

Hôtel de Ville, (place de l'Hôtel de Ville, 4e), for its reception rooms and library. Advance booking required, as far ahead as possible - contact: visites. hdv@paris.fr *"Extraordinary library from the 1870s with arched steel beams encased in wood spanning the room."*

Librarie Ulyssie, (26, rue Saint-Louis en l'Île, 4e), an old small bookshop specializing in maps, guides, and travel books. A gold mine for discovering rare books and deep dives into the history of the world.

Shakespeare and Company, (37, rue de la Bûcherie, 5e), the famous bookstore that has served expats for decades. *"While this spot may be a bit touristy, this bookstore is a must see. The great collection offers books for everyone. The rare bookstore is a great space to see first editions of some of the most famous books. The second floor with its piano and various reading nooks, is another great place to escape and enjoy a book."*

Centquatre (104), (5, rue Curial, 19e), *"Former factory converted into a huge forum for various galleries, exhibitions, shows, etc. Super fun vibes from the exhibitions shown."*

3. EATING & DRINKING

CAFES & BARS

The classic Saint-Germain haunts: **Les Deux Magots**, (6, place Saint-Germain-des-Prés, 6e) and **Café Flore**, (172, boulevard Saint-Germain-des-Prés, 6e).

Student recommendations:

Café Nuances, (25, rue Danielle Casanova, 1e), *"If you're looking for '3rd wave' coffee look no further! Situated in between the Louvre and Palais Garnier, the coffee is top notch and the storefront itself is designed to look like a boutique concept store. It's a vibe as the cool kids would say. They also do really awesome collabs with other local shops/stores/restaurants."*

Happy Nouilles, (95, rue Beaubourg, 3e), *"Very affordable noodles made in front of you. Perfect to eat after visiting Centre Pompidou."*

L'As du Falafel vs. Mi-Va-Mi, (34, and 23, rue des Rosiers, 4e), *"Two falafel shops in the Marais that compete for Paris' best falafel sandwich. My personal favorite is L'As, but they are closed on the weekends."*

Mariage Frères, (30, rue du Bourg Tibourg, 4e), *"Expensive, but uniquely Parisian experience of a tearoom. You can just go to the cafe for a pot of tea and some food."*

Les Philosophes, (28, rue Vieille-du-Temple, 4e), *"Somewhat touristy but very old-school place for a French meal, wonderful crowded atmosphere. Also check out the bar La Belle Hortense opposite the street kept by the same owner, a cross between bar/cave/library."*

Le Comptoir Général, (84, quai de Jemmapes, 10e), *"An excellent cocktail bar just off the Canal Saint Martin with a fantastical interior that is part museum, part shipwreck, and part secret garden."*

Chapel, (25, rue de la Forge Royale, 11e), *"For very high quality coffee, this small spot serves great pour-over coffee to order. They also have homemade pies, breads, and cookies. We also once spoke to the owner's mom, who is an architecture professor."*

Fulgurances, en face, (5, rue Alexandre Dumas, 11e), *"Very cozy wine bar!"*

Graine, (54, rue Oberkampf, 11e), *"one of my favorite bakeries. Can't decide between a pain-au-chocolat or a croissant-aux-amandes? Try their pain-au-chocolat-aux-amandes: it's the best of both worlds."*

Nouille Shop, (201, rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine, 11e), *"Chinese noodles, perfect to eat on a cold day. They also serve good dumplings. The owner was previously a designer before starting the restaurant with his wife."*

Pho Tai, (13, rue Philibert Lucot, Paris 13e), *"Best noodles I've had in a Pho. Very affordable."*

RICE ARCHITECTURE PARIS FAVORITE RESTAURANTS NEARBY

Bistrot Paul Bert, (18, rue Paul Bert, 11e), excellent traditional bistro.

Ciamato, (80, rue du Charonne, 11e), a great "oyster bar" owned by **Septime**, next door, serving small shareable plates, mostly seafood. Always packed, open late at night.

L'Ebauchoir, (45, rue de Citeaux, 12e), just off the Faubourg Saint Antoine, great lunch atmosphere and value.

Les Provinces, (20, rue d'Aligre, 12e), a great butcher shop with a few tables to sit at and be served the best cuts of meat, cooked to perfection, and washed down with a carafe of earthy red wine. Start with a *planche de cochonnaille*, an assortment of house-cured cold cuts.

