

TOURIST OUTFIT

VISITING IN THE WINTER

PARIS OUTFIT

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If you want to experience a different side of Parisian life, forgo visiting in the warm summer months and venture to the City of Lights in the winter. Not only is it less crowded, but you can get hotel and flight packages at a steal, which means more cash to shell out at chic boutiques

like Dior, Chanel and Louis Vuitton. If you choose to stroll through Paris' famous haute couture, keep in mind that "fashionistas" don't wear fanny packs. Shopping aside, Paris has a good deal to offer, even in stormy weather. Here's a guide to where to go and how to look good doing it.

Beanies are comfortable, but look very casual, and when you take them off watch out for "helmet hair."

Be sure to bring gloves and scarf, but you might want to forget the "Bonjour Paris" T-shirt.

Fanny packs are a dead giveaway that you are a tourist and provide a tempting target to thieves.

Tennis shoes just won't get it done - rain soaks through them and you don't want cold feet on the Champs-Elysees.

Think in terms of layers when dressing for the cold. Underneath, a cream, wool-blend cardigan and gold camisole are perfect for post-shopping cocktails.

Camel-colored soft leather gloves glide on more easily than wool.

Large tote is ideal for concealing maps, camera, travel books and snacks.

When it comes to footwear, sometimes you have to choose style over comfort. Shopping the Left Bank is one of those occasions.

Pale gold pants, champagne camisole, ivory cardigan by DKNY, leather gloves by Bloomingdales, bronze bag by Isabella Fiore. Available at Bloomingdales.

1 HIGH FASHION

Certain moments are precious - such as venturing to Avenue Montaigne and the Left Bank to shop with the chic. Well-heeled Parisians search for fashionable ensembles by Prada, Dolce & Gabana, Chanel, Dior, Valentino, Louis Vuitton, Yves Saint Laurent, Versace and more.

2 PERE LACHAISE CEMETERY

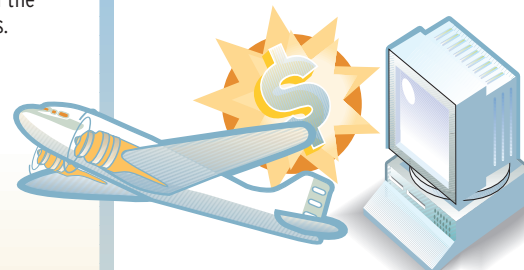
The biggest lure is to visit the graves of the famous, such as Oscar Wilde, Sarah Bernhardt, Delacroix and Jim Morrison. At a flower shop near the entrance, you can purchase a map showing the location of the grave sites.



PARIS ATTRACTIONS AND THE WEATHER

SUNNY
From November to March, the warmest it gets is about 50 degrees. So be prepared for the cold. About half the days are sunny.

RAIN/SNOW
The lows are in the 30s, with about 10 days of rain and about five days of snow each month.



GETTING THERE

The good news about flying in the off-season is that you can save up to half off the price for air and hotel in Paris. Typical round-trip airfare from LAX to Paris:

