



## Who am I and why am I qualified to teach you how to save money in Paris?

My name is Greg Chadwick and for a few years now I have been living in Paris as an expat trying to save a buck here and there. Together with my wife Megan, who is a Moulin Rouge dancer, we are perusing an adventurous lifestyle in the city of Paris.

Both Megan and I are Australian born and raised. However, we have chosen to try and see as much of Paris and Europe as possible for the next few years on a shoe string budget.

I have been an Internet Marketer, freelance writer and website consultant for the last six years and in that time I have figured out what kind of content users want to read online.

We started the website [ParisJourney.com](http://ParisJourney.com) not only as a travel guide for people who plan to visit or live in Paris but also as a way to keep track of our memories and experiences for years to come.

From its humble beginnings, our website has become one of the leading local sources for Paris tourism and living. Throughout our adventures we continue to learn, experience and share huge amounts of local Parisian culture with our readers.

This FREE guide is available only to my loyal email subscribers and we are both very grateful for your continuing support.

I hope you enjoy this book. If you have any questions about Paris or this eBook you can contact me by email at [parisjourneys@gmail.com](mailto:parisjourneys@gmail.com)

Furthermore, if you have any suggestions or wish to contribute to the site we would love to hear from you or see your comments at [ParisJourney.com](http://ParisJourney.com)

# The Ultimate Guide of Free Things To Do In Paris

Coming to Paris can be a trip of a life time. However, if you're on a budget and don't plan ahead the entire vacation could be bust.

It is for this reason that I have created the *Ultimate Guide of Free Things To Do In Paris*, along with a few other money crunching and eye opening guide books on the subject of Paris.

Without further ado, let's dive right into this no fluff list of Free Things In Paris...

## Free Entry to Louvre and Other Museums

You may not be aware of it but if you're lucky enough to be visiting Paris on the first Sunday of the month you can get into a number of popular museums for free, including the Musee d'art Moderne, the Pompidou Centre and the Musee d'Orsay.

You will also be pleasantly surprised that between October and March you can also visit Musee du Louvre without charge. There is a huge list available of museums which offer free days and times. Along with these days many museums also offer free entry to European Union visitors under 26 years of age and school teachers.

[See The Full List of Free Museums Here >>>](#)

## Galleries Lafayette Fashion Show

If you intend to visit Paris, chances are that you are interested in fashion, given that Paris is at the top of the world's fashion industry. This show gives up-and-coming fashion designers a chance to showcase their new work, and it's worth a peek inside the Paris fashion industry for a free 30-minute show.

Located at Galeries Lafayette Opera on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor, you will find a free fashion show held most Friday afternoons at 3pm. Before you set out, though, be sure you make a reservation. Even though it is free, it is in high demand and you will still have to either contact them by phone, email or obtain a ticket at the store. Contact details to do this can be found on the Galeries Lafayette website.

## **Learn to Tango on The Seine River**

During the months of May to September, participants will dance the night away in the gardens at Tino Rossi Quai Saint Bernard in Paris. If you have ever been too afraid to dance, or yearned to learn how, then this is probably the perfect and most romantic place to learn.

At 7pm you can receive a free dance lesson on the banks of the Seine River by an instructor and then spend the rest of the night enjoying your new moves. Of course, if you already know how to dance then these lessons are not compulsory; you can simply enjoy the open air dance floor with your partner.

## **Churches, Cathedrals and Basilicas**

Paris is filled with breathtaking churches, cathedrals and basilicas, which are all free. The four that I most recommend you visit are the Sacre Coeur, Notre Dame, La Madeleine and Saint-Augustine.

The only reason you may have to pay to enter one of these spectacular attractions is if they are holding a special event or if you want to participate in an extra activity such as a climb to the top or to view the crypts below.

## **Popular Free Walks Around Paris**

You might not have heard but you can get a variety of free walking tours in Paris. These tour guides work of tips, so a small 5eur gesture at the end of the tour would be suggested if you enjoyed your time.

