



Paris Solo Trip Notes
January 7-17, 2019

Again? I vowed to NOT do many pictures or much trip report. Both to save my readers and to save myself. Was it 1 or 2 years ago I had FOUR (4) Paris trip reports in one year. Enough!

Paris is always a good idea.

So says Audrey Hepburn. So says Diana Burton.

I have been in withdrawal particularly recalling the year before last going to Paris five times and having a lengthy stay four times in the year.

Starting the trip gave a sweet benefit due to the new Newark Polaris club for first class International. The food and drink service is top notch. Even a favorite wine called Prisoner. Wasting that space however annoys the hell out of me when I fly domestic and can't use it. I'm told they are going to build a two floor new lounge where the pop up currently exists.

I am beyond fortunate in having Paris at all let alone choices in Paris. My cute little tiny studio apartment in St Germain des Pres has been enjoyed more than once and it was very tempting. However, so are new areas and though I have wandered the Invalids and Eiffel tower area and lived in the gastronomic eating area of rue Cler, I chose a small one bedroom on a new Street for me — rue St Dominique.

Living in Paris during the winter might be wet and cold but the tourists are mostly gone and the prices are favorable. My little studio isn't much more than \$100 a night and has everything you could want and my one bedroom isn't much more. I rent from a company who are registered and legal and thus have no risk of being kicked out in the middle of the night.

So why would I go solo and leave my wonderful husband at home? One reason is that he encourages me to go and get my walking in. Another is that I must've been a cat in another life as I can change my mind easily and like to wander on my own. Sometimes changing my mind enroute. Paris is quite familiar to me having been there maybe 50 to 100 times for reasonably long stays and having lived nearby for five years in the 70s. I don't really have the language but I have a comfort level with it that makes me feel secure and enough to open the door with the French people who appreciate one trying. I have no need to push to see the major sites - not that there aren't plenty of them that I like to see again. And again. I have never understood the tourist who says "I've been there so I don't need to go again." And sometimes I find they've only been there for a day and a half so no wonder they didn't find the desire to return again.

Just being on the airplane hearing French makes my heart flutter. Sometimes even goosebumps. But to have been French in a past life probably isn't desirable. They not only strike a lot but they war a lot too. "Let them eat cake" might have been untrue but it kept them slim and trim. Smile.

(On the subject of enjoying a place enough to return over and over, I want to tell you that I have just planned my fifth trip to Florence and I am very excited.)

Airline food? I never complain. Whether in economy or first class it's amazing how well they can do for so many people and in so little space. When there is short ribs on the menu I am really pleased. Start with seared tuna, kale salad with apples and red quinoa and wasabi. Add Napa salad and then come along with seared short ribs. Bordelaise sauce, grits, fava beans, shiitake mushrooms, shallots, etc. and I have enough for a couple of sandwiches the next day.

Though I skip the treats, the desserts and cheese tray, when in Paris I never skip the French baguettes and butter. Both simply cannot be found anywhere else in the world and both usually give me a few extra pounds that I can't seem to get rid of like I used to. Gain 3 pounds, go home and get rid of 2 pounds and pretty soon this math just isn't working.

Back to eating on the airplane. I know. It isn't candlelight dinner. If you want the extreme, just find an airline bathroom and it is sobering and humbling if not extreme aging and yet a perfect place to pluck your eyebrows. Smile.

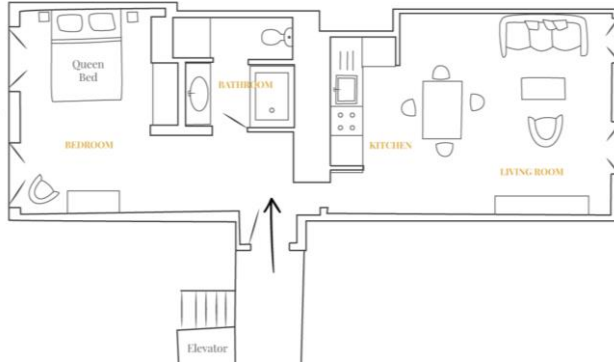
You land in Paris and you remember the trip was OK and it was all worth it anyway. Even if you generally have to stand in line at customs for 45 minutes. This time I was expecting it and there was no one in line. Even in Newark TSA was expected to be slow and it was not at all.