La Table d'Aligre, (11, place d'Aligre, 12e), excellent seafood restaurant, freshest fish from the Marché d'Aligre, great value prix-fixe menus at lunch.

WINE SHOPS & WINE BARS

La Dernière Goutte, (6, rue Bourbon de Château, 6e), wine shop run by Miami ex-pat Juan Sanchez, organizes free Saturdays tastings (*dégustations*). It's a chance to meet winemakers from all over France and test their wares. Juan also owns the wonderful **Fish** and **Semilla** restaurants on the rue de Seine, as well as a *tapas* and wine bar, **Freddy's** next door. Juan also owns **Cosi**, highly recommended for sandwiches, made with freshly-baked in their wood-fired oven, *focaccia*, next door to **Freddy's**.

L'Avant Comptoir, (9, carrefour de l'Odéon, 6e), nearby you'll find Yves Camdeborde's buzzing small plates wine bar, no reservations or table seating, counter space only.

Septime La Cave, (3, rue Basfroi, 11e), a tiny bar serving incredible wines, owned by the one-star Septime, where one can wait to be called by phone to be seated at **Ciamato**, just around the corner.

Le Baron Rouge, (1, rue Théophile Roussel, 12e), the kind of old-fashioned wine bar that makes no concessions to fashion, well-loved by regulars and visitors alike.

Le Siffleur de Ballons, (34, rue de Cîteaux, 12e), a modern and attractive Parisian wine bar run by the same team as the L'Ebauchoir restaurant across the street.

MARKETS

Marché d'Aligre, (place and rue d'Aligre, 12e), this exuberant market, indoors in the 18th century market building, and on the place and street outside, is one of the last remaining daily market in Paris (mornings except Mondays). It combines food stalls, the covered market, a flea market, small specialist food stores, and some great unpretentious restaurants nearby (see previous list).

Marché des Enfants Rouges, (39, rue de Bretagne, 3e), this tiny, compact market occupies a permanent site, and is part street market and part covered hall. Tucked into the Marais, it contains a number of street-food type vendors and benches where you can enjoy a casual meal.

Rice School of Architecture Paris

This irreverent guide was originally prepared for the 15th anniversary celebrations of RSAP by the Fall 2017 students, and updated for the 20th anniversary celebrations by the Fall 2022 students. (Student comments in red)

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A Completely Biased Guide to

Paris

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Rice Architecture Paris

Why we love Paris!

1. EXPLORING THE CITY

WALKS

Paris Passages: A stroll through the predominantly 19th-century covered arcades that feature many charming stores, restaurants, tea rooms, wine bars, etc. Most are concentrated in the 2nd arrondissement in the Grands Boulevards district. Suggested itinerary: starting from the Passage Verdaud, continuing through the Passage Jouffroy and Passage des Panoramas (all near Grands Boulevards metro stop), head south past the Bourse and take a right on the rue Saint Augustin to link up with the Passage Choiseul, then head east past the old national library (BNF Richelieu) to the Galerie Colbert and Galerie Vivienne. From there, you are just across the road from the back entrance to the Palais Royal gardens, where you can finish your stroll along the Galerie de Valois lining one side of the gardens.

METRO: Grands Boulevards (start of itinerary), Palais Royal (end of itinerary)
Note: This is also a good shopping itinerary.

“One of my favorite afternoons in Paris was spent wandering from passage to passage, exploring an entirely different streetscape hidden inside the city blocks. Bonus: it’s a great way to explore even if the weather isn’t ideal.”

East Paris: Off the beaten track from Belleville to the Buttes-Chaumont Belleville is a traditionally working class, multi-ethnic neighborhood, making for a fascinating contrast with the more sedate and stately districts of the center and west of the city. Start at Belleville metro stop, follow the rue de Belleville up the hill. Keep an eye out for the flourishing street art scene as well as several new, hip cafés and restaurants (for example on the rue Denoyez at the base of the hill). When you reach the metro Pyrénées take a moment to turn around and enjoy the view. From here you can take a left on the avenue Simon Bolivar which will take you to the Buttes-Chaumont park, Haussmann’s major contribution to east Paris, a dramatically landscaped park where you’ll run into a vibrant mix of Parisian communities and generations. Alternatively, you can continue straight on the rue de Belleville as far as Jourdain and enjoy the village-like quality of this neighborhood with plenty opportunities for a coffee or lunch.

