



20 AMAZING
OFFBEAT PLACES
in **PARIS**

frenchmoments.eu

20 amazing offbeat places to discover in Paris!

This eBook is dedicated to our thousands of regular visitors on our blog. For some time I'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.

"*20 Amazing Offbeat Places in Paris*" includes some special spots I've discovered in Paris slightly off the beaten tourist track and accompanied by some of our best photos. I hope you'll be inspired by these 20 places and get to explore them on your next visit to Paris.

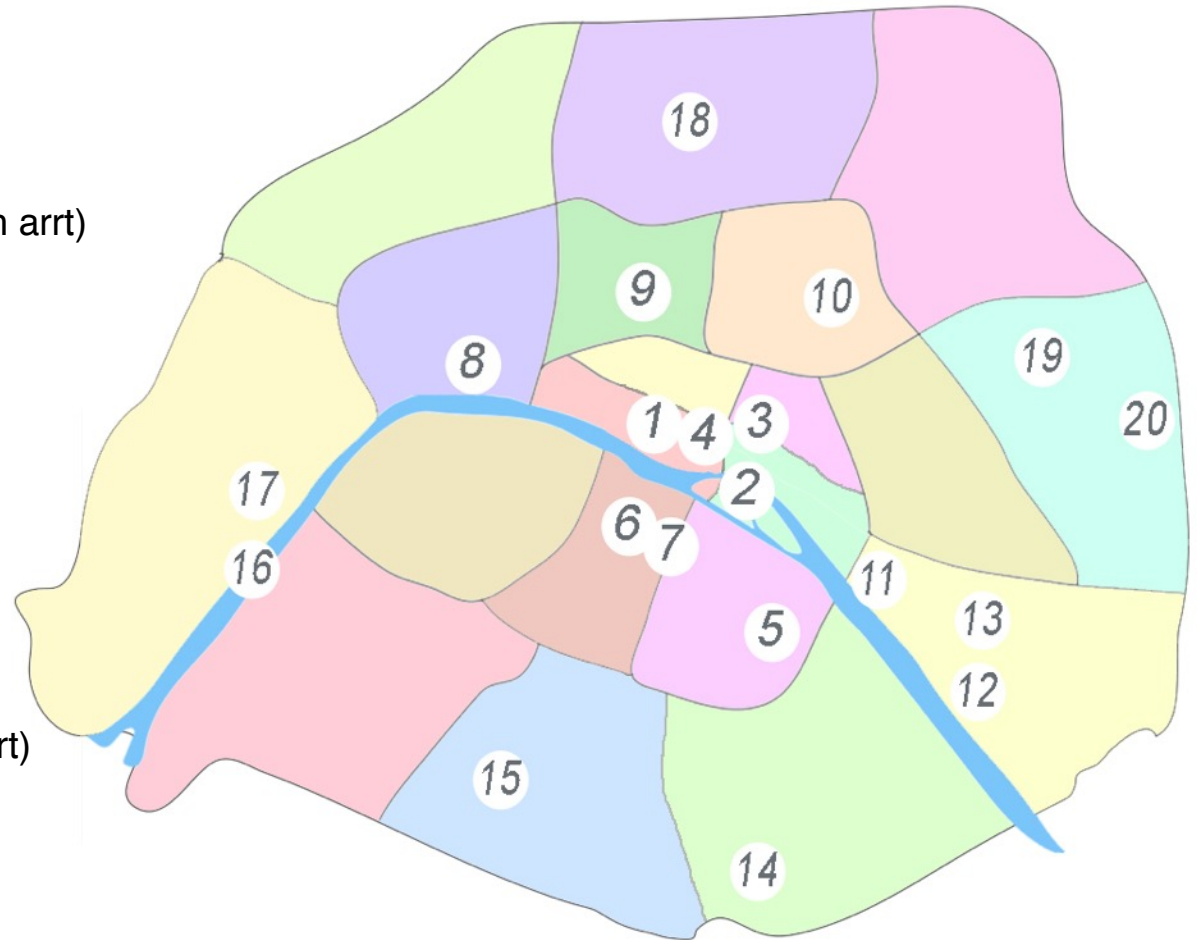
Pierre
from [French Moments](#)



