**Paris Sights or Things to Do**

Sample three day visit—Day 1 Visit Ile de la Cite (Notre Dame, Latin Quarter & Sainte-Chapelle) Louvre Night Cruise the Seine

Day 2 Champs-Elysees (Arc de Triomphe), Orsay Museum or Rodin Museum or visit Eiffel Tower

Day 3 Army Museum and Napoleon’s Tomb or Art Museum Sacre-Coeur and Montmartre or better yet visit Versailles (I would consider moving this up to Day 2)

1. **Louvre**—with a controversial glass pyramid entrance to this world-renowned museum, it displays many of the best art in the world, to include Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa. Metro Louvre-Rivoli. Closed Tuesday. Admission charge. ([www.louvre.com.fr](http://www.louvre.com.fr))
2. **Orsay Museum**—in a restored train station, this collection of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art is outstanding. Metro Stop Solferino then walk 3 blocks southeast to museum. Admission charge. Closed Mondays. ([www.musee-orsay.fr](http://www.musee-orsay.fr))
3. **Sainte-Chapelle**—this Gothic church was built in only 6 years to house the Crown of Thorns. Located on the Ile de la Cite. Metro Stop Cite.
4. **Eiffel Tower**—built for the World Exhibition of 1889, this is the most recognized landmark of Paris—some say in the world. It is almost 1,000 ft tall and has 4 elevators to carry spectators to viewing platforms. Admission charge—the higher you go the more you pay. ([www.tour-eiffel.fr](http://www.tour-eiffel.fr)) Metro Bir-Hakeim or Trocadero + walk from either.
5. **Arc de Triomphe**—this monument was built by Napoleon to commemorate his victories. Beneath the arch is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, with an Eternal Flame burning to honor all unknowns lost in battle. Metro Charles de Gaulle-Etoile. Use underground passage way to reach the arch. Outside is free; admission charge for museum inside (284 steps to get there).
6. **Versailles**—this is the palace that every King wanted—opulent, innovative rooms like the stunning Hall of Mirrors, gardens, statues and fountains made of gold—there never has been a palace that displayed the wealth and power like Versailles. Closed Mondays. Admission charge. To get to Versailles, take the RER-C train to Versailles R.G or Rive Gauche. Then turn right out of the train station and then turn left on first boulevard (large divided road). About a 10 minute walk. Take the train—a taxi will cost 50 Euros or more from Paris. ([www.chateauversailles.fr](http://www.chateauversailles.fr)) Plan for at least 5 hours—an hour each way and 3 on the grounds or more.
7. **Orangerie Museum**—this is an Impressionist museum that features artists Monet, Utrillo, Cezanne, Renoir, Matisse and Picasso. Closed Tuesday. ([www.musee-orangerie.fr](http://www.musee-orangerie.fr)) Admission charge. Admission charge. Metro Stop Concorde.
8. **Notre-Dame Cathedral**—located in the middle of the River Seine on the Ile de la Cite, Notre Dame is probably the best known cathedral in the world. This Gothic church complete with flying buttresses, immense rose windows and 3 entrances that remind all who enter about the proper way to live their lives, is a must see site. Free but to climb south tower admission charge (400 steps). Metro stop Cite.
9. **Army Museum and Napoleon’s Tomb**—this is the final resting place for the emperor who lies under a grand dome covered with 26 pounds of gold. He is surrounded by other French war heroes. The Army museum covers WW I, WW II and the Napoleonic period. Admission charged (free for military with ID). Closed on some Mondays. Metro stop La-Tour-Maubourg, Varenne or Invalides. ([www.invalides.org](http://www.invalides.org))
10. **Marmottan Museum**—an art museum that focuses on Claude Monet’s works. There are over 100 items on display. ([www.marmottan.com](http://www.marmottan.com)) Closed on Mondays. Admission charge. Metro La Muette.
11. **Rodin Museum**—on display here are the well known works of Auguste Rodin. There are two parts to this museum—the gardens with his most famous large sculptures and the mansion where he lived and worked, where you will learn about his development as an artist. ([www.musee-rodin.fr](http://www.musee-rodin.fr)) Closed on Mondays. Admission charge (can buy gardens only (best works) or combo pass). Metro stop Varenne
12. **Cluny Museum**—a museum of middle age art. The prized pieces on display are the 5 panels of tapestries called the Lady and Unicorn, in which a noble lady introduces an Unicorn to the senses of taste, hearing, sight, smell and touch. ([www.musee-moyenage.fr](http://www.musee-moyenage.fr)) Admission charged. Metro stop Cluny-La Sorbonne, St. Michel or Odeon.
13. **Champs-Elysees**—stretching from the Arc de Triomphe to the Palce de la Concorde; this magnificent boulevard is part of life and celebrations in Paris. Metro Stops Concorde; Franklin D. Roosevelt; George V or Charles de Gaulle-Etoile.
14. **Pompidou Center**—opened in 1977; this unusual building is home to the National Museum of Art. The collection is modern art. Its distinctive design of glass and steel wrapped in colorful tubes has created mixed reviews. Admission charge. Metro stop Rambuteau. ([www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr))
15. **Picasso Museum**—this is the world’s largest collection of Picasso’s art. It includes paintings, sculptures, sketches and ceramics. Closed on Tuesdays. ([www.musee-picasso.fr](http://www.musee-picasso.fr)) admission charge. Metro stop St. Paul or Chemin Vert.
16. **Sacre-Coeur**—this famous basilica is located atop the hilly Montmartre, was built as a peace offering after the Franco-Prussian War. Very good views are possible from the platform outside the dome. The 5 domed-basilica took 44 years to build. Church is free but the climb up the tight and claustrophobic spiral staircase will cost you an admission fee. Metro stop Anvers
17. **Spend some time in a Café**—an afternoon to sit and watch the world go by—outdoor cafes are the best for people watching.
18. **Walk the Seine**—bookstores, people strolling—this is a great way to see Paris relaxed. There is a great flower market on the Ile de la Cite open Monday thru Saturday.
19. **Window shopping**—Faubourg St. Honore is the home to Hermès, Dior, Chanel, Gaultier, Vuitton, Givenchy and Yves Saint Laurent.
20. **Visit the Open Air Markets**—food and stalls—buy a picnic!
21. **Eat in a Bistro & Brasserie**--Bistros are small, moderately priced restaurants. Some bistros serve regional and traditional dishes while others provide more modern fare. If you want to eat in a large restaurant with lots of people, look for a Brasserie. They have large menus and most are open all day and late into the night. Do not expect quick meals—meals are cooked to order, often your visit will be more than an hour. By law menus are posted outside—figure out what you want and the price you want to pay. Food is an art here—trust your instincts—crowded with a lot of French speakers probably means very good.
22. **Take a Seine Cruise**—usually one hour, best at night especially during hot summer nights but they can get really crowded. Fee charged

