

TRENDY PARIS

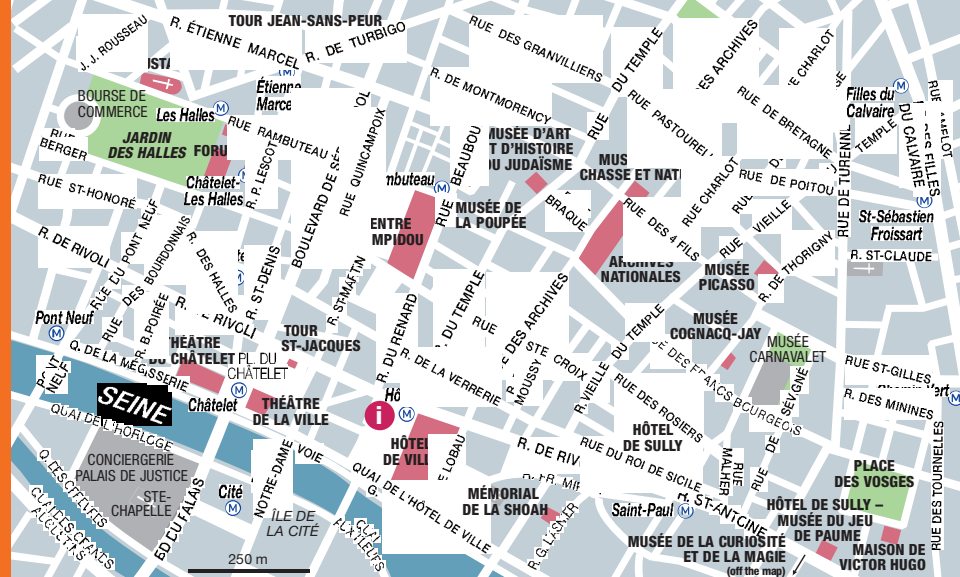
Take a gentle stroll between the place du Châtelet and place des Vosges to enjoy a spot of shopping, or discover local heritage ... in fact, everything is possible as long as you know how to juggle with different styles.

The medieval Jean-sans-Peur Tower surges out from amongst Haussmanian buildings, while the flamboyant Gothic architecture of the Saint-Jacques Tower is just a stone's throw from the fountain at Châtelet, built in praise of Napoléon I. The square in front of the neo-Renaissance Paris City Hall is also an impromptu venue for beach-volleyball. The church of Saint-Eustache, where Molière was christened, stands next to the metallic footbridges of the Les Halles gardens. A few steps away from the Renaissance bas-reliefs of the Fountain of the Innocents is the Pompidou Centre, symbol of 20th-century architecture and home to modern and contemporary art collections.

The Marais district combines a whirl of creative design with the delights of the Jewish Quarter, around rue des Rosiers, and a magnificently preserved historic centre. Busy streets give way to tiny enclosed squares and gardens and numerous museums, including the Carnavalet, Picasso and the National Archives, housed in mansion houses that rival each other in splendour.



**Marais (4th) • Montorgueil (2nd)
• Hôtel de Ville (4th) • Les Halles (1st)**



M Saint-Paul (line 1) • Hôtel-de-Ville (lines 1, 11) • Rambuteau (line 11) • Arts-et-Métiers (lines 3, 11) • Châtelet (lines 1, 4, 7, 11, 14) • Étienne-Marcel (line 4) • Les Halles (line 4)

DON'T MISS

Place des Vosges and Victor Hugo's house

Formerly known as the "place Royale", this square has remained intact – miraculously so – since it was commissioned by Henri IV in 1604. The thirty-six townhouses have constituted a perfect symmetry from the day they were built, with their brick façades, deep-pitched slate roofs and the ground floor made up of a gallery of arcades for walking. Add a few musketeers and you'd think you were in a washbuckling adventure film ... or back to the splendid carousel that inaugurated the square in 1612 to celebrate the wedding of Louis XIII and Anne of Austria. Since then, each house has boasted a rich history of art, literature and many a famous name. Madame de Sévigné was born at the Hôtel de Coulanges; Cardinal Richelieu, Théophile Gautier, Alphonse Daudet, and the tragic actress Rachel, also lived there, as well as

Victor Hugo, from 1832 to 1848. Transformed into a museum, his apartment in the Hôtel de Rohan-Guéménée reveals the story of his life, from the antechamber of his youth to his death bed, not forgetting a visit to the Chinese salon, where he played out his love affair with Juliette Drouet. If you look closely, you'll see their initials in trompe-l'œil.