20 amazing offbeat places to discover in Paris

1. Place de Valois (1st arrondissement)
2. Hidden corners on the Île de la Cité (4th arrondissement)
3. Rue des Rosiers (4th arrt)
4. Tour Saint-Jacques (4th arrt)
5. Arènes de Lutèce (5th arrt)
6. Place de Furstemberg (6th arrt)
7. Cour du Commerce Saint-André (6th arrt)
8. Garden of Petit-Palais (8th arrt)
9. Place Saint-Georges (9th arrt)
10. Canal Saint-Martin (10 & 11th arrts)

11. Rue Crémieux (12th arrt)
12. Parc de Bercy (12th arrt)
13. Coulée Verte René Dumont (12th arrt)
14. Cité florale (13th arrt)
15. Rue des Thermopyles (14th arrt)
16. Statue of Liberty (15th arrt)
17. Rue Berton (16th arrt)
18. Hidden corners of Montmartre (18th arrt)
19. Rue des Cascades (20th arrt)
20. La Campagne à Paris (20th arrt)



1. *Place de Valois*

1st arrondissement

Métro station: Palais Royal (lines 1 & 7)

[Location on Google Map](#)

Although this is the first arrondissement of Paris, not many people know of this access to the Palais-Royal courtyard and its beautiful enclosed garden: via the secretive Place de Valois.

You will need to reach the Passage Vérité from number 15-17 rue des Bons Enfants.

The curious covered passage is in fact quite short and dates back to 1750. Passage Vérité gives access to the Place de Valois. In the past it housed booksellers and prints merchants. Today it offers a beautiful view of the Constant d'Ivry Pavillon of the Palais-Royal.

Place de Valois was opened to the public in 1790 on the site of the former offices of the Palais-Royal. The square was originally known as the Cour des Fontaines (Fountains' court) because of the fountains which provided water for the Palais-Royal's receptions. In the past the square was frequented by street performers.

Place de Valois opens onto the elegant classical façade of the Constant d'Ivry Pavillon, the East wing of the Palais Royal occupied by the Ministry of Culture and Communication.

Access the Palais-Royal through the covered passage under the Constant d'Ivry Pavillon. You will reach the Cour d'honneur of the palace, the inner courtyard that hosts Buren's columns (1985).

[Place de Valois on French Moments](#)



2. *Hidden corners on 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](#)



3. *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](#)



4. *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.

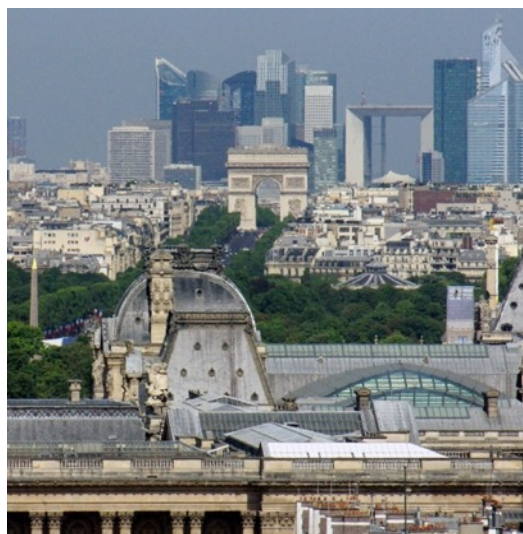
The edifice was once the bell tower of the parish church of Saint-Jacques-de-la-Boucherie, dedicated to James the Greater. For many pilgrims from the Paris region, the tower was a departure point on the road to Tours and St. James' Way, the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela.

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](#)



5. *Arènes de Lutèce*

5th arrondissement

Métro station: Place Monge (line 7)

[Location on Google Map](#)

Little is left visible in Paris from the Roman era. Yet, the French capital boasts a unique and rare remnant of the Gallo-Roman settlement: the Arena of Lutetia (les Arènes de Lutèce). Located in the 5th arrondissement, the place is a little out of sight not far from Rue Monge and hidden in a leafy public garden opened in 1896.

According to historians, the amphitheatre and its terraces could once accommodate up to 15,000-17,000 people, with a stage thought to be one of the longest in the Roman world (41m). The arena served for theatrical performances and gladiatorial combats.