METRO: Belleville (start of itinerary), Jourdain or Buttes-Chaumont (end of itinerary, depending on route followed)
Note: This is a very hilly itinerary! For those willing to explore further, climb the hill just to the west of the Buttes-Chaumont park, the Butte Bergeyre, to discover a charming micro-quarter that feels isolated from the rest of Paris.

Père Lachaise Cemetery: start from the top of the cemetery and work your way downhill. Go to the place Gambetta (metro Gambetta)-the very short avenue du Père-Lachaise leads you to the back entrance of the cemetery. Take a photo of the cemetery map at the entrance and enjoy the sense of wandering through history as you make your way through the labyrinth of graves. Several parts of the cemetery are highly charged with history, the southwestern corner in particular, which features a memorial plaque to the Paris Commune as well as a series of striking memorials to the victims of the Nazi concentration camps in World War Two. This area is most easily reached by going immediately left when entering from the Gambetta side and continuing along the perimeter of the cemetery.

METRO: Gambetta (start of itinerary), Père Lachaise (end of itinerary)
“A beautiful cemetery to walk through for an hour or two, especially in the autumn while the leaves are changing. I live nearby and enjoy taking a walk in the mornings with a coffee and baguette.”

Canal Saint Martin: Start from the recently redesigned place de la République, a traditional gathering point for demonstrations, a role that has been magnified since the massive pedestrianization of the plaza in 2013. Take a moment to walk around the massive statue of Marianne and study the allegories of Liberté, Égalité and Fraternité as well as the high-reliefs depicting scenes from French Republican history. Head northeast on the rue du Faubourg du Temple and then left and continue along the canal. Not much further north of there is one of Paris’ newest cultural hotspots, the CentQuatre (also known as the 104, listed under Other Visits), located at 5, rue Curial, 19e and housed in the gigantic former headquarters of the city funeral services. It opens from 12pm every day and hosts a variety of events, exhibitions and activities as well as a restaurant and café.

METRO: République
Note: This itinerary can just as easily be done in reverse. There are many places to eat in the vicinity of the canal, in particular the Verre Volé on the rue Lancry (reservations advisable).
“Beautiful urban waterway with a variety of restaurants, bars, and shops along the side. Recommended walk: start at the Stalingrad plaza and take a fifteen-minute walk down the canal to treat yourself with a micro-brew pint on the patio overlooking the water at Paname Brewing Company.”

Street Art Tours: For those interested in guided tours on the street art theme, try Paris Street Art tours: <http://streetartparis.fr/street-art-tours-paris/> They organize tours in Belleville, the Left Bank and Montmartre.

Student recommendations:

Rue Mouffetard, 5e, *“This is the street that I live on but it’s a great place to explore the Latin quarter. There are dozens of restaurants, cafes, shops, and stands to check out. My boulangerie is Le Fournil de Mouffetard which carries great baguettes.”*

Rue Crémieux, 12e, *“Right by school and really close to the Gare de Lyon is a cute street with painted facades that is very similar to streets in Notting Hill.”*

GARDENS AND SQUARES

Paris has a large number of public parks and each has its own specific character. Some of the parks listed below feature on the recommended walks but all are destinations in their own right:

Jardin des Plantes, 1e, a spectacular botanical garden and zoo around the National Museum of Natural History, well worth a visit. (Metro: Austerlitz).

Place Dauphine, 1e, unusual triangle-shaped public place, at the tip of Île de la Cité, planned by Henri IV, wonderful intimate space. (Metro: Pont Neuf).

Palais Royal, 1e, Cardinal Richelieu’s former palace, the public space surrounded by arcades is one of the best examples of 17th-century urban space. (Metro: Palais Royal-Musé du Louvre).

Jardin des Tuileries, 1e, Catherine de Medici’s garden for the Tuileries Palace between the Louvre and the place de la Concorde, opened to the public after the French Revolution is a spectacular place to stroll, jog or have a picnic. (Metro: Tuileries).

Place des Vosges, 4e, *“Beautiful, lively plaza to take a stroll through, with several cafes and art galleries nearby.”* (Metro: Saint-Paul).

Jardin de Luxembourg, 6e, *“This is a beautiful park that has the former royal residence which is now a meeting place for the French senate. I go for a run here a few times a week and use the free gym equipment in the gardens. It’s a nice place to walk around and also close to the Pantheon. Around the corner is Bread and Roses, a great restaurant and cafe for breakfast and snacks.”* (RER B: Luxembourg).

