

10 AMAZING OFFBEAT PLACES in PARIS



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10 amazing offbeat places to discover in Paris!

This eBook is dedicated to our thousands of regular visitors on our website. For some time we've been wanting to design a guide as a gift for our community to thank them for their support... and at last here it is.

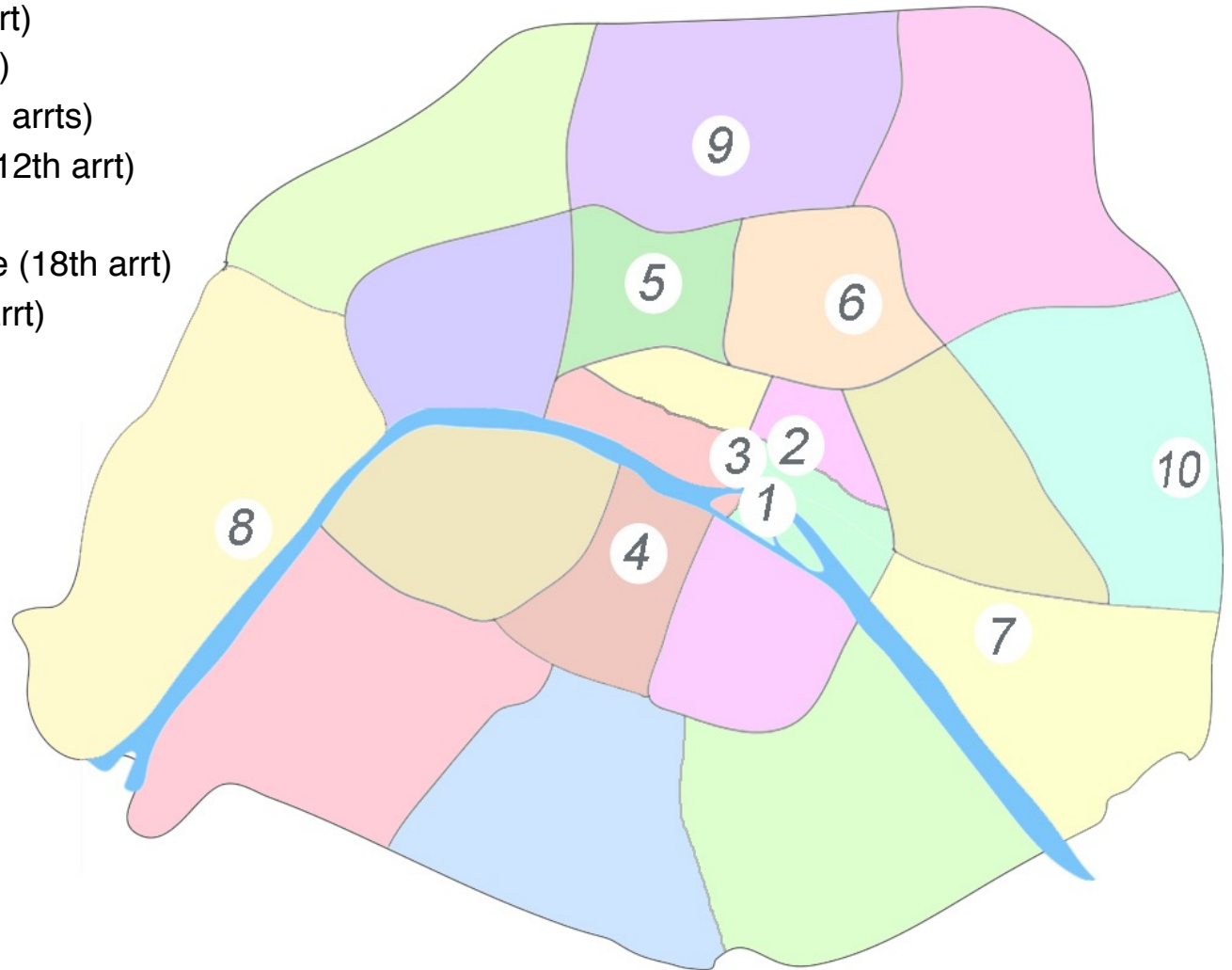
"*10 Amazing Offbeat Places in Paris*" includes some special spots we've discovered in Paris slightly off the beaten tourist track and accompanied by some of our best photos. We hope you'll be inspired by these 10 places and get to explore them on your next visit to Paris.

