

# Paris – the City of Light.

## Des trucs astuces:



### Lutetia

Two thousand years ago, Roman Paris was located on the two little islands in the Seine, with a suburb on the Left Bank in the “Latin Quarter”.

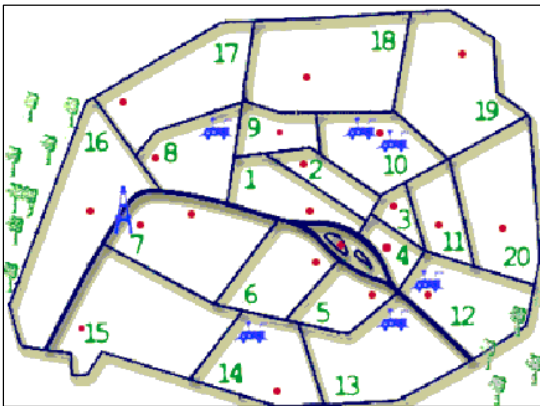
### The “Left Bank” and the “Right Bank”.

This is determined by the way the river flows to the sea, so face the direction of the flow, and the Left Bank is on your left. On the map, the river flows from East to West. Thus La Tour Eiffel is on the Left Bank, (rive gauche) and Le Louvre on the Right Bank (rive droite).

**The Metro** – is overground and underground, covers the inner

city, and is just over 100 years old. Nowhere in Paris is more than 400m from a Métro station. Lines are numbered and colour coded. When you travel, you need to know: the number of the line, its colour and the terminal in the direction you are heading. (ie: No 9, avocado green, Pont de Sevres) to ensure that you arrive on the correct platform. **The RER** is the express suburban train network. It travels out into the outer suburbs of Paris. It does not have as many stops as the metro. You will have a **Paris Visite pass**. Once you get your pass, immediately fill in your name on the card. Write down the card serial number on the ticket and write the date of first use. Card and ticket must be held together at all times. RATP staff are entitled to verify your pass at any time. This pass will allow you to travel on the Metro, RER and bus within the city boundaries.

There are many railway stations in Paris: **La gare: de l’est, du nord, st Lazare, Austerlitz, Montparnasse, de Lyon**....each stations serves a distinct set of lines, eg. La gare du nord serves the north coast and Eurostar; La gare de Lyon serves Lyon, Marseille and the coast to Italy. The acronym **SNCF** stands for « Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français » – French Rail.



The inner suburbs of Paris are called **arrondissements**. They were introduced by Baron Haussmann when he redesigned the city. They spiral outwards from the city centre, like a snail! So the lower the number, the closer to the city centre is the arrondissement. The two little islands in the Seine are called L’île de la cité.

### Cafés

Remember that where you sit determines the price you pay, la terrasse is dearer than sitting inside. In some areas of Paris afternoon and evening prices are a lot dearer than morning ones!

## Rulers of France.

You will often hear about the different Kings, Queens and Presidents of France. The list will help you organise some sort of time frame for them. France has had a continuous rule since the 400s, though of course what was known as "France" was very different then from now. Remember that England had quite extensive land holdings in France, inherited through William of Normandy and by later marriages with French princesses.



**King François 1er.**



**Catherine de Medici**

You will note that some of the early ones have quite graphic nicknames! Only some of the more famous early kings have been listed. It seems the French were quite unimaginative when it came to picking Christian names for the heirs to the throne! Later on, you will see that nicknames are used to differentiate between the many kings who shared the same name.

It is also interesting to note how life expectancy changed – remembering of course that rulers belonged to the privileged classes!



Louis XIV – the Sun King



Louis XV – le bien aimé



Louis XVI – la Révolution.



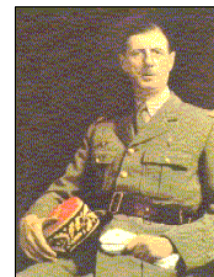
Marie Antoinette



Napoléon I



Joséphine



Charles de Gaulle

### Les Chefs D'État et Présidents de France

Adolphe Thiers (1871-1873)

Patrice de Mac-Mahon (1873-1879)

Jules Grévy (1879-1887)

Sadi Carnot (1887-1894)

Jean Casimir-Périer (1894-1895)

Félix Faure (1895-1899)

Maréchal Philippe Pétain (Régime de Vichy)

Général Charles De Gaulle 1959 – 1969

Georges Pompidou 1969 – 1974

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing 1974 – 1981

François Mitterrand 1981 – 1995

Jacques Chirac 1995 - ????