**Getting Around Paris**

Best way to see the city is a combination of walking and the Metro. The Métro is the fastest and most efficient way to get around Paris. All lines have a different number and color, and the final destination of each line, which will tell you which direction the train is going in, is clearly marked on subway maps, and in the system's underground passageways. The RER train system serves the outlying regions—Versailles, Disneyland Paris and Charles de Gaulle Airport.

**Day Trips from Paris**

1. **Chartres Cathedral**—an hour train trip from Paris, a pilgrimage site, it’s huge. Take a train from Paris’ Gare Montparnasse. Plan on 3 hours getting there and back plus time to see the Cathedral. Church is free but climb of north tower has a fee.
2. **Giverny**—home & gardens of Claude Monet (some are disappointed a busy road D-5 runs through site splitting house area and gardens but there is an underpass to get to the two parts). Tough to get to by train—Vernon station is 4 miles from Giverny but a Vernon-Giverny bus takes 15 minutes and is in sync with train arrival(departs pretty shortly after train arrival). From Paris’ Gare St. Lazare Station take train to Vernon (about 45 minutes). Many tour companies have tour to Giverny. Admission charge.
3. **Disneyland Paris**—Mickey Mouse land in French, lots of rides and things for kids or adults who want to be kids again. To get there, take RER line 4-A to Marne-la-Vallee-Chessy; takes about an hour.
4. **Rouen**—sights Notre Dame Cathedral, half-timbered buildings, Big Clock, Joan of Arc Museum and Joan of Arc Church. To get there from Paris, use Gare St. Lazare to Rouen, about 1 hour, to 1 ½ hour ride.
5. **Reims**—sights, Cathedral and champagne tasting (Mums(800 m north of Reims Centre train station), Taittinger, Piper Heidsieck and Martel 30+ min walk southeast from station). To get there from Paris take the TVG train—it takes 45 min from Gare de l’Est to Champagne-Ardenne TGV station. Then take navette train to Reims-Centre. 15 minute walk to Cathedral.