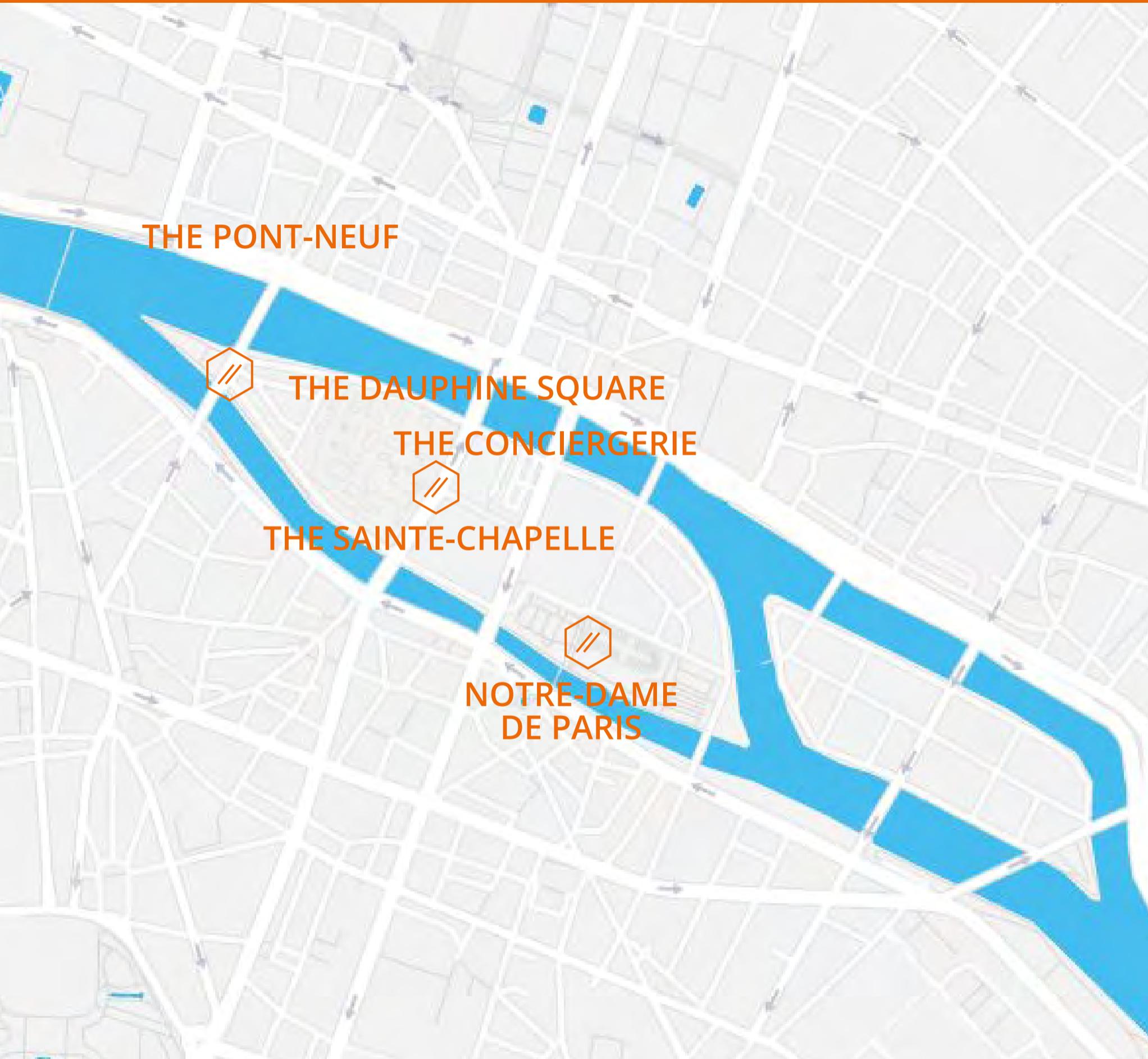


An aerial view of Paris, France, featuring the Seine River and the Gothic architecture of Notre-Dame de Paris. A white geometric frame, resembling a stylized house or a speech bubble, is centered over the image. Inside the frame, the word "Circuits" is written in a white cursive font, and "PARALLÈLES" is written in a white sans-serif font below it. Two double slashes (//) are positioned above and below the text within the frame.

//
Circuits
PARALLÈLES
//

THE ILE DE LA CITÉ
(SHORT VERSION)

THE TOUR: THE ILE DE LA CITÉ (SHORT VERSION)



Length: a half-day walk

Public: all

Means of transport: by foot



Access for persons with reduced mobility: for a part of the tour only

Total distance: 4 km – from the Pont-Neuf underground station to the Pont-Marie underground station

Advice: don't forget to take your binoculars



Starting point: Le Pont-Neuf (Pont-Neuf station, underground line 7 or bus line 75)



INSIDE

Even though the Sainte-Chapelle's interior plan is very simple, its construction came under a real architectural challenge.

To understand the achievement of this technical prowess, watch this video. The 3D reconstitution (starting from 8.20 minutes) gives a clear demonstration.

<https://youtu.be/AAt7T20Akjk>



The limited size of the building (36 metres long and 17 metres wide) and its sharp spire which peaks up to 75 metres provide elegance and agility.

Structured on two levels, the Sainte-Chapelle is actually made of two chapels which both have the same size, namely 33 metres long and 10.7 metres wide.