## Les rois et les empereurs de France

### Les Francs

Clodion le Chevelu (400-447).	429
Mérovée (?-457).	447
Childéric 1 <sup>er</sup> (436-481). Dernier roi païen	457.

### Les Merovingiens

*C'est la période des "rois fainéants".*

Clovis 1 <sup>er</sup> (466-511).	(v.481-511).
Dagobert 1 <sup>er</sup> (604-639).	(629-639)
Childéric III ( ?-755).	743-751

### Les Pepinides

Pépin le Bref (715-768).	751-768
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### Les Carolingiens

Charlemagne (747-814).	768-814
Carloman (751-771).	768-771
Louis 1 <sup>er</sup> le Pieux (778-840).	814-840
Charles II le Chauve (823-877).	840-877
Louis II le Bègue (846-879).	877-879
Louis III (v.863-882).	879-882
Carloman (867-884)	879-884
Charles le Gros (839-888).	885-887
Charles III le Simple (879-929	893-923
Raoul (ou Rodolphe)(?-936).	923 - 936
Louis IV d'Outremer (920-954).	(954-986).
Louis V le Fainéant (967-987).	986-987
Les Capétiens	
Hugues Capet (939-966	987-996
Robert II le Pieux (972-1031)	996-1031
Henri 1 <sup>er</sup> (1008-1060)	1031-1060
Philippe 1 <sup>er</sup> (1052-1108)	1060-1108
Louis VI le Gros (1084-1137)	1108-1137
Louis VII le Jeune (1120-1180)	1137-1180
Philippe II Auguste (1165-1223)	1180-1223
Louis VIII le Lion (1187-1226)	1223-1226
Louis IX (Saint Louis) (1214—1270)	1226-1270
Philippe III le Hardi (1245-1285)	1270-1285

Philippe IV le Bel (1268-1314)	1285-1314
Louis X le Hutin (1289-1316)	1314-1316
Jean 1 <sup>er</sup> Posthume (1316-1316)	1316
Philippe V le Long (1293-1322	1316-1322
Charles IV le Bel (1294-1328)	1322-1328

### Les Valois

Philippe VI (1293-1350)	1328-1350
Jean II le Bon (1319-1364)	1350-1364
Charles V le Sage (1338-1380)	1364-1380

Charles le Fol (1368-1422)	1380-1422
Charles VII le Victorieux (1403-1461	1422-1461
Louis XI le Prudent (1423-1483)	1461-1483
Charles VIII l'Affable (1470-1498)	1483-1498
Louis XII (1462-1515	1498-1515
François 1 <sup>er</sup> (1494-1547)	1515-1547
Henri II (1519-1559)	1559-1560
François II (1544-1560)	1560-1574
Charles IX (1550-1574)	1560-1574
Henri III (1551-1589)	1574-1589

### Les Bourbons

Henri IV (le Vert-Galand) (1553-1610)	1589-1610
Louis XIII le Juste (1601-1643)	1610-1643
Louis XIV le Grand (1638-1715	1643-1715
Louis XV le Bien-Aimé (1710-1774)	1715-1774
Louis XVI (1754-1793)	1774-1791
Napoleon 1 <sup>er</sup>	(1815-1815)
Louis XVIII le Désiré (1755-1824)	1814-1824
Charles X (1757-1836)	1824-1830
Louis-Philippe 1 <sup>er</sup> (1773-1850)	1830-1848
Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte(Napoléon II)	1848– 1851
Napoléon III	1852-1870

Source : Lois Cutmore 2005.

## Some Historical Events.

### The Revolution:

Began in 1789, with the Storming of the Bastille. King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette were executed in 1793. The Reign of Terror occurred around 1793 – 1795. Religion and the Church were banned; Notre Dame, for example became a “Temple of Reason”.

### Napoleon

Came to power in 1799 and worked his way through a variety of roles to eventually become Emperor of France. He conquered most of Western Europe, placing his family on the vacated thrones. His invasion of Russia, and the subsequent Retreat from Moscow in 1812 marked the beginning of his declining power. He was eventually defeated by the British and the Prussians at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. He was exiled to the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic, where he died a lonely death in 1821.