Parc de Bercy, 12e, also from the 90’s, part of the redevelopment of the wine shipping docks, including shops and restaurants, Bercy Village (Metro: Cour Saint-Emilian).

Parc André Citroën, 15e, from the 90’s, a competition winner on the old Citroën car factory (Metro: Balard).

Parc des Buttes-Chaumont, 19e, an unusual park set on sloping grounds, combines natural and formal landscapes. *“The most beautiful park in Paris in my opinion, located in the 19th arrondissement. Filled with rolling hills and spectacular views of the city skyline, it’s a great place for a walk or picnic.”* (Metro: Buttes-Chaumont).

2. CULTURE

MUSEUMS

In addition to the well known museums like the Louvre and the Musée d’Orsay, the following Paris museums have much to offer:

Musé de L’Orangerie, Jardin des Tuileries, 1e, great impressionist and post-impressionist art, beautiful space.

Musée des Arts Décoratifs, (107, rue de Rivoli, 1e), always good design shows.

Musée de Commerce - Pinault Collection, (2, rue de Viarmes, 1e), *“New museum in the old Stock Exchange by Tadao Ando.”*

Centre Pompidou, (place Georges-Pompidou, 3e), the iconic Piano + Rogers museum showing contemporary art.

Picasso Museum, (5, rue de Thorigny, 3e), most extensive collection of Picasso’s work.

Musée Carnavalet, (23, rue de Sévigné, 4e), newly restored, great history of Paris.

Pavillon de l’Arsenal, (21, boulevard Morland, 4e), *“Great exhibitions on the city’s history, urban development and architecture in parallel with timely special exhibitions - It was Japanese architecture in Paris last time I went.”*

Musée de Cluny, (28, rue du Sommerard, 5e), museum of the Middle Ages.

L’Institut du Monde Arabe, (1, rue des Fossés Saint-Bernard, 5e), *“Jean Nouvel’s building contains great exhibitions on the modern and historic Arab world. Stunning views, especially of Notre Dame, on the roof level.”*

Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, (37, quai Branly, 7e), Jean Novel’s museum on indigenous art and culture.

Musée Rodin, (77, rue de Varenne, 7e), *“Wonderful collection of Rodin’s sculptures in a garden near the Invalides. Worth a visit on a sunny day. Be sure to download the Musée Rodin app on your phone, it makes the trip much more interesting.”*

Grand Palais, (3, avenue du Général Eisenhower, 8e), built for the Universal Exposition of 1900, the grand glazed hall holds large-scale installations.

Jeu de Paume, (1, place de la Concorde, 8e), best museum for photographs.

Cartier Foundation, (261, boulevard Raspail, 14e), *“Contemporary art museum with smaller exhibitions and a lovely garden.”*

Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine, (1, place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre, 16e), *“Interesting museum and library with great views of Paris/ Eiffel Tour from the third floor.”*

Fondation Louis Vuitton, (8, avenue du Mahatma Gandhi, 16e), *“Frank Gehry’s new museum”*

Musée Marmottan Monet, (2, rue Louis Boilly, 16e), extensive collection of Monet’s work.

Palais de Tokyo, (3, avenue du Président Wilson, 16), contemporary art in an avant-garde setting, designed by Lacaton-Vassal, an early project.

OTHER VISITS

Sainte Chapelle, (10, boulevard du Palais, 1e), an example of gothic architecture with remarkable stained glass, try to attend a Sunday concert here.

La Samaritaine, (9, rue de la Monnaie, 1e), SANAA’s remodel of the famous department store, which includes the Cheval Blanc Hotel.

OFR Bookshop, (20, rue Dupetit-Thouars, 3e), has some architecture books too but more focused on art.

Volume, (47, rue Notre Dame de Nazareth, 3e), small architecture specific bookstore in the Marais with a wonderful selection of French and English books about design.

Librairie Yvon Lambert, (14, rue des Filles du Calvaire, 3e), a wonderful arts and architecture bookstore with a small gallery in the back, they also publish beautiful little books and catalogs.

Fondation Galeries Lafayette, (9, rue du Plâtre, 4e), OMA refurbished a 19th-century industrial building where exhibits and other events are held.

Halle Saint-Pierre, (2, rue Ronsard, 18e), a small gallery that showcases examples of outsider and more “brutal” art, very nice counterpoint to all the fine art in other museums.