



The best hotels in Paris to see the City of Lights in style

GQ presents the best hotels in Paris whether you're looking for a boutique hotel on the Seine or an affordable stay near the Champs-Élysées.

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Paris has long sold itself as the ultimate escape. The best pastries in the world. Wide boulevards made for romantic liaisons. Art on every corner. Gastronomy on every plate. It's no wonder the French capital still draws everyone and their brother; from backpackers to honeymooners and every fromage freak in between.

But not all Paris trips are created equal. Visit at the wrong time, stay in the wrong spot, or book a meal at a tourist trap masquerading as an authentic brasserie and the whole thing becomes a little less dream trip, a little more *quelle horreur*.

That's where our Paris travel guide comes in. Whether you're looking for the best time to visit, a hit list of *actually* brilliant things to do in Paris, or the best hotels across the city, our team of expert travel writers and editors have narrowed every conceivable option down to best of the best.

What is the best time to travel to Paris?

There's no bad time to visit, but there are better ones. May through early July offers Paris at its most romantic: sun-drenched café terraces, twilight walks along the Seine, and a truly electric atmosphere. The flip side? Crowds, queues, and that uniquely Parisian scorn for tourists who don't know how to order coffee properly.

August is a gamble. The weather's hot, the locals are gone, and many of the smaller, more interesting shops and restaurants shut for a summer break. That said, if your idea of bliss is wandering quiet streets and nabbing last-minute hotel deals, it has its pros.

For those who prioritise good food and wine to good weather, January is criminally underrated. There are fewer tourists, excellent sales, and Eurostar prices that dip low enough to justify a spontaneous long weekend. Winter in Paris is crisp but surprisingly affordable (especially now that non-EU visitors can claim tax refunds on shopping) and, when all's said and done, those Eiffel Tower night lights still twinkle as they would in any other season.

How to get to Paris

If you're still flying to Paris, consider this your intervention. The [Eurostar](#) from London to Gare du Nord takes just over two hours and deposits you in the city centre without; no passport queues, no baggage carousel roulette. The luggage allowance is generous, the seats are far comfier than any budget airway, and turning up 30 minutes before departure is standard, not stressful.

If you must fly, Charles de Gaulle is well connected and mercifully direct. The RER B train will get you into the city in around 30 minutes, though don't expect it to feel particularly luxurious. You know our vote.

Things to do in Paris

I mean, there's always that painting of an Italian noblewoman – it's in a big glass pyramid and people still can't tell if she's smiling – but that's not everyone's bag. In fact, even beyond the more obvious Parisian pitstops (that famous tower, croissant eating, getting your art on), it's fairly impossible to see the best of Paris in one trip. We'd avoid the temptation and allow plenty of time for sitting in the sun with a glass of something sparkling.

If you've already ticked the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, and Notre-Dame off your list, there's plenty else to do besides. You could book a late-night session at the [Piscine Pontoise](#) – an Art Deco indoor swimming pool that stays open until 11pm – or explore the city's modern side at [Bourse de Commerce](#), a contemporary art space inside a 19th-century grain exchange, newly restored by Tadao Ando.

The Orangerie's Monet water lilies deserve their own morning. [Fondation Louis Vuitton](#) in the Bois de Boulogne delivers blockbuster exhibitions (currently, David Hockney's knocking about) in a Frank Gehry building that feels like a spaceship made of glass. If you want classical sculpture without the Louvre stampede, [Musée Rodin](#) offers both the Thinker and a garden café with rosé on tap.

When it comes to finding the best places to eat in Paris (congratulations, you've come to the right woman), I'd recommend bypassing the TikTok-ed tourist traps with a tour of the city's modern bistros and natural wine bars, both of which you're spoiled for choice on. Perhaps [Clamato](#) for seafood, [Restaurant L'Ange 20](#) for the best onion soup of your life, or [La Petite Rose des Sables](#) for the kind of food that makes you rethink your Eurostar home. If you're shopping around Saint-Honoré or Pigalle, make time for a pastry at [Tapisserie](#) (by the Septime team) or [Mamiche](#).

Keen to keep the party going? The bar scene in Paris is second to none, and [Harry's New York Bar](#) is still worth a visit for its original cocktails and iconic ghosts (Hemingway, Chanel, Hayworth, Bogart). For something fresher, [Le Syndicat](#) is a hidden gem that celebrates French spirits in sleek, experimental fashion (think Calvados Old Fashioneds and Armagnac sours), served behind a graffitied doorway in the 10th.

All of this shouldn't discount the joys of wandering aimlessly, though. Some of Paris' best experiences aren't made for lists. See: an impromptu apéro on the Canal Saint-Martin, a jazz duo playing in the shadows of Palais-Royal, that shop window on Rue Saint-Honoré that makes you reconsider your entire wardrobe. To do Paris right, you must – *must* – build in space to get lost.

The best hotels in Paris, GQ recommended:



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Hôtel Massé

- **Location:** 32 Bis Rue Victor Massé, 75009 Paris
- **Price:** From £190 per night

Tucked away in Pigalle, just a stone's throw from Rue des Martyrs (a true foodie hotspot), you'll find Hotel Massé – a new boutique hotel designed for those who appreciate thoughtful architecture, refined design, and above all, understated luxury.

Hotel Massé features 40 individually designed rooms, each full of charm and character. Some rooms include open-plan bathtub set-ups, others offer cosy nooks or writing desks perfect for creative moments (of which you will have many in Paris), while a few boast balconies with views of the city or classic Parisian zinc rooftops. But every room has been curated to evoke a sense of home. Soft carpeting adds warmth and comfort, while fully tiled bathrooms provide a sleek look and feel (each room also includes a tile signed by artist Héloïse Rival – see if you can spot it!).

Large original windows allow natural light to flood inside, creating an airy, tranquil space ideal for unwinding after a day exploring the city. The interiors are styled with one-of-a-kind vintage pieces, too – think 1970s lampshades paired with space-age sofas and chrome salt-and-pepper shakers – resulting in a truly unique atmosphere.

What did our editor love about this destination? "For those seeking effortless luxury in Paris, Hôtel Massé is the perfect stylish escape. Even the gym exudes it, with a wooden rowing machine, stationary bike, and bench press offering a chic way to offset those buttery croissants."

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