### 1848 Revolution:

Caused because French people wanted to decrease the power of the King and have a greater say in the running of the government; fairer working conditions and better wages. It was led by poorly armed students and workers who manned barricades in the streets of Paris. Their slogan was: “*Du travail ou du pain; du pain ou du plomb*”. This meant that if work or bread were not forthcoming the revolutionaries would fight to the death (killed by the lead bullets of the royal armies). There were bloody battles in the streets. Eventually the King left the country and a Republic was proclaimed, which was unfortunately, just as repressive as the King’s regime. 11,000 workers were arrested for treason and 4 thousand were later deported to Algeria. This is the Revolution of Victor Hugo’s “*Les Misérables*.”

### The Franco-Prussian war: 1870.

Engineered very cleverly by the Prussians, forcing a totally unprepared France to go to war over who should rule Spain. The Prussians were a great military strength; the French philosopher, Voltaire, a century before had noted that Prussia was: “an army with a country, not a country with an army”. The French suffered a crushing defeat at Sedan. Emperor Napoleon III suffered the disgrace of being captured and made a prisoner of war. The Prussians then marched upon Paris.

### The siege of Paris: September 1870.

The city was surrounded by about 400 thousand Prussians troops. No-one could get in or out. Food supplies dwindled. People were forced to eat the zoo animals, cats, dogs and, when these became scarce, they resorted to rats and mice. This was the first aerial war, as hot air balloons were used by the French to try and extract important government documents and personnel from the capital. The French eventually surrendered during January 1871. In all, about 24 000 French were killed, wounded or were listed as “missing”. The peace treaty that was signed was shameful for all French people. As well as huge reparation payments, they had to give Prussia the valuable regions of Alsace and Lorraine – with their thriving industries and coal mines. The French never forgot this shame ....it was one of the principal causes that drove France into World War I.



**The Commune -  
1871**

After the Siege, the Parisians were so desperate because of their shame, hunger, dreadful living conditions, and the disinterest of the newly formed government towards their plight that they revolted. Once again, there were barricades across the streets. The revolution ended when the Royal troops broke the barricades. In furious street fighting over the course of a week, "la semaine sanglante", they re-took the capital. More than 30 000 communards died. The reprisals that followed were dreadful: 20 to 35 thousand were executed for having taken part in the revolution, 50 thousand were arrested as suspects; and 10 thousand were deported to Northern Africa as convicts.

**World War I –  
1914 - 1918**

France intended to revenge itself upon Germany for its treatment during and after the Franco-Prussian war. Germany invaded France, and established the Western Front across the north of the country. For four years, France and her allies fought on this front to prevent the German advance. During this war, France lost millions of soldiers and civilians. The peace treaty was signed at Versailles in the Hall of Mirrors after the war, when Germany handed back Alsace and Lorraine to France.

**World War II 1939  
– 1945**

France was invaded by Germany and surrendered. The French government of the day collaborated with the Nazis, and formed a "puppet" government under Marshall Petain. This was known as the "Vichy" government as it had its headquarters at the town of Vichy. For a while, France was split into two, with "Free France" in the south, and "Vichy" government in the north. Eventually, the Nazis took over the whole country. Many French people became members of the underground Resistance. France was liberated when the allies invaded on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944, D Day.

**The Resistance**

People who secretly conducted resistance – both violent and non-violent – against the Nazis during World War II. Resistance groups were made up of a great variety of people. Many were members of the Communist party; others were Christians; most were quite ordinary people. Even young children became involved. Reprisals against the Resistance were very severe. In some cases, whole villages were exterminated. The Loire formed the border between Vichy France and Free France.

The most highly regarded Resistance leader was Jean Moulin who was tortured to death by the Nazis in 1944.

**Immigration**

Immigration is as much debated in France as it is here. About 20% of people in France are immigrants. France has always had many immigrants, and originally these came from other European countries. France had many colonies throughout the world but mostly in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Once they had gained their independence after World War II, the citizens of these countries came to France seeking jobs, education and better opportunities. This changed the whole nature of immigration. Many of these immigrants are Moslem. The wearing of the veil by young Moslem women is a big issue in schools, where any outward religious symbols are banned. Islam is the second religion of France.





