

10 Reasons to Love Paris

Bistros on every corner, secret green spaces and monuments that rival the Eiffel Tower, here's the City of Light local treasures

Words: ORLA PENTELOW

1

Instagram-famous spots that deliver

Trocadero is the ultimate spot for a view of the Eiffel Tower, and the striped columns at Palais Royal are popular for good reason. Daniel Buren's installation in the palace courtyard is genuinely striking and the surrounding arcades hide gems like Café Kitsuné, where you can grab excellent coffee in a space that manages to feel both polished and relaxed.

27



WHEN TO VISIT...?

Paris is magical all year round, but late summer offers warm, blissful weather and fewer crowds. Book now at

[easyJet.com](https://www.easyJet.com)

TRAVELLER

2

Its neighbourhood secret spots

Paris reveals its true character in the bistros that locals guard zealously. Cafes spill onto pavements where Parisians linger over work lunches that last until dinner. Duck into any corner bistro (Chez Prune or La Esmeralda) and you'll find most places don't need Michelin stars.

3

The Panthéon is world-class

While tourists might queue for the Louvre, those in the know head to the Panthéon. Voltaire, Rousseau and Marie Curie rest beneath a soaring dome with frescoes you can appreciate *sans* selfie sticks. Plus, it's a stone's throw from the chic Sorbonne quarter.

4

Canal Saint-Martin is where Parisians actually hang out

The 10th arrondissement's tree-lined canal is Paris at its most effortlessly cool. Locals gather with wine while bars like Bisou, Point Éphémère and Le Comptoir Général strike the ideal balance of having atmosphere without being pretentious.

5

Dinner at a bouillon won't break the bank

The Bouillon Chartier: a Belle Époque dining room where you feast on French classics for the price of a pint. You'll queue, but the Art Nouveau mirrors, trad (read: upfront) waiters and orders scrawled on tablecloths? Worth it.

6

Unexpected cultural treasures at every turn

The 5th's Grande Mosquée de Paris – a Moorish Revival-style complex with intricate tilework, courtyards and a traditional hammam – also has a tearoom serving mint tea and pastries, offering a sense of calm that feels worlds away from the city.

7

Its hidden green spaces

Skip the Tuileries for the Coulée Verte – a park on a railway line that's Paris's answer to New York's High Line (except it remains blissfully quiet). Or the Jardin des Plantes, where actual vegetables grow. Courgettes and squash in the 5th arrondissement? *Mais oui.*

8

Strolling along the Seine is magic

Spring brings crisp mornings and golden light reflecting off the Seine. Follow the river's curves on foot (or even on an electric scooter with Badass Tours Paris*) and visit the *bouquinistes*. These green bookstalls that have been there since the 16th century.

9

Markets are part of daily life

The flea market at Porte de Clignancourt is a treasure hunter's dream – vintage posters, antique furniture and more you didn't know you needed across many hundred stalls. For food, the covered Marché des Enfants Rouges is the oldest, dating back to 1615.

10

Cafes that feel like time capsules

Café de Flore gets the fame, but plenty of places offer that same vintage atmosphere without the tourist tax, like cosy neighbourhood haunt Le Pure Café in the 11th arrondissement with its velvet banquettes and Art Deco details. Take your kir royal at the bar like a Parisian.