Hôtel de Rohan-Guéménée.
6, place des Vosges (4th).
M° Saint-Paul.
Tel: 01 42 72 10 16.
Daily: 10am-6pm, except Mon and public hols. Permanent collections free.
www.musee-hugo.paris.fr



Pompidou Centre* **PASS**

"This will cause a stir" President Pompidou is rumoured to have said about the contemporary cultural design centre that bears his name. In fact, when the project was completed by Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers in 1977, it was described as a factory and a refinery. The architects had envisaged it as a futuristic vessel. Made of glass and steel, an escalator zigzags up its exterior in a transparent tube, matched by vertical pipes, also on the outside, representing blue for air, green for water, yellow for electricity and red for the elevators. The interior has a surface area of 7,500 sq.m. on each of its five floors. Contemporary culture is for

everyone, and the choice here is impressive: exhibition rooms, performance spaces, a cinema, and a gallery for children, etc. and, of course, the national museum of modern art. Design in the 20th century and current movements are explored via a thematic approach that combines all forms of visual art and audiovisual expression.

Place Georges-Pompidou (4th). M° Hôtel-de-Ville.
Tel: 01 44 78 12 33.
Daily: 11am-9pm, except Tue and 1 May. "Musée et expositions": this ticket gives admission to the Musée National d'Art Moderne, to the exhibitions and panoramic terrace. €8 to €12 according to period. Under 18s (museum and exhibitions) and 1st Sun of the month: free. 18-25s: free. www.centrepompidou.fr



Around "Beaubourg"

"Beaubourg", which takes its nickname from the name of the district, has blended into the landscape, and is a great success with millions of visitors each year, extending its popularity to the esplanade and the place Stravinsky that surround it. In the former, which feels rather like a mini Woodstock, you can sit around jugglers, listen to guitar music, and visit the Brancusi workshop. In the second, you can take in the multicoloured mobile fountain by Jean Tinguely and Niki de Saint Phalle.



DID YOU KNOW?

It is possible to surf on the place Pompidou! There is a free Wi-Fi connection in and around the Centre and at more than 260 municipal sites (gardens, town halls, etc.).

Hôtel de Ville



Do you know the Maison aux Piliers? Of course you do – it's on the place de Grève! On this square, you can ice-skate in winter, watch top match events on big screens, and take part in free activities every summer when the banks of the Seine turn into Paris-Plages. Feeling lost? Well actually, that's understandable. In the 12th century, the administration of Paris was entrusted to the corporation of water merchants, who controlled navigation on the Seine. Étienne Marcel, the provost of the merchants, transferred the seat of the municipality to the Maison aux Piliers – the current site of the Paris City Hall – in 1357. The square – then place de Grève – became a spot for popular merrymaking ... and public punishment. Crowds congregated to witness all sorts of executions until 1830. Workers also used to wait for work here, giving rise to the expression "*être en grève*" (to be on strike). As for the Hôtel de Ville (Paris City Hall), which replaced the Maison aux Piliers, it burnt down over eight days, in 1871, during the events of the Commune. Completed in 1882, the current building reflects the

splendour of the 3rd Republic. A sumptuous interior boasts chandeliers, gilding and wood panelling, while the external neo-Renaissance façades are decorated with a profusion of niches and no less than 378 sculpted works. **Mairie de Paris (4th). M° Hôtel-de-Ville.**
Tel: 01 42 76 50 49.
Free guided tours (English, German) of the salons of the Hôtel de Ville, by prior appointment only, according to official events. Rooms accessible to disabled people. www.paris.fr

Musée Picasso* PASS



Completed in 1659, the mansion which houses the museum has retained the cheeky nickname "Salé" (salty) in memory of the ostentatious tastes of its first owner who made a fortune by taxing salt. Behind its monumental façade, you can admire a unique collection of works by Picasso. 203 paintings, 158 sculptures, more than 3,000 engravings and drawings, sketchbooks, etc. **Hôtel Salé.**
5, rue de Thorigny (3rd). M° Saint-Paul.
Tel: 01 42 71 25 21.
Daily: 9.30am-6pm, except Tues and some public hols. Closed for renovation work from end Aug 2009 to 2012. €8.50 – RR: €6.50. Under 18s and 1st Sun of the month: free. www.musee-picasso.fr