From www.ParisVacationApartments.com about my apartment area near INVALIDES: Located on the Left Bank this quintessential Parisian neighborhood combines charm and chic. Near the Hôtel des Invalids, with its recognizable shiny golden dome and the impressive perspective from its Esplanade that stretches out to the sights of Paris. Right around the corner from the one and only Eiffel Tower and the relaxing Champs de Mars gardens with its antique merry-go-round. You can go to the Bon Marché, Paris' oldest and most stylish department store and walk the grand Pont Alexandre III and can easily stroll on the quais of the Seine River to admire the beautiful sunrise or sunset while sipping a drink. It's an ideally central location and is one of Paris' most prized neighborhoods.

Apartment Description: CALM AND ELEGANCE OF THE INVALIDES NEAR RUE CLER (39 m² – 420 sq ft) A calm and elegant apartment in this early XIXth century building between the Esplanade des Invalids and Boulevard Saint Germain. A wonderful view of the Eiffel Tower from the street and a short walk from the most famous market street rue Cler. A short walk to the Musée d'Orsay, the Grand Palais and Concorde. This apartment is located behind Boulevard Saint Germain and Hotel des Invalids in a quiet and elegant building that will allow you to enjoy the privacy and calm of the flat whilst being in the heart of central Paris. Equipped with a queen size bed and an en suite bathroom, this apartment is perfect to experience the real Parisian lifestyle and make your stay "très charming". End.

After checking in, renewing acquaintance with the neighborhood, filling the refrigerator and the liquor closet, and enjoying a dozen roses, there was nothing more important than a nap. Jet lag is at its best when you've missed a night of sleep.

No hurry. No worry. Be happy. I'm here for 10 days.



Flowers, wine, chocolate croissants and little cookies awaited my arrival. The bedroom was at the back courtyard side, yet the big front windows facing the street were well insulated as well as being four stories up. What a view! Though I enjoyed the street scene as much if not more than the Eiffel Tower.



The wood beams were likely original. The green kitchen cabinets I could have done without. All was modern, convenient, comfortable, warm, and I was thrilled to be making my 50th or 100th – who knows? – trip to Paris.

Paris - six down and four to go - Paris - six days in!

What have I been doing in Paris? Little to nothing. Which is everything that I had intended to do.

The weather is fine, the legs are working, the sites are delightful, and I am in next to heaven. I call it heaven because I also know I have Tom and a home and Paris whenever I want.

My famous and historical street rue St Dominique and favorite little neighborhood Café have been a delight as have reacquainting myself with some of my favorite brasseries.

Maison Constant - Café Constant - A Michelin star chef. In neighborhood. Nice plat du jour.

<http://www.maisonconstant.com/cafe-constant/>

I didn't go to this next place that you may have read about –

Paris' First Nude Restaurant Closes For Lack Of Business

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/onaturel-paris-nude-restaurant-closes_us_5c3649f6e4b070b69ae0612e

While I have walked by most of the major sites (with a near Marathon walking endeavor all days so far) I didn't feel a calling to go inside many of them. The Eiffel tower is pretty tough to get inside anyway. Fortunately instead of the fence like my last trip here, they now have a big Plexiglas barrier during renovation so as not to destroy the view.

Eiffel Tower Renovation

<https://www.tou Eiffel.paris/en/news/works/eiffel-tower-undergo-major-modernisation-process>

Plenty of streets are shut down and you may have seen that we had Thursday demonstrations and then quite a few on Saturday. While I have seen the armored vehicles and policemen, I've not seen any of the yellow vests.

