

PARIS, FRANCE

TOP FIVE PLACES TO VISIT

Paris offers a virtually unlimited range of attractions and visiting opportunities. Photographer Sophie Pasquet and Pierre-David Jean, Desk Officer for France and Monaco, took up the almost inconceivable challenge of narrowing the list of must-see sites in the City of Light to just five.

Quai Branly Museum

Located on the former site of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Paris's newest museum is dedicated to the arts and civilizations of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas. In addition to its temporary exhibits, this unique architectural site features over 3,500 works on permanent display. It's best to go early to avoid the crowds. www.quaibrantly.fr/

André-Citroën Park

Opened in 1992, this large public park was built on the site of the former Citroën plant. Featuring numerous water areas and two greenhouses filled with exotic plants, the André-Citroën Park is an ideal spot for relaxation. Its many fountains offer welcome relief on hot summer days. For a bird's-eye view of Paris, be sure to take a ride in the Eutelsat balloon.

The banks of the Saint Martin Canal

Spanning some 4.5 kilometres, the Saint Martin Canal underwent a significant overhaul at the beginning of the decade, which suddenly transformed the character of this traditionally working-class district. Within just a few years, its banks have become a favourite place for walks, shopping and conversation in one of its many cafés. To think that the Canal narrowly escaped being turned into a highway in the 1970s! Don't miss the Chez Prune café and the Antoine et Lili boutique, which are a good reflection of the new image of this "boho-chic" district.

Parc des Buttes-Chaumont

Built during the Second Empire on the site of an old quarry, the Parc des Buttes-Chaumont is well worth the detour into the 19th arrondissement. Its green slopes and cliffs, along with its waterfall and lake, make it an ideal picnic site. For a panoramic view of Paris, go up to the park's Temple of Sybil.

Arcades

For a rainy day activity, we suggest a walk through some of Paris's arcades, such as the Galerie Vivienne, the Passage Jouffroy, the Passage des Panoramas and Verdeau. These



arcades are replete with a variety of shops, second-hand bookstores and cozy little cafés.

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