DISCOVER

Musée Carnavalet – histoire de Paris

The museum of the history of Paris takes its visitors from the dug-out canoes of the Gallic Parisii tribe to the bedroom of Marcel Proust. Two resplendent adjoining townhouses offer the perfect setting for this fascinating story. The Hôtel Carnavalet, built in 1548, traces the history of the Gallo-Roman, Merovingian and Carolingian city, the Paris of the Renaissance, and the wars of Religion, etc. In the Hôtel Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau, it is Paris-Revolution, then Napoléon leaving on one of his campaigns with his personal effects in gilded silver. And again it is the Paris of Mucha, art nouveau, a ballroom from the roaring Twenties, etc.



23, rue de Sévigné (3rd). M° Saint-Paul.
Tel: 01 44 59 58 58. Daily: 10am-6pm, except Mon and public hols. Permanent collections free. www.carnavalet.paris.fr

Hôtel de Sully/Musée du Jeu de Paume – site Sully*

"Ploughing and grazing are the two teats of France" affirmed Maximilien de Béthune, Duke of Sully and superintendent of the finances of Henri IV. Nevertheless, in 1634, he opted for a sumptuous pied-à-terre in the Marais – completed four years earlier – rather than the greenery of the countryside. This archetypal 17th-century Parisian mansion house wowed fashionable society before housing a dairy and a shop for the latest goods in the 19th century. Today, it houses the Centre des Monuments Nationaux.



62, rue Saint-Antoine (4th). M° Saint-Paul, Bastille.
Tel: 01 42 74 47 75. Tues to Fri: 12-noon to 7pm. Sat and Sun: 10am to 7pm. Mon and some public hols: closed. €5 – RR : €2.50. www.jeudepaume.org

Place du Châtelet



Don't come here looking for tranquillity – this is one of the busiest crossroads in Paris. There are however many lovely things to see, including the Châtelet or 'Palm' Fountain, erected in 1806 to commemorate the victories of Napoléon I, and two Italian Renaissance-inspired theatres, designed by Davioud in 1862. The Théâtre du Châtelet, with over two thousand seats, is devoted primarily to opera and music. The Théâtre de la Ville – almost its twin – was for a long time named after the actress Sarah Bernhardt, who performed there for over twenty years. Today, its programme is divided between drama, dance and music.

Musée des Arts et Métiers* PASS

The metro station sets the tone. Since the bicentenary of the museum, in 1994, the Arts et Métiers metro station has taken on the appearance of Jules Verne's submarine the 'Nautilus', complete with copper walls and portholes. In this faithfully-renovated abbey, the history of technology from the 16th century onwards is split into seven domains: communication, construction, energy, scientific instruments, materials, mechanical engineering, and transport. Visitors will learn all about great inventions and stand in wonder before the automatons and velocipedes, Lavoisier's late-18th-century laboratory or Clément Ader's airplane, just a century older.



60, rue Réaumur (3rd). M° Arts-et-Métiers.
Tel: 01 53 01 82 00. Daily: 10am-6pm, except Mon and some public hols. Thu: 10am-9.30pm. €6.50 – RR : €4.50. Under 18s, 1st Sun of the month and Thu : 6pm to 9.30pm : free. www.arts-et-metiers.net



SHOPPING STREETS AND LATEST TRENDS

From the Montorgueil neighbourhood to the busy winding narrow streets of the Marais, you will find unconventional fashion, up-and-coming galleries, and small designers rubbing shoulders with big names and richly-coloured boutiques decked out with curious, original, ethnic and poetic objects. In rue Montorgueil, market gardeners and delicatessens share this delightful street with gourmet bistros. Also in the area, discover the stream of designers and fashionable labels that have moved into the workshops of the former clothing factories on rue Montmartre and rue Étienne-Marcel. A few minutes' walk away, the Forum des Halles shopping mall has more affordable stores. In the Marais, young designers and artists have opened boutiques and workshops in rues des Blancs-Manteaux, des Francs-Bourgeois, Vieille-du-Temple, Charlot ... not forgetting, of course, rue Charlemagne and rue Saint-Paul. This avant-gardist paradise is also bursting with trendy canteens!