## The incredible Baron Haussmann –the man who changed Paris

The Paris of today is the result of the work of one man, Baron Haussmann. Here is his story.



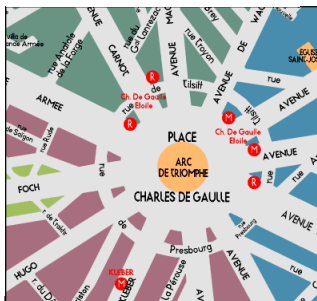
Old street in Paris.

During 1848, there was a revolution against the restored monarchy in Paris where ordinary people sought to try to better their working conditions, their wages and their right to choose a government. This was the revolution of Hugo's "Les Misérables", in which workers and students barricaded the streets and fought long, bloody battles against the military and the police. Once peace was restored, the government realised that it was necessary to control the "social menace" - those who lived in the cramped, squalid, lower class inner city suburbs and the city centre. The Emperor, Napoleon III, (who was the nephew of the original Napoleon) wanted to give the whole city a total make-over, starting with the Ile de la Cité, the area around Notre Dame. He commissioned Baron Haussmann to take over the re-construction of the city.



Reconstruction near the Opéra

Haussmann had far sighted concepts which he was able to realise since he had the total backing of the Emperor. He envisioned a "City of Light", with wide streets, beautiful buildings, parks, piped water and sewerage. For seventeen years, from 1853 to 1870, Haussmann worked to fulfil his dream. Money was no object as he organised demolition on a huge scale. He evicted the poorer classes and gentrified the areas, with wide roads, avenues, boulevards, luxurious apartment blocks to house the wealthy, shops, parks, piped water and hundreds of kilometres of sewers. He put in paved footpaths for the pedestrians.



Haussmann saw the Arc de Triomphe as the central triumph, to which all roads eventually led; he designed his city so that the Arc could be seen from great distances as the culminating point of perspective. He designed the surrounding boulevards to arrive like a twelve rayed star at the huge roundabout.

Shoppers no longer needed to resort to the safety of shopping arcades. They could enjoy strolling along the wide footpaths. The big department stores opened their doors to the new generation of Parisians who were now mostly middle or upper class (bourgeois), with large disposable incomes. It was a boom period for Paris, with property developers, interior designers, engineers, investors, speculators making huge fortunes as the city became one of the most beautiful in Europe.



The transformation of the city centre had the unfortunate effect of pushing the poorer classes to either concentrated pockets in the city or the outskirts of the city. This was the beginning of the unrest that led to the 1870 Revolution – but that's another story!

Haussmann met an unfortunate end. He became unpopular (evicting his own mother and demolishing her home didn't help!) Even though his work reaped millions of dollars for the Paris city council, he was accused of mispending public money and fraud, and was sacked in 1870.

## La Défense

This modern area of Paris got its name from the fierce defensive resistance that the Parisians put up here against the Prussians during the Franco-Prussian war in 1870. Conceived during the 1950's, this is the vast business "quartier" of Paris, covering some 2 million m<sup>2</sup>, with hundred of thousands of workers accessing the area each day. Its huge tower blocks represent contemporary architecture (though the huge sculpture of the finger - see the photo to the right ) remains a mystery!).

The Grande Arche de la Défense was conceived as being the end of the visual perspective from the Arc de Triomphe and the royal triumphal way. It was opened in 1989 and was designed by a Dane. You can access the roof (for a price) at 110m height, using the panoramic lifts.

La Défense is also a big "correspondence" on the RER, metro and SNCF railway systems, with a multi-level station. There is also a big shopping centre, called "Quatre Temps" with a hypermarket and a huge range of shops.



## The Arc de Triomphe

The Arc de Triomphe is one of the most famous and most visited places in France. French people see it as an icon for their country and rally spontaneously there for great events.

Napoleon Bonaparte had the Arc designed in a similar way to Roman triumphal arches since he wanted a monument to celebrate his conquests and the bravery of his armies. The Arc was commissioned in 1806, and was designed to be a landmark in the capital city; but before it had risen many metres above ground level, the architect died (in 1811). Its construction was not completed until 1836, many years after Napoleon's death.