The most popular free walking tours are the Notre Dame Tour, Montmartre Tour, Left Bank Tour, Right Bank Tour, the Marais and Seine River Tour.

These areas are also great places just to get lost in. You don't necessarily need a guide but it is helpful to learn a few facts along the way.

## **Popular Parks and Picnic Spots**

One of the absolute must do things in Paris is to explore a few of the popular parks in Paris. Why not take a picnic plank, bottle of champagne and a Baguette to really set the mood?

Ok, so the food that you would buy for the picnic is not free but you got to eat some time. Why not grab a cheap bottle of wine and 1euro traditional Baguette?

If you could only visit four parks, I recommend Champ de Mars, Garden de Tuileries, Buttes Chaumont and the Luxembourg Gardens. Each of these picnic spots have a feel and contain a piece of grass where you can stretch out on.

However, be aware that during the colder months of the year most of the grass areas at parks in Paris are fenced off and do not allow anyone to sit on the grass. Some parks such as the Luxembourger Gardens to have many chairs scattered around.

[See The Top Ten Picnic Spots In Paris >>>](#)

## **Le Showcase at Pont Alexandre III Bridge**

Built into the arches of the Pont Alexandre III Bridge, Le Showcase is a club unlike all others to be found in Paris. One of the best things about this club is the abundance of leather seating. Even if all the floor space is taken up and is shoulder-room-only as you dance away, the abundance of seating makes it not feel as spacious as other clubs.

This is a really cool club and is likely to suit many different tastes depending on which night you visit; you will find anything from DJ's to live bands. Entry is free before twelve o'clock on most nights, although sometimes there may be exceptions to that depending on the event.

## **Main Attractions and Monuments**

This may be a simple one but it's a good one. It does not cost you a cent to go and checkout most of the main monuments and attractions in Paris. Places such as the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triompe, Sacre Coeur, Notre Dame Cathedrals and many more are all free to visit. It's only when you want to climb these monuments that you have to pay a fee.

If you are thinking of climbing one of these four monuments to check out the view, I recommend the Arc de Triompe as the best view and value for money. This spectacular view shows off all directions of Paris.

You should also be aware that many religious venues such as the Sacre Coeur or Notre Dame Cathedral also have free entry for the general public.

## **Square du Vert-Galant & The Seine**

You have probably already seen Square du Vert-Galant in paintings, on TV and in movies but perhaps you didn't know its actual name. This is one of our favourite spots to enjoy a picnic, have a few drinks or just sit and watch the Seine River.

If you are visiting the Notre Dame Cathedral or Île de la Cité, it is worth the short walk to get one of the most amazing vantage point in Paris of the River Seine.

## **Explore Paris Cemeteries**

Maybe I'm a little bit morbid but I find the cemeteries in Paris to be fascinating and quite pleasant. During the spring, summer and autumn months most cemeteries in Paris are filled with shady oak trees and a silence that isn't found anywhere else in the city.

There are a number of famous people buried in Paris cemeteries with three of the most popular being Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison and Marcel Marceau. The most famous and most popular cemetery to visit in Paris is Père Lachaise Cemetery in the 20<sup>th</sup> arrondissement.

## **Friday Night Paris by Skates**

If you have your own skates or rollerblades, then this event is free. However, you can hire some from specialist stores in Paris if you are without skates. Since 1994 Parisians have come together on the streets of Paris once a week to skate freely for approximately 3 hours.

Every Friday night with weather permitting the event commences at 10pm at Place Raoul Dautry in the 14<sup>th</sup> arrondissement and ends at approximately 1am. Traffic is stopped and the event is supervised by Pari Roller marshals who wear yellow shirts. During the event skaters take a break to have some wine and snacks before returning to Montparnesse. Depending on the weather and the season, this event can attract up to 35,000 people.

## **Berges de Seine**

Starting at the base of the stairs leading up to Musee d'Orsay and running along the Seine River all the way to Pont de l'Alma is the reasonably new Berges de Seine. This

is an area which has been recently transformed to be very family and fitness orientated.