Église Saint-Eustache

Built over a century, this church features Gothic and Renaissance influences combined with an 18th-century classical façade, along with traces of a questionable restoration after 1840. Nevertheless, Saint-Eustache is truly beautiful and houses treasures like a Rubens painting and a statue of Pigalle. And it has an impressive celebrity line-up, including the baptism of Richelieu, Molière and Mme de Pompadour, Louis XIV's first communion, the marriage of Lullü, the funeral of La Fontaine and Mirabeau as well as Colbert, Marivaux and Rameau, who found their final resting places here. It was even a "Temple of Agriculture" between 1797 and 1803!
Place du Jour (1st). M° Châtelet-les-Halles.
Tel: 01 42 36 31 05. Daily: 9.30am-7pm.

Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme* PASS

The culture and traditions of the Jewish community come to life in this 17th-century town house, with its rich collection of stunning, popular, religious, everyday, humble, precious, ancestral and near-contemporary objects, such as paintings by Chagall, Modigliani and Soutine.



Hôtel de Saint-Aignan. 71, rue du Temple (3rd). M° Rambuteau. Tel: 01 53 01 86 60.
Daily: 11am-6pm, except Sat. Sun: 10am-6pm.
Closed 1 Jan, 1 May for Rosh ha-Shanah and Yom Kippour celebrations. €6.80 – RR: €4.50.
Under 18s: free. www.mahj.org



Mémorial de la Shoah

Opened on the site of the tomb of the Unknown Jewish Martyr, the Memorial is a place of remembrance and documentation about the Shoah and also a "museum of vigilance", designed for teaching, learning and experiencing. A bastion against oblivion, the Wall of Names, perpetuates the memory of the 76,000 Jewish victims deported from France with the cooperation of the Vichy government.
17, rue Geoffroy-l'Asnier (4th). M° Saint-Paul.
Tel: 01 42 77 44 72. Daily, except Sat: 10am-6pm.
Thur: late opening until 10pm. Public hols and certain Jewish holidays: closed. Free.
www.memorialdelashoah.org

Tour Jean-sans-Peur

A 27-metre-high medieval tower on rue Étienne-Marcel? It's true! Let's step back in time for a moment. During an interlude in the One Hundred Years War, Jean, Duke of Burgundy, took advantage of the situation to order the assassination of his cousin Louis d'Orléans and seize power. He ruled from his Parisian mansion, in which, in 1409, he had the tower built – the only remaining vestige of the building today. A magnificent spiral staircase with a vault sculpted in oak, hop, and hawthorn leads to the meeting rooms. Today, a permanent exhibition in the six rooms of the tower portrays the history of early-15th-century society and architecture.

20, rue Étienne-Marcel (2nd). M° Étienne-Marcel.
Tel: 01 40 26 20 28. Self-guided tours 1.30-6pm.
Apr to Nov: Wed to Sun. Nov to Mar: Wed, Sat, Sun. €5/8 – RR: €3. www.tourjeansanspeur.com

Centre historique des Archives nationales – musée de l'histoire de France

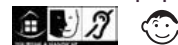
As their name suggests, the National Archives preserve the records of France, from the Merovingians to 1958, and house the Musée de l'Histoire de France. Located in the Palais de Soubise since 1808, with its extravagant rocaille-style decoration behind a fine classical façade, the National Archives have continued to grow, and now extend into the superb Hôtel de Rohan.
Hôtel de Soubise. 60, rue des Francs-Bourgeois (3rd). M° Hôtel-de-Ville. Tel: 01 40 27 60 96.
Mon to Fri, except Tue and public hols: 10am-12.30pm and 2-5.30pm. Sat and Sun: 2-5.30pm. €3 – RR: €2.30 (under 26s).
www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr

Tour Saint-Jacques

What a history! This curious Gothic belfry is the only remaining vestige of the church of Saint-Jacques-de-la-Boucherie, a meeting point for pilgrims journeying to Santiago de Compostela in Spain in the Middle Ages. In the 17th century, Pascal experimented here with gravity. The tower escaped demolition in 1797 and was converted into a meteorological station in 1891, where air quality is measured. In the last few years, the tower has been beautifully restored ... Stop to admire it!
Square de la tour Saint-Jacques (1st). M° Hôtel-de-Ville.

