

RIVER SEINE PARIS

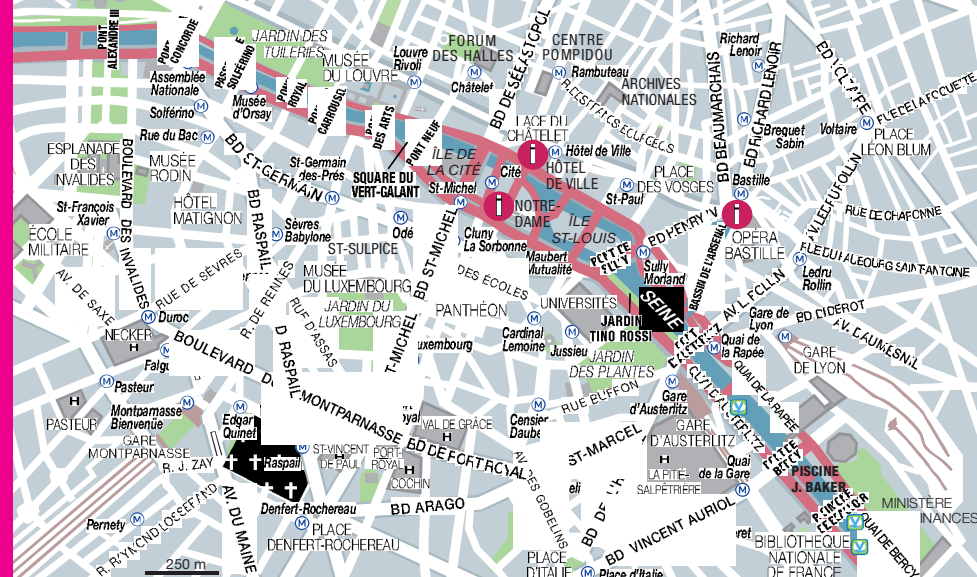
Following the Seine through Paris is a way of enjoying a thousand different escapades on the river, its bridges and islands. Daytime or night time, Left Bank or Right Bank, you will appreciate the buzz of activity along the quaysides and the lapping of the waves. There are any number of ways to relax – aboard a boat, cycling, walking briskly, sauntering lazily, or working out, dining, dancing on barges, exploring an area between two exhibitions, taking a post-shopping break, or sunbathing in a swimsuit. You never fail to be filled with wonder at these riverbanks, classed as a world heritage site by Unesco.

Through the arch of a bridge you'll catch sight of the Grand and Petit Palais, people fishing, mallard ducks circling in the water, the Louvre playing hide and seek with a pleasure boat, Notre-Dame looming up to the sound of a street musician playing a violin and, in the distance, the silhouette of a crane in a naval construction yard between weeping willow trees.

Paris owes its motto to the Seine, *fluctuat nec mergitur* – “it is buffeted by the waves but does not sink”. The Seine tells the story of Paris, from its birthplace on the Île de la Cité to the transformation of the quays at Bercy upstream and the triumphant Eiffel Tower downstream.



Bridges • River Seine • Quays • Ports



- M** Pont-de-l'Alma (RER C) • Musée-d'Orsay (RER C) • Alma-Marceau (line 9) • Cité (line 4) • Sully-Morland (line 7) • Saint-Michel (line 4) • Quai de la Gare (line 5)

DON'T MISS

Bridges of Paris

These thirty-seven bridges offer stunning views of the city seen from the river and recount thirty-seven wonderful stories of kings, battles, legends etc, to discover with the wind in your hair. Since it was built in 1604, the Pont Neuf, Paris's oldest bridge with its 385 sculpted masks and famous half-moon-shaped turrets, has seen the entire history of Paris go by. The Pont Alexandre III, star of the 1900 Exposition Universelle, is a celebration of Franco-Russian friendship with an exuberance of sculpted nymphs and garlands, bronze candelabras and gleaming gold equestrian statuary. The Pont des Arts – the haunt of lovers – is also a favourite place to linger for dreamers and picnickers, as is the Léopold-Sédar-Senghor footbridge, which links the Musée d'Orsay to the Tuileries gardens. The city's most recent bridge is the Simone de Beauvoir wooden footbridge, which links

the weighty knowledge of the Bibliothèque Nationale library to the gardens of Bercy in a graceful, uplifting arch. That leaves thirty-two bridges: discover your favourite.