Demonstration Alert – U.S. Embassy Paris, France -

January 10 - Gathering points and routes in Paris include, but are not limited to, the following locations and surrounding areas: Champs-Elysees, Boulevard Saint-Germain, Place de la Concorde, Place de la Madeleine, Place de la Bastille, Place de la République, Place Saint-Michel, Assemblée Nationale

Thursday night on Blvd St Germain - Gilets jaunes protesters vandalize 60% of France's speed cameras. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/10/europe/gilets-jaunes-speed-cameras-destroyed-france-scli-intl/index.html>

The explosion and fire up the bakery was on the other side of the river not far from where I was walking the night before. Sad. It was interesting how calm the Parisians seem no matter explosions or yellow vests or tear gas.

I've managed two walking tours (One on Hemingway haunts and the other on the resistance) and even more miles on my own. Twice I got to the famous bookstore called Shakespeare and Company and now have another new book on Ernest Hemingway and the true story behind his masterpiece called "the Sun also rises" that I had just finished. It takes place in Pamplona Spain where I will begin another section of the Camino de Santiago in a few months.

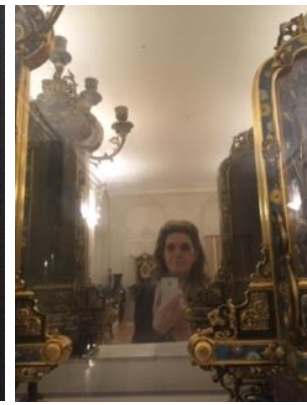
I just finished a frivolous little book with lots of Paris stories from the Hemingway days, called **The Light of Paris by Eleanor Brown** <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-light-of-paris-eleanor-brown/1122760250>. I cried through a lot of it both from happiness about Paris stories but also the tough mother-daughter relationships that I can relate to.

I'm sure Tom was envious of my eating at Le Grande Colbert but when I showed him pictures of this little place he said it was exactly what he hopes to find when we have a few days in Lyons in June. Midnight in Paris was filmed in this restaurant.

Saturday restaurant - the Polidor - <http://www.polidor.com/>

I'm having an absolutely wonderful time, using FaceTime a time or two a day to talk to Tom, and looking forward to still another Paris trip in the near future.

And it might not surprise you that I have been spending some time working on an itinerary for Rome, Florence, and Torino this November. Ha ha ha. It never ends. I like how some of you say you enjoy my armchair traveling but are very happy staying in your own surroundings. Nice. Then there are some who are itching to have their own travel bug. That too is nice. Isn't it great to have choices!

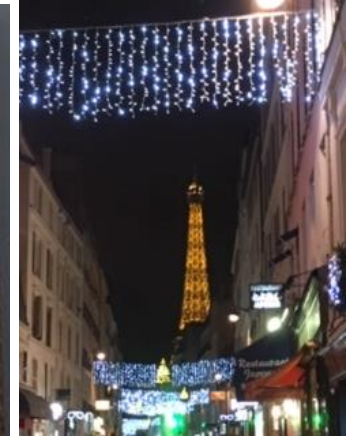


I only went into the museum D'Orsay for their gift shop. But it required paying entry fee so I just spent the day and had a meal there too.

We were just at a sculpture garden in New Jersey that had a full size lifelike replica of picnic in the park. And Manet's Olympia, and many of the Renoir in the park. I hunted them all down.

They also had an unusual special exhibit on Renoir and his son who was a film producer and they gave us dark rooms with Renoir paintings spotlighted with son's films going on that represented daddy's pictures.

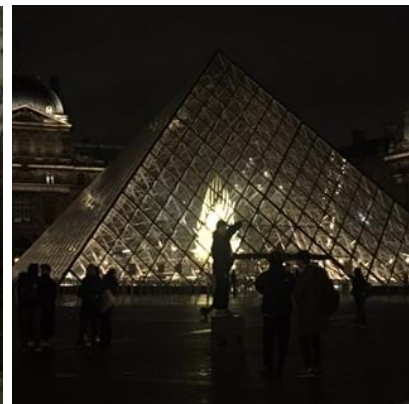
I always like the big Grand Ball room that looks like Versailles and also the architectural gems of the living rooms.



The second special exhibit were van Gogh paintings rarely seen. And I have been to a number of the Van Gogh Museums and most recently in Amsterdam. In New Jersey sculpture garden, their café featured starry nights.

This is also a Van Gogh which was a surprise as it is so different.