Musée de la Poupée

First, came dolls dressed like perfect little Parisian ladies in the elegant outfits of a marchioness. In 1878 after the Exposition Universelle, came the porcelain doll. In the twentieth century, baby dolls in celluloid were all the fashion ... until a certain blonde-haired doll with the svelte figure of a model appeared on the scene. Happy daydreaming in the world of little girls!
Impasse Berthaud (3rd). M° Rambuteau.
Tel: 01 42 72 73 11. Daily: 10am-6pm, except Mon and public hols. €7 – RR: €5/3. Under 3s: free.
www.museedelapoupee.paris.com



Musée de la Curiosité et de la Magie

This labyrinth of vaulted cellars was said to have been as a place of debauchery for the Marquis de Sade. Today, it is a perfectly commendable place for those with a sense of curiosity and lovers of tricks, and recounts the history of magic, illusionists and conjurers from the 18th century onwards. Indian mail, automatons, unusual boxes of surprises and secrets, magic wands, distorting mirrors: everything is here!
11, rue Saint-Paul (4th). M° Saint-Paul.
Tel: 01 42 72 13 26. Wed, Sat, Sun: 2-7pm.
€9 – RR: €7. www.museedelamagie.com



Forum des Halles and its garden



From the 12th century until 1969, the "belly of Paris" and its colourful population, so well depicted in the novels of Émile Zola, supplied the capital with food. Transferred to Rungis, the covered market was replaced by galleries including a shopping centre, a swimming pool, a tropical hothouse, numerous cinema auditoriums ... On the garden side, there are lawns, fountains, and children's play areas to enjoy before a new renovation of the area, planned for 2010. The code name for the project, by the architects Patrick Berger and Jacques Anziutti, is "Canopy"!

1-7, rue Pierre-Lescot (1st). M° Châtelet-les-Halles.



Musée Cognacq-Jay

The couple Cognacq-Jay, founders of the Samaritaine department stores, devoted part of their great wealth to buying works and objects of art (paintings, sculptures, furniture, etc.) with a preference for those of the French 18th century.
8, rue Elzévir (3rd). M° Saint-Paul.
Tel: 01 40 27 07 21.
Daily: 10am-6pm, except Mon and public hols. Closed Mon and public hols. Permanent collections: free.
www.cognacq-jay.paris.fr



parisian NIGHTS

This capital never sleeps. From 'happy hour' – the bell rings in some bars between 6pm and 8pm for a reduced-price aperitif –, to the rest of the night for those who like to dance until dawn, one-off night revellers or regular night birds will find everything they could wish for on the Paris night scene.

Night transport

Taxis are available at any of the 134 taxi ranks around the city (indicated by a sign marked with a 'T' on a blue background). They can also be ordered by telephone, and booked in advance, or just hailed in the street. **The Parisian metro** operates from 5.30am or 6am in the morning, according to line. In the week, the last metro runs between 12.40am and 1.15am, according to line, and between 1.40am and 2.15 am on Friday, Saturday and the night before public holidays. On certain occasions (31 December, Fête de la musique, 14 July – Bastille Day) it is even free and operates all night! Information at: www.ratp.fr **The Noctilien** is a night bus service with 42 lines operating from 12.30am to 5.30am, throughout Île-de-France. In Paris, the network is linked to the 5 major stations (Châtelet, gares de l'Est, de Lyon, Montparnasse, Saint-Lazare) and services the Champs-Élysées, Bastille, République, place d'Italie, etc. Information at: www.noctilien.fr

Discos

Fans of house and techno, as well as tango, mambo and disco will find clubs for dancing from 11pm to dawn, in atmospheres that cover all the ranges: select, off-beat, musette, electric, tropical, etc. Many nightclubs organise theme nights, or afternoon dances that are sometimes free for ladies. A few addresses:

Bains Douches (Les)

7, rue du Bourg-l'Abbé (3rd).
M° Étienne-Marcel.
Tel: 01 48 87 01 80.

Dame de Canton (La)

Port de la gare (13th).
M° Quai-de-la-Gare.
Tel: 08 92 68 36 22 (€0.34/min).

Duplex (Le)

2 bis, av. Foch (16th).
M° Charles-de-Gaulle – Étoile.
Tel: 01 45 00 45 00.

