

As a France expert and itinerary planner, I am asked the question all the time: when is the best time to go to Paris. The asker might be referring to price, to special events, to weather, best sales, or even when to avoid the crowds.

With this guide, I want to offer some **guidelines** that will help your decision-making to get the most out of your trip.

The date of events listed are specific to the year BUT while most of the exact dates for 2019 are not yet published, they occur around the same dates as 2018.

Spring March to May is shoulder season. You can take advantage of slight price cuts on hotels and upgrade or funnel those savings into a fine meal or a special treat.

In March, the cultural programming starts to shake off its winter cocooning with the first of a string of exciting jazz events—the *Banlieue Bleues* festival.

April in Paris is more than a wistful song—the pink-blossomed trees near Henry O.Tanner's former home and around the city really do make you catch your breath.

We call May the month of holidays as there are three official public holidays. If you're in Paris for business, plan away from May 1 (Labor Day), and May 8. Tennis fans, get your tickets, accommodations and favorite restaurant reservations as early as possible for The French Open (called Le Rolland Garros, in France) period.

Summer Everyone wants to go between June and August when the weather is most predictably agreeable. Summer nights in July stay light until 9:30pm, ideal for the outdoor music festivals and open-air cinema, practicing your tango on the Paris Beach, or strolling the lively neighborhoods.

Be prepared, however, to pay higher air fares and be sure to purchase skip-the-line tickets to avoid waiting in time-wasting line-ups for that once-in-a-lifetime exhibit or show.

Shoppers, the city authorizes major sales only twice a year. End of June to end of July is one of them.

Tip: Avoid air, train or highway travel at the beginning and end of the month when French families are migrating *en masse* to and from their holidays.

is my favorite season in Paris. September is called 'La Rentrée', the re-entry into everyday life. Billboards boast the launch of exciting art, cultural and musical programs. during the *Journées du Patrimoine* (Heritage Days) weekend, take a peek into the presidential palace, walk the hallowed halls of the Sorbonne, or get behind the scenes of French institutions usually closed to the public.

Paris also hosts many trade shows in September including the International Ready-to-Wear Fashion Shows. As expected, hotel space is at a premium and prices won't dip until the end of the month.

October offers a feast of all things cultural and artistic. The month opens with the *Nuit Blanche* all-nighter, continues off the off-the-beaten path at the Montmartre Wine Festival, and closes with the delectable Salon du Chocolat.

If you picture yourself in a Paris full of mysterious, contemplative "atmosphere, atmosphere", November won't disappoint. A bit of fog, a nip in the air, a frothy *café crème* to daydream over. No crowds to block your view in museums, galleries and at the extensive *Mois de la Photo* exhibits. Do like the Parisians on November 1st (All Saints Day) and pay homage to the late and the great in one of several cemeteries.

Also, great deals on hotels and the right time to rent a Parisian apartment at reasonable prices. Airfares, too, make it easy to hop over for a 4-day break

Winter December starts with the blaze of Christmas lights and decorations, especially breathtaking at dusk. If you travel with kids, everyone will adore the charming department store displays, as well as the spectacular light show at Disneyland Paris. Restaurants pull out their best for the traditional Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve dinners.

In January and February take advantage of airfare and hotel lower rates. Then fully enjoy the semi-annual city-wide sales 'les soldes' which kick off in early January and last five weeks. Fewer people on flights during these two months spell more seats for travelers redeeming air miles.

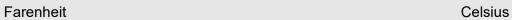
Where else but Paris for Valentine's Day? Or a refreshing city break with girlfriends, buddies or just some me time.

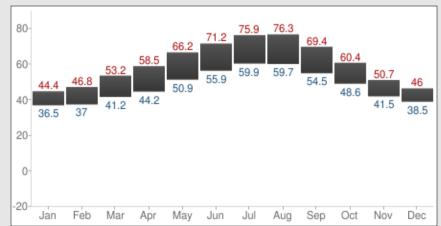
Come prepared for rain and grey skies by packing a lined rain/heavy coat, waterproof boots and a long list of indoor activities but when the sun peaks out, nothing beats a hot chocolate taken on one of the countless outdoor terraces warmed by gas heaters.

Paris is for lovers—of art, people, music, cultures, anything.