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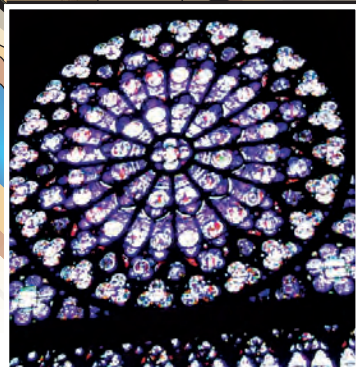
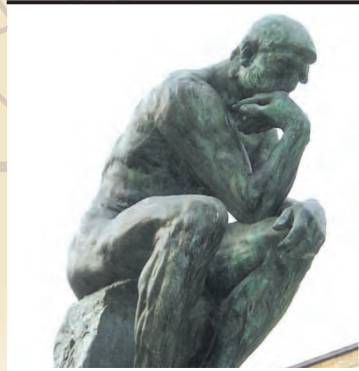
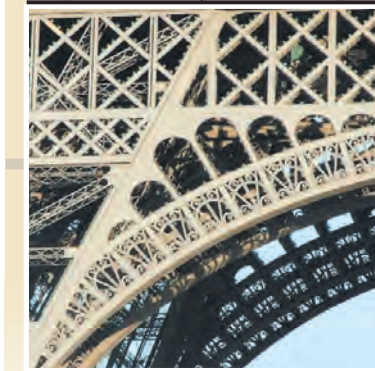
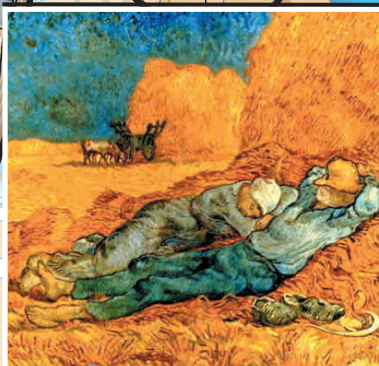
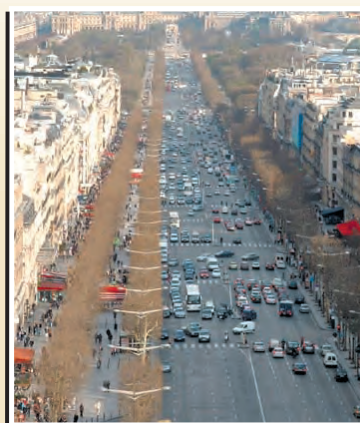
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Observation deck on top affords fantastic views of the city.



SEINE RIVER
A fun way to see the city is on the Batobus - boats that cruise past the city's famous landmarks. Boats glide under the almost 30 bridges of Paris, with one of the most famous the Pont Alexandre III Bridge, decorated with ornate lamps and sculptures. For a romantic evening, take a sunset dinner cruise.

CHAMPS-ELYSEES
This is where Paris comes to celebrate - with important parades or ceremonial occasions. Here you can gaze in expensive shops, sip overpriced coffee at a sidewalk cafe and enjoy the fashion show. The French refer to it as "La plus belle avenue de monde" (the most beautiful street in the world).



3 EIFFEL TOWER

Crafted from 7,000 tons of wrought iron, the tower was built in 1889 for the 1889 Universal Exhibition and was only saved because the top of the tower was a handy place for a radio antenna. There are two restaurants on the tower that can provide a lovely and romantic setting for your most sophisticated evening outfits.

4 HOTEL DES INVALIDES

This massive building was built in 1670 for wounded war veterans. It now holds the tomb of Napoleon and the Army Museum - the world's most comprehensive military museum, with displays on ancient swords and battle axes. There is a chapel on the grounds with a golden dome.

5 RODIN MUSEUM

Rodin's studio was purchased by the French government in 1911 and transformed into a museum to display his various sculptures, plaster casts and sketches. The lovely grounds have a pool and fountain and dozens of sculptures hidden among the trees, including one of Rodin's most famous works, "The Thinker."

6 MUSEE D'ORSAY

A converted railroad station, the d'Orsay is extremely popular with tourists as it is not as overwhelming as the Louvre and is filled with natural light. It houses works from 1848 to 1914, including the Impressionists and post-Impressionist works of Manet, Monet, Cézanne, van Gogh and Renoir.

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When Paris celebrates, the dignitaries gather at the world's largest arched monument - about 161 feet high and 144 feet wide. It is also the busiest traffic hub in Paris. There are sculptures at the base of each pillar that commemorate various moments in French military history.

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Home to Mona Lisa's awkward smile, the Louvre is the largest museum in the world, with 30,000 works of art. A glass pyramid allows sunlight into an underground reception area of shops and restaurants. Be sure to catch the armless "Venus de Milo" and massive "Winged Victory."

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Begun in 1757 as the Church of Sainte-Geneviève, the Pantheon evolved into a monument to honor famous dead French. Frescoes on the wall portray scenes from Saint Geneviève's life. Among those buried are Hugo, Voltaire and Rousseau.

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The intricate details in this massive church explain why it took nearly 200 years to build. The views from the towers and the stunning light streaming in the stained glass are breathtaking. Be sure to note the nasty gargoyles hanging about the ledges.

