

GOOD MORNING PARIS



Walking tour in 12th arrondissement

→ Our walking tour begins at the nice round chesnut tree-lined square, called in the past the “Throne square”, the **Place de la Nation**. It was renamed “the upside down Throne square” during the Revolution, and more than 1300 persons suspected of being antirevolutionary were executed in 43 days and their bodies thrown in the common Cemetery of Picpus.



→ Walk in the avenue and then in the **Rue Dorian** and stop yourself in front of **numbers 2, 4 and 6**. This splendid New Art style frontage was built by the architect Falp and the statuary Ardouin on the request of a Mr Boutillier.

→ Retrace your path, turn right in the Rue Picpus and then right in the rue du Sergent Bauchat and walk up the Rue Jacques Hillairet until you cross the **Jardin de Reuilly**, a nice park where to enjoy the sunny days.



→ This park is linked to the “**Promenade Plantée**” or “**Coulée Verte**”. The traffic on this old railway stopped in 1969. It was converted into a green and bordered area with many little gardens from 1988 and has a lot of accesses, every 250 meters. The viaducts and the tunnels are of origin.

Under the “Coulée Verte”, between numbers 9 and 129 of the **Avenue Daumesnil**, stands the **Viaduc des Arts**. This place was cleaned and restored to welcome artisans, their workshops and selling places. Today 56 stores and Art Galleries with stylish windows are set there.



→ Walk towards the Bastille along the Coulée Verte. Turn right in the Boulevard Diderot, then left in the Rue Baccaria and make a detour by the “**Marché d’Aligre**”. Every morning from 8 am till 1 pm, and especially on Saturday and Sunday mornings, the place is liven up. This market is one of the busiest in Paris, and one of the less expensive too ! Cafés around are full, lively and warm.

→ Get the **Rue du Faubourg Saint Antoine** by the Rue Théophile Roussel. The Faubourg St Antoine shelters many wonderful things : furniture seller windows, workshops and galleries, tapestry-makers and upholsterer, varnished, marble’s workshops ...

→ Walk to the **Place de la Bastille**. This is the French Revolution’s symbolic square. There used to stand a fortress built during the reign of Charles V and converted into a prison by Richelieu. The Saint Antoine’s population grab this place on 14th July 1789 and the stronghold was destroyed. In 1870 a tent is put up among the ruins with the inscription “Here we’re dancing”. This was the beginning of the traditional Bastille Day Dance, still celebrated today, each 14 July.



In the middle of the square an immense column, called the “**Colonne de Juillet**” is erected. This column does not commemorate the revolutionary acts of 1789, but those of 27th, 28th and 29th July 1830, also called “the Three Glorious”. Those 3 days ran into the end of the reign of Charles X.

→ Turn yourself to the **Opera Bastille**. Its building was ordered by François Mitterrand who wanted to unburden the Opera Garnier and to popularize and democratize classical music. It was built by the Uruguayan architect Carlos Ott. From the 7th floor there is a spectacular view onto the Bastille square.



→ Then reach the **Gare de Lyon**. You can either take the Rue de Lyon or, if you prefer, walk again along the Viaduc des Arts in the Avenue Daumesnil. The Gare de Lyon was officially opened to the public in 1854. It gets its frontage on the Place Diderot in 1900 for the Universal exhibition. The Clock was built at that time and is 64 meters high. Its big hand weighs 68 kilos !

In the Gare de Lyon, the **Train Bleu** restaurant is a chef d’oeuvre of the Kitsch Art. If you can afford it, enjoy a drink at the bar and have a look inside. Two big rooms are classified as historical buildings.



→ Walk straight on to the Ministère des finances via the Rue de Bercy. For 110 years the Ministry of Finance used to occupy a part of the Louvre. In 1981 François Mitterrand proclaimed : “We must give back the Louvre to History” and launched a new construction to welcome the Ministry.

→ Go on your way to the Palais Omnisport de Paris Bercy (POPB). This place is consecrated to many different sports and shows : cycling, motorcycling, grand Operas, concerts, karting, skating ... Around 48 sport disciplines and 10 Operas from its inauguration in 1983 ! The building of the POPB, of the Ministry of Finance and then of the François Mitterrand Library contributed to rehabilitate the East part of Paris.



→ Straight on : the Parc de Bercy. It was opened in 1994 and shelters 100 years old trees, ancient cobblestones, a “Romantic Garden”, a lake and a “Philosopher’s Garden”, “sculptures of the world”, and a “Gardening House” to initiate yourself to the gardening secrets !

→ And then your last stop : The Bercy Village. During the 18th century, the wine growers used to store their wine there. Today it abounds in little shops, restaurants and a huge UGC cinema. You can then take the metro at Cour Saint Emilion, on metro line 14.