Pierre
from [French Moments](#)



10 amazing offbeat places to discover in Paris

1. Hidden corners on the Île de la Cité (4th arrondissement)
2. Rue des Rosiers (4th arrt)
3. Tour Saint-Jacques (4th arrt)
4. Place de Furstemberg (6th arrt)
5. Place Saint-Georges (9th arrt)
6. Canal Saint-Martin (10 & 11th arrts)
7. Coulée Verte René Dumont (12th arrt)
8. Rue Berton (16th arrt)
9. Hidden corners of Montmartre (18th arrt)
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1. HIDDEN CORNERS OF THE ÎLE DE LA CITÉ

4th arrondissement

Métro station: Cité (line 4)

[Location on Google Map](#)

The ship-shaped island is the historical heart of Paris which was known as Lutetia (Lutèce) during the Roman era. With its banks on the River Seine, it contributes to the romantic atmosphere of Paris, particularly when seen from Pont des Arts or Pont de la Tournelle.

In the mid-19th century, Baron Haussmann radically changed the medieval aspect of the Île de la Cité by pulling down houses, hospitals and churches and opening wide avenues. Out of 43 streets that originally existed in 1300, only 20 remain today.

The oldest part of the island that is still standing is found in the Cloître Notre-Dame. Look for the following streets: rue Chanoinesse, rue de la Colombe, rue des Ursins and rue des Chantres.

Under the shadow of Notre-Dame, you will find some beautiful wisteria covered coffee shops, one of Paris' oldest wine bars « La Réserve de Quasimodo » and Paris' smallest garden.

[Île de la Cité on French Moments](#)



2. RUE DES ROSIERS

4th arrondissement

Métro station: Saint-Paul (line 1)

[Location on Google Map](#)

The rue des Rosiers is situated in the Marais. The name of the street means "street of the rosebushes". Between rue Malher and rue Vieille du Temple, the 380 metre-long street is the main thoroughfare of the Jewish quarter.

The Jewish community in Paris first settled in the Marais towards the end of the 12th century. When walking along the street, you can see much evidence of the Jewish culture: signs in Hebrew, falafel restaurants, kosher food stores, Jewish bookstores, synagogues...

Rue des Rosiers is a very old street lined with old houses. This is particularly visible in the second part of the street near the rue Vieille-du-Temple. This part of the Marais was left untouched by the urban development of Baron Haussmann. It is believed that the street was created in the 13th century along the wall of Philip-Augustus. Rosebushes would have grown on the wall, giving the street its current name. The first written mention of rue des Rosiers dates back to circa 1230.

Part of the former medieval wall can still be seen in the garden of Jardin des Rosiers - Joseph Migneret. This public garden was opened in 2014 from the gardens of several hôtels particuliers (Coulanges, Barbes and Albret). The garden is accessible from number 10, rue des Rosiers. Grab a falafel and go find a bench in the garden to enjoy it!

[Rue des Rosiers on French Moments](#)



3. TOUR SAINT-JACQUES

4th arrondissement

Métro station: Châtelet (lines 1, 4, 7, 11, 14)

[Location on Google Map](#)

Situated in the neighbourhood of Châtelet, the curious Saint-Jacques Tower stands alone. From the top of the 62m tall belfry is one of the most stunning views of Paris.

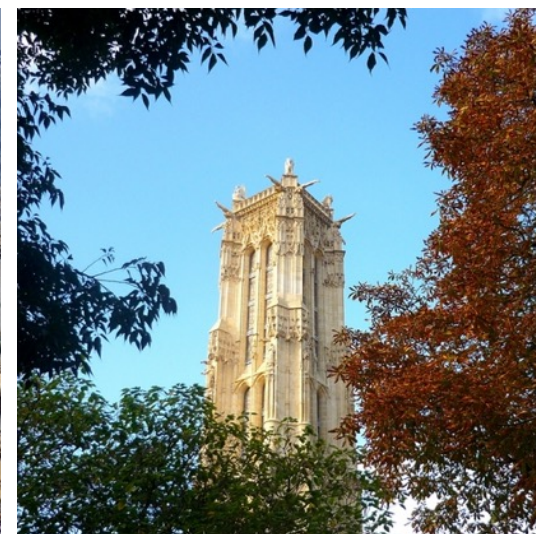
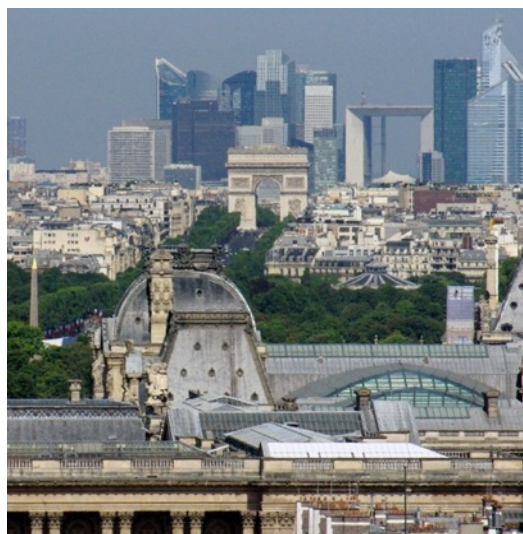
The edifice was once the bell tower of the parish church of Saint-Jacques-de-la-Boucherie, dedicated to James the Greater. For many pilgrims from the Paris region, the tower was a departure point on the road to Tours and St. James' Way, the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela.