It is also a great place to ride your bike or go for a jog. There are a number of restaurants, food stalls and cafés scattered along the Berges de Seine.

The Berges de Seine offers a wide range of free activities for all ages. From dancing along the Seine to free fitness classes, there is something for everyone. If you are interested in the timetables and list of activities here is the Berges de Seine's official website: <http://lesberges.paris.fr/en/>

## **Church Organ Concert**

Paris has a huge number of gorgeous historical churches. St Eustache Church provides not only the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful architecture which most churches in Paris offer, but you can also enjoy a free organ concert.

From 530pm to 630pm on Sunday afternoons, St Eustache Church boasts one of the largest organs in the world with 8000 pipes. I have also recently learned that sometimes Notre Dame Cathedral offers an organ concert at 430pm on a Sunday which may be equally enjoyable.

## **Qi Gong and Tai Chi**

Although it won't suit everyone, Paris may be a great place to experience your first Qi Gong lesson for free. Almost every day you can find a Qi Gong and Tai Chi master in Parc Butte Chaumont located in the 19<sup>th</sup> arrondissement. Participants will meet outside Café Weber at 9am and then move to a location selected by the master. After the session is finished, the master will assess if he thinks you are good enough to join him again in the Tai Chi held at 11am. However, there may be a charge for this second session.

## **Street Performers and Buskers**

We love enjoying the skills of Paris street performers and musicians in the warmer months. Performances are spread out all over the city and there is not really a set time or place you can be guaranteed to see one. If you see a performance happening I recommend you grab a beer or take a seat, chill out and enjoy the moment.

Please be aware of your valuables at areas like this because pick pockets like to target people who have their attention focused on other things.

On a nice day I often see a busker or street performer at the steps of the Paris Opera or the Sacre Coeur.

***Some other suggestions include:*** in front of the Centre Pompidou, rue Mouffetard, Place St-Michel, Place St-André-des-Arts, the small bridge behind Notre Dame and the Arc du Carrousel at the Louvre.

## **Parc De La Villette Cinema**

Located in the 19<sup>th</sup> arrondissement, Parc De La Villette is mostly well known for the children's parks, large concerts, Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie (City of Science and Industry) and is a great place to [picnic in Paris](#). However, when the weather is nice during the months of July and August you can pull up a seat at the free open air cinema.

The movies start at nightfall and are shown with French subtitles in their original language. If you don't fancy sitting on a blanket or don't want to have to sit on the grass, then you can rent a lawn chair for about 7euro.

## **Special Event & Fetes**

Throughout the year, but especially in the warmer months, the Paris city council schedules special events. Here is a list of the more popular fetes and events as well as a link to the official website where you can keep track of upcoming occasions.

Popular Calendar Events:

[http://goparis.about.com/od/events/tp/Best\\_Free\\_Events.htm](http://goparis.about.com/od/events/tp/Best_Free_Events.htm)

Another Great NonOfficial Site: <http://quefaire.paris.fr/english>

### ***1. Paris Plages***

During the summer months, Paris dumps large amount of sand along the sidewalks of the Seine and canals. This is great for people who want to feel like they are at the beach in the middle of the city. Sunbakers line the sand in their swimsuits, drinking cool beverages and slurping up melting ice cream.

### ***2. La Fête de la Musique***



Wow, what a positive and upbeat day to spend for free in Paris. A huge number of different musicians and recording artists fill the streets with music. Every few hundred meters you will find different style music from jazz or funk to RnB to hip hop.

There are cheap drinks being served on the sidewalk and people dancing in the street. The vibe is very friendly during the day but there is the possibility for things to get out of hand due to alcohol and drugs late at night.

### **3. *La Nuit Blanche***

This is one of the most important events on the Paris cultural calendar. You can visit a number of activities which for free which usually charge for admission. Some of these including: galleries, stately buildings and even a swimming pool, most of which are open early in the morning.

### **4. *Bastille Day***

This event is one of my favourite times of the year. There are a number of activities scheduled on this day. However, the best and most popular are the fireworks at the Eiffel Tower.