The Arc de Triomphe is 50 metres in height and 45 metres in width. To reach the viewing platform at the top, you have to climb 260 steps up a spiral staircase. Inside the arch, at the top, there is a small museum which has displays about topical events and the background history of the arch.

The sides are decorated with sculptures of battles. Inside the Arch are the names of 128 victorious battles and 558 generals cover part of the Arc de Triomphe's surface.

France lost well over a million soldiers during World War One (1914 - 1918) as well as millions of civilians. In 1920, the body of the Unknown Soldier was brought from the battle front and buried at the Arc de Triomphe. Three years later the Eternal Flame was lit for the first time. There is a daily service at 6.30 pm. People lay bunches and bouquets of flowers and wreaths to remember their loved ones every day. On November 11th, at 11 o'clock every year, (L'Armistice) there is a special parade and service to remember and honour those who were killed in fighting for their country.



### Some special events which centred around the Arc de Triomphe :

- December 15th 1840: The procession carrying Napoleon's ashes to the tomb in Les Invalides passed under the Arc de Triomphe
- May 1885: The body of Victor Hugo, the famous writer, lay in state under the Arc de Triomphe. More than a million people came to pay their respects.
- July 14 1919: French troops marched through the Arc De Triomphe to celebrate victory in World War I
- November 11 1920: The Unknown Soldier was buried below the Arc de Triomphe

- June 1944: The Arc de Triomphe became a rallying point for Parisians at the end of World War II when the Allies reached Paris
- August 1998: The Arc de Triomphe became an spontaneous instantaneous focus point for the people of Paris when France won the World Cup. Three million people turned up just to share their happiness at winning and danced all night!

### La place de l'Etoile



Star Square is the old name for the roundabout surrounding the Arc de Triomphe. It was re-named after the president, Charles de Gaulle in 1970.

Originally, there were five roads leading in, but Haussmann added in another seven. The diameter of this enormous roundabout is about 240 metres. The "Place de l'Etoile" is legendary for its traffic accidents - in fact no insurance company will insure vehicles that travel around it! Use the subway to cross the road to arrive at the Arc de Triomphe.



### The Avenue des Champs-Élysées

is the best known avenue in France, and possibly in the world. It stretches for just over a kilometre in length from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde. In 1667, King Louis XIV ordered his landscaper Le Notre to plant chestnut trees to extend the royal road from the gardens of Les Tuileries. By the Revolution the Avenue was well known. It was part of the Royal Way.

The Avenue des Champs Élysées is a patriotic part of every French person. It is the setting for most the important events

in France, both planned and unplanned. Every Bastille Day, there is a military parade. Every Tour de France finishes in the sprint along this Avenue to the Arc de Triomphe.

The Avenue des Champs Élysées is home to high class, expensive shops, restaurants and cafés. On the other hand, tourists may buy their burger "chez MacDo" and watch the world go by.



### Place de la Concorde

Many people think that this is the most beautiful square in Paris. It was designed for decoration and as a big intersection by Jacques Ange Gabriel the architect of Louis XV. Its shape is octagonal. At each corner of the octagon is a statue that represents one of the large French cities: Lille, Strasbourg, Lyon, Marseille, Bordeaux, Nantes, Brest and Rouen. The statues of the horses are only copies; the real ones are now at the Louvre.

The Place was completed in 1763, when it was called the Place Louis XV. Originally it was meant to hold a statue of King Louis XV on his horse, surrounded by the octagonal moat.

During the Revolution, it was renamed "la Place de la Révolution", the equestrian statue of King Louis XV was removed and replaced by the guillotine in its centre. This was where King Louis XVI, Queen Marie Antoinette, Robespierre and thousands of others met their deaths during the Reign of Terror between 1793 and 1795. It is said that the smell of blood was so strong that a herd of cattle refused to cross the place.



After the Revolution, the square went through many name changes until eventually during the 1830's it received its modern name, chosen to symbolise the hope of a better future. The statue of Louis XV was never replaced. Instead, the square became a victim of the Egyptomania sweeping France. The ruler of Egypt offered the Obelisk of Luxor from the entrance to the temple of Amon at Luxor, as a gift to the French King. The obelisk, 23 metres high and weighing 230 tons, was installed in 1836 after a rather challenging voyage from Egypt.