On the following pages, you will find a month-by-month layout of notable considerations, weather expectations, and special events.

Average Temperature Highs & Lows







Precipitation



JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Culture Shopping **Sports Arts Special Events** Epiphany—Jan. 6 for- Jean-Michel Basquiat In 2019, Semi-annual **International Lingerie** ward. Bakeries sell a at Fondation Louis sales called 'Les Show at Porte de Ver-Vuitton. sailles convention 'Galette des Rois'. Soldes' begin January King's Cake, a round Until January 21. 9th and end February centre. End Jan. flat pastry filled with 19. City and country-Paris Fashion Week wide. almond paste. A small Winter Session. Tuilerceramic figurine that Michael Jackson On Fashion Porte de ies Gardens 2019 symbolizes the finding The Wall exhibition— Versailles. Winter Men: Jan. 16-21; of Baby Jesus by the 3 Jackson as inspiration Session: End of Jan. Haute Couture: Jan. kings is hidden inside. for artists. At Le Grand 1,000 Ready-to-wear 22-25; Women: Feb. Whoever finds it wears Palais Gallery. Novemand accessories 27-March 6. the crown sold with the ber 28, 2018-February brands. pastry. 14, 2019 Off-the-beaten path: **Chinese New Year** parade in the 13th district Asian community. Majestic, exciting. Starting end of Jan./ beginning of Feb. **Black History Month** events

MARCH

Music **Culture Arts Shopping Black Models:** Salon du Livre-Paris Fashion Week Winter Banlieue Blues Jazz Festival, held in From Géricault to Immense Book Fair the near suburbs of Paris and featuring Session, Tuileries Gardens, Matisse featuring French top international musicians, interacting Women's Fashion continues to Musée d'Orsay. and international with local communities. March 22-April March 6, 2019 March 26-July 21. writers, including 19, 2019. This exhibition exmany from North plores aesthetic, America. political, social and racial issues and imagery unveiled by the representation of black figures in visual arts, from the abolition of slavery in France (1794) to the modern day. Ask us about private group tours for this

Musée d'Orsay exhibition.

APRIL

Culture	Arts	Music	Shopping	Special Events
Easter & Passover— April 19/ 21, 2019 Church, chocolates, & chic clothing. Attend an American	Art Paris Art Fair—142 international galleries exhibit at the Grand Palais exhibition hall, just off the Champs-Elysées.	Banlieue Blues jazz festival, held in the near suburbs of Paris and featuring top interna- tional musicians, inter- acting with local com-		Foire de Paris— Immense consumer fair for home décor, decorations, accessories. Bring home unique 'French Touch' finds for your home. From April
service or a French service in a magnificent church i.e. Nôtre Dame Cathedral.	April 4-7, 2019. (Many African- Americans exhib- ited here and at the Petit Palais across the street since early 1900s)	April 13, 2019.		27–May 8, 2019. Foire du Trone Annual Country Fair in the city—great treat if you're traveling with kids.
	Black Models: From Géricault to Matisse Musée d'Orsay. March 26-July 21. This exhibition ex- plores aesthetic, political, social and racial issues	Cont'd and imagery unveiled by the representation of black figures in visual arts, from the abolition of slavery in France (1794) to the modern day. Ask us about private group tours.		©Walking The Spirit Tours

MAY

Culture	Arts	Music	Sports	Special Events
La Nuit des Musées/ Museum Night. En- trance to most muse- ums free until late night.	Off-the-beaten path: Artists' Open Houses in the bohemian /	St. Germain-des-Prés Jazz Festival. Held in many venues both in- doors and outdoors.	The French Open tennis event. May 26–June 9, 2019.	
May 1, 2019. ARTS	culturally diverse district of Belle- ville. Meet local artists in their home studios.	Last weekend of May 2019 Home turf of the 1950-60s Beboppers like		Battlefield Tours— Commemorate the Centenary of WWI with a 3-day or a 7-day
Black Models: From Géricault to Matisse Musée d'Orsay.	Date TBA. Art Saint-	Miles Davis.		package that follows the heroic Harlem Hell- fighers soldier/jazz
March 26-July 21. This exhibition explores aesthetic, political, social and racial issues and imagery unveiled by the representation of black figures in visual arts, from the abolition of slavery in France	Germain-des- Prés. In Henry O. Tanner's old neighborhood, dozens of art gal- leries actually roll out the red carpet	ART SAINT GERMAIN		band to eastern France and Paris. Special Walking The Spirit Tours package. Or click on the Paris Vacation Packages link on our website. Runs April
(1794) to the modern day. Ask us about private group tours.	for a street open house in May / June.	DES PRÉS		through October. ©Walking The Spirit Tours