My little Street is so fascinating that it has all little boutiques and tiny cafés and fortunately the Christmas lights remain up with the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower



To go to the extreme, I went into the Four Seasons George V hotel just off the Etoile. It has been noted for unique and typically special Christmas decorations. I was not impressed this time. This is in their court yard and looked like a walk-through crystal hallway.

The Champs Elyse without the yellow vests or the teargas which came the next day. The Ferris wheel has now been banned and the year before the same owner's Christmas market was banned. I think I miss the Ferris wheel.

I don't know what that is in the middle of the Louvre's IM Pei pyramid. It's new. Later – found and explained below. It was closed.

I thought markets were enough entertainment and enough color on their own without needing to have gypsy serenades.

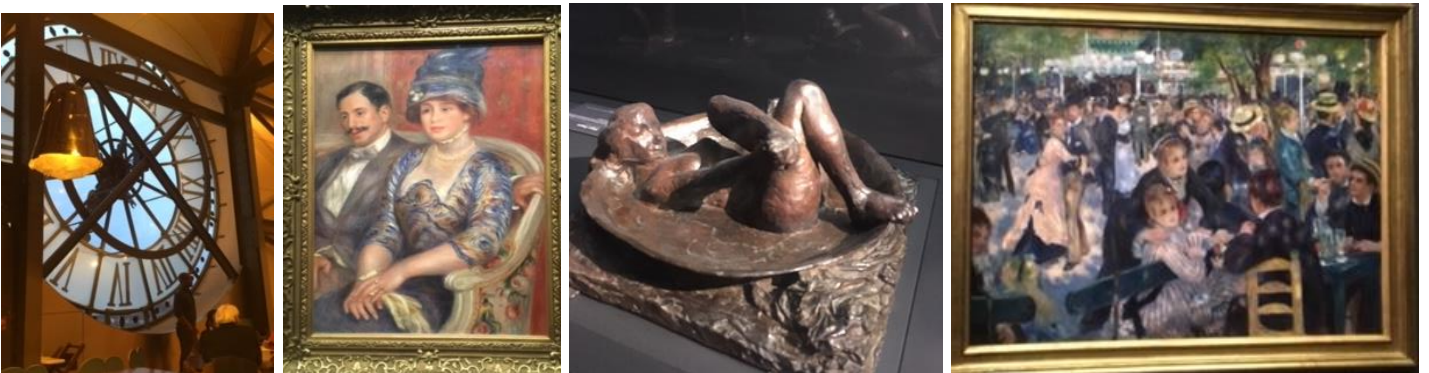


You would think I could have taken a comb or a rubber band to this wet hair. It has sprinkled on me all day. Despite my disheveled appearance, Richelle took me to a couple unique places and one being the historical café where “Evening in Paris” had been filmed. It was original, we ate on what was almost like picnic tables, it was cheap, it was noisy, and I'd go again in a heartbeat. Surprisingly Tom said that's what he will be looking for in Lyon.

My apartment is between the Eiffel Tower and Invalids. So I got both in one frame. Oops – lost a market picture and the Invalids picture

One more picture of my street before the Christmas decorations go away. Good night.

Later: A few more pictures – though never sent. Everybody has seen pictures of Paris. So I tried not to take the usual shots.



One of the famous clocks of the old train station, now the Musee d' Orsay. Pretty special that we had some famous women painters of the impressionist time frame. Then we had Manet who would engage the little ballerinas (or rather pay their mother for their time) then surprise them that all he

wanted was to study their bodies. More art work that had been recreated at the NJ Johnson Sculpture Garden.



So many favorites that I try to see every time. These too are recreated in the local sculpture garden. Here they are also larger than life. Also try to see the palace rooms with the forever mirrors. The huge night scene is outside the Musee. Then can we get any more extreme than this? My little bitty elevator that I only used when I had my suitcase in tow. A regular size suitcase would NOT have fit. A large person would not have fit.



A local street scene with what they said was a catholic church but I thought a mosque because of the dome. On the Champs d' Elyse on many street corners were temptations to rent these exotic cars. Each street corner had a different color car. Wine? Those were local and probably not Magnum but rather the larger Methuselah. Scooters were everywhere. This was odd in that we had modern parked outside the Medieval Cuny Museum.