Bastille Day is the known as the French Independence Day. It is the commemoration of the beginning of the French Revolution which commenced with the storming of Bastille on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July in 1798.

### **5. *Tour de France***

Undoubtedly the most popular race in the entire sport of cycling, the Tour de France comes to a close in Paris. On the last day of the race Paris is packed with cycling enthusiasts wanting to catch a glimpse of the race. The atmosphere is great and there are a number of events before and after the race to complement the day.

## **Views of the Paris Skyline**

Views such as the Eiffel Tower and The Arc De Triomphe will cost you a pretty penny. However, many people are not aware that there are actually some great views of the Paris skyline that are FREE!

Each of these vantage points possesses an extremely different take on the city and not all contain views of the Eiffel Tower. In no particular order, here are 7 free views of the Paris Skyline.

1. Gallery Lafayette Roof Terrace
2. Printemps Roof Terrace

3. Parc de Belleville
4. Institute of The Arab World
5. Place du Trocadero
6. Parc Buttes Chaumont
7. Stairs Beneath The Sacre Coeur

## **Canal Saint-Martin**

Whenever there is a glimpse of sun in Paris you can bet that the banks of Canal Saint Martin will be buzzing with local and tourist looking for a dose of vitamin D. Sitting on the banks or walking the length of the canal displays that traditional Paris feel that tourists often look for on their visit.

During the summer time it can be difficult to find a good place to sit along the Canal on the week end. It's a great place to have a picnic, eat some take away, read a book, sunbake, listen to music, visit a restaurant or have a few drinks with friends.

## **Walk La Promenade Plantée**

La Promenade Plantee is a unique elevated set of parks, trees and a walkway situated on top of an ancient viaduct. The walk is approximately 4.5km long and hosts areas where it is possible to ride a bike, cycle or sit on a bench and enjoy the greenery.

La Promenade Plantee begins at the Bastille Square and ends at the Boulevard Periphery in the 12<sup>th</sup> arrondissement. This one of a kind attraction is generally unknown to tourists but is well worth a few hours of your day.

## **Selfie at The Wall of Love**

The "Wall of Love" is a tourist attraction that has grown immensely in popularity in the last few years. Situated in a small park deep in the heart of Montmartre is a quaint little park where lovers go to admire and take selfies as a romantic gesture.

The attraction consists of a 40msquare tiled mural which contains 612 dark blue embossed tiles. On these tiles the words "I Love You" are written in 311 different languages.

## **The Paris Flower Market**

The Île de la Cité is more commonly known for the Notre-Dame Cathedral. However, a short walk will take you to a fairly unknown attraction. The Paris Flower Market is situated on Place Louis Lépine between the Notre-Dame Cathedral and Sainte-Chapelle.

It markets hundreds of different species of exotic flowers, rare orchids and trees. A unique experience, this attraction is both an indoor and outdoor market. If you visit on a Sunday you can also view the bird market which displays exotic bird from many continents.

## **Versailles Gardens**

It's a bit of a trip to Versailles from Paris. However, I think it is worth mentioning. You will have to pay for a train ticket out there unless you can hitch a ride somehow.

If you want to enter the Versailles Palace then it will cost you, although roaming the Versailles Gardens and Parks is FREE! The exception is on Sunday during the warmer months or if there is a concert being performed in the gardens; then you will have to pay a fee.

## **Ice Skating Rinks**

You may have seen that during winter there are ice rinks set up all over Paris with one of the more popular ones being the Hotel De Ville Rink. Many people are not aware that these rinks are actually free if you have your own skates.

Ok, so most of us don't pack a spare pair of ice skates in our luggage when coming to Paris. Unless you have your own ice skates or you can borrow a pair from a friend, you will have to pay a small amount to hire the skates.

## **Board Games in Paris**

There are a number of bars and cafes around Paris that offer board games for public use free of charge. Most of the games are for adults and teenagers but it is possible to find the odd game or two for children. Some bars where you might find this service are L'Apparement Café, Le Charlus, Le Petit Ney and more...

