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**Museums Not To Miss In Paris**

**By Audrey Akeman**

There's so much to see and do in Paris that it's difficult knowing where to start. Here's a handy guide to the top attractions in the city to help you plan and make the most of your stay in this beautiful city.

A great way to save money if you're planning to visit lots of museums and attractions in Paris is to buy a Paris Museum Pass, which can be obtained at any participating establishment. It gives access to over 60 attractions and as well as saving you money it will allow you to jump the queues. See

[www.parismuseumpass.fr](http://www.parismuseumpass.fr)

for details.

Another important point when planning your visit is that most museums and galleries in Paris are closed one day per week, usually Monday or Tuesday. Also, some museums offer free or reduced admission on Sundays.

Admission fees given below are for full price adult tickets.

**Cathédrale de Notre Dame**

Description: The Cathédrale de Notre Dame is a magnificent Gothic cathedral in l'île de la Cité, the oldest part of Paris. It was completed in 1345 after two centuries of construction work. In the crypt are foundations from the earliest part of the buildings and from previous Roman buildings on the site. There are wonderful views all over Paris from the top of its two towers.

Location: place du Parvis Notre Dame, l'île de la Cité Métro: Cité Opening hours: 07.45 to 18.45 Monday to Saturday (towers open 09.00 to 17.15) Admission: donation only Website:

[www.cathedraledeparis.com](http://www.cathedraledeparis.com)

## Museums Not To Miss In Paris

### La Tour Eiffel

Description: The Eiffel Tower is the most famous symbol of Paris. When it was built at the end of the 19th century for the Paris Exposition it was the tallest building in the world. Take the lift and/or stairs up to the top for fabulous views of the city.

Location: Champ de Mars Métro: Bir Hakeim, Trocadéro, École Militaire Opening hours: open daily throughout year - January to June and September to December 09.30 to 23.45 (last admission to top 22:30), July and August 09.00 to 00.45 (last admission to top 23.00) Admission: 11 to the top Website:

[www.tour-eiffel.fr](http://www.tour-eiffel.fr)

### L'Arc de Triomphe

Description: This grand triumphal arch in the centre of Place d'Étoile was built by Napoléon to honour the French Army. It's a war memorial commemorating those who have died in various battles and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with its eternal flame lies underneath it.

Location: place de l'étoile Métro: Charles de Gaulle Étoile Opening hours: open daily throughout year

- April to September 10.00 to 23.00, October to March 10.00 to 22.30 (last admission 30 minutes before closing) Admission: 8 Website:

[www.monum.fr/prehome/prehome.dml](http://www.monum.fr/prehome/prehome.dml)

### Musée du Louvre

Description: The Louvre Palace is a spectacular Renaissance building and the famous museum within it contains one of the most important collections of fine art in the world. Collections: Egyptian, Roman and Oriental antiquities, European painting from 12th to 19th century, Leonardo's Mona Lisa.

Location: rue de rivoli Métro: Palais Royal Musée du Louvre Opening hours: 09.00 to 18.00 every day except Tuesday Admission: 8.50, admission free on the first Sunday of every month Website:

[www.louvre.fr](http://www.louvre.fr)

### Musée d'Orsay

Description: This art gallery is an impressive collection of art from 1850–1950. Collections: impressionism (Renoir, Monet, Degas), post-impressionism (Van Gogh, Gauguin, Toulouse-Lautrec, Cézanne).

Location: 1 rue de bellechasse Métro: Solférino Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 09.30 to 18.00, Thursday 09.30 to 21.45, closed on Mondays Admission: 7.50, admission free on the first Sunday of

## Museums Not To Miss In Paris

every month Website:

[www.musee-orsay.fr](http://www.musee-orsay.fr)

### Musée National d'art Moderne

Description: France's national collection of modern art. It's located in the Pompidou Centre. Notable artists: Yves Klein, Matisse, Picasso, Miró and Warhol.

Location: place Georges Pompidou Métro: Hôtel de Ville, Châtelet, Rambuteau Opening hours: daily except Tuesdays 11.00 to 21.00 (last admission 20.00) Admission: 10 (ticket includes entry to all museums and exhibitions within the Centre Pompidou) Website:

[www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr)

### Musée Carnavalet

Description: This history museum traces the development of the city of Paris from Roman times to the present day. The displays are fascinating and captivating and the Renaissance palace in which it is housed is also impressive.

Location: 23 rue de Sevigné Métro: St Paul Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 to 17.30, closed on Mondays Admission: 8 Website:

[www.carnavalet.paris.fr](http://www.carnavalet.paris.fr)

### Hôtel des Invalides

Description: this splendid building was commissioned by Louis XIV as a hospital for injured soldiers. It's now a military history museum, Musée de l'Armée. Collections: armour, swords, guns, uniforms, canons, standards and flags. Napoleon's tomb is located within the complex and there's a section in the museum containing artefacts that belonged to him. The section on World War Two is also very interesting.

Location: place des invalides Métro: Varenne, Latour-Maubourg, St François-Xavier, Invalides Opening hours: open daily except on the first Monday of every month, 10.00 to 17.00 October to March, 10.00 to 18.00 April to September Admission: 7.50 Website:

[www.invalides.org](http://www.invalides.org)

Audrey Akeman has resided in Paris for over 20 years. She works as a freelance writer. Website:

<http://www.pariscityinformation.info>

## **In Paris, Art Is No Longer Abstract For Kids**

**By Ann LoCicero**

Paris has been described as anything but a place for kids: a city for lovers, a cultural Mecca. Yet you may be surprised to find out how prepared the French capital is to entertain children. Even in what is considered to be an adult activity, touring museums.

At the Louvre Museum, the largest museum in the world and a must-see in Paris, kids aged 4 and up can take part in one of the many children's workshops.

The Musée d'Orsay (Orsay Museum), which has one of Europe's best collections of impressionist art, is another example. Each Sunday throughout the summer, the museum organizes games, mimes and storytelling for children 12 years old and under. The program is designed to teach children about the masters, such as Monet, Renoir, Degas, Van Gogh and Toulouse-Lautrec.

At one such event, the Orsay museum organized a card game called Jeu de l'oie or the Goose game. Kids are divided into teams. Each team is given several cards, which correspond to a work of art. Cards in hand, the children search the museum for the masterpieces.

When the Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art inaugurated the exhibition entitled J'en rêve or I dream, which included the work of 48 young artists from around the world, it also organized several activities for kids. At one event, Camille Henrot, one of the artists, reworked her film by drawing and scratching on the negative. Children participating in this workshop created their own works of art.

While many of the activities are conducted in French, language is unlikely to prove a barrier to participation. For example, instruction is only a small part of Learning to Create Glasswork, a children's activity offered at the Musée National du Moyen Age (Middle Age Museum).

But there are other ways to making learning fun at museums in Paris. Rent audio guides designed specifically for kids and available in several languages. Take a family tour, often times conducted in a language other than French. Or organize a private guided tour for your family.

Many museums in Paris, such as the Louvre, are free for kids under 18 years of age. Avoid long lines, buy a Museum Pass valid for up to 1, 3 or 5 consecutive days, and visit more than 70 museums and monuments in and around Paris.

Pick up a copy of Objectif Musée, available at Paris museums, or Paris-Île-de-France avec des Yeux d'Enfants published by the tourist office. Both are in French only. Objectif Musée lists all scheduled activities for children organized by the state museums while Paris-Île-de-France avec des Yeux d'Enfants lists fun things to do with kids in Paris.

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Ann LoCicero is the founder of

<http://www.kidscantravel.com>

an emergent website for families intent on

making the most of their leisure time together.



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