More Paris notes - not sent

Rue St Dominique - My street. I have enjoyed my two big windows hanging four floors over the street and also onto rue Amalie. Just one and a half blocks from the famous gourmet eating street called rue Cler, this rue Saint Dominique has plenty of its own.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rue_Saint-Dominique and
<http://www.parisrues.com/rues07/paris-07-rue-saint-dominique.html>

The Throne at the Pyramid

I saw it just in time and sent you a picture. The Throne is now removed.

https://www.japantimes.co.jp/culture/2018/08/28/arts/louvre-new-seat-power/#.XDx_7XMo_YU

More of Throne sculpture in the pyramid of the Louvre

<https://www.asianowparis.com/en/2018/news/2018/7/3/throne-kohei-nawa-pyramid-of-the-louvre-paris-july-13-2018-january-14-2019>

Shakespeare and Company - A very important and often frequented bookstore.

I lucked into this famous bookstore on one of their big event nights. I have thought to be wrong to frequent the store but I'm pleased to report that now I am right. Yes? This is not Sylvia Beach's Shakespeare and Company and yet the stories of Sylvia Beach always cost me to go and buy and think about all she did for the writers of the early 20th century.

Correction! One of the three books that I've been consuming while here told the story of the new owner doing huge amounts for writers to include letting them bunk and eat at the bookstore. Sylvia was a frequent guest of the bookstore and she suggested that George change the name of his book store from Le Mistral to her Shakespeare and Company in honor of all he did. George is now gone but his daughter who he named Sylvia Beach now runs it and continues the charitable giving to writers and readers. They have events, they sell used books too, they have a library research reading room, and now they are starting publishing new writers. Nice!

<https://shakespeareandcompany.com/>

Be Not Inhospitable to Strangers Lest They Be Angels in Disguise," is written above the entrance to the reading library.

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakespeare_and_Company_\(bookstore\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakespeare_and_Company_(bookstore))

History- <https://shakespeareandcompany.com/35/history/36/a-brief-history-of-a-parisian-bookstore>

The French government has a special cultural program and tax incentive that keeps small bookstores in business. One often sees people with books.

Would I Move to Paris? From an astute long time running friend: Seems like you are getting cultural experiences in all different ways on this trip. I like the gritty details, it makes the report more "real." Sometimes doing "next to nothing" allows you to observe characteristics and events about a place that might otherwise be glanced over.

Paris does seem to have its own unique flair. Their passion makes the US look more like the UK...somewhat sterile, routine, and commercial. Peut-etre vous etes Parisienne maintenant? Maybe you've assimilated enough that you are now an honorary Parisian. :-)

My response: Some have asked me why I don't get an apartment in Paris and the answer is at least fourfold. I couldn't afford it; it's very difficult to do even if you can afford it; I prefer someone else having the responsibility, and I like temporarily living in different areas of Paris.

The Rodin museum. I've often thought that I should see the newly renovated museum. If any of the rest of you are thinking that, let me suggest there are other things to do. I do believe that the old museum was everything as good. Other major collections of Rodin such as at Stanford or in Philadelphia are much easier to view.

Yet I did spend much of the day there, rented the audio and listened to everything. After Michelangelo, I think Rodin has some of the best body forms. (Or are many of them really those of his lover Claudel?).