The amphitheatre was dismantled during the barbaric invasions of 280 A.D. The stones were used to build the defensive walls around Île de la Cité and what remained in the place became a cemetery. At the time of king Philip Augustus (ca. 1210), the arena was completely filled in. Since then the exact location of the Arènes was forgotten. In 1869 during the opening of the new Rue Monge, Théodore Vaquer discovered the Roman remains. Intellectuals such as French author Victor Hugo campaigned to save the remains which led the municipal council to dedicate funds for its partial restoration. In the 1860s, only one-third of the arena had been uncovered and excavation works continued until 1918.

[Arènes de Lutèce on French Moments](#)



6. *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](#)



7. Cour du Commerce Saint-André

6th arrondissement

Métro station: Odéon (lines 4 & 10)

[Location on Google Map](#)

Cour du Commerce Saint-André is a curious little passageway built in 1776 which includes small boutiques and the famous Le Procope, one of Paris' oldest restaurants.

The 120 metre long passageway links rue Saint-André-des-Arts to Boulevard Saint-Germain and has a third entrance at 21 rue de l'Ancienne Comédie.

It runs along the former fortification built by King Philip Augustus in the late 12th century. The bishop of Rouen had his Paris home base built there: the former Hôtel de Rohan. The mansion comprised a Jeu de Paume, a ball-and-court game, an indoor precursor of tennis played without racquets. Cour du Commerce Saint-André is one of the few streets that have retained their original cobblestones. The street is bordered by Le Procope, the first café opened in Paris (and in the world). Founded in 1686 it was the meeting place for the literary gents during Molière's time. In the 18th century, it was a meeting place for Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot and Benjamin Franklin, then Ambassador to France. The interior is decorated in the 18th century style with Pompeian walls, crystal chandeliers and oval portraits of famous French patrons. Look out for Napoleon Bonaparte's hat on display in a glass case at the entrance.

The other well-known café is the Relais Odéon (or Bistro 1900), worth noted for its beautiful Art Nouveau style facade.

[Cour du Commerce Saint-André on French Moments](#)



8. *Garden of Petit-Palais*

8th arrondissement

Métro station: Champs-Élysées Clemenceau (lines 1 & 13)

[Location on Google Map](#)

The relaxing and quiet garden is an oasis of greenery. A surprising place which is little known despite being so close to the busy avenue des Champs-Élysées.

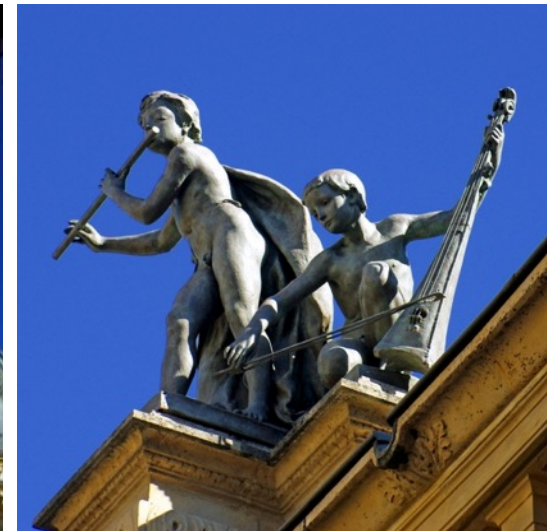
The Petit-Palais houses the fine Arts museum of the City of Paris. It was built for the 1900 Paris Universal Exhibition opposite its bigger sister: the Grand-Palais. The Petit-Palais is situated in the 8th arrondissement of Paris between the Champs-Élysées and the Pont Alexandre III. The shape of the Petit-Palais makes a semi-circular courtyard at the centre. This outdoor area is occupied by a small garden. The small outdoor garden has pools bordered with blue and gold mosaic. The exotic plants growing there give an expected tropical charm... with a bit of imagination, it seems that we are transported to the French Riviera!

A colonnade elegantly encircles the courtyard with decorative gold swags. It borders the covered gallery paved with swirling mosaics. Notice the gallery's ceiling decorated with frescoes. The coupled columns are made of pink granite from the Vosges. Check out for two huge pots on plinths – they are Sèvres porcelains.

