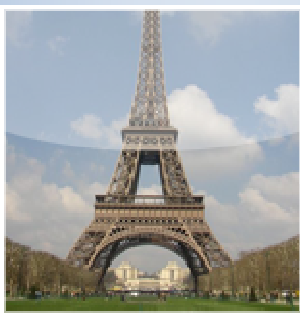
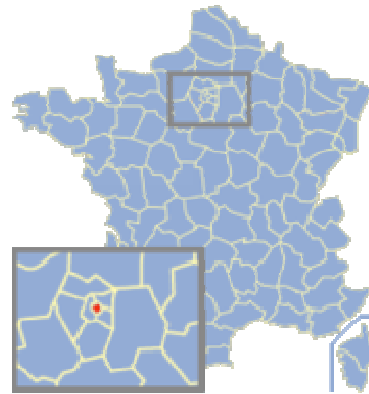


**PARIS**

**Paris** is the capital of **France** and the country's largest city. It is situated on the river Seine, in northern France, at the heart of the Île-de-France region. An important settlement for more than two millennia, Paris is today one of the world's leading business and cultural centres, and its influence in politics, education, entertainment, media, fashion, science and the arts all contribute to its status as one of the world's major global cities. Paris also hosts many international organizations such as UNESCO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Central **Paris** is officially divided into 20 districts called arrondissements, numbered from 1 to 20 in a clockwise spiral from the centre of the city (known as Kilometre Zero and is located at the front of **Notre Dame**). Arrondissements are named according to their number.



**The Eiffel Tower:** is an iron tower built on the **Champ de Mars** beside the **Seine** River. The tower has become a global icon of France and is one of the most recognizable structures in the world. Designed by the engineer Gustave Eiffel, the Eiffel Tower is the tallest building in Paris. Including the 24 m (79 ft) antenna, the structure is 324 m (1,063 ft) high (since 2000), which is equivalent to about 81 levels in a conventional building.

**Notre Dame de Paris:** is a Gothic cathedral on the eastern half of the **Île de la Cité** in the fourth arrondissement of Paris, with its main entrance to the west. It is the cathedral of the Catholic archdiocese of Paris: that is, it is the church that contains the "cathedra", or official chair, of the Archbishop of Paris. Notre Dame de Paris is widely considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture in the world. It was restored and saved from destruction by Viollet-le-Duc, one of France's most famous architects. The name Notre Dame means "Our Lady" in French. Notre Dame de Paris was one of the first Gothic cathedrals, and its construction spanned the Gothic period. Its sculptures and stained glass show the heavy influence of naturalism.



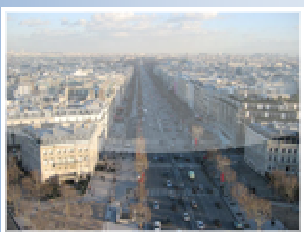
The monument stands 49.5 m (162 ft) in height, 45 m (150 ft) wide and 22 m (72 ft) deep. It is the second largest triumphal arch in existence. Its design was inspired by the Roman Arch of Titus.

**The Sacré-Cœur Basilica:** is a Roman Catholic basilica and popular landmark, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The basilica is located at the summit of the butte **Montmartre**, the highest point in the city. Sacré-Cœur is built with travertine stone quarried in Château-Landon (Seine-et-Marne), **France**. This stone constantly exudes calcite, which ensures that the basilica remains white even with weathering and pollution. A mosaic in the apse, entitled Christ in Majesty, is among the largest in the world. The basilica complex includes a garden for meditation, with a fountain. The top of the dome is open to tourists and affords a spectacular panoramic view of the city of **Paris**, which is mostly to the south of the basilica.



**The Palais Garnier:** also known as the Opéra de Paris or Opéra Garnier, but more commonly as the Paris Opéra, is a 2,200-seat opera house on the Place de l'Opéra. A grand landmark designed by Charles Garnier in the Neo-Baroque style, it is regarded as one of the architectural masterpieces of its time. The building is located in the IXe arrondissement and is served by the metro station Opéra. The Palais Garnier was designed as part of the great Parisian reconstruction of the Second Empire initiated by Emperor Napoleon III, who chose the Baron Haussmann to supervise the reconstruction.

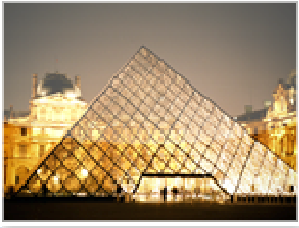
**The Panthéon:** is a monument in the Latin Quarter in Paris. It was originally built as a church dedicated to St. Genevieve, but after many changes now combines liturgical functions with its role as a famous burial place. It is an early example of Neoclassicism, with a façade modelled on the Pantheon in Rome, surmounted by a small dome that owes some of its character to Bramante's "Tempietto". Located in the 5th arrondissement on the Montagne Sainte-Geneviève, the Panthéon looks out over all of **Paris**.



world").

**The Avenue des Champs-Élysées:** is the most prestigious avenue in Paris. With its cinemas, cafés, and luxury specialty shops, the Avenue des Champs-Élysées is one of the most famous streets in the world, and it remains the most expensive strip of real estate in Europe.

The Avenue des Champs-Élysées is known in France as La plus belle avenue du monde ("The most beautiful avenue in the



**The Musée du Louvre** — in English the Louvre Museum — is an historic monument in **Paris** and the national museum of France. It is a central landmark of the city, located on the Right Bank of the Seine in the 1st arrondissement. It's the most visited museum in the world and arguably the most famous one. Nearly 35,000 objects from the 6th millennium BC to the 19th century AD are exhibited over an area of 60,600 square metres (652,300 square feet). The museum is housed in the Louvre Palace (**Palais du Louvre**) which began as a fortress built in the late 12th century under Philip II. In the heart of the complex is the Louvre Pyramid.

### USEFUL INFORMATION

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