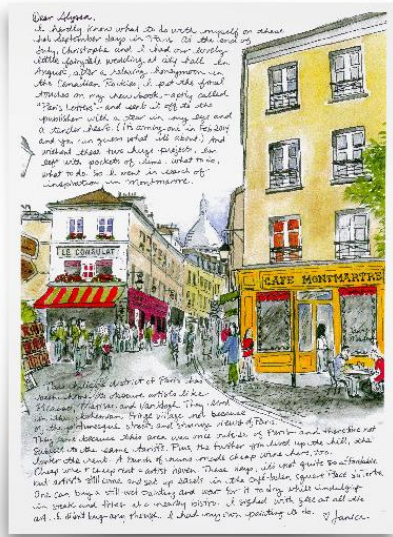
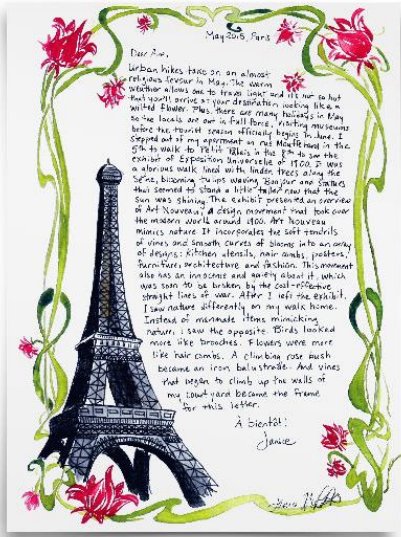
If you wonder why you see so many of his sculptures such as "The Thinker" the answer is that he donated everything to the French government and allowed a certain number of copies so long as a set number stayed in public view. Nice.

The museum offered a temporary exhibit of his drawings and cut outs which have rarely been seen. I went through them but would probably not go back.

Sweet, and on this, a goodnight:

From Janice of Paris Letters - Mixed emotions about the Yellow Vests and that pesky Arc de Triomphe - Janice really does love Paris and she passes that to us in her original book called "Paris Letters" and the next book called "A Year in Paris" and I'm often tempted to subscribe to her monthly letters. On this trip I wandered her Mouffetard Street where she learned to love Paris. Where she met her husband who was a butcher and lived across the street from her little apartment. I walked in the day and I walked in the night even though I have been there on previous occasions. (It is a remaining piece of the original Roman Road and sometimes it feels like it with all the old cobblestones). Forward it onto you in case you also enjoy her artwork and her writing. You might want to subscribe or even to buy her notecards. Enjoy.

I sent folks her newsletter but here is a small sample. The book and art are highly recommended.



Paris and the Paris Letters writing would stop any depression!

***If you are depressed you are living in the past. If you are anxious you are living in the future. If you are at peace you are living in the present.* — Lao Tzu**

Itinerary

Mon Jan 7

6:20pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#57

Tue Jan 8

7:30am Arrive Charles de Gaulle CDG

Taxi to apartment - Occupied the day before so entry maybe not available until 10:15am.

Apartment Eiffel Tower/Saint Germain/Invalides Charming One Bedroom – 9 nights
78 rue Saint Dominique, 75007 Paris Tele in apartment: 09 80 47 52 84
From US dial: 00 33 9 80 47 52 84 www.parisvacationapartments.com
In file: WiFi code and door access codes
Third floor with an elevator. #69 bus across street.

Greeter: Pierre-Louis will be at the apartment to welcome you. In case of any delays, problems or questions, give him a call. For general inquiries email pva2rent@gmail.com.
Tele of Pierre-Louis +336-26-53-06-20

From <https://www.parisvacationapartments.com/en/home/shop/all/our-apartments/one-bedroom/invalides-eiffel-tower-charming-one-bedroom/>

CALM AND ELEGANCE OF THE INVALIDES NEAR RUE CLER (39 m² – 420 sq ft)

A calm and elegant apartment in this early XIXth century building between the Esplanade des Invalides and Boulevard Saint Germain. A wonderful view of the Eiffel Tower from the street and a short walk from the most famous market street rue Cler. A short walk to the Musée d'Orsay, the Grand Palais and Concorde. This apartment is located behind Boulevard Saint Germain and Hotel des Invalides in a quiet and elegant building that will allow you to enjoy the privacy and calm of the flat whilst being in the heart of central Paris. Equipped with a queen size bed and an en suite bathroom, this apartment is perfect to experience the real Parisian lifestyle and make your stay "très charming ».

This Rue St Dominique neighborhood – a bit of history: The building this apartment is in was built in 1810. The rue Saint Dominique is in the Saint Germain neighborhood famous for its history in all arts, little streets and passage-ways. The street was named in 1631 after the Dominican monastery. The apartment is near the Eiffel Tower and the Hotel des Invalides, a Parisian military museum. Project initiated in 1640 by King Louis XIV as a hospital for wounded soldiers.

