

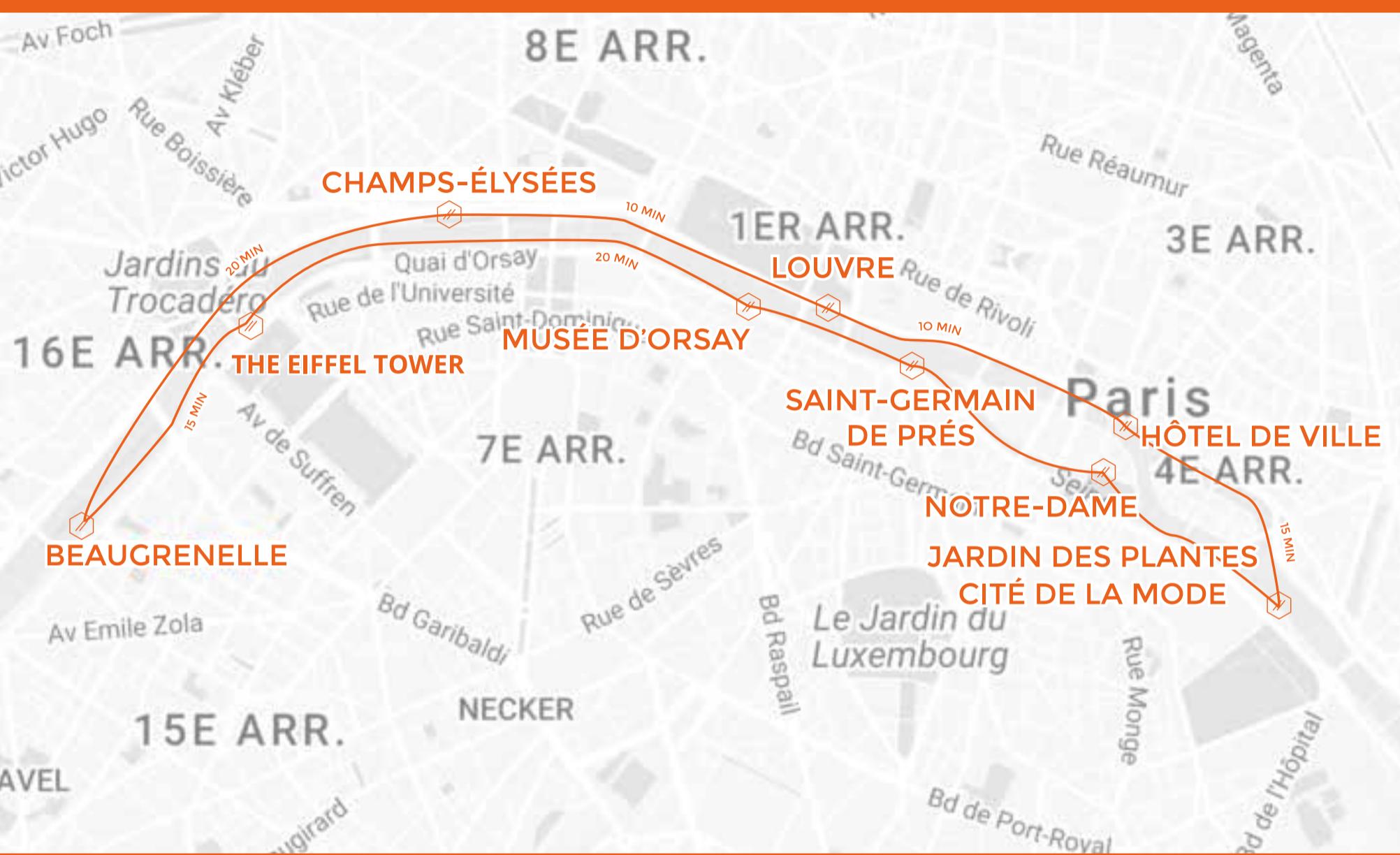


Circuits
PARALLÈLES

PARIS BY THE SEINE



THE TOUR : PARIS EN SEINE



Length The Batobus Pass is valid for 1 or 2 consecutive days. The complete tour (9 stages) is about **2 hours long**.

Public **All**. If you have children, they will love it!

Means of transport By Batobus and by foot

Access **None**. Because of the several steps leading to the quays.

Advice Choose the 2 day Pass, you won't have time to do the walks available around the stops in only one day.