The garden is towered by the beautiful central dome of the Petit-Palais.

A café serving lunches and gourmet snacks opens onto the enclosed garden. Just sweet and relaxing!

[Garden of Petit-Palais on French Moments](#)



9. *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 Païva (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



10. 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.

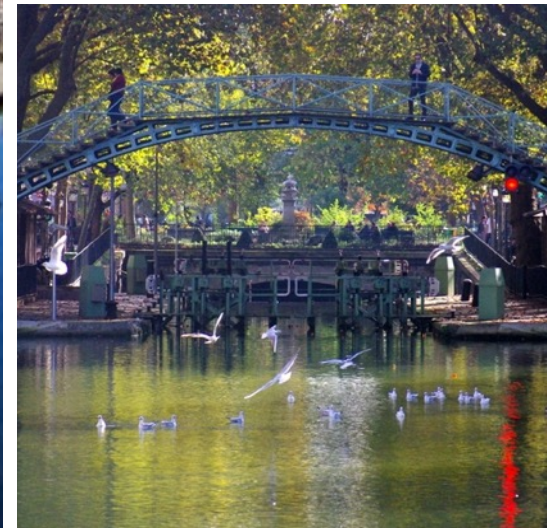
The banks are lined on each side with shrubs and hundred year old plane and chestnut trees.

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](#)



11. Rue Crémieux

12th arrondissement

Métro station: Gare de Lyon (lines 1 & 14, RER A & D)

[Location on Google Map](#)

The colourful street of rue Crémieux is situated in the 12th arrondissement of Paris, not far from the busy railway station of Gare de Lyon. Off the beaten paths, this corner of paradise is a lovely spot for a picture.

The cobblestoned and pedestrianised street is bordered with colourful private houses. This place gives the impression that we are outside of Paris, somewhere in a small Provincial town or in a French seaside resort. The 35 identical houses that border the street look like English terraced cottages. The residents are proud of their street and have ensured that it is well maintained. It was the residents' initiative to paint their façades with gentle pastel colours: green, blue, purple, yellow, pink... On a sunny day, you won't be the only one taking photos of the charming street! Many fashion bloggers have made rue Crémieux their favourite spot for presenting the latest outfits. Rue Crémieux was opened in 1865 and was then named avenue Millaud. Moïse Polydore Millaud (1813-1871) was an entrepreneur, a banker and a press baron. He founded Le Petit Journal, a successful newspaper, ancestor of today's popular press. The street took its current name in 1897 after Adolphe Crémieux (1796-1880), a lawyer and statesman. Born in Nîmes to a wealthy Jewish family, he was a defender of the human rights of the Jews of France. Crémieux is buried in the cemetery of Montparnasse.



Rue Crémieux on French Moments

12. *Parc de Bercy*

12th arrondissement

Métro station: Cour Saint-Émilion (line 14)

[Location on Google Map](#)

The public Park of Bercy stretches on the former site of an old wine depot. It is situated along the River Seine not far from the trendy shopping precinct of Cour Saint-Émilion. Since its opening in the mid-1990s, the Park of Bercy has become of the most beautiful in Paris.

The vast green area was once the site of the wineries of Bercy. The storehouses of the large wine depot were closed in the 1950s and demolished in 1979. In the 1980s it was decided to replace the waste land by a huge public park. A team of architects and landscapers worked on the site to make Bercy the 10th largest park of Paris. The new Parc de Bercy was opened in successive phases from 1994 to 1995. Across the park, a few elements of the wineries that once stood here have been kept as to reflect the history of the place: cobblestone pathways, a few houses and particularly some railway tracks which were used to transport wine from the Seine to the winery.

The Park of Bercy covers 70 hectares and is divided into three main sections: the Grandes Prairies, the Parterres and the Jardin Romantique. The park has more than 200 century-old trees, a small folie of the 18th century, several ponds and artistic sculptures scattered across the park. Many birds can be seen in the park, including ducks, herons and European greenfinches.