Sat Jan 12

2:30pm Hemingway's walk with www.Paris-Walks.com

Hemingway's Paris Explore this charming district in the Latin Quarter with the old houses of the Mouffetard market street, the remains of the medieval city wall, and the lovely historic church of St Etienne-du-Mont. Many writers lived or set their stories here: James Joyce, Orwell, Balzac, Victor Hugo, Verlaine. It was immortalised by Hemingway in 'A Moveable Feast' and by Woody Allen in 'Midnight in Paris'. Meet at metro Cardinal Lemoine (exit 1) Fri

Sun Jan 13

2:30pm Resistance – Occupation by Paris-Walks.com

The Resistance and the Occupation, Left Bank Circuit. The story of the resistance (who came from all backgrounds) the prisons, the round ups, and the plight of the Jews. Everyday life during the Occupation, and many poignant and revealing stories and the heroic acts of ordinary people. Meet at metro Sevres Babylone, exit 3 at junction of rue de Sevres and Blvd Raspail, by the garden

Tue Jan 15

10.30am Marais walk with www.Paris-Walks.com – Richelle guide

The Old Marais Quarter - Circuit 1 Explore the south side of the Marais, which is the most unspoilt historic quarter of Paris, and see beautiful architecture from picturesque medieval streets to splendid classical mansions, and the lovely royal square, the place des Vosges. We look at architectural treasures, medieval houses, local history, some Jewish history, the wall of the Righteous, and we hear stories of the celebrated inhabitants such as Victor Hugo, who collected material for Les Miserables while he lived here, and Mme de Sevigné, who wrote witty letters with gossip about her contemporaries. Meet at metro St Paul.

Thu Jan 17

6:30am? PVA to arrange for taxi

9:25am Depart Charles de Gaulle CDG via UA#56

12:10pm Arrive Newark EWR

To Do

Korean food near Palais Royal per and with Richelle

Check Clarke Shoes for replacement

Lavirotte on Avenue Rapp - https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lavirotte_Building

Vaux le Vicomte via train? <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaux-le-Vicomte>

<http://www.vaux-le-vicomte.com/en/> - closed in January and February?

Galleries Lafayette rooftop - weather permitting

Bon Marche food section

LaChapelle if sunshine

Catacombs, Canals

Shakespeare & Co.

Carnavalet Museum not open until early 2020!

Picasso Museum in Marais

Musee des Arts et Metiers ? Musee des Decoratifs?

Rodin Museum

Visit La Defense

No opera or ballet found

Eat: Procope, Grand Colbert, Corner Brasserie near Shakespeare, Montmartre if for lunch, Pate and more Pate from deli.

Emergency numbers:

Registered with STEP at www.travel.state.gov

Emergency Assistance Plus Program – 24/7

United Mileage Plus member #0186014 (card in file and in D's Wallet)

Tele: 866 816 2073 or 60 328 1752 collect

American Embassy and Consulate

2, avenue Gabriel - Paris 8th. Metro: Champs-Élysées

Tele: 01 43 12 22 22 (American Nationals)

Links

8 Unusual Paris Landmarks That Will Make You Fall in Love

<http://blog.thediscoverer.com/8-unusual-paris-landmarks-that-will-make-you-fall-in-love/>

The Discoverer Blog | A Perfect Weekend Itinerary for Paris

<http://blog.thediscoverer.com/a-perfect-weekend-in-paris/>

36 Hours in Paris: On the Seine -

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/06/travel/what-to-do-in-paris-on-the-seine.html>

Guides: <https://www.likealocalguide.com/paris>

Macron Tours Damaged Paris Site In Aftermath Of Riots – just a month earlier!

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/macron-tours-damaged-paris-site-in-aftermath-of-riots_us_5c03de8ae4b0a173c023f00c

Paris Riots Strike Home: Yellow Vests, Vandals — and Jihadists —Thrive on Such Chaos

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/paris-riots-strike-home-yellow-vests-vandals-and-jihadists-thrive-on-such-chaos>