Seine riverside booksellers

For four hundred years, booksellers offering an array of great and less familiar literature have lined the embankment walls on both sides of the river, from the Pont Royal to the Pont de Sully. Each of these small green boxes offers up a marvellous assortment of rare books, original editions, engravings, postcards, illustrated journals, comic strips, novels, or intriguing odds and ends, to passers-by.

Joséphine-Baker swimming pool

Maybe you didn't know, but floating baths were already fashionable in the 18th century. There were once several on the Seine. The Joséphine Baker swimming pool, moored on the Left Bank, reaffirms the genre in a version that is high-tech and ecologically-friendly, with all modern comforts. Facilities include a main pool and a 50 sq.m. paddling pool for children. There are also solariums, saunas, a hammam, a Jacuzzi, and a fitness and weights room. **Port de la Gare. Quai François-Mauriac (13th). M° Bibliothèque-F.-Mitterrand. Information (opening times, prices and activities): www.paris.fr**



DISCOVER

Square du Vert-Galant

Henry IV was not considered a Don Juan or a Casanova, simply because they hadn't been born when he was alive. However, this great king of France was well-known for his amorous exploits. This square, accessible from the steps on the Pont Neuf, carries its royal nickname to great effect and forms the western point of the Île de la Cité. The equestrian statue of the monarch dominates the small garden and forms an intimate haven of calm, or romance – if your heart be so inclined – from which to admire the two banks of the Seine, its bridges and monuments.



Port de l'Arsenal

The port has everything from landing stages and little boats to a harbour master's office, gulls, and seafood restaurants. Without the Colonne de Juillet rearing its head nearby, one would almost think this

FAUNA AND FLORA

Good news! Fish and aquatic flora are returning to the Seine and the canals of Paris thanks to an improvement in water quality. Some twenty different species of fish are now present, including chub, gudgeon, pike, bream and roach. Keeping them company, and sometimes in competition with the fishermen, common gulls, black-headed gulls, grey wagtails and kingfishers animate the riverbanks, not forgetting mallard ducks, and even coots in winter.



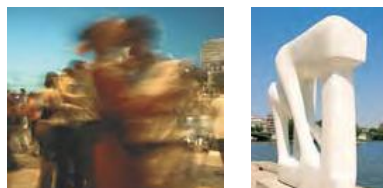
marina was a seaside harbour. Sheltered from the river's ebb and flow by a lock, the canal basin of this former mercantile port links the River Seine with the Canal Saint-Martin. The port provides 180 mooring spots and a picturesque terraced garden where you can step back onto terra firma amid the roses.



DID YOU KNOW?

Those firemen are everywhere, even near the Pont Neuf, on a floating fire station. From here, they can patrol the Seine in dinghies or in light watercraft. Rescue, evacuation, assistance to boats, floods, fire along the waterside – whatever the emergency, they're on the alert.

Jardin Tino-Rossi



The Saint-Bernard quayside on the Left Bank, between Pont de Sully and Pont d'Austerlitz, has been turned into a pleasant garden featuring works by contemporary artists like Brancusi, César and Gilioli. During the day this outdoor sculpture museum is a paradise for joggers and walkers, while on spring and summer evenings, it becomes an open-air dance floor. Aficionados and beginners from all over the world meet up here to dance the salsa, rock and tango by the waterside. Magical moments guaranteed!



VEDETTES DE PARIS

The sightseeing cruise of Paris: Get the best in 1 hour

www.vedettesdeparis.com

Location:

Right by the Eiffel Tower

Port de Suffren, 7th district - tel: + 00 33 (0)1 44 18 19 50

M° Bir-Hakeim & Trocadero; RER C Champs de Mars

The Parisian sightseeing cruise has to be at the top of your list of things to do when in the French capital.

Ideally located right by the Eiffel Tower, its charming boats enhance the pleasure of a guided cruise on the River Seine. Listed by the UNESCO World Heritage, the river banks offer you some of the most appreciated and well-known monuments such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and Notre Dame Cathedral amongst others.

Recorded multilingual commentary & a bar service on board.