## **Learn to Cook With Free Cooking Classes**

The Fédération Française de Cuisine in Paris offers free hour long cooking classes, mostly held in produce markets around the city. Classes are usually held in 5-10 person groups and are accessible to everyone no matter the level of your cooking skills.

There are a number of classes to choose from each month and with titles like Quick and Easy, 100% Chocolate, Vegetables in the Sun and Christmas Celebrations, if anything it is worth a taste test.

Unfortunately, all classes are held in French. However, anyone can sign up and there is nothing to stop you from following along with the instructor, learning new dishes and taste testing professional cuisines.

Class schedules are found at the FFC website: <http://www.ffcuisine.fr/evenements>.

## **Sample Wine at Free Tastings**

If you're not much of a wine connoisseur and want to learn more about some popular wines in France, this would be a great place to start. I must admit that I don't know a lot about wines but I do know that one of the most important things about wine is that wines are very specific to an individual's taste buds. It is for this reason that sampling a number of wines to find your favourite is very important in the beginning.

One of the most popular free wine venues in Paris is La Dernière Goutte. They host free wine tasting with cheese at 5pm with cheese and all day Saturday starting at 11am.

There are a number of locations that offer free wine tasting around Paris and a lot of the time you find out about these events only by word of mouth. Two other locations that hold frequent free wine tasting are La Note Rouge and Les Petits Bouchons wine caves.

I would also like to mention "Salon des Vins des Vignerons Indépendants," which is an event for independent wine makers. The event does have a 5euro entry fee. However, once you enter you will be handed many free glasses of wine to sample.

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## **Experience Art at Le Centquatre**

This building at La Villette was a former city mortuary and was abandoned from the late 1960s until 2008. After a massive renovation, it now functions as a venue for performances of almost every art genre.

Le Centquatre features a huge range of free artistic exhibitions from live concerts and guest DJ's to visual arts and theatre. Also available during the day is a gourmet café, restaurant and pizza truck.

## **Eat Free Food**

Many bars and clubs around Paris offer free food to their customers as long as drinks are being consumed. One place I know of is Le Bouillon Belge's, which has some great beers and offers free fries and mussels to its customers.

For the most part this is also the case of being in the right place at the right time or word of mouth.

You could try the tribal café on Friday and Saturday nights where you are served couscous after a drink purchase. They also serve French fries on Wednesday and Thursday night.

Other venues I have heard about that offer similar options is Les Trois Freres, Le Penty and probably many more if you can know where to look.

## **Live Theatre, Music and Concerts**

Paris is known as the city of lights but it is also well known as a city filled with music, performers and live entertainment.

Scheduled throughout the year and throughout the city are free concerts and performances that are showcased for the general public:

*Notre Dame Cathedral* — Every Sunday at about 430pm the famous Notre Dame Cathedral performs free organ recitals, providing acoustics that you have to hear to believe.

*Quai Saint Bernard* — During the warmer summer months this place is pumping with open air dance parties.

*Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse* — Free student concerts are held here several times per week. The span of music genres is quite wide. However, bookings are still essential to avoid being turned away because the show is full.

*The Sacre Coeur* — On Sunday morning at 9:45 a harmonic sound echoes within the walls of the Sacre Coeur Basilica where an hour long choir rehearsal is performed.

*7 Lézards* — One of the most famous basement jazz bars in Paris waives its cover charge on Monday night allowing you to watch the house band perform for free.

*American Church in Paris* — Watch some talented classical and blues musicians perform in concert on Sunday at 5pm as a part of the Atelier Concert Series.

These are just a few of the available options of free entertainment in Paris. For more information and specific scheduled events check out this official Paris council link: <http://en.parisinfo.com/discovering-paris/themed-guides/paris-for-free/free-cultural-outings-in-paris/free-concerts-in-paris>

**There You Have It!** If you only use one of these free activities you just learned about then it will have all been worth it. The primary goal of our website is to provide quality content that people love to read. We would love to see you drop by and comment on our blog or get involved with our social media.

Thanks for your support!

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Megan and Greg Chadwick