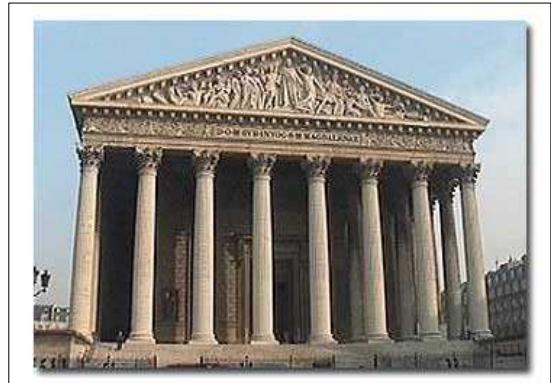
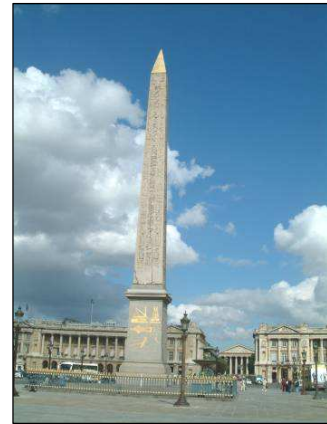
See if you can track down the Mobilisation Order for the French entry into World War I at no. 1, Rue Royale.

## The Madeleine

Originally this started as a copy of a classical Greek temple and was intended to be another monument to Napoleon's glorious conquests. However, his defeat in Russia temporarily stopped the building.

After the restoration of the monarchy in 1815, King Louis XVIII decided to continue the building but to convert the temple into a church dedicated to Saint Mary Magdalene. Inside, the only source of natural light comes from the domes. Nowadays, it's a very popular place for society weddings.

On the east side, there is a flower market, and a wonderful Art Nouveau toilet by the metro station. There are some wonderful delis to tempt the tastebuds of the gourmets of the group in the streets nearby.



## Notre Dame

The building of the Cathedral began about 800 years ago and it took some 200 years to complete. Originally, it marked the centre of the city which was mostly on the two islands and in the few surrounding districts at that time.

It is very hard to believe that this beautiful building which represents Paris for so many people was very nearly knocked down in the nineteenth century because it was in such a state of disrepair.

At the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Paris was certainly not the "city of light"! The old areas in the centre were over-populated slums - the population density reached 1,000 people per hectare. The dreadful living conditions meant that diseases such as cholera and typhoid were rife. Epidemics carried off tens of thousands of people at a time. The cathedral was surrounded by closely packed, dirty shacks and tenements. The poverty of the area inspired Victor Hugo with the compassion and fire to write about the conditions of the ordinary

people in such great novels as "Les Misérables"; but it was his other well-known novel: "Notre Dame de Paris" that started a campaign to restore and save the cathedral!

This was one of the areas targeted by the famous Baron Haussmann in his beautification program for Paris. The slums were swept away and in their place, the streets were widened and graceful apartments were constructed to surround the cathedral.





Inside the Cathedral admire the medieval rose window, with its stories from the bible depicted in the stained glass.

To visit the gargoyles, climb the two hundred and fifty steps to take you to the belfry tower. See if you can pick the one that's a cat hater! (see the picture). Remember that the bell is now rung electronically but in the past, it took 25 men to move this 13 tonne monster.



Notre Dame still marks the centre of Paris; outside in the square aim to find the "Kilometre 0", from which all the distances in France are measured. This was put into place by André Michelin, the founder of the tyre company. Look for the memorials for the Resistance fighters who died in World War II on the walls.

## Versailles.



The Palace of Versailles is the biggest in Europe. It was built by King Louis XIV – who was also known as the Sun King because of his choice of the sun as his symbol. Look out for the Sun symbols everywhere inside and outside of the Palace.



Louis came to the throne in 1643 at the age of five.

His mother was regent during his childhood and this period was marked by continuing civil war between various groups of nobles who wanted to gain control over the young king. As Louis reached his majority, he determined that he alone would have the absolute power in the land. Until this time, the Royal Family had lived in the Palace of the Louvre.

Louis decided that he would construct a new Palace, out of the city, safe from the revolts of the Paris mobs. He selected the site of an old hunting lodge, surrounded by marshy land. It took 60 000 workmen some twenty years to drain the marshes and create the beautiful palace.

