



A newbie's guide to:

Paris

2023



Paris at a glance

So you're moving to Paris for work. That's amazing—now what? Moving to a new city can be overwhelming, so we put together a super quick guide to help you get settled in.

Paris itself doesn't need much of an introduction. We all know what it's like. For example, anyone who has ever seen a romantic movie knows that you can literally see the Eiffel Tower from every window in the city*.

In all seriousness, Paris is so iconic that it has a whole separate form of culture shock named after it. In this guide, we're not going to romanticize it—yes, Paris is home to incredible sights and cultural landmarks that make it truly unique. But in many ways it's also just a city like any other: if you're moving here, you just have to know how it works to make the most of it.

So read on for our recommendations for the most livable neighborhoods, a list of handy apps, and general tips and tricks for living your best Parisian life.

Our agents on the ground have also selflessly and tirelessly worked to find the best places to eat in the world's most delicious city. Poor them, right**?



The weather

Maybe you've already noticed that googling "Paris climate" will mostly yield results about the Paris Climate Agreement. But for now, you probably just want to know how many sweaters to pack. So here's what you can expect from the weather.

The overall climate throughout the year is mild, with warm and sunny summer days averaging between 15 and 25°C (59 and 77°F). There are a few days most summers when the temperature rises above 32°C (90°F), and occasional intense heat waves are to be expected.

Spring and autumn are generally mild, with a surprisingly warm or cool day thrown in every now and again. Winter days are cool and the nights chilly, usually still staying above freezing with low temperatures around 3°C (37°F).

The city sometimes sees light snow in winter and gets light rainfall throughout the year—but you'll also encounter abrupt, heavy showers.

Arrival

There are three airports in Paris: Charles de Gaulle, Orly and Beauvais. CDG and Orly are well connected to the city, while Beauvais is quite a bit further up north.

To get from CDG to the city center, you have three options: train, bus or taxi. The regional RER train takes around 50 minutes at around 10€ per ticket. Another cheap transfer option is the bus, which takes about 70 minutes. Le Bus Direct is faster but costs 17€. Taxis from CDG to Paris charge a flat rate of 60€.





Getting around

The cheapest and easiest way to get around is the Métro. There are 16 metro lines and around 300 stations, instantly recognizable by a large yellow 'M'.

The Metro connects with the RER, 5 express train lines connecting Paris city center to surrounding suburbs. The connection is seamless and you can use the same travel card.



Finding a home

The City of Paris is famously divided into twenty administrative districts, referred to as arrondissements.

The arrondissements form a clockwise spiral starting from the middle of the city, with the first on the north bank of the Seine. On street signs, the number is often given in Roman numerals.

Finding your ideal neighborhood will depend on what your priorities are. Generally speaking, the central arrondissements (1-9) are the most desirable (with the price tags to match). Some more upscale residential and family-oriented districts like the 8th and the 16th are also pricey but have a better selection of family-sized apartments, which are harder to come by in the center.

The further east or north from the center you go, the quicker prices tend to drop. Overall, just expect prices to vary depending on location, size, modernity, and proximity to transport.

Like most big cities, Paris can be a challenge for an apartment hunter. Start your search early.

The most popular websites to look for housing include:

- [LeBonCoin](#)
- [SeLoger](#)
- [PAP](#) (Particuliers à Particuliers)
- [Spotahome](#)

[This master guide](#) to renting in France by Expatica covers a lot of ground.





Our favorite neighborhoods

The 11ème arrondissement. The 11th is a young and lively neighborhood with a wide variety of fantastic places to eat and a lot of good entertainment.

The 18ème arrondissement. This is the place for you if you're looking for those classic bohemian Paris vibes. Montmartre is here, as well as lots of markets.

The 9ème arrondissement. Full of iconic French landmarks and typical Parisian architecture.

La Butte Aux Cailles. A micro-arrondissement nestled within the 13th. Peaceful and full of amazing street art, this feels like a village inside Paris.

Cost of living

It will not come as a surprise to you that Paris is an expensive place to live.

[Expatistan's estimates](#) for monthly costs in Paris:

- Family of four: €5,163
- Single person: €3,056

To put it in perspective:

- Madrid is 26% cheaper than Paris.
- London is 26% more expensive than Paris
- Paris is 32% cheaper than New York City and 4% more expensive than in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Places to visit and hang out

The Eiffel Tower.

