 towers. They are now part of the prestigious Lycée Charlemagne. On the opposite side of rue des Jardins de St-Paul are the entrances to Village St-Paul, a courtyard of antique shops and designer boutiques.

4 Église St-Paul St-Louis Cross over rue Charlemagne and duck into narrow rue Eginhard, a street with a tiny courtyard and a grated well built during the reign of Louis XIII. The street doglegs into rue St-Paul; at the corner above 23 rue Neuve St-Pierre, housing a bed-linen shop, are the remains of the medieval Église St-Paul. A bit further north, tiny passage St-Paul leads to the side entrance of the [Église St-Paul St-Louis](#) (☎ 01 42 72 30 32; ☞ 8am–8pm Mon–Sat, 9.30am–12.30pm & 4–7pm Sun), a Jesuit church completed in 1641 during the Counter-Reformation.

5 Former boulangerie-pâtisserie Rue St-Paul debouches into rue St-Antoine. Turn left, passing the front entrance of Église St-Paul St-Louis at No 99, cross over rue de Rivoli and head north up rue Malher. A former *boulangerie-pâtisserie*, or bakery-cake shop, at No 13 (now a clothes shop) has fine old shop signs advertising *pains de seigle et gruau* (rye and wheat breads), *gateaux secs* (biscuits) and *chaussons de pommes* (apple turnovers).

6 Hôtel Lamoignon Continue north on rue Pavée (Paved Street), the first cobbled road in Paris. At No 24 stands Hôtel Lamoignon, built between 1585 and 1612 for Diane de France (1538–1619), duchess of Angoulême and legitimised daughter of Henri II. It is a fine example of late Renaissance architecture; note the Corinthian capitals in the courtyard and, above the main gate, the cherubs holding a mirror (symbolising truth) and a snake (for prudence). It now houses the [Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris](#) (☎ 01 44 59 29 40; ☞ 1–6pm Mon–Fri, 9.30am–6pm Sat).

7 Hôtel Carnavalet Walk north along rue Payenne. The building immediately on the right at No 2 is the back of the mid-16th-century, Renaissance-style Hôtel Carnavalet, built between 1548 and 1654 and home to the letter-writer Madame de Sévigné (1626–96).

8 Hôtel Le Peletier de St-Fargeau Further north is the Hôtel Le Peletier de St-Fargeau, which dates from the late 17th century. With

the Hôtel Carnavalet, it now contains the [Musée Carnavalet](#) (p96).

9 Chapelle de l'Humanité At 5 rue Payenne is a Chapelle de l'Humanité, a Revolutionary-era 'Temple of Reason'; the quote on the façade reads: 'Love as the principal, order as the base, progress as the goal'.

10 Hôtel Donon From the grille just past the Chapelle de l'Humanité, you can see the rear of Hôtel Donon at 8 rue Elzévir, built in 1598 and now the [Musée Cognac-Jay](#) (p96).

11 Hôtel de Marle At 11 rue Payenne is the lovely Hôtel de Marle, built in the late 16th century and now the [Centre Culturel Suédois](#) (p288), the Swedish Cultural Institute, with a wonderful café.

12 Square George Cain Opposite Hôtel de Marle is a pretty green space called square George Cain, with the remains of what was once the Hôtel de Ville on the south wall. Have a look at the relief of Judgement Day and the one-handed clock on the tympanum (the façade beneath the roof) on the southern side.

13 Hôtel de Libéral Bruant From the square walk a short distance northwest to more spectacular 17th-century *hôtels particuliers*: Hôtel de Libéral Bruant at 1 rue de la Perle is now a gallery.

14 Hôtel Salé Northeast of Hôtel de Libéral Bruant is another prize example of a 17th-century *hôtel particulier*: Hôtel Salé at 5 rue de Thorigny, whose three floors and vaulted cellars house the wonderful [Musée Picasso](#) (p96).

15 Rue du Parc Royal Retrace your steps to rue du Parc Royal. Heading east you'll pass three wonderful *hôtels*: Hôtel de Croisille at No 12, Hôtel de Vigny at No 10 and pink-brick Hôtel Duret de Chevy at No 8, the loveliest of the trio. All of these date from about 1620 and now do civic duty as archives and historical libraries.

16 Place des Vosges Walk south down rue de Sévigné and then follow rue des Francs Bourgeois eastwards to the sublime [place des Vosges](#) (p91), which has four symmetrical fountains and an 1829 copy of a mounted statue of Louis XIII, originally placed here in 1639. In the southeastern corner at No 6 is Hôtel de Rohan-Guéméné, home to Victor Hugo for

16 years in the first half of the 19th century and now the [Maison de Victor Hugo](#) (p91).