JUNE

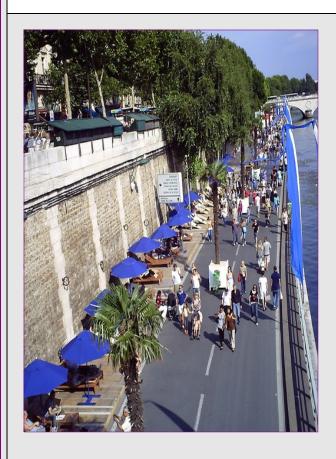
Culture	Arts	Music	Sports	Shop- ping	Special Events
La Goutte d'Or Festival Africa In Paris full of music, dance, theater, art. Be- gins with a kids' parade, ends with a French/ African/Arabic street dance. June 21–23, 2019. Free.	Black Models: From Géricault to Matisse Musée d'Orsay. March 26-July 21. This exhibition explores aesthetic, political, social and racial issues and imagery unveiled by the representation of black figures in visual arts, from the abolition of slavery in France (1794) to the modern day. Ask us about private group tours.	Fête de la Musique/ World Music Day June 21. Free concerts everywhere in the city. Paris Jazz Festival Begins mid-June. Held on weekends in the Parc Floral, in Vincennes Park. Concerts are free.	The French Open continues until June 9, 2019.	Summer sales / Les Soldes begin end of June. In 2019: June 26–Aug. 6	Beyond Paris: Day trip to mark the 75th anniversary of D- Day on the Nor- mandy beaches. Go anytime. Midsummer Fire- works from Île St. Louis. June 24. Paris Fashion Week Summer and Autumn Session. Celebrate: Take an African Fashion in the City tour, Paris Fashion History tour or Contemporary Fashion visits to de- signer studios all year.

JULY

Culture	Music	Sports	Shopping	Special Events
July 14 Attend the Bastille Day military parade on the Champs- Elysées in the morn- ing, picnic under the Eiffel Tower well into the afternoon. End the day with the Bastille Day Cruise, Dinner & Fireworks (we can book your tickets). The evening before, kick up your heels to the traditional Fire- man's Ball, held in fire stations and Place de la Bastille.	Tropical Carnival of Paris. All the colors of the Diaspora parade from Place de la Nation to the 11th district. Early July 2019. Paris Jazz Festival continues to July 22. Weekends in Vincennes Park. Jazz and other genres. Free. Afropunk Festival— Music, art, film, lifestyle sports, fashion, photography, and more. July 13-14, 2019. Nice Jazz Festival— Jazz festival on the Riviera since 1948. July 16-20, 2019. Jazz à Juan—in Juan-les-Pins/Antibes, the spiritual home of jazzman Sidney Bechet. July 12—21, 2019. July 28	Tour de France July 6-28, 2019. Ends the 28th on the Champs- Elysées.	Summer sales / Les Soldes continue until August 6, 2019. Special Events Battlefield Tours— Commemorate the Centenary of WWI with a 3 or 7-day package that follows the heroic Harlem Hellfighers soldier/ jazz band to eastern France and Paris. Special Walking The Spirit Tours package. Or click on the Paris Vacation Packages link on our website. Runs April through October.	Paris Plage—Paris on the Beach. Real sand, palm trees, lounge chairs plus games, cafes, dance lessons. On the river bank in central Paris and north end La Villette. Paris at its most laconic. Mid-July to end Aug. Open-air cinema—Spread out a blanket, rent a lounge chair and enjoy free movies under the stars. At the ultramodern but wonderfully fun La Villette, north Paris. End July to end August. Paris Fashion Week continues. Tuileries Gardens. Haute Couture: July 2019

AUGUST

Culture Arts Music Special Events Special Events



Battlefield Tours—
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The Spirit Tours package

Combine with Champagne Region tours and tastings.