You can buy your Pass online www.batobus.com or at the ticket office of any Batobus station.

**Major points of interest around this stop:**

-The Musée d'Orsay

**Distance from the Batobus stop:**

-The Musée d'Orsay: 100 metres



Advice : the Musée d'Orsay is the major point of interest of that stop. Thus nothing else could prevent you from walking around in the surrounding streets where splendid private mansions from the 18th century now house ministries and embassies.

After you get off the boat, reach the Quai Anatole France by walking up the landing stage on the left. The Musée d'Orsay is in front of you.

Take time to have a look at the frontage of the museum and don't be surprised to see the names of French cities engraved there. The building was originally a train station. Its renovation is exceptional and it is now one of the most beautiful French museums.



Head right towards the entrance of the museum.

This museum is dedicated to Western art in the 19th century.

For a museum which contains more than two thousand sculptures, it is not surprising to already be given a foretaste here. You will recognise them easily:

- Le Cheval à la herse "the Portcullis Horse" (P.L. Rouillard), le Rhinocéros "the Rhinoceros" (A. Jacquemart), and l'Eléphant pris au piège "the Trapped Elephant" (E. Fremiet).

The Rhinocéros



- The statues of the *Six continents* which close the esplanade on Rue de Lille side. From left to right are Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Oceania.



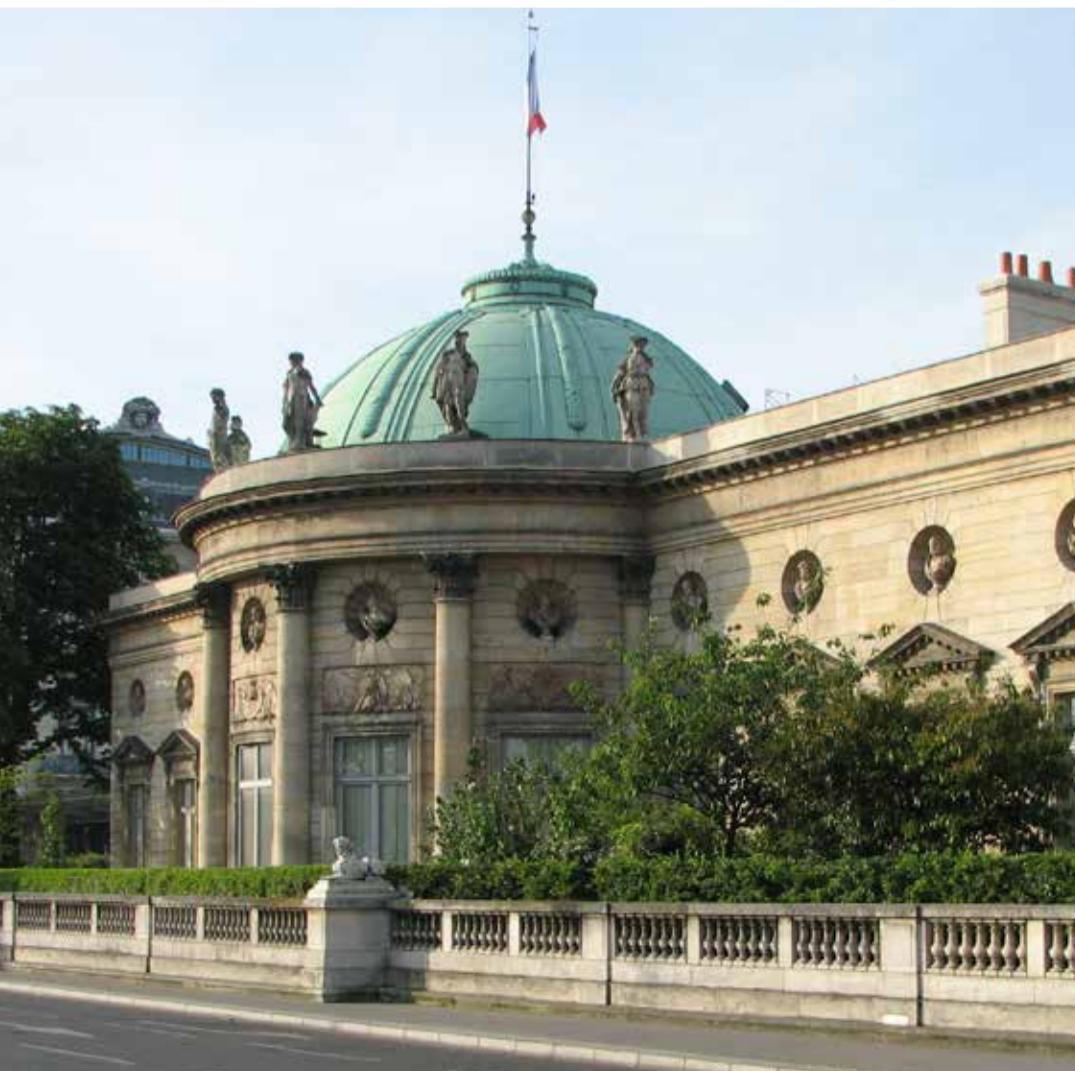
Remained at the Trocadéro until 1935, those cast iron statues were all set on the parvis in 1985 when the museum was opened. The group of the *Six continents* had previously remained in Nantes where they were forgotten for a long period of time in a rubbish tip of the city. In exchange for a painting by Sisley for the Beaux-Arts Museum of Nantes, the set of sculptures joined the collections of the Musée d'Orsay. Incredible!