Versailles eventually became the second capital of France, a palace that was a town, housing some 30, 000 people. All the nobles were expected to live at Versailles. This was the way in which Louis exercised control over his court and broke the power of the trouble makers. There were very strict rules of etiquette. The Palace in its size and opulence was a symbol of the King's absolute power and his centralised control. The cost of running the Palace was enormous; some historians suggest that it was as much as 25% of the government's income.

The drained marshland became a system of lakes and streams throughout the royal estate, which fed the fountains in the little groves and woodlands. Even in Louis' day, the landscapers could not get all the fountains to play simultaneously (much to

*A morning in the life of Louis XIV.  
From the memoirs of Duc de Saint-Simon.*

At eight o'clock the chief valet de chambre (*the servant of the royal bedroom*) awoke the king. At a quarter past eight, the grand chamberlain was called those who had the "grandes entrées." (*Special permission to enter the private room of the King to watch him dressing in the morning.*) That was the time to speak to the king, if anyone had anything to ask of him. The chamberlain gave him his dressing gown, immediately after, other privileged courtiers entered, and then everybody in time to find the king putting on his shoes and stockings.

As soon as he was dressed, he prayed and then gave orders to each person for the day. The king gave audiences, spoke with whomever he might wish to speak and gave interviews to foreign ministers.

The king went to Mass ... and amused himself a little upon returning, then asked almost immediately for the council. Then the morning was finished."



his disgust!) In the further parts of the estate, lie the Grand and Petit Trianon, the little palaces to which the Royal Family retired for a quiet life; and the hameau (or hamlet) of the unfortunate Queen Marie Antoinette. This is where she liked to dress up and play at being a farmer's wife.

Inside the main part of the Palace, one of the famous rooms is the Hall of Mirrors. Louis built this to reflect the sunlight. His throne was placed at the end of the room in a position where the sunlight was focussed and from which it radiated. The mirrors were some of the biggest in existence at this time, so were extremely expensive making this was one of the most costly rooms in the Palace. The Hall is also famous because the Peace Treaty of Versailles, at the end of World War 1, where Germany accepted blame for the war, was signed here. The room contains 578 mirrors; is 73 m long, 10.50 m wide, and 12.30 m high.



## Les Tuileries

These are the gardens belonging to the Royal Palace of Le Louvre. They were originally created by Queen Catherine de Medici. In 1664, the architect of the gardens at Versailles redesigned them. After the 1871 Commune revolt, the gardens were restored to his design.

## Rue de Rivoli

Part of the up-market area of Paris, and runs parallel to the Tuileries and le Louvre. It has many expensive and tourist shops which all have the same facades to the street. Because it is about 2 km long and straight, it is used as a drag strip by bikies at night.



## Place Vendôme

This Place houses not only the Ritz Hotel but also some of the most expensive designer, jewellery and watch shops in France – Dior, Cartier, Rolex, etc.

The big green column is a monument that commemorates Napoleon's victory at the Battle of Austerlitz in 1805. It is made of bronze from some of the 1200 canons that he captured in this battle, fought against the Austrians and the Russians.



## The Ritz

This word has become part of our language for luxury and glamour (putting on the Ritz, ritzy etc). Today it is best known to us as the hotel where Princess Diana stayed before she was killed in the car crash in the Alma Tunnel on the Boulevard Périphérique, the ring road around Paris. It was founded in 1898 by César Ritz and is very expensive and has a limited number of rooms. This means that you have to reserve well in advance.

Over the years, many famous people have been guests: Royal families, Ernest Hemingway and Coco Chanel. Not everyone thinks that the Ritz is the best hotel in Paris; there are other hotels that are dearer, larger, and that have as good, if not better reputations, such as Georges V and Le Crillon.



## L'Opéra

This is the Opéra Garnier, the older of the two main opera houses in Paris. It was designed by Charles Garnier; the other, newer opera house was built on the site of the Bastille, so it is called the Opéra Bastille.

This opera house today hosts mainly classical ballet; the Opéra Bastille hosts grand opera. The Phantom of the Opera of the story lived beneath this opera house. The Opera has just been renovated; all that decoration that looks like gold, really is gold!

