

## Some less obvious tourist attractions

Everyone knows about the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, Versailles, etc. Here are some other sites in Paris that you may not have heard of.

See also: <http://tourisme.monuments-nationaux.fr/>

### **Near or somewhat near conference site**

- Arenes de Lutece (Roman ruin, 5th arrondissement)
- Archeological diggings under Notre Dame
- Espace des Sciences (small science museum at ESPCI, 10 rue Vauquelin, 5th arrondissement)
- Big photographs on north fence of Jardin du Luxembourg.
- Paris Plage: pretend-beach on the Seine, mid-July to mid-August.
- La Concièrgerie. Near Notre Dame. Where Marie Antoinette spent her last days.
- Musee Zadkine, small museum, 100 bus rue d'Assas, Port Royal RER
- Top of Tour Montparnasse offers slightly better view than top of Tour Eiffel. Nice restaurant which is not too expensive for Saturday lunch.
- Jardin de l'Atlantique. Park on top of Gare Montparnasse. Fountains and tennis courts.
- Val de Grace (near RER stop Port Royal).
- Batobus: Boat along the Seine.

Get a ticket for one or more days and get on/off when/where you want.

### **North and/or east**

- Cour St. Emilion: a restored wine market now filled with restaurants and shops.
- Parc Bercy: nice large designed park with bridges and picnic niche. Includes the Cinémathèque.
- Promenade Plantée: a walk of 4.7 kilometers in the 12th arrondissement, between Opéra Bastille and the Boulevard Périphérique along a former railway line.
- Summer festival: <http://www.quartierdete.com>
- Canal St. Martin. Nice walk, bicycle ride, or boat trip. Between République and La Villette. Working canal locks!
- boat from Bastille to La Villette, partly under Paris.
- Cite des Sciences, La Villette, special space for children on reservation, surrounded by big park with play areas and near Cite de la Musique (music museum). Outdoor films in the summer.
- Dali museum at Montmartre.
- CNAM: technology and historical instruments, e.g. astronomical)
- Basilique St. Denis, where kings of France are buried.

### **South and/or west**

- Musée Marmottant. Impressionists (including some famous paintings by Monet) without wait.
- Palais de la Decouverte – historical building, near Grand Palais, spectacular science demos.
- Aquaboulevard: Big waterpark near metro Balard, with waves, hot tub, slides. Crowded in hot weather.

### **Further away:**

- St.-Germain-en-Laye. Via RER A, nice town with castle.
- Van Gogh sites at Auvers, from Gare Saint Lazare.
- Chateau at Amboise (where Leonardo da Vinci spent two years) and/or Chateau at Blois (magic museum and show). Both about two hours away by train.
- Paris Miniature. France-themed park south of Paris. A bit hard to get to, but easier than visiting all of France. Models of all the chateaux, rivers, trains going all around, Alps, harbors with boats.