On the right of the parvis (back turned to the Seine) is the Musée de la Légion d'honneur (Legion of Honour Museum).

It was originally the Salm Hotel, built in 1787 for a German prince. It was renamed Palais de la Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour Palace) in 1804 when the Order of the Legion of Honour headquarters settled there. This order was created by Napoleon Ist to reward the "talents which contribute to the defense and prosperity of the country". It became the Musée National de la Légion d'Honneur et des Ordres de Chevalerie (The Legion of Honour and Orders of Chivalry National Museum) in 1925. The museum exhibits the medals, emblems and decorations illustrating the five levels of order.

Architecturally speaking, the building displays two faces. On Rue de Lille side the frontage is austere with its arch of triumph and its columns, while on the Seine side the semicircular pavilion decorated with statues is much more sophisticated.

Legion of Honour Palace, on Seine side



Legion of Honour Palace, on rue de Lille side





Now, you can go in the museum.

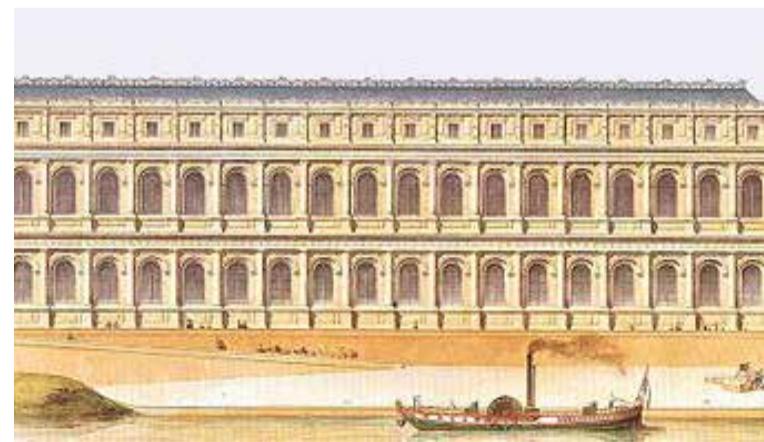
Whether you are an art lover or not, the building deserves its own tour.

THE MUSÉE D'ORSAY

Before becoming such an important place dedicated to art, the building had three very distinctive lives. Each time, its function changed and it went through many transformations. The latest was a success. Here is a flashback.

In the beginning of the 17th century, the place belonged to Marguerite de Valois, Henri IV's repudiated wife who is better known under the name of Queen Margot. After her death, the property was sold in lots. The district started its long transformation. Private mansions, a port and a quay called Orsay were built. It was a reference to the Provost of the Merchants of Paris when the works were launched at the beginning of the 18th century.

The first life of the building started with the construction of the Palais d'Orsay from 1810 to 1838 under the responsibility of the architects Bonnard and Lacornée. It was built in accordance with Napoleon I's will. Its aim was to house the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but the Council of State settled there eventually. It was rejoined by the Court of Audit in 1842. Those two institutions stayed there until the palace was set on fire in May 1871 during the Paris Commune Rising. The burnt walls of the building stayed in that state for nearly 30 years.



The Palais d'Orsay in the years 1830