The bell tower was built between 1509 and 1523 in Flamboyant Gothic style. It was topped by three symbolic statues representing the four Apostles (a lion for Mark, a bull for Luke, an eagle for John and an angel for Matthew) and a larger one depicting St. James.

Richly adorned with statues, crockets and niches, the bell tower reflects the wealth of its patrons, the Guild of Paris' Butchers who sold their goods at the nearby Les Halles market.

It is possible to [book an accompanied tour](#) up to the top of the tower via the 300-step spiral staircase where the breathtaking view embraces all of Paris' iconic landmarks and monuments, from Notre-Dame to the Conciergerie and to the Pompidou Centre, and from the Eiffel Tower to the Arc de Triomphe and to the Grande Arche de la Défense.

[Tour Saint-Jacques on French Moments](#)



4. PLACE DE FURSTEMBERG

6th arrondissement

Métro station: Mabillon (line 10)

[Location on Google Map](#)

Situated in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, the tiny Place de Furstemberg is one of Paris' most charming squares with its elegant lamp posts.

Situated near the church of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, it owes its name to the famous Prince de Furstenberg, William Egon of Fürstenberg (1629 – 1704). The German clergyman, who was once Bishop of Metz and of Strasbourg, retired to Paris in 1697 where he was appointed Abbot of St-Germain-des-Prés.

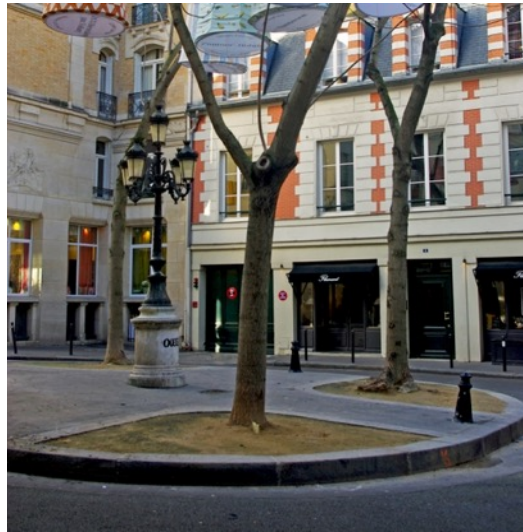
He created the three streets of rue Cardinale, passage de la Petite-Boucherie and rue de Furstemberg on the forecourt of the abbatial palace. Rue de Furstemberg itself was opened on the site of the abbey's stables. The count died at age 74 in Paris on the 10th April 1704.

In fact, Place de Furstemberg is not technically a square but a street (rue de Furstemberg or Furstenberg) where a small roundabout has been created for traffic. Four pawlonias have been planted in its centre. The place has a certain romantic feel along with elegant Parisian-style lamp posts, particularly at night time when the five globes are lit up.

Painter Eugène Delacroix used to live there and his former dwelling today houses the Delacroix Museum.

Check out the neighbouring narrow streets which have a vintage Paris kind of charm: rue Cardinale, rue de l'échaudé, rue de Bourbon le château...

[Place de Furstemberg on French Moments](#)



5. PLACE SAINT-GEORGES

9th arrondissement

Métro station: Saint-Georges (line 12)

[Location on Google Map](#)

Although small in size, the circular Place Saint-Georges owes its elegant image to the beautiful townhouses that border it. The métro station exit, the railings, and the fountain at its centre make the square an emblematic Parisian site yet to discover..

