

Paris

I believe that in many girls' minds, Paris is one of the places that they want to visit for its famous romance. However, when I am in Paris, I don't feel the romantic atmosphere. It is actually only one of the many European cities.

Here are some of the famous places in Paris:

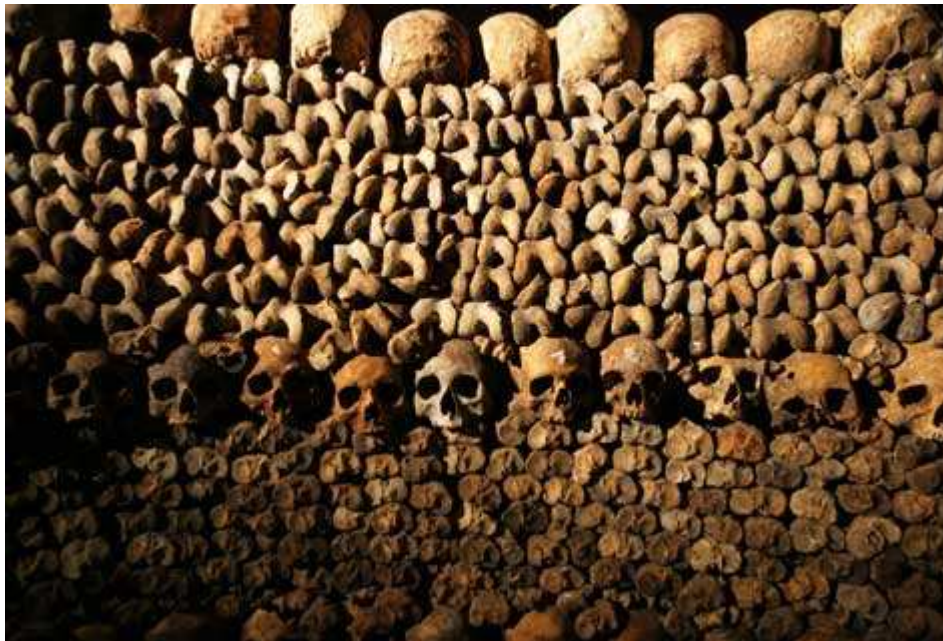
Eiffel Tower

I guess when most people think of Paris, they will think of the famous Eiffel Tower. This tower was built for the 1889 Exposition Universelle (World Fair). It was the world's tallest structure at 320m until Manhattan's Chrysler Building was completed. It is recommended to go to the top of tower, where you can see the whole city. It is also suggested to book the ticket online before going there because you may need to stand in line for 3 hours for the entrance.



Catacombes

It's an underground grave. If you are not afraid of skeletons, darkness and coldness, it is a great place to have an adventure! You first have to walk through a long hall, and walk deep down under the ground. After that, you will see thousands of skeletons packed together. This is a long journey, where you can stay for one hour underground. After the trip, there will be someone checking everyone's bags because there are always some crazy thieves that want to steal skeletons away.



MUSEE DU LOUVRE

It's like the diamond of Paris. If you go on the first Sunday of each month, you can enter the museum without fees.



ARC DE TRIOMPHE

The Arc de Triomphe is a monument in Paris that stands in the centre of the Place Charles de Gaulle. It is the Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile. The triumphal arch honours those who fought for France, particularly during the Napoleonic Wars.



Basilique du Sacre

It's a beautiful big church sited in a beautiful village. It is a Roman Catholic church. It is located at the summit of the butte Montmartre, the highest point in the city.



Useful information about Paris

Weather

The Paris basin lies midway between coastal Brittany and mountainous Alsace and is affected by both climates. The Île de France region, of which Paris is the centre, records among the lowest annual precipitation (about 640mm) in the nation, but rainfall is erratic; you're just as likely to be caught in a heavy spring shower or an autumn downpour as in a sudden summer cloudburst. Paris' average yearly temperature is just under 12°C (2°C in January, 19°C in July), but the mercury sometimes drops below zero in winter and can climb into the 30s in the middle of summer.

You can find out the weather forecast in French for the Paris area by calling 0 892 680 275. The national forecast can be heard on 0 899 701 234 in French or 0 899 701 111 in one of 11 different languages. Call charges for either number are €1.35 then €0.35 per minute. Another number (French only) is 3250 charged at €0.34 per minute. The summary can also be read for free on the website of Météo France (www.meteofrance.com, in French).

Tipping

French law requires that restaurant, café and hotel bills include a service charge (usually between 12% and 15%). Taxi drivers expect small tips of between 5% and 10% of the fare though the usual procedure is to round up to the nearest €1 regardless of the fare.