

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips

INSIDER TIP ▶ Monet's Masterpieces

The *Musée Marmottan* houses more than 100 works by Claude Monet, including the painting famous that gave Impressionism its name. The museum also displays part of the private art collection of this master artist. It is located in a park close to the Eiffel Tower → p. 56

INSIDER TIP ▶ Who is the fairest one of all?

Concerts accompany the big rose exhibition in the *Concours International des Roses*. Alongside the many flowers, you can also see elements of English landscape architecture such as pavilions, artificial grottos and waterfalls in the Parc de Bagatelle → p. 120

INSIDER TIP ▶ Cool in the truest sense

Fans of all things extreme can enjoy a cocktail at minus 10 degrees Celsius even in summer at the frosty *Ice Kube Bar* → p. 85

INSIDER TIP ▶ Rock out under the bridge

The disco *Showcase* under the Pont Alexandre III often hosts live concerts (photo right) → p. 88

INSIDER TIP ▶ Antiques stroll

Rummage through odds and ends from granny's attic in the assortment of back-to-back antique shops, handicraft shops and cafés in the *Village Saint-Paul* area → p. 74

INSIDER TIP ▶ Twilight tour with dinner

What could be more romantic than an evening cruise on the Seine? Dinner on the *Calife* is a real treat → p. 68

INSIDER TIP ▶ Royal confectionery

Almost 300 years of sweet tradition: the artfully decorated tartlets and delicacies such as *baba au rhum* made by the confectionery *Maison Stohrer* are irresistible → p. 76

INSIDER TIP ▶ Hip and happening

At the Brazilian hotspot *Favela Chic*, you eat first, then dance on the tables afterward → p. 85

INSIDER TIP ▶ Dine in the Orient

The restaurant *Riad Nejma* transports you to the Orient. Delicious Moroccan meals including belly dance performances – a highlight → p. 67

INSIDER TIP ▶ Ideal picnic venue

At the tip of the Île de la Cité, right under the statue of the horse rider on the *Pont Neuf*, you'll feel like you're on a garden boat with a wonderful view of the city → p. 53

INSIDER TIP ▶ For your sweet tooth

The smoothest hot chocolate is served in the elegant rooms of the café *Angéline* – the perfect end to a walk in the Tuileries Garden → p. 62

INSIDER TIP ▶ The aromas of the Orient

You can smell the international speciality shop *Izraël* from afar → p. 75

INSIDER TIP ▶ A multifaceted "In" place

The *Wanderlust* is more than a club. Besides drinks and food it offers concerts, exhibitions or yoga courses. On warm days the terrace over the Seine is quite popular → p. 86

INSIDER TIP ▶ The winged ant

Dine in the casual ambiance of a restaurant that is as original as its name, *La Fourmi Aillée*. This former library is perfect for a meal or a snack in between → p. 68

INSIDER TIP ▶ A masterpiece of harmony

The newly built *Philharmonie de Paris* is definitely worth a visit thanks to the spectacular architecture inside and out plus a broad range of musical offerings (photo left) → p. 91



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

● Atmospheric organ concerts

A number of churches regularly offer free concerts. The rich sound of organ music resonating through the arches of *Notre-Dame Cathedral* is more than impressive – both visually and acoustically → p. 33

● Free couscous

The *Le Tribal-Café* as well as a dozen or so other restaurants provide a free meal on weekends. However, guests are expected to pay a small amount for a beverage. The atmosphere is convivial, as though you were dining with friends → p. 68

● Free museum admission

Hard to believe, but true: many museums in Paris do not charge admission. One of the most highly recommended is the *Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris* → p. 31

● Free attractions with a view

For the best view of the city without paying admission for the Eiffel Tower or the Tour Montparnasse climb the stairs of *Sacré-Cœur*. Performances by jugglers and musicians at no extra cost → p. 57

● Paris on inline skates

Every Friday evening, nearly 20 miles of the city are closed off for avid Rollerbladers. Inline skating through Paris is one of the most enjoyable ways of getting to know Paris – if only a small part. The fun begins at 10pm at Montparnasse station (photo) → p. 88

● Live chansons at no charge

Even the more modest restaurants frequently provide diners with the opportunity to listen to classic French songs after a good meal – live. Restaurants such as *Le Limonaire* are particularly atmospheric → p. 88

● ● ● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

ONLY IN PARIS

Unique experiences

● Gourmet mecca

Nowhere else in the world have so many stars graced both chefs and restaurants as in Paris. Yet the *brasseries* such as *Bofinger* are still the gastronomic heart of the city, offering the best quality plus an amazing ambiance → p. 62

● Arcades – Nostalgie à la française

Paris is defined by the splendour of its past. Upscale covered shopping centres such as the *Galerie Vivienne* (photo) have existed since the 18th century and are typical of parts of the city even today → p. 42

● Inner city market with multicultural flair

Chinese, Indians and Africans from every part of the continent have all injected culture and an exotic flair into certain districts. The African market, *Marché Barbès*, is a tantalising example → p. 81

● Luxurious shopping

Paris, as the epitome of luxury, is celebrated for its champagne, perfume and fashion. You can find a large selection of luxury items within the "Triangle d'Or" – the golden triangle around the *rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré* → p. 78

● Museums of international renown

Alongside the Louvre – the museum with the largest exhibition space in the world – the Centre Pompidou boasts the largest collection of modern art in Europe today. The museum that best reflects Paris, however, is the *Musée d'Orsay*, with its collection of works by the French Impressionists → p. 39

● Street cafés

Street cafés act as an extension of a Parisian living room. Even the tiniest space on the pavement has enough room for a couple of tables and chairs. The café terrace at the *Café Marly* at the Louvre is ideal for people-watching → p. 66

● Exhibition of the city's history

There are few cities in Europe that can look back on such a tumultuous 2,000 year history. The *Musée Carnavalet* displays a profound and inspiring insight into the city's past → p. 47



ONLY IN



DISCOVERY TOURS

1

PARIS AT A GLANCE

START: ① Fouquet's
END: ⑩ Caveau de la Huchette

Distance:
 ➔ 27.5 km/17 miles

COSTS: Métro/bus tickets 6 euros, Batobus ticket 16 euros, admission for the Musée d'Orsay 11 euros

IMPORTANT TIPS: the nearest Métro station to the start of the tour on the Champs-Élysées is M 1 George V
 Reserve a table for dinner at ⑨ Bouillon Racine ahead!
 The nearest Métro stations to the last stop on the tour on rue de la Huche are M 4 Saint-Michel or Cité.

1 day
 Walking time
 (without stops)
 3 hours



Cities have many faces. If you want to get behind the scenes to explore their unique charm and head off the beaten track or find your way to green oases, handpicked restaurants or the best local activities, then these tailored Discovery Tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

With a diameter of approx. 5 km (3.1 miles), the core of the city is smaller than one might expect. You can get a good feel for the metropolis on the water, but the view from the Arc de Triomphe will also help you get your bearings. No visit to Paris would be complete without a stop at the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, but some of the best art awaits at the Musée d'Orsay. A meal in an Art Nouveau-style restaurant followed by a walk through the lighted streets of Paris cap off the experience.

09:00am Start your day with breakfast on the **Champs-Élysées** ➔ p. 35. One of the most famous of the many street cafés is ① **Fouquet's** (daily, | no. 99 | 8th arr. | tel.

① Fouquet's