Departures:

Week day: every 45 minutes from 11.30am to 6.45pm

Week end: every 30 minutes from 11.00am to 10.30pm*

* For more details, visit our internet website

Sightseeing cruise of Paris*:

€11: Adult; €5: Children 5-12s; free under 4s

Pleasure cruises*:

The Sparkling: The sightseeing cruise of Paris

+ 1 glass of Champagne

The Sweet: The sightseeing cruise of Paris

+ 1 French crepe or 1 Muffin + 1 hot drink

The Salty: The sightseeing cruise of Paris

+ 1 cooked pork meats' plate

+ 1 glass of Red or White wine or 1 soft drink

Unique rate: €16

Champagne Tasting cruise*:

1 hour cruise in the panorama room reserved for the event with 3 Champagnes tasting by a professional sommelier

Unique rate: €40

* Rates are suitable to changes over the year under the company policies

+ One set of kids' cruises

+ Possibilities of group bookings from 20 people



Sample of the best monuments



Right by the Eiffel Tower



Exclusive: A bar on board



vedettes de paris

along THE WATER



Don't miss the River Seine! There are lovely long walks along its banks. But even better is a boat trip on the water.

For navigating the Seine and the picturesque canals in the north-east of Paris, you have a choice of vessels: barges, panoramic boats, paddle boats, shuttle boats, small yachts and more. You also have a wide choice of tours: trips with commentaries translated into numerous languages to ensure you learn everything about the history of the French capital, lunch cruises or even a candlelight dinner cruise.

And for those who are not keen 'sailors', there are some thirty or so boats and barges transformed into cafés, restaurants, discos and entertainment venues. These floating establishments welcome the public aboard for exhibitions, theatre plays, concerts ... and are a complete change of scene!

For addresses and programmes see www.paris-ports.fr, the website of the Paris port authorities.

Lunch and dinner cruises, trips with commentary

Bateaux Mouches®

Pont de l'Alma. Right bank. Port de la Conférence (8th). M° Alma-Marceau. Tel: 01 42 25 96 10. www.bateauxmouches.com

- Cruises with commentary: 1 Apr to 30 Sept: every 45 min from 10.15am-3.15pm and every 20 min from 4-11pm. 1 Oct to 31 Mar: every 45 min from 10.15am to 9pm. €10 – RR: €5. Under 4s: free.
- Lunch cruises: every Sat, Sun and public hols. Departure: 1pm. Menu: €50. Under 12s: €25.
- Dinner cruises: every evening. Departure: 8.30pm. Menus: €95 and €135.

Bateaux Parisiens

Below the Eiffel Tower. Port de la Bourdonnais (7th). M° Trocadéro, Bir-Hakeim. Tel: 0 825 01 01 01 (€0.15/min). www.bateauxparisiens.com

- Cruises with commentary: €11. Under 12s: €5. Under 3s: free. Apr to Sept: 10am-10.30pm, every 30 min (except 1.30pm and 7.30pm). Oct to Mar: 10am-10pm, every hour.
- Lunch cruises: Daily (except 1 Jan). Departure: 12.45pm. Menus €53, €63 and €73.
- Dinner cruises: Daily. Departure: 8.30pm.

Menus: €97. €135 and €165. Children's sightseeing cruise.

Canauxrama

Bassin de la Villette. 13, quai de la Loire (19th). M° Bastille. Tel: 01 42 39 15 00. www.canauxrama.com

- Cruises with commentary on the canal Saint-Martin, the Seine and the Marne.
- Canal Saint-Martin: Daily, on reservation. 9.45am, 2.30pm and 9pm from Port de l'Arsenal (opposite 50, bd de la Bastille – M° Bastille) or 9.45am, 2.45pm and 6pm from Bassin de la Villette (13, quai de la Loire – M° Jaurès).
 - Cruise "Bistrot" on Seine (Apr to Sept): Daily departures at 6pm and 9pm from Port de l'Arsenal. €15, 4-12yrs: €8, under 4s: free.
 - Banks of the river Marne (Apr to Oct): Departure at 9am, on reservation. €34, meal not included.
 - Cruise "Atmosphère" – les nocturnes du canal (June to Sept).

Capitaine Fracasse

Embarcation on the Île aux cygnes. Pont Bir-Hakeim (15th). M° Bir-Hakeim. Tel: 01 46 21 48 15. www.croisiere-paris.com Jan to May: Tue to Fri: 8.30pm. Sat: 7pm and 9.45pm. Sun: 1pm (lunch), 8.30pm (dinner). June to Sept and Dec: Tue to Sat: 7pm and 9.45pm.