End of chapter.

Just kidding, obviously. Yes, you should go see the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and the Arc de Triomphe, and whatever else you're in the mood for. But there are so many other beautiful spaces in Paris. Some of our favorites:

- Jardin du Luxembourg on the border between Saint-Germain-des-Prés and the Latin Quarter. 25 hectares of gardens, forests, ponds, orchards, and a bunch of different activities for kids and adults alike.
- Parc Monceau, 17ème arrondissement. One of the most elegant gardens in Paris, full of statues, a Renaissance archway, beautiful trees, birds, and a large pond.
- Parc des Buttes Chaumont, 19ème arrondissement.
- Jardin Floral du bois de Vincennes.
- Rooftop of the Galeries Lafayette.
- Boulevard Haussmann, 9ème arrondissement.



The cuisine

French cuisine is the cuisine—this is where the word comes from, after all. If you're new to the cheese and wine part of Europe... well, we hope you like cheese and wine! If not, no worries. Paris is so vast and multicultural that you are pretty much guaranteed to eat well here. Our favorite places to eat

On the one hand, Paris is so full of good food that you probably won't have too much of a hard time finding places you like. On the other hand, choice overload can be hard to overcome. So here's a list of places we like. Have fun exploring!

Restaurants

- The Hardware Société (Montmartre) for brunch
- Brasserie Dubillot (2ème arrondissement)
- La Belle époque (2ème arrondissement)
- One&One Burgers (Passage des Panoramas 2ème arrondissement)
- Café Plume (1er arrondissement)
- Le verre siffleur (14ème arrondissement rue d'Alésia)
- Nesle (6ème arrondissement)
- The Grill Room (17ème arrondissement)
- Brasserie Rosie (11ème arrondissement)
- La Recyclerie (18ème arrondissement)
- La Felicita (13ème arrondissement)
- Salatim (2ème arrondissement)
- Maison Montagu - for salads and sandwiches (11ème arrondissement)
- Le Grand Bréguet (11ème arrondissement)
- Le Ground Control - Food court during the day/bar during the night (12ème arrondissement)

Boulangeries

- Cédric Grolet
- Mathieu&co (14ème arrondissement)
- La grande Alésia (14ème arrondissement)
- Frappe (11ème arrondissement)
- Ten Belles Bread (11ème arrondissement)
- Wonderland Pâtisserie (14ème arrondissement)

Snacks

- Aux Merveilleux de Fred (exceptional meringues, pains au lait, brioches and merveilleux)
- Le Loir dans la théière
- La Mouette Rieuse, a library with a small café/restaurant in the back
- Les Pipelettes (14ème arrondissement)





The language

Whether or not you're a language learning enthusiast, learning French to at least A2 level is a requirement for getting your resident card (Carte de Résident), so if you're planning to stick around, it's a good idea to learn.

France ranks 26th out of 35 European countries in the English Proficiency Index. Also, everything official happens in French: filing taxes, opening a bank account, and signing rental contracts. Learning French will ultimately make life easier and smoother for you.

Tips & observations

- French people tend to organize any and all social events around food/drinks. Anyone wanting to be friendly or who wants to get to know someone else will typically say the phrases “Je t’offre un café” (Let me buy you a coffee) “On va boire un verre?” (let’s get a drink).
- Cafés and bars are common places to hang out to meet people and/or get to know someone better.
- Teams or offices often organize afterworks—the word is usually said in English with a very strong French accent—where you’ll typically get drinks and a quick snack after leaving the office together.
- Taking a class is also a great way to meet people in Paris and there is a wide range of options. This ensures that you meet people with whom you have something in common.



Basic survival apps

- [Citymapper](#) for public transport.
- [Vélib'](#) for bicycle sharing.
- [ClassPass](#) for trying out different sports classes.





Before we go

We've barely scratched the surface. But that's what this guide is meant to do—give you a place to start. The information and advice in the guide has been compiled (and is regularly updated) based on the experiences of real-life expats in Paris. We can't guarantee that your experience will be identical or that you'll like everything we recommended in these pages.

Now go out there, stay safe, and make the most of your new home!

Thank you!