[Parc de Bercy on French Moments](#)



13. *Coulée Verte René Dumont*

12th arrondissement

Métro station: Bastille (lines 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](#)

14. *Cité florale*

13th arrondissement

Tram station: Stade Charléty Porte de Gentilly (tram T3a)

[Location on Google Map](#)

La Cité florale (Floral City) is an idyllic village in the 13th arrondissement of Paris where time stands still.

The village comprises of several streets that were all named after flowers: rue des Glycines (Wisteria Street), rue des Iris (Iris St.), rue des Orchidées (Orchids St.), rue des Liserons (bindweed St.), square des Mimosas (Mimosa Sq)...

The cobblestone streets are bordered by the pastel-hued façades of houses covered with ivy, wild vine and wisteria. Roses, lilacs, geranium, ornamental trees, flower pots, all add to the peaceful atmosphere of the place.

La Cité florale was built between 1925 and 1930 on a meadow that was regularly flooded by dry the River Bièvre. This explained why only small houses were allowed to be built on this unstable ground.

You can combine your visit to exploring the South of the 13th arr: Place de l'Abbé Henocque at the foot of the Butte aux Cailles and the picturesque houses of rue Dieulafoy. Don't miss the secretive and tranquil quartier des Peupliers (Poplars district), tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the city life.

To the West lies the beautiful Parc Montsouris. Other cute looking streets are found across the park in the 14th arrondissement: rue du Parc Montsouris and square de Montsouris.



[Cité florale on French Moments](#)

15. *Rue des Thermopyles*

14th arrondissement
Métro station: Pernetz (line 13)
[Location on Google Map](#)

Situated in a part of Paris that is exempt from any major monuments and museums, the cat-friendly street will surprise you for its country look. Rue des Thermopyles is an oasis of calm and greenery waiting to be discovered.

Lined with low-rise houses linked by leafy arches, the 280 metre long street is worth a stroll particularly in the spring when the abundance of wisteria blossoms cover part of the façades. Coloured shutters, pot plants lining the street, flower boxes decorating the window sills... no tourists and no shops are found there! The rue des Thermopyles is one of the few streets that has kept its original stone pavement. It was a private street closed by iron gates until 1959. It was the scene for the movie Paris, Je T'aime.

The street owes its name to the Battle of Thermopylae which was fought between an alliance of Greek city-states, led by King Leonidas of Sparta, and the Persian Empire of Xerxes I over the course of three days. The street refers to the narrow pass where the legendary battle was fought.

At the end of the street a shared garden has been run for many years by a local association.

Explore the neighbourhood by walking by Square du Chanoine-Viollet and the cute streets of Cité Bauer and rue du Moulin.

[Rue des Thermopyles on French Moments](#)



16. Statue of Liberty

15th arrondissement

Métro stations: Passy or Bir Hakeim (line 6)

[Location on Google Map](#)