17 Hôtel de Sully In the southwestern corner of place des Vosges is the back entrance to [Hôtel de Sully](#) (p96), a restored aristocratic mansion at 62 rue St-Antoine built in 1624. Behind the hôtel are two beautifully decorated late Renaissance-style courtyards, both of which are festooned with allegorical reliefs of the seasons and the elements. In the northern courtyard look to the southern side for spring (flowers and a bird in hand) and summer (wheat); in the southern courtyard turn to the northern side for autumn (grapes) and winter, with a symbol representing both the end of the year and the end of life. On the western side of the second courtyard are 'air' on the left and 'fire' on the right. On the eastern side look for 'earth' on the left and 'water' on the right.

LATIN QUARTER LITERARY LOOP

Writers have found their way to Paris ever since that 16th-century hedonist François Rabelais forsook his monastic vows and high-tailed it to the capital. The 1920s saw the greatest influx of outsiders, particularly Americans. Many assume it was Paris' reputation for liberal thought and relaxed morals that attracted the likes of Ernest Hemingway, F Scott Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound and so on, but that's just part of the story. Paris was cheap, particularly the Left Bank, and in France, unlike in Prohibition-era America, you could drink alcohol to your heart's (or liver's) content.

1 James Joyce's flat Begin your tour at the Cardinal Lemoine metro station, where rue du Cardinal Lemoine meets rue Monge, 5e. Walk southwest along rue du Cardinal Lemoine, peering down the passageway at No 71, which may or may not be closed off. The Irish writer James Joyce (1882–1941) lived in the courtyard flat at the back marked 'E' when he first arrived in Paris in 1921, and it was here that he finished editing *Ulysses*.

2 Ernest Hemingway's apartment Further south at 74 rue du Cardinal Lemoine is the 3rd-floor apartment where Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961) lived with his first wife Hadley from January 1922 until August 1923. The flat figures prominently in his book of memoirs, *A Moveable Feast*, from which the

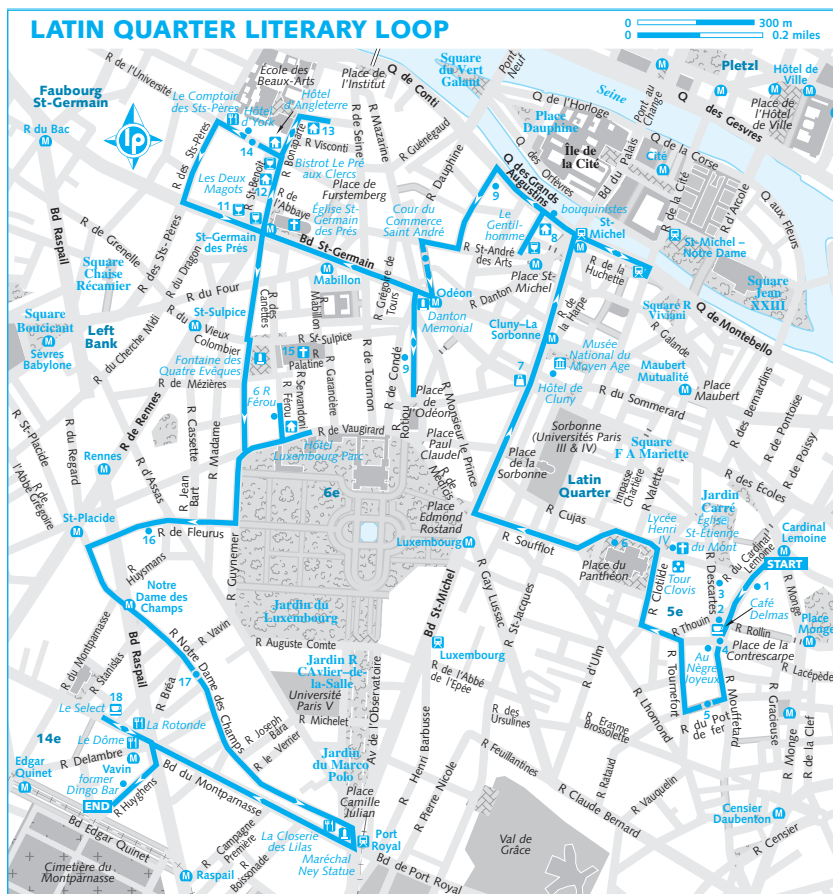
quotation on the wall plaque (in French) is taken: 'This is how Paris was in our youth when we were very poor and very happy.' Just below the flat was the Bal au Printemps, a popular *bal musette* (dancing club), which served as the model for the one where Jake Barnes met Brett Ashley in Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. It is now the bookshop [Librairie Les Alizés](#) (The Trade Winds; ☎ 01 43 25 20 03; ☞ 10am–12.30pm & 1.30–9pm Tue–Fri, 10am–12.30pm & 1.30–7pm Mon & Sat, 2–7pm Sun), specialising in new and second-hand books by American writers.

