

3 Nights in Paris: A Suggested Itinerary

Paris is a city best enjoyed at an easy pace — between its world-famous landmarks, riverside walks along the Seine, art-filled museums, café culture, and hearty French food. This itinerary ensures you experience the best of Paris without feeling rushed or spending excessively.

Day 1 – Arrival & Evening by the Seine

Afternoon Arrival

• Check into your hotel in **Central Paris** (Latin Quarter, Saint-Germain, or near the Louvre are great areas for walking access).

Late Afternoon

- Take your first walk along the **Seine River**. Stroll past the **Pont Neuf**, **Île de la Cité**, and admire **Notre-Dame Cathedral** (still under restoration but stunning from outside).
- Grab a casual bite at a **boulangerie** (bakery) try a croissant or quiche with coffee.

Evening

• Enjoy a sunset Seine River Cruise (Bateaux Mouches or Vedettes du Pont Neuf, approx. €15–20). You'll see Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, and bridges lit up.

- Dinner in the Latin Quarter: try an affordable French bistro with menus around €18–25.
 - o Good options: Le Petit Prince de Paris or Bouillon Pigalle (classic French food at very reasonable prices).

Day 2 – Louvre & Parisian Cafés

Morning – Louvre Museum (3–4 hours)

- Arrive early (9 am opening) to avoid crowds.
- Don't just rush to the Mona Lisa also see Venus de Milo, Winged Victory of Samothrace, Egyptian collection, and French paintings.
- Take breaks inside the Louvre is massive!

Lunch

• Eat nearby at Café Marly (overlooks the Louvre courtyard, pricier but worth it for one café meal) or head a short walk to Rue de Rivoli for budget-friendly brasseries.

Afternoon

- Walk through the Tuileries Garden to Place de la Concorde.
- Continue along the **Champs-Élysées** to the **Arc de Triomphe** (you can climb to the top for a fantastic view of Paris).

Evening

- Head to the **Eiffel Tower**. Book tickets in advance if you want to go up (€28 to the summit).
- For dinner, enjoy a hearty, not-too-pricey French meal at **Le Relais de l'Entrecôte** (famous for steak-frites, fixed menu).

Day 3 – Paris Outdoors, Art & Local Life

Morning - Musée d'Orsay

• Visit **Musée d'Orsay** (2–3 hours). The Impressionist art (Monet, Van Gogh, Renoir) is spectacular. The converted railway station setting is iconic.

Lunch

• Eat at the museum café or cross the Seine to Saint-Germain for a lively café scene (try Café de Flore or Les Deux Magots — historic, but you can just order coffee/pastry to keep it budget-friendly).

Afternoon – Montmartre Walk

- Take the metro to **Montmartre**.
 - o Visit Sacré-Cœur Basilica for panoramic city views.
 - o Wander Place du Tertre, where artists paint outdoors.
 - o Explore cobblestone lanes, street murals, and quirky shops.

Evening – Food & Night Vibes

- Dinner at **Bouillon Chartier** (legendary Paris dining hall with cheap classic French dishes).
- Optional: walk to **Moulin Rouge** for the iconic lit-up windmill (show tickets are pricey, but the area itself is worth a visit).

Day 4 – Last Morning in Paris & Departure

Morning

- Take a leisurely riverside walk or visit Shakespeare and Company bookstore near Notre-Dame.
- If time allows, stop at a local street market (like **Rue Mouffetard** for fresh produce, cheese, and Parisian life).

Lunch

• Grab a simple **baguette sandwich** or **crepes from a street stall** before heading to the airport/train station.

Top 10 Paris Attractions for First-Time Tourists

- 1. **Eiffel Tower** The ultimate Paris icon. Go up to the summit (or at least the 2nd floor) for sweeping views of the city, especially at sunset.
- 2. **Louvre Museum** Home to the Mona Lisa and thousands of masterpieces. Set aside at least half a day. (Tip: enter via the Carousel underground entrance to avoid long lines).
- 3. **Seine River Cruise** A scenic way to see Paris at night, with bridges and monuments beautifully lit. Affordable if you choose Batobus or Vedettes.
- 4. **Notre-Dame Cathedral & Île de la Cité** Even though the cathedral is under restoration after the fire, the island and nearby Sainte-Chapelle with its stained glass are stunning.
- 5. **Arc de Triomphe & Champs-Élysées** Climb to the top of the Arc for another great city view. Stroll down Paris's most famous avenue.
- 6. **Montmartre & Sacré-Cœur Basilica** Explore cobbled streets, artists' square (Place du Tertre), and enjoy a panoramic view of Paris from the basilica steps.
- 7. **Musée d'Orsay** A more manageable museum than the Louvre, with impressionist masterpieces (Monet, Van Gogh, Renoir).
- 8. **Tuileries Garden & Place de la Concorde** Relax in the historic gardens between the Louvre and Champs-Élysées.
- 9. Latin Quarter & Panthéon Bustling student area full of bookshops, history, and budget-friendly Paris cafés for Indian travelers.