The low chapel was reserved for the gentry and the palace staff. It was also used as a sacristy. **The high chapel was exclusively used by the King, his family and guests.** It gives a direct access to the royal apartments. But most importantly, **it used to house the shrine holding the sacred relics.**

The stone walls disappeared in favour of glass walls. **Here is a total of 15 metres high glass walls, namely a glazed surface of about 750 m². 1,134 pannels were counted and more than a half are original ones. These are the oldest stained-glass windows in Paris!** The last part of the restoration works was completed in Spring 2015.

The stained-glass windows restoration campaign - 2015

<https://youtu.be/1r71nYJHYIM>





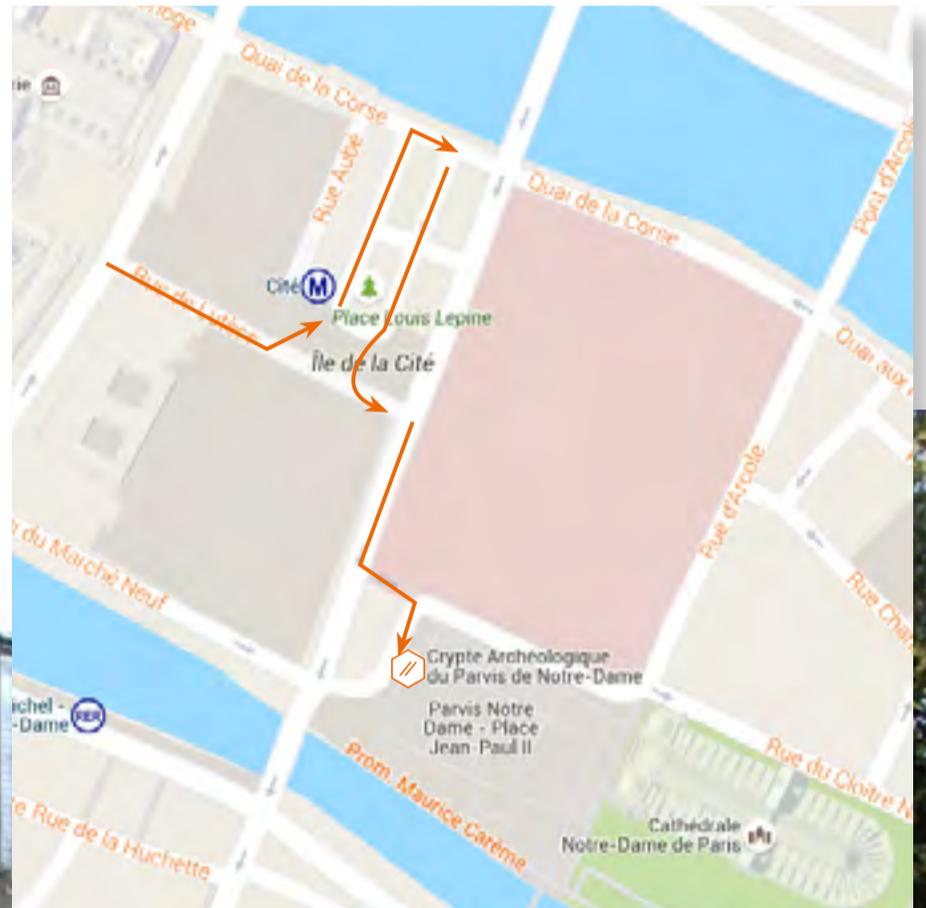
Now, walk to the rue de Lutèce for about a hundred metres.

The big building on your left is the Commercial court.

Turn left to the flower market - Reine Elisabeth II, and walk around it.

This small perfumed market settled there in 1830. Practically covered, it is composed of pavilions dating back to 1900. Many varieties of seasonal or exotic flowers make up very coloured stands. On Sundays, birds replace the flowers...

In June 2014, for the 70th anniversary of the Landings commemoration, Queen Elizabeth II came to France. Over this period, she visited the market which was given the name "Flowers Market - Elizabeth II" for the occasion. Appropriate tribute for those who know the Queen's special interest in for flowers and parks.



 **Leave the flowers market by the Louis Lépine Square (extension of the rue de Lutèce from where you have arrived). Take it on the left until the rue de la Cité. Turn right to join Notre-Dame parvis located on the left, about 100 metres away.**

Before focusing on Notre-Dame, make a detour to see Paris archeological crypt. It is one of the greatest in France. The entrance is situated on the parvis.

Important remains from the Antiquity period were discovered there during works for building an underground parking. Lutèce harbour's quay, fortifications, remains of luxurious houses, Roman baths, medieval ruins, drawings of the Haussmann sewer... Go back in time in order to understand the urban evolution of the Ile de la Cité, of which you already had an overview from the Pont-Neuf. It deserves a visit, without hesitation!

> Archaeological crypt practical informations

Notre-Dame de Paris parvis before 1748, year of the destruction of the fountain in the foreground. Anonymous engraving from the 17th century.



**NOTRE-DAME PARVIS
PLACE JEAN PAUL II (JOHN PAUL II)**

In the old days, the cathedral was surrounded by small wooden houses, shops and inns...

They were destroyed in the 1860s and 1870s, when the baron Haussmann initiated works for the reorganisation of the Ile de la Cité. Thus cleared, the parvis isolates the cathedral and opens new perspectives. Look at the ground. Can you see these light colour flagstones? They are the contours of the former buildings and streets that were destroyed.

Come closer to the frontage. About thirty metres away from the portals (between the left one and the middle one), look at the bronze plate encrusted with a wind rose. This is the kilometre 0, the starting point from which French roads are measured.

