10 Awesome and Off-the-Beaten-Path Things to Do in Paris

If you're dreaming of incredible food, [mouth-watering desserts](), world-class wine, and a rich cultural experience, Paris is the perfect destination for your next vacation. While iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre are must-sees, there's another side to the city waiting to be explored—hidden gems and unique activities that can turn your trip into a truly one-of-a-kind experience.

Ready to learn about a different side of Paris? Hold tight—we have you covered. Keep reading to discover 10 awesome and off-the-beaten-path things to do in Paris.

1. Explore the Paris Catacombs

Paris may be known for its romance, but it has an eerie side as well. If you're into the macabre, the Paris Catacombs are a must-see. Beneath the bustling streets, you'll find a vast network of tunnels filled with the remains of over six million people. What makes these catacombs so unique compared to others around the world is that the bones and skulls were arranged to form patterns throughout the catacombs.

You'll have the option of a guided or self-guided tour when you visit, but we recommend splurging for the guided tour so you can really dive into the history and cultural significance behind this impressive site.

2. Check Out the Museum of Vampires and Legendary Creatures

Do you want more cryptic and creepy adventures? Well, you're in luck. Paris is also home to the Museum of Vampires and Legendary Creatures, or Musée des Vampires et des Monstres de l'Imaginaire.

Here you'll find everything from antique texts and a vampire killing kit to Dracula-themed toys. You can browse to your heart's content and learn all about the darker side of Paris' folklore.

3. Visit the Wine Museum

It's no secret that Paris is known for its wine, with wine tastings and vineyard trips mentioned in almost every itinerary. Of course, we always recommend you try as much wine as possible when in Paris. But if you want to learn a little more about the history of wine, head over to the Wine Museum, or Musée du Vin.

Nestled in a centuries-old limestone cellar, the museum showcases over 200 wine-related artifacts, which really bring the history of French winemaking to life. And, of course, you'll get a little sample at the end.

4. Admire Sainte-Chapelle

You've probably heard that Notre-Dame is the must-see cathedral in Paris. And while it's certainly stunning, it's far from the only option. Sainte-Chapelle is a lesser-known (and lesser-crowded) Gothic chapel that's filled with gorgeous stained-glass windows. Visit on a sunny day and you'll quickly become surrounded with a kaleidoscope-like display of vibrant colors as you admire the artistry that went into every panel.

5. Take a Hot Air Balloon Ride

With tons of attractions within walking distance of each other, it's very easy to admire the historic architecture and picturesque shops of Paris on foot. But why stop there?

If you want to get a more unique viewpoint of this city, consider taking a hot air balloon ride. Better yet, take a ride in the world's largest hot air balloon—le Ballon de Paris Generali. At only 12 Euros per person, it's a steal!

6. See the Eiffel Tower's Secret Apartment

The Eiffel Tower is on everyone's list, but there's a hidden gem tucked away in this monument that most tourists miss. The designer, Gustave Eiffel, built his own little apartment into the Eiffel Tower's design where he would entertain distinguished guests. While it's not open to the public, you can peek through the window where most of the room and furnishings have remained untouched.

7. Visit the Rodin Museum

If you're an art lover, you probably already have the Louvre on your list. While this is a great place to admire some amazing art, including the Mona Lisa, you should consider adding the Musée Rodin to your itinerary as well.

This museum was dedicated to Auguste Rodin, a prodigy who was admitted to art school at only 14 years old—just four years after he started drawing. Here you'll find some of his most famous works, like The Thinker and The Kiss.

8. Shop at the Saint-Ouen Flea Market

Of course, no trip to Paris would be complete without a few souvenirs to remember your time here. But why settle for overpriced souvenir shops that sell the same old manufactured trinkets to everyone when there's a more authentic experience waiting?

If you want something different, head over to the Saint-Ouen flea market. You can find seemingly anything here, from vintage furniture to rare books. Not only are you sure to find a one-of-a-kind treasure, but browsing the market also offers a genuine glimpse into a more local side of Paris.

9. Step Foot in the National Library of France

Are you an avid reader that loves getting lost among shelves and shelves of books? If you have an afternoon to spare, a visit to the National Library of France or, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, is a must.

This is one of the largest libraries in the world, housing over 10 million books, including several historical collections. As you explore, you'll also find grand reading rooms and floor-to-ceiling bookshelves at every turn. Just entering this library and seeing the impressive collection will be enough to leave you in awe.

10. Take a Selfie on Rue Crémieux

It seems like capturing that perfect Instagram shot is on everyone's to-do list. While most flock to the Eiffel Tower, head over to Rue Crémieux for an unbelievable scene that's bursting with color.

The charming cobblestone street is lined with pastel-colored houses and lush plants, with every corner acting as the perfect backdrop. While it's slowly growing in popularity, it's still considered a hidden gem—so be sure to snap your perfect picture while you can!

The Most Unique Paris Attractions

Paris is a city with countless experiences waiting to be had. If you're looking to create memories beyond the ordinary, consider mixing both traditional and off-the-beaten-path activities to create the perfect itinerary. Just follow our guide to the most unique Paris attractions so you can have a truly magical trip.