3 Paul Verlaine's garret Hemingway lived on rue du Cardinal Lemoine, but he wrote in a top-floor garret of a hotel round the corner at 39 rue Descartes, the very hotel where the poet Paul Verlaine (1844–96) had died less than three decades before. The plaque, on what is now a restaurant aptly called La Maison de Verlaine, incorrectly states that Hemingway lived here from 1921 to 1925. Japanese historical novelist Kunio Tsuji lived here from 1980 to 1999.

4 Place de la Contrescarpe Rue Descartes runs south into place de la Contrescarpe, now a well-scrubbed square with four Judas trees and a fountain, but once a 'cesspool' (or so Hemingway said), especially the Café des Amateurs at No 2–4, which is now the popular [Café Delmas](#) (p290). The Au Nègre Joyeux, above a small supermarket at No 12, which sports a large painting of a jolly black servant and his white master, was another popular music club in the early 20th century.

5 George Orwell's boarding house Rue Mouffetard (from *mofette*, meaning 'skunk') runs south of place de la Contrescarpe. Turn west (right) at the first street on the right (pedestrian rue du Pot de Fer); in 1928 one Eric Blair – better known to the world as George Orwell (1903–50) – stayed in a cheap and dirty boarding house above 6 rue du Pot de Fer called the Hôtel des Trois Moineaux (Hotel of the Three Sparrows) while working as a dishwasher. He wrote all about it and the street, which he called 'rue du Coq d'Or' (Street of the Golden Rooster), in *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933).

6 Place du Panthéon Turn north (right) onto rue Tournefort (the street where much of Balzac's novel *Père Goriot* takes place) and go left into rue de l'Estrapade. From here follow Hemingway's own directions provided



WALK FACTS

Start Metro Cardinal Lemoine

End Former Dingo Bar (Metro Vavin)

Distance 7km

Time Three hours

Fuel stops Les Deux Magots (p292) or Café de Flore (p292)

Moyen Age (p114). The cafés on place St-Michel were taken over by tourists decades ago, and **Shakespeare & Company** (p208) around the corner at 37 rue de la Bûcherie has nothing to do with the real bookshop of that name frequented by Hemingway, but that comes later in the tour.

8 Jack Kerouac's hotel Follow the Seine west along quai des Grands Augustins. Hem-

ingway used to buy books from the *bouquinistes* (secondhand booksellers), some of whom still line the embankment. To the south, at No 9 of tiny rue Git Le Cœur, is the Relais Hôtel du Vieux Paris, a favourite of poet Allen Ginsberg (1926–97) and Beat writer Jack Kerouac (1922–69) in the 1950s. (There's a not-wholly-substantiated story that when Truman Capote first read Kerouac's stream-of-consciousness *On the Road* he exclaimed, 'That's not writing – that's typewriting!') Ginsberg and Kerouac drank just down the road in a bar called Le Gentilhomme at 28 rue St-André des Arts, now an Irish pub called Corcoran's.

7 Boulevard St-Michel Continue around the northern edge of place du Panthéon and walk west along rue Soufflot, past the bounty of bookshops that line both sides of the street. Turn right onto bd St-Michel and follow it past Hôtel de Cluny, now the **Musée National du**

9 Picasso's studio Pablo Picasso (1881–1973) had his studio at 7 rue des Grands Augustins, the street that runs south from quai des Grands Augustins. Picasso lived here from 1936 to 1955 and completed his masterpiece *Guernica* here in 1937 – exactly a century after Balzac's *Le Chef d'Œuvre Inconnu* (The Unknown Masterpiece), set in this *hôtel particulier*, was published.

10 Shakespeare & Company – The Original Walk south to rue St-André des Arts, follow it westwards and then turn south through Cour du Commerce Saint André, a covered passage that empties into bd St-Germain opposite the statue of Georges Danton. At 12 rue de l'Odéon, the street running south, stood the original Shakespeare & Company bookshop, where founder-owner Sylvia Beach (1887–1962) lent books to Hemingway, and edited, retyped and published *Ulysses* for Joyce in 1922. The bookshop was closed during the occupation when Beach refused to sell her last copy of Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake* to a Nazi officer.

11 Sartre & de Beauvoir's hang-outs Return to bd St-Germain and walk westwards to the 11th-century **Eglise St-Germain des Prés** (p115). Opposite is **Les Deux Magots** (p292) and beyond it **Café de Flore** (p292), favourite hang-outs of post-war Left Bank intellectuals such as Jean-Paul Sartre (1905–80) and Simone de Beauvoir (1908–86) and good (though pricey) places to stop for a snack or a drink.