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Open-air cinema— Spread out a blanket, rent a lounge chair and enjoy free movies under the stars. At the ultramodern but wonderfully fun La Villette, north Paris. End July to end August.

SEPTEMBER

Culture	Arts	Music	Special Events	Special Events
Just Beyond Paris— Monet's Garden & Richard Wright's writing hideway. This is the last month to catch Monet's flowers in bloom. Include lunch at the 11th century mill arts & culture center where Richard Wright wrote his haiku.	disciplines: art, architecture, food, etc. Thematic itin-	Jazz à la Villette Jazz Festival— Some of the very best international jazz and other musi- cians. Takes place around in the north end neighborhood of La Vil- lette. Laid-back, very Parisian and welcom- ing. End of August— First week of Septem- ber, 2019.	Paris Fashion Week Summer and Autumn Session. Tuileries Gardens. Women: Versailles 'Musical Waters' show— beautiful light, water and classical music show. Another reason to make the trek to the Château de Versailles. Le Grand Feu— Europe's largest and longest (2 hrs) fireworks show. In St. Cloud, west end of Paris. Mid-month.	Paris-Deauville Vintage Car Rally— France's most gorgeous classic cars on display at Place Vendôme before setting off for the annual rally. End September.
				©Walking The Spirit Tours

OCTOBER

Culture Off-the-beaten-track: **Montmartre Wine** Harvest. Join locals in Museums and culhilly Montmartre to celebrate this centuries all night. 1st old tradition of food, local Pinôt Noir, dancing, music and of course, a colorful parade. Mid October,

Autumn Festival — Compelling works in contemporary visual art, music, cinema and theater.

2019.

Arts

Nuit Blanc / White Night tural venues open weekend of October.

Contemporary Art Fair (FIAC). Grand Palais, Louvre, Tuileries Gardens. Oct.17-20, 2019.

International

Music Shopping





Special Events

Chocolate trade and consumer show at Porte de Versailles Convention centre. First week November 2019.

Battlefield Tours— Commemorate the Centenary of WWI with a 3- or 7-day package that follows the heroic **Harlem Hellfighers** soldier/jazz band to eastern France and Paris. Special Walking The Spirit Tours package. Combine with Champagne Region tour and tastings. Runs April through October.

NOVEMBER

Culture	Arts	Music	Special Events
All Saints Day— November 1st is often spent paying respects to the departed. Seek out luminaries at cemeteries Père Lachaise (Richard Wright, Edith Piaf), Montmartre (James Briggs, Alexandre Dumas the son) and Montparnasse (Rene Maran, Simone de Beauvoir).	Off-the-beaten track: Open Doors Art Studios in the Montmartre. The spirit of the Van Gogh and Toulouse- Lautrec are still alive on the hilly streets around Sacré Coeur. Howard U. professor Lois Mailou Jones loved paint- ing up here, too. Paris Photo Month / Mois de la Photo. Photo exhibits every- where. All month.	Africolor—Festival of African music and its influences. Music and cinema. From mid-November to mid-December. In the Paris suburb of Aulnay-sous-Bois.	continues early 2019 at Porte de Versailles Convention centre. Thanksgiving in Paris. Numerous restaurants offer a full American-style meal.

DECEMBER

Culture Music **Shopping Special Events Arts** Christmas Eve Mass at **Africolor**— Festival of **Christmas Markets—** If you have children African music and its This tradition from the with you, or still have Nôtre-Dame Cathedral. influences continues Alsace region lights up that magic spot, Disuntil mid-November to in many neighborhoods neyland Paris puts on mid-December. In the including Champsa spectacular light Elysées, Montmartre, show, plus Santa and Paris suburb of Aulnay-Le Grand Tasting sous-Bois. Nation. caroling. Wine tastings, master classes, conferences Ring in New Year 2020 and world wine events in Paris! of at the Carousel du Louvre. Early in the month.



Paris has so much to offer, the vast choices can be overwhelming. Allow us to make it easy for you. We are passionate professionals who help you get an indepth French travel experience so that you can not only touch the soul of France but get a Black heritage perspective like no other expert can give you.

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