The square was laid out in 1824 as part of a real estate transaction by a financial corporation, the Compagnie Saint-Georges.

A fountain at the centre of the square is surmounted by a bust of the illustrator Paul Gavarni (1804-1866).

The mansions built around the square were tucked away in the centre of the plot. This arrangement is also found in Place François 1er (8th arrondissement).

The mansion of Adolphe Thiers (number 27) has since been transformed into a library. The quiet public park of Square Alex Biscarre is situated just behind it.

The richly decorated mansion of La Paiva (number 28) was built in 1840 by E. Renaud in neo-Gothic and Renaissance styles.

In the streets nearby are some Haussmann-style buildings with elegant iron balcony railings.

[Place Saint-Georges on French Moments](#)



6. CANAL SAINT-MARTIN

10th and 11th arrondissements

Métro station: Gare de l'Est (lines 4, 5, 7)

[Location on Google Map](#)

Do you remember Amélie skipping stones at the locks in Jean-Pierre Jeunet's 2001 film? This scene was shot at the legendary Canal Saint-Martin. Crossing the 10th and 11th arrondissements, the canal is often bypassed by tourists. This haven of peace and quiet is a favourite place for walkers who enjoy watching the barges navigate the series of locks and road bridges.

From the Villette, the boats travel down the 4.5 km long canal Saint-Martin to the Seine. Nine locks help the boats to reach the Seine 25 metres lower down.

The waterway was partly covered in 1860 by Baron Haussmann from rue du Faubourg du Temple to the Place de la Bastille.

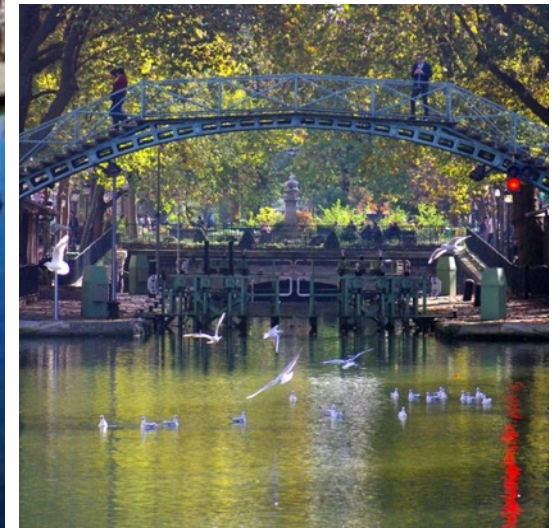
The banks are lined on each side with shrubs and hundred year old plane and chestnut trees.

The canal is crossed by romantic Venetian-style iron footbridges dating from the second half of the 19th century. Two swing bridges and two fixed bridges for cars span the uncovered part of the canal.

Barges and pleasure boats still navigate the locks on the canal, especially cruise boats aimed at tourists.

Canal Saint-Martin was dug from 1802 to 1825 to provide Parisians with drinking water from the River Ourcq. The canal was made popular in 1938 with the film Hôtel du Nord, starring the popular actress Arletty.

[Canal Saint-Martin on French Moments](#)



7. COULÉE VERTE RENÉ DUMONT

12th arrondissement

Métro station: Bastille (line 1, 5, 8)

[Location on Google Map](#)

The Promenade plantée, also known as the Coulée verte René-Dumont, runs through the 12th arrondissement. This 4.5 km green corridor is Europe's longest and only elevated park.

The Coulée Verte René-Dumont was designed on an abandoned 19th-century railway viaduct used by freight trains to link the former Bastille railway station to the eastern suburbs of Paris.

Rail traffic was discontinued from 1969. In the early 1990s, the City of Paris decided to replace the disused tracks by a surprising green corridor reserved for pedestrians.

From the Opéra Bastille to the Jardin de Reuilly, the Promenade plantée runs on top of the Viaduct des Arts for 1.5 km. It consists of a narrow pathway bordered with small trees, shrubs and plants: roses, lavender, bamboo, ivy, vines, wisteria. The elevated promenade sometimes widens when the viaduct crosses a street, and stairs leading to street level can be found here and there along the walk.

At times, the Promenade seems to float amidst old and new buildings, Haussmann-style avenues and dense residential streets.

