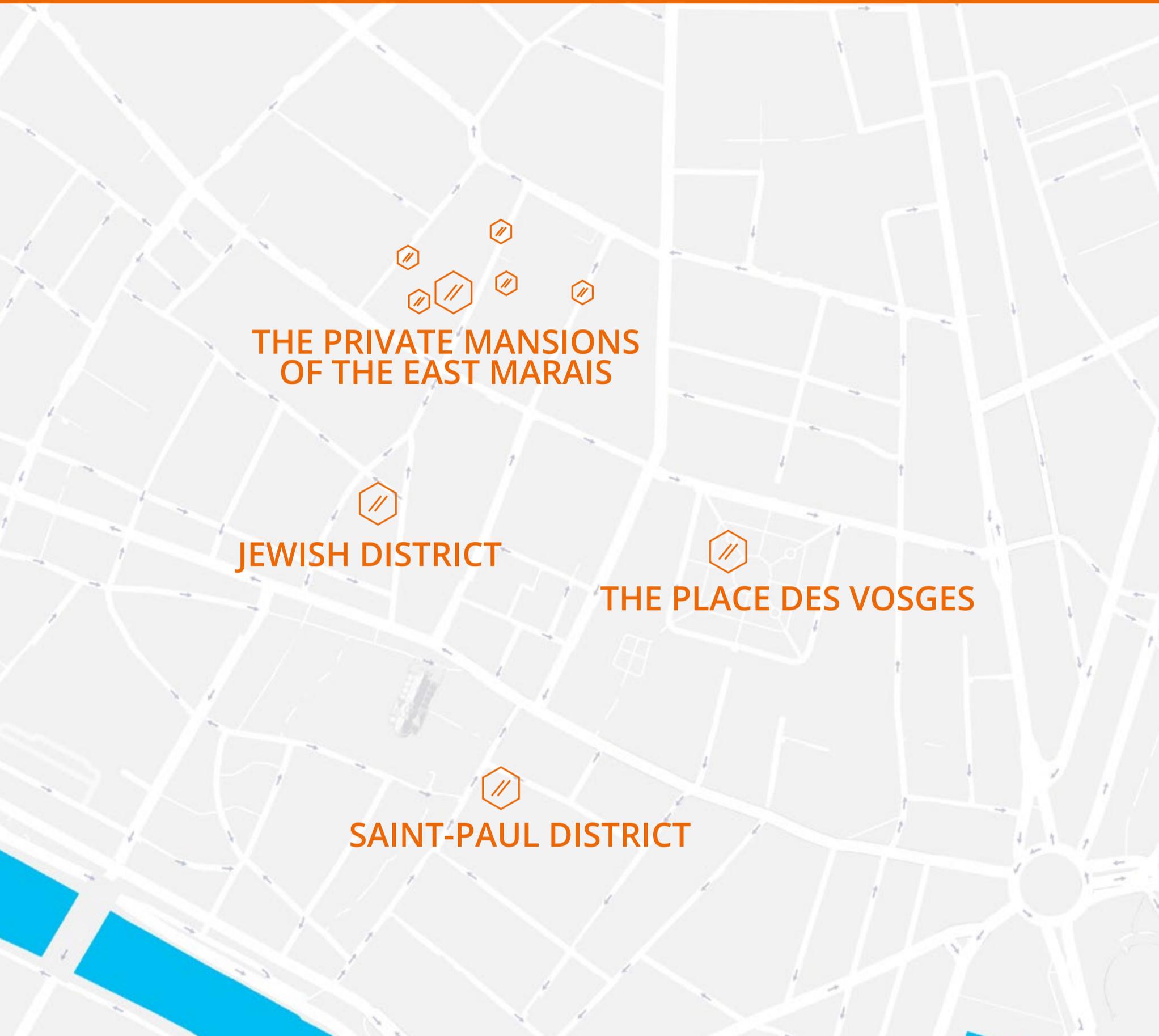




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Circuits
PARALLÈLES
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THE HISTORICAL MARAIS

THE TOUR: THE HISTORICAL MARAIS



THE PRIVATE MANSIONS
OF THE EAST MARAIS

JEWISH DISTRICT

THE PLACE DES VOSGES

SAINT-PAUL DISTRICT

Length: 3H00 walking

Public: All

Means of transport: by foot.

 **Access for persons with reduced mobility:** possible but difficult due to cobbled streets and steps on some parts of the walk.

Total distance: 5 km.

 **Starting point:** Sully-Morland station
(metro line 7 or bus lines 86 and 87)
Quai des Célestins exit.



At the exit of the Sully-Morland station, cross the rue du Petit-Musc and move forward for a few metres on the quai des Célestins.