12 Henry Miller's room From place St-Germain des Prés walk north along rue Bonaparte. In spring 1930 Henry Miller (1891–1980) stayed in a 5th-floor mansard room in Hôtel St-Germain des Prés at No 36 and later wrote about the experience in *Letters to*

Emil (1989). The philosopher Auguste Comté (1798–1857), the founder of positivism, lived in the same building from 1818 to 1822. A few doors down at No 30 is the Bistrot Le Pré aux Clercs, another Hemingway hang-out.

13 Oscar Wilde's hotel Continue north on rue Bonaparte and turn east onto rue des Beaux-Arts. Walk to No 13 and you'll reach what is now **L'Hôtel** (p346), the former Hôtel d'Alsace, where Oscar Wilde (b 1854) died of meningitis in 1900. But not before proclaiming, in his typical style, that he and the wallpaper of his room were 'fighting a duel to the death' (see boxed text, p154). The Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges (1899–1986) also stayed in the same hotel many times in the late 1970s and early '80s.

14 Rue Jacob This street running perpendicular to rue Bonaparte has literary associations from the sublime to the ridiculous. At No 44, **Hôtel d'Angleterre** (p347) is where Hemingway spent his first night in Paris (in room No 14 on 20 December 1921). A few doors down at No 56, the former Hôtel d'York is of great historic, if not literary, significance – this is where David Hartley, George III's representative, met with Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and John Hay on 3 September 1783 to sign the treaty recognising American independence.

At 52 rue Jacob is a nondescript café called Le Comptoir des Sts-Pères, which under normal circumstances would not deserve a second glance. But this was the fashionable restaurant Michaud's, where Hemingway stood outside watching Joyce and his family dine and, later, when he was on the inside looking out, where a memorable event may – or may not – have taken place. According to Hemingway in his *A Moveable Feast*, the writer F Scott Fitzgerald (1896–1940), concerned about not being able to sexually satisfy his wife, Zelda, asked Hemingway to inspect him in the café's toilet. 'It is not basically a question of the size in repose...' Hemingway advised him, in what could be one of best examples of the 'big lie' in American literary history.

15 Église St-Sulpice Go south on rue des Saints Pères, then east on bd St-Germain and south on rue Bonaparte. Follow it south past **Eglise St-Sulpice** (p115), where a pivotal clue is left and a murder takes place in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. It eventually leads to the northwestern corner of the Jardin du

Luxembourg, rue de Vaugirard and the Fontaine des Quatre Évêques (Fountain of the Four Bishops).

16 Gertrude Stein's home After slumming it for a few years in the Latin Quarter, Hemingway and many other members of the so-called Lost Generation moved to this area. In 1925 William Faulkner (1897–1962) spent a few months at 42 rue de Vaugirard in what is now the posh Hôtel Luxembourg Parc. Hemingway spent his last few years in Paris in a rather grand flat at 6 rue Férou, within easy striking (the operative word, as they had fallen out – and big time – by then) distance of 27 rue de Fleurus, where the American novelist Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) first lived with her brother Leo, and then her lifelong companion, Alice B Toklas, for 35 years. Stein entertained such luminaries as Matisse, Picasso, Braque, Gauguin, Pound and of course the young Hemingway and Hadley, who were treated as though they were 'very good, well-mannered and promising children' according to the latter. It's odd to think that this splendid *belle époque* block (1894) was less than 10 years old when Stein first moved here in 1903.

17 Rue Notre Dame des Champs Ezra Pound (1885–1972) lived not far away at 70bis

rue Notre Dame des Champs in a flat filled with Japanese paintings and with packing crates posing as furniture, as did Katherine Anne Porter (1890–1980) in the same flat in 1934. Hemingway's first apartment in this part of town was above a sawmill at 113 rue Notre Dames des Champs, now part of the École Alsacienne (Alsatian School) complex. Further east is [La Closerie des Lilas \(p258\)](#) on blvd du Montparnasse, where Hemingway often met John Dos Passos or just sat alone, contemplating the Maréchal Ney statue in front of it.

18 Literary Cafés Port Royal metro station, where you might end the tour, is just opposite. West of here and clustered around place Pablo Picasso and Vavin metro station is a couple of café-restaurants that have hosted more literary luminaries than any others in the world: [Le Dôme \(p258\)](#) and, as Jake Barnes puts it in *The Sun Also Rises*, 'that new dive, the [Select](#)' (p293). Just off blvd Raspail at 10 rue Delambre is the former Dingo Bar, now a restaurant. It was here that Hemingway, the ambitious, middle-class kid from the Midwest, and Fitzgerald, the well-heeled, dissolute Princeton graduate, met for the first time, became friends (of sorts) and went on to change the face of American literature. For at least one of us, the erstwhile Dingo is a church.