Locomotive (La)

90, bd de Clichy (18th).
M° Blanche.
Tel: 01 53 41 88 88.

Queen (Le)

102, av. des Champs-Élysées (8th).
M° George-V.
Tel: 01 53 890 890.

Rex Club (Le)

5, bd Poissonnière (2nd).
M° Bonne-Nouvelle.
Tel: 01 42 36 10 96.



Rive Gauche (Le)

1, rue du Sabot (6th).
M° Saint-Germain-des-Prés.
Tel: 01 42 22 51 70.
www.lerivegauche.com

Scala (La)

188 bis, rue de Rivoli (1st).
M° Palais-Royal – Musée-du-Louvre.
Tel: 01 42 61 64 00.

CASINO

A whole world of sensations: 350 slot machines, 44 gaming tables, 6 restaurants and bars, theatre.

Casino Barrière

Groupe Lucien Barrière.
3, av. de Ceinture.
95880 Enghien-les-Bains.
Tel: 01 39 34 12 91.
www.lucienbarriere.com

Bars

There are 'lounge' atmospheres and velvet settees, the lively Irish pubs, bars of top hotels, live music performances and more ... Except in the case of special dispensation, bars close at 2am in the morning. Information at parisinfo.com, rubric "Restaurants & Cafés".

Gay discos and bars

Paris is an open and tolerant city, where everyone can be themselves. There is a vast number of gay or gay-friendly addresses, often situated around Châtelet, the Hôtel de Ville, and especially in the Marais district. Information at parisinfo.com, rubric "Practical Paris".

Cinema

The capital has almost 110 cinemas. In addition to mainstream films, many cinemas screen art-house films, documentaries and films for children.

Forum des Images

Porte Saint-Eustache.
Forum des Halles (1st).
M° Châtelet-les-Halles.
www.forumdesimages.net

Géode

Cité des sciences et de l'industrie.
26, av. Corentin-Cariou (19th).
M° Porte-de-la-Villette.
Tel: 0 892 68 45 40 (€0.34/min).
www.lageode.fr

Grand Rex

1, bd Poissonnière (2nd).
M° Bonne-Nouvelle.
Tel: 0 892 68 70 23 (€0.34/min).
www.legrandrex.com
See p.40.

Max Linder Panorama

24, bd Poissonnière (9th).
M° Grands-Boulevards.
Tel: 0 892 68 00 31 (€0.34/min).
www.maxlinder.com

THE "PASSE NUIT"

In Paris the night belongs to those who go to bed late! The "Passe Nuit" (Night Pass), devised by the Paris City Council in collaboration with the federation of cabarets and night clubs, is a unique bilingual (French/English) information resource about the Paris nightlife scene. It combines a **map-guide** – available at art, music and entertainment venues, the Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau information centres, train stations, youth hostels, etc. – and an innovative website www.parisnightlife.fr offering multiple search criteria (dates, hours, arrondissement, type of music and public ...) and a map of places and events for nightlife in the capital. Everything you need to know about Parisian nightlife at your fingertips!

MK2 Bibliothèque

128-162, av. de France (13th).
M° Bibliothèque-de-France.
Tel: 0 892 69 84 84 (€0.34/min).
www.mk2.com

Pagode

57 bis, rue de Babylone (7th).
M° Saint-François-Xavier.
Tel: 01 45 55 48 48.

Paris Story !

11 bis, rue Scribe (9th).
M° Opéra.
Tel: 01 42 66 62 06.
www.paris-story.com
See p.41.

Ask for the Programme!

The weekly magazines *Pariscope* (€0.40) and *L'Officiel des spectacles* (€0.35), on sale at kiosks and in newsagents, give the programmes for all Parisian cinemas. The bimonthly *Paris-Mômes* (free supplement with the *Libération* newspaper) lists entertainment for children.

EVENT

Paris, City of Light

For the end of year festivities, "Paris illuminates Paris", the City commissions artists to create illuminations for more than 120 streets. The result is a captivating circuit: Milky Way, crystal rain, stream of garlands, vault of flames and other original creations decorate the night in a magical way. The Eiffel Tower sparkles at dusk throughout the year. In total, 242 sites (hotels, churches, statues, fountains, national buildings, etc.) and Parisian bridges are illuminated at nightfall.