Hotel Fieubet

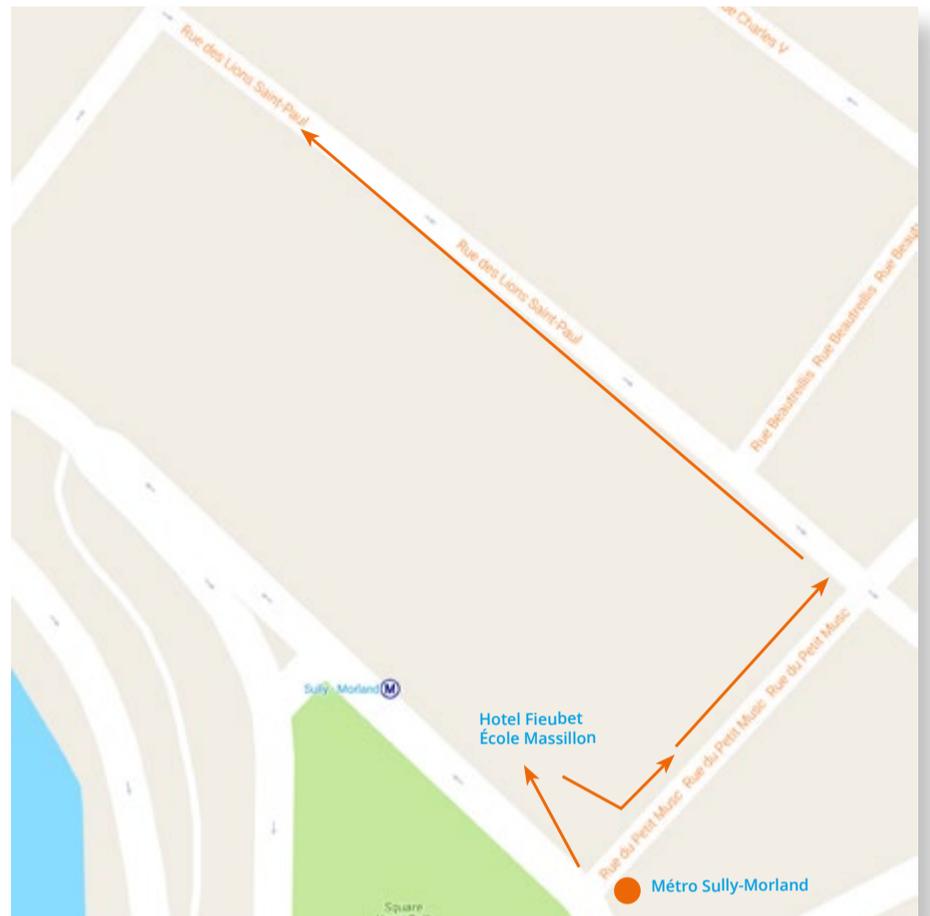
It directly sets the tone of this walk.

It was built at the end of the 17th century on the location of a part of the hotel Saint-Paul by Mansart, intendant of French buildings and Louis XIV's first architect. The mansion was named after its owner, Gaspard Fieubet, chancellor of the queen Maria Theresa of Spain. As an amateur of men of letters, he held a salon there which was very often frequented by Madame de Sévigné and Jean de la Fontaine.

Bought in the middle of the 19th century by the Count de Lavalette, high-ranking civil servant under the Empire, the mansion was utterly reorganised. The italo-spanish baroque adornments such as caryatids, mascarons, baskets or garlands abound on the frontages.

Look at the sphinges on the gate of the quai des Célestins frontage. Those half-woman and half-lioness creatures were among the first ones to decorate the capital.

Since 1877, the hotel Fieubet is the Massillon School, a private Catholic establishment under the Congregation of the Oratory's supervision, an order of priests living in a community.



Retrace your steps and take the rue du Petit-Musc on the right.

This is a very old street which already existed in the 14th century. It appears on the 16th century plans under the name of rue des Célestins. Its current name is a chaste distortion of the activity which was practised then that modest people of the 18th century didn't like to hear. The street used to be called « rue Pute-y-Muse » (pute means whore), which gives us to understand that it was frequented by prostitutes, « muse » here meaning « to stroll ».

Turn left into the rue des Lions Saint-Paul.

Opened in the 16th century, it was named after the lions painted on the door of the hotel Saint-Paul, Charles V and Charles VI's royal palace... or the lions of the royal garden menagerie.



This beautiful studded wood door dates back to the 17th century.

Madame de Sévigné lived in this mansion from 1644 to 1650, during her marriage with the marquis de Sévigné. Her daughter, future Countess de Grignan, was born here.

The marquess is mentioned all along this walk, as she moved from mansion to mansion many times. Woman of letters, she is famous for the lengthy correspondence with her daughter mainly but also with her family and acquaintance. They were written in a natural and spontaneous style like a refined conversation. They are witnesses of the events and gossip of her time which makes them very important.



The ugly building at n°15 is a private nursery school. Forget it quickly. You'd better focus on the corbelled turret at the corner of rue Saint-Paul.

This vestige of the hotel Saint-Paul dates back to the 16th century. It is listed historical monument. Those turrets were used to watch the comings and goings in the street.

Charles IX, Henry III and Catherine de' Medici's doctor lived in this hotel. His name, Léonard Bottal, probably doesn't mean a thing to you. But you must know the much debated and little effective practice he made fashionable in France, the bloodletting. The marquess de Brinvilliers, famous parricidal and fratricidal poisoner of the 17th century, was said to have prepared deadly potions in this mansion.



**Marie de Rabutin-Chantal, marquess de Sévigné – Years 1665
A portrait by Claude Lefebvre**