

Walking suggestions in Paris

1. Le Bon Marché

Across the street from the Hotel Lutetia, Le Bon Marché Rive Gauche is the most exclusive department stores in Paris. Founded in 1838 and revamped almost completely by Aristide Boucicaut in 1852, it is one of the first modern department stores. Now the property of LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton), it sells a wide range of high-end goods, including food in an adjacent building at 38, rue de Sèvres, called La Grande Épicerie de Paris.



From there, you can walk to the Montparnasse tower, by walking down “boulevard Raspail” and then “rue de Rennes”, which is are very lively and where you will enjoy many kinds of shops.

2. Montparnasse tower



The summit of the “Tour Montparnasse (Montparnasse tower, 60 floors) offers a 360° view on Paris. From there (Place du 18 juin 1940), you may walk down “Boulevard Montparnasse” on the left (westbound) on which you will see various cafés and Brasseries (La Coupole, Le Select, Le Dôme, where you can eat or drink typical French food and wine). These places used to be frequently visited by painters and writers before World War 2.



3. Luxembourg garden

From “Boulevard Montparnasse”, turn right on “Boulevard Raspail” and right again on “rue Brea” or “Rue Vavin” until the “Jardin du Luxembourg”. Just before entering the garden on “rue Vavin”, you can have a taste of Jean-Paul Hevin chocolates that are delicious.

You may browse the garden and discover a number of statues (including Baudelaire, Flaubert, Beethoven, Verlaine) as well as a small museum with a nice restaurant. The “Sénat”, one of the two chambers composing the French Parliament, is situated in the north of the garden.



4. Latin Quarter

You may leave the garden by “rue Soufflot”, in the east of the garden (we recommend a nice Corsican Restaurant called Cusi, situated 9 rue Cujas) towards the Panthéon that is worth visiting.



On “Place du Panthéon” (or “Place des Grands Hommes”) you may turn right on “rue Clotaire” until “place de l’Estrapade”, a charming square where we recommend the restaurant Café de la nouvelle Mairie.



Place de l'Estrapade

You may then walk down “rue de l'Estrapade” then “rue Blainville” until “Place de la Contrescarpe”. You may walk down “rue Mouffetard”, then turn left on “rue Ortolan”, then right on “rue Gracieuse”, “rue Lacepede” on the left again, then “rue Cardinal Lemoine” on the right (from place de la Contrescarpe) until you get to the Seine river.



5. Saint Louis Island

Then you may cross the “Pont de la Tournelle” (Tournelle bridge) and walk through l’“Ile Saint Louis” (Saint Louis island), where you can taste the famous Berthillon Ice creams. From there you may cross “Pont Marie” (Mary Bridge) towards the “Marais” quarter.

6. Le Marais

You may take “rue des Nonnains d’Hyères”, then “rue de Jouy” on the left, then “rue François Miron” on the left and again on the left “rue Geoffroy l’Asnier” (rue des archives is also very interesting).

The Hôtel de ville (Paris’ main city hall) and the “Centre Pompidou” (Beaubourg center, a Modern Art Museum) are nearby on the west and the north.



From le Marais, you may walk back south towards the Seine river. On the way you may visit the "Maison européenne de la photographie" (5/7 rue de COURCY, 75004) and then cross the Louis Philippe bridge, that leads you back to Saint Louis island, from where you may cross Saint Louis Bridge towards l’ “Île de la Cité”.





7. La Cité Island



Place Dauphine

On l' « Ile de la Cité » you may visit the “ Sainte Chapelle”, the “Palais de Justice” that hosts the Paris Court of Appeal and “Cour de Cassation” (Supreme Court) and of course Notre Dame cathedral.

Behind the Palais de Justice you will see “Place Dauphine”, a charming little square with nice restaurants ("Paul": 0143542148) and then you may cross “Pont Neuf” on the left towards the left bank of the Seine river.

Alternatively you may turn right on “Pont des Arts” and visit the Louvre gardens and the “Jardin des Tuileries”, and see “place Vendôme” nearby and come back to the left river of the Seine by “Pont de la Concorde”, and then turn left on Boulevard Saint Germain towards Odéon and Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

8. Odéon and Saint-Germain-des-Prés

From there you may take “rue Dauphine” and on the left then “rue de l’Ancienne Comédie” until Odéon quarter where you will find a lot of bars and restaurants (we recommend an Italian restaurant called “Casa Bini “36 rue Grégoire de Tours, 0146340560).



Odéon is situated on Boulevard St Germain where you will find various well known restaurants and Cafés: brasserie Lipp (151 blvd St Germain) les Deux Magots (6 place St Germain-des-Prés (Jean-Paul Sartre and Ernest Hemingway used to be regulars), Café de Flore (172 blvd St Germain) and "Le Bonaparte" (42 rue Bonaparte).



In Odéon, you may turn left on a small street called “Rue de l’Ecole de Médecine” that will take you to “boulevard Saint Michel”, from where you should look for “La Sorbonne” square on the right, a beautiful square with various cafés.