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Photos by THOMAS SULLENS and The Associated Press; reporting by CHANTAL LAMERS; graphic by SCOTT M. BROWN / The Register

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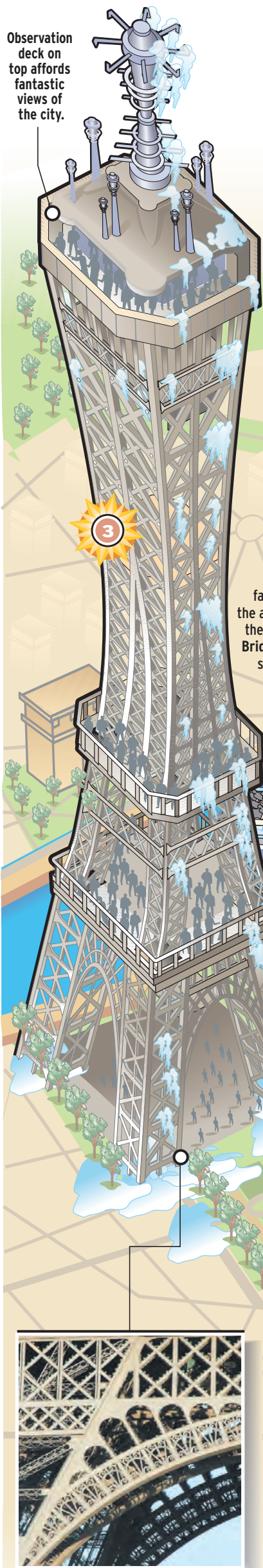


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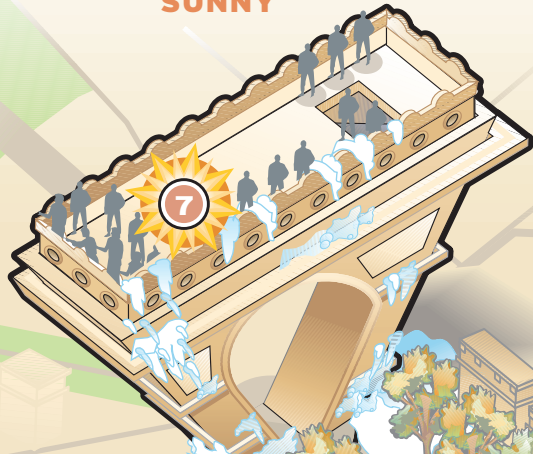
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Seine River

Hotel des Invalides

Rodin Museum

Musee d'Orsay

Arc de Triomphe

Louvre Museum

Luxembourg Gardens

Pantheon

Notre Dame

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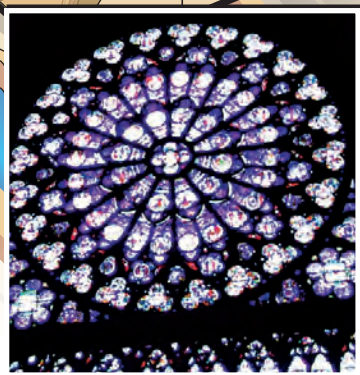
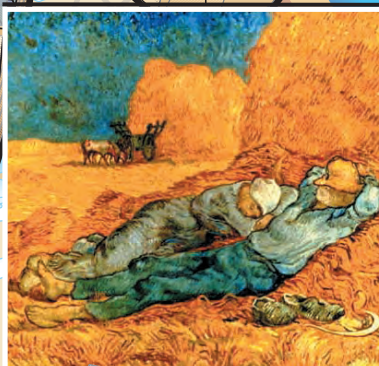
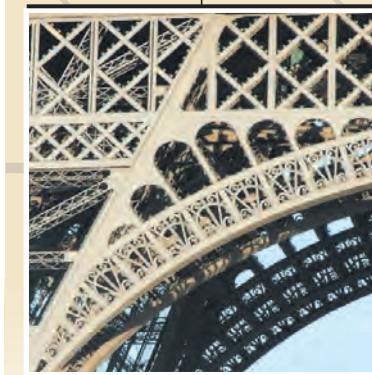
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