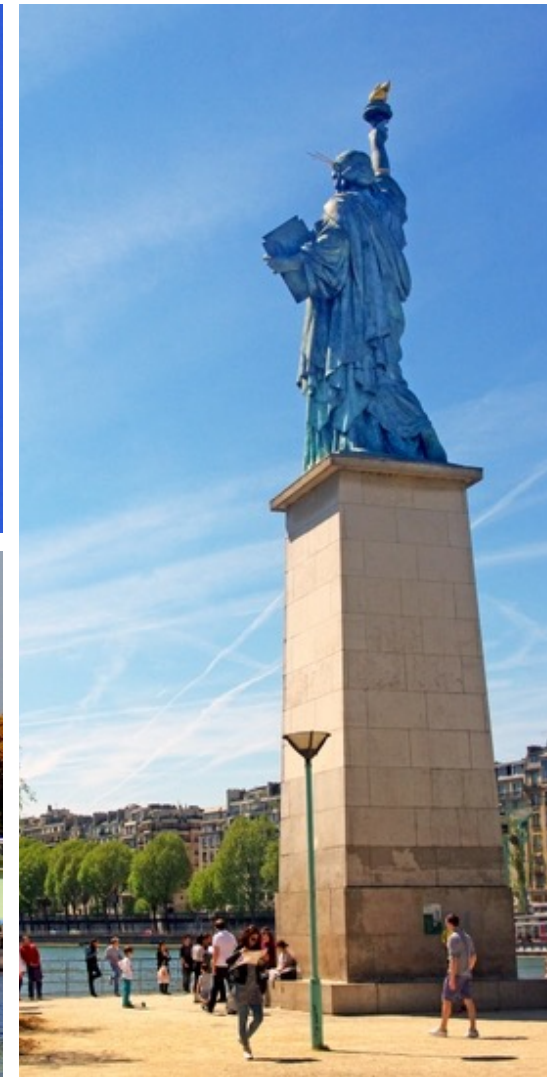
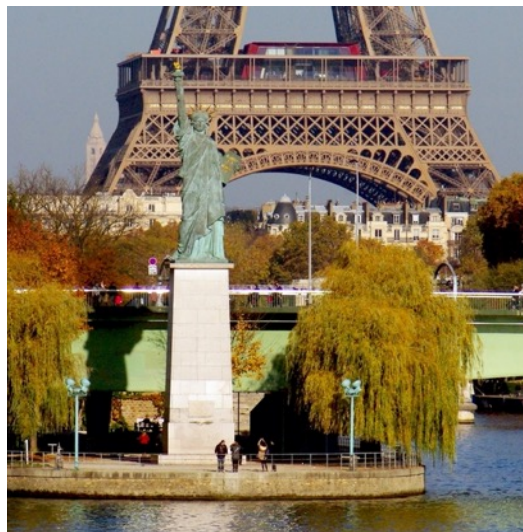
The Statue of Liberty on the Île aux Cygnes is a replica of the famous monument in NYC offered by the Americans to the French.

Three years after the inauguration of the Statue of Liberty in New York City, the French people living in the United States offered to their fellow countrymen of France a replica of the statue for the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. The inauguration of the statue took place on the 4 July 1889 (the American Independence Day) in the presence of French president Sadi Carnot. The Statue of Liberty was made in bronze from Bartholdi's plaster model which explained its height of 11.50 m (compared to 46.50 m for the original in NYC).

The statue was placed on the western tip of the Île aux Cygnes, next to the Grenelle bridge. It was first orientated so that it would face the Élysée Palace, the French presidential palace. However, for the World Fair of 1937 it was turned to face its American big sister in NYC.

The statue has always been standing on the Île aux Cygnes except from 1998-1999 when it was sent to Japan. One of our favourite views is from the Pont Mirabeau where the Statue of Liberty stands in front of the Eiffel Tower. If you look closely you can see the Sacré-Cœur of Montmartre in the distance.

There are many other replica of the Statue of Liberty scattered across Paris (Luxembourg garden, Musée des Arts et Métiers, Orsay museum to list a few...).



[Statue of Liberty on French Moments](#)

17. *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](#)



18. *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

19. *Rue des Cascades*

20th arrondissement
Métro station: Pyrénées (line 11)
[Location on Google Map](#)

Lined with low and tall houses, the quiet and green rue des Cascades, Paris is a surprising street with a provincial atmosphere located in the Belleville neighbourhood.

The rue des Cascades is winding on the side of the Belleville hill between the Place Henri-Krasucki and rue de Ménilmontant. The first mention of the rue des cascades dates back to the 17th century. It was back then a pathway. The name of the street means 'waterfalls' in French. It refers to the three 'regards' (or manholes) that were connected to the Belleville aqueduct. A clever water supply system was put in place during the Roman era and was later abandoned. In the Middle Ages it was rediscovered and used by religious orders such as the Saint-Martin-des-Champs abbey and the Templars (now in the 3rd arrondissement) to supply them with captured rainwater.

The Regard Saint-Martin lies at the crossroads with the rue de Savies. That small stone manhole once gave access to pipelines. The regard was built on the ancient Savies fountain and was one of Belleville's oldest springs. Originally the water was flowing down the hill until the monks of the Saint-Martin des Champs had an aqueduct built in the Middle Ages to supply them with fresh water.

[Rue des Cascades on French Moments](#)



20. *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, twitter 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

All photos © French Moments, taken by Pierre Guernier.

The information contained in this eBook is for information purposes only.
No part of this publication shall be reproduced, transmitted, or sold in whole or in part in any form,
without the prior written consent of the author.



METROPOLITAIN

25

27