

Walking tour in 8th arrondissement

This arrondissement of Paris has “the most beautiful avenue in the world”, the Champs Elysées, and the most elegant areas : haute couture houses, stylish shops, great art picture galleries, expensive restaurants, theatres... It also shelters the President’s, the Prime Minister’s and the Minister of the Interior’s residences.

Our walking tour starts from the **Madeleine Church**.

The Madeleine : It sets in the same axe as the Place de la Concorde and the Palais Bourbon and has amazing worth seeing bronze doors. Its construction began in 1764 and made to work four architects. It might have been the first train station in Paris but was established as a church, which moved the train station not far away at St Lazare.



→ Walk in the Rue Royale to the **Place de la Concorde**.

The Concorde : This large square was built under the reign of Louis Philippe in 1836. It had been the scene of the execution of Louis XVI and other leaders of the French Revolution. During the 20th century it has been the place for Liberation Fights and for the big gaullist demonstration in May 1968.



The Louxor Obelisk was offered to France by Mehemet Ali, Egypt viceroy. This monumental gift needed the building of the special ship to be transported.



→ Walk through the Champs Elysées Garden to the Place Clemenceau, walk around the Petit Palais and the Palais de la Découverte on your left and then around the Palais de l’Elysées on the right.

The Petit Palais : It is the Art School of Paris Town and exhibits objects and works of art from the Antiquity to the 20’s, with a fine impressionist collection and Barbizon School’s paintings. This museum has just been renewed and is worth the visit.

The Palais de la Découverte : It was created in 1930 thanks to Jean Perrin, the great physicist who obtained the Nobel Prize of physics in 1926. Faithful to its founder’s mind it makes the science accessible for everyone. This museum is really adapted for children and teenagers.



The Palais de l’Elysée :

It is one of the best example of Classic style.
It was named to be the President of the Republic’s residence by the Assemblée Nationale under the 2nd Republic.



➔ Walk around the Palais de l'Elysée : a lot of policemen secure the place and some of them are in little cabins ! Then go to the Rond Point des Champs Elysées and walk on the avenue. We recommend you to stop at Number 25.

The Païva's Hostel : This "Hôtel particulier" was built in 1866 for the Marquess Païva, famous salon woman and "courtizan". It is decorated with a lot of polychromatic marble, gilded bronzes, and allegoric pictures about glory of the Femininity. It is now a very manly and private Traveller's club.



➔ Keep on walking on to The Champs Elysées towards the Arc de Triomphe.

The Champs Elysées : It was to widen the Château des Tuileries that Le Nôtre, Louis XIV's landscape architect, had imagined in 1670 to build a path between the Jardin Royal and the current Rond Point des Champs Elysées. The extension of the avenue to the Place de l'Etoile was ended only during the 19th century. This 71m wide avenue is the favourite place for the great events of patriotic ardour, national communion and military marches.

The Place de l'Etoile : It has been renamed Place Charles de Gaulle but its original name comes from the red and grey cobblestones which draw star branches : you can see them from the top of the Arc de Triomphe !



The Arc de Triomphe : This building was ordered by Napoléon in 1806 and shelters the eternal flame. Since 1923 it keeps watching on the unknow soldier tomb. There took place the first resistance act against the German occupation by Parisian students ; and in 1919 Charles Godeffroy succeeded in flying under the Arc's vault with his aeroplane!

➔ From the Arc de Triomphe, take the Avenue Hoche, turn left in the Rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré then right in the Rue Daru : Come and see the Cathedral Alexandre Nevsky.

The Cathedral Alexandre Nevsky : Its name comes from the one of the most famous Saint protector of Russie. The cathedral is listed as an historic building and celebrated in 1918 Picasso's wedding with the dancer Olga Khokhlova and also the writer Tourgeniev's funeral.



➔ Keep walking to the Parc Monceau.

The Parc Monceau : It used to be the Duc of Orleans' private garden in about 1780. It is a nice example of an English garden during the 2nd Empire and has kept its elegance and its hidden statues.