10. **Luxembourg Gardens** – Beautiful park with fountains and greenery; perfect for a picnic or to rest between sightseeing.



Tips for Indian Travellers in Paris

- Vegetarian options: Try crepes with cheese/vegetables, falafel at L'As du Fallafel (Le Marais), or Indian restaurants in La Chapelle (known as "Little India").
- Getting around: Buy a Paris Navigo Easy card (metro/bus pass). Walking + metro is the easiest way to explore.
- **Budget dining**: "Bouillons" (Bouillon Pigalle, Bouillon Chartier) are excellent for affordable French meals under €20.
- Book museums online: Louvre & Eiffel tickets in advance save hours of queuing.

AIRPORT TO HOTEL / GETTING AROUND



From Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) \rightarrow Central Paris



1. RER B Train (Best Budget Option)

Cost: ~€11.45 per person (flat ticket price to any central Paris station).

Time: 35–45 minutes to Gare du Nord, Châtelet–Les Halles, or Saint-Michel.

How:

Follow signs for "Paris by Train / RER B" inside CDG. Buy a ticket from the vending machine (use card or cash). Train runs every 10–15 minutes.

Best For: Budget-conscious travellers, solo visitors, light luggage.



2. RoissyBus (Direct Bus to Opera)

Cost: €16.50 per person.

Time: ~60 minutes (can be longer in traffic).

Route: Direct service CDG → Opéra Garnier (very central, near Galeries Lafayette).

Best For: Tourists staying near Opera, Louvre, or central arrondissements.



3. Official Paris Taxi (Fixed Fare)

€55 to Right Bank (e.g., Marais, Louvre, Opera, Gare du Nord).

€62 to Left Bank (e.g., Latin Quarter, Eiffel Tower, Montparnasse).

Time: 40–60 minutes depending on traffic.

How: Take only official taxis from the signed taxi stands outside arrivals. (Ignore

touts inside the terminal.)

GETTING AROUND IN PARIS:



1. Metro & RER Trains (Within City Limits)

- o Cost per single ride: €2.15 (valid for metro, RER within central Paris zones 1–2, buses, trams).
- o Cheapest way for point-to-point travel.
- Valid for transfers between metro/RER/bus (but **not** backtracking).



2. Paris Transport Pass Options



Navigo Découverte Weekly Pass (Best for 3–7 days)

- **Price**: €30 (zones 1–5, unlimited rides for 1 week, Mon–Sun) + €5 for the card.
- Covers metro, RER, buses, trams, and even airport trips (CDG, ORY), Versailles, Disneyland Paris!
- Best Value if you're in Paris for 3+ days that fall between Monday-Sunday.



Paris Visite Travel Pass (Tourist Flexible Pass)

- Price:
 - Zones 1–3: €13.95/day, €29.25 for 3 days.
 - Zones 1–5: €29.25/day, €63.90 for 3 days (includes airports, Versailles, Disneyland).
- More expensive than Navigo, but available for any start day.
- Comes with some small museum/attraction discounts.

Carnet of 10 Metro Tickets (T+ Tickets)

- **Price**: €17.35 for 10 rides (works out to €1.73/ride).
- Good for short visits (2–3 days) if you won't ride metro too often.
- Can be shared between people.



3. Bikes & Scooters

- Vélib' Métropole (bike-share): €5/day for unlimited 30-min rides (great for short hops).
- Electric scooters also available (Lime, Dott, Tier) but pricier.



4. Walking + Buses for Scenic Routes

- Paris is walkable—especially along the Seine, Latin Quarter, Montmartre, and Le Marais.
- Buses are slower but let you **see the city** (vs. underground metros).



Budget-Friendly Recommendation for Tourists

- 2-3 days \rightarrow Get a carnet (10 tickets) OR Paris Visite (zones 1-3).
- 3+ days (Mon–Sun) → Buy a Navigo Découverte weekly pass → best value, unlimited, includes airport trips.
- Walk as much as possible (Paris is beautiful on foot) + use metro for longer hops.
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