Beyond the Viaduct des Arts from the Jardin de Reuilly, you can opt to continue the stroll towards the Bois de Vincennes.

[La Coulée Verte on French Moments](#)



8. RUE BERTON

16th arrondissement

Métro station: Passy (line 6)

[Location on Google Map](#)

Not far from the Eiffel Tower, the picturesque street is situated on the side of a hill. The rue Berton, with its lush vegetation, is reminiscent of the time when Passy was a wine-growing village outside the limits of Paris.

The street was indicated on the Paris map elaborated by Roussel in 1730. Around the 19th century the hillside of Passy was transformed into terraces. Country houses were built in layers up the hillside along with luxurious townhouses for the aristocracy. The rue Berton gives access to the last remains of the terraces of Passy dating back to the 16th century.

These terraces disappeared following the rapid urbanisation of Passy. The pace of growth of construction of housing increased from 1860 when the village was annexed to Paris.

At number 24 is the green gate leading to the Balzac House. French novelist Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850) lived there between 1840 and 1847. The country house is now a museum dedicated to Balzac.

From the green gate of the Balzac House onwards, the rue Berton becomes a narrow lane. The width between the two ivy-covered walls never exceeds 1.5 m. The paved lane is punctuated by former gas lamp posts. Imagine the old path that once ran from the banks of the River Seine up to the top of the Passy hillside through the vineyards.

Rue Berton on French Moments



9. HIDDEN CORNERS OF MONTMARTRE

18th arrondissement

Métro station: Lamarck-Caulaincourt (line 12)

[Location on Google Map](#)

The iconic 'Butte Montmartre' is full of contrasts. Encircled by busy boulevards, it has kept the atmosphere of a village remarkably intact with intimate squares, winding narrow streets, tiny terraces, and long stairways.

Rue de l'Abreuvoir is one of the most picturesque streets in Montmartre. It connects the Place Dalida to rue des Saules. It was already mentioned in 1325 and takes its name from the old drinking trough. The street is bordered by medieval-looking houses.

The secretive Allée des Brouillards starts from the Place Dalida. Opened to the public in 1929, the lane provides a charming atmosphere with its lampposts and balustrades, without forgetting the dome of Sacré-Cœur in the distance. French painter Renoir used to live at number 6.

The lane ends at the Place Casadesus with a typical street view of Montmartre.

Just off the avenue Junot, the cobblestone street known as 'Villa Léandre' is a haven of peace. The cul-de-sac is bordered by a group of perfect Art Deco houses built in 1926, including a few houses built with bricks and bow-windows reminiscent of England.



Montmartre on French Moments

10. LA CAMPAGNE À PARIS

20th arrondissement

Métro station: Porte de Bagnolet (line 3, tram T3b)

[Location on Google Map](#)

Situated in the 20th arrondissement not far from the busy boulevard Périphérique, the curious neighbourhood of La Campagne à Paris is a pleasant housing development in the French capital..

The little neighbourhood of La Campagne à Paris (The Countryside in Paris) was founded for working-class families by pastor Sully Lombard. Inaugurated in 1907, the unusual housing development spreads atop a former quarry dump and consists of 92 charming townhouses built in bricks or millstones each with their private front and rear gardens, which at the time was quite a luxury for working class accommodation.

Take a pleasant stroll along rue du Père-Prosper-Enfantin, rue Irénée-Blanc, rue Mondonville and rue Jules-Siegfried to discover the area. Paved streets, flowered-decked houses, little gardens, plant-covered walls... the area is full of surprises. Recently the district was featured in the movie 'Le Petit Nicolas' by Laurent Tirard (2009).

[La Campagne à Paris on French Moments](#)



Merci ! *Thank you!*

I hope you've enjoyed our eBook as much as I've loved putting it together for you. This gift is our way of saying thank you for your continued support for French Moments. The photos aren't professional but a lot of passion went into visiting and discovering Paris and it is a pleasure to present you with this little collection of offbeat places we've discovered.

I would love to hear from you so please don't hesitate to send me an email. I read each and every single message, so don't be afraid to say 'bonjour'! You can also join us on facebook, instagram and pinterest.

Thank you again, and I hope your French Moments in Paris and France are everything you dream of next time you are here.

Pierre
from French Moments

French Moments Ltd
<http://frenchmoments.eu>

Sovereign Harbour South
Eastbourne BN23 5TP
East Sussex
United Kingdom

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METROPOLITAIN

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