Sun: 1pm (lunch), 9.15pm (dinner). Oct and Nov: Tue to Fri: 7pm and 9.30pm. Sat: 7pm and 9.45pm. Sun: 1pm (lunch), 9.15pm (dinner). Menus: €40 (under 10s), €50 (not including drinks) and €69 (with drinks).

Marina de Paris (La)

Below the Musée d'Orsay (7th). Port de Solférino. RER Musée-d'Orsay. Tel: 01 43 43 40 30. www.marinadeparis.com

- Lunch cruises: Fri to Sun at 12.30pm. Menu: €53 (adults) and €40 (under 12s).
- Dinner cruises: 1st service (6.45pm). Menus: €48 or €63 (adults) and €40 (under 12s). 2nd service (9.15pm). Menu: €79 (adults) and €39 (under 12s).

Paris Canal

Bassin de la Villette. 19-21, quai de la Loire (19th). M° Jaurès. Tel: 01 42 40 96 97. www.pariscanal.com Cruises with commentary on the canal Saint-Martin and the Marne. Private receptions.

- Canal Saint-Martin and the Seine: on reservation, at 9.30am or 2.30pm. €17. 4-11yrs: €10.
- Seine and Marne: w/e in July and Aug, at 9.30am. €35 (lunch not included).

Vedettes de Paris

Below the Eiffel Tower. Port de Suffren (7th). M° Bir-Hakeim. Tel: 01 44 18 19 50. www.vedettesdeparis.com One-hour multilingual cruises with commentary. Theme cruises: gourmet, champagne tasting, Pétunia and children's birthday. Jan, Feb and Oct to Dec: 11am-6pm, every 45 min.

May and June: 11am-10pm, every 45 min. July, Aug, Easter hols: 10.30am-11pm, every 30 min. €11. 4-12yrs: €5. Under 4s: free.

Shuttle boats

Batobus

Port de la Bourdonnais (7th). M° Bir-Hakeim. RER Champ-de-Mars – Tour-Eiffel. Tel: 01 44 11 33 99. www.batobus.com Paris and its historic centre with 8 stops for easy access to the main monuments and sites. An original and seasonal means of transport on the Seine. A boat every 15 to 30 minutes.

- Stops:
- Tour Eiffel (port de la Bourdonnais)
 - Musée d'Orsay (quai de Solférino)
 - Saint-Germain-des-Prés (quai Malaquais)
 - Notre-Dame (quai de Montebello)
 - Jardin des Plantes (near to Pont d'Austerlitz)
 - Hôtel de Ville (near to Pont d'Arcole)
 - Louvre (between Pont Royal and Pont du Carrousel)
 - Champs-Élysées (near to Pont Alexandre-III)
- 1-day ticket: €12. Under 16s: €6. 2-consecutive-day ticket: €16. Under 16s: €8. 5-consecutive-day ticket: €19. Under 16s: €9. Annual subscription: €55. Under 16s: €35.

Vogueo

Tel: 0 826 880 500 (€0.15/min) www.vogueo.fr River shuttle boat serving 5 stops on the Seine and Marne:

- Gare d'Austerlitz
- Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand (outward trip)
- Parc de Bercy (inward trip)
- Ivry – Pont Mandela
- École vétérinaire de Maisons-Alfort

Daily. Wk: every 20 min; Sat and Sun: every 30 min. Service accessible with a 3-zone transport pass. Individual ticket: €3.

Bespoke cruises

Lorand Venezia

Tel: 06 63 52 78 05. www.venezia-fluvial.fr Personalized tourist cruises on a pleasure boat.

EVENT

Paris-Plages (Paris-Beaches)

From mid-July to mid-August, the banks of the Seine close to traffic and are transformed into a free beach resort with sand, palm trees, deckchairs and parasols. On the right bank it extends from the Louvre to the Pont de Sully, and includes the La Villette canal basin, and on the left bank, from the Pont de Tolbiac to the Simone-de-Beauvoir footbridge. As well as an opportunity to do a spot of sunbathing, Paris-Plages offers sporting activities and cultural events. Information: www.paris.fr