



Where to stay in... PARIS

Make the most of your visit to the City of Light with our guide to accommodation that stands out from the crowd

▲► L'HOTEL, 6th arrondissement

You would hope that if Oscar Wilde were able to see how Paris celebrates his legacy in the city, that he would be pleased. Not only is the scribe, who died penniless aged 46 in Paris in 1900, honoured with a huge tomb designed by British sculptor Sir Jacob Epstein in Père Lachaise cemetery, but also the hotel in which he died goes to great efforts to celebrate his life. In 1900, it was called the Hôtel d'Alsace, a rather down-at-heel place of which Wilde wrote to his publisher: "This poverty really breaks one's heart: it is so *sale* [dirty], so utterly depressing, so hopeless. Pray do what you can."

Sadly, it took another century before his wishes were granted and l'Hotel, in a small backstreet on the Left Bank, got a new lease of luxury life thanks to interior designer Jacques Garcia. In room 16, the very room in which Wilde declared: "My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or other of us has got to go!" the wallpaper is now ►►



something to behold. On an emerald green wall, a giant gold-leaf peacock presides over the cosy room, which also features antique furniture and a host of Wilde memorabilia including newspaper cuttings, pen portraits, letters and photographs. A small terrace is the perfect place to sit back and read Wilde's French play *Salomé*, while the bathroom is a charming little space with a closeted bath and wood panelling.

Wilde would have been impressed by the Michelin-starred Le Restaurant, too. Head chef Julien Montbabet serves classic French dishes in the atmospheric dining room, which is decorated with velvet, ornate cornicing and a leopard-skin-patterned carpet. The bar is also a wonderful space to relax, with velvet banquettes and cosy nooks – it is said to be a favourite hangout of Johnny Depp.

With a pretty garden at the back, a striking staircase and a dinky little pool in the basement which guests can book for a private dip, L'Hotel is a treat. It's just a shame Oscar never got to enjoy it.

Carolyn Boyd

Tel: (Fr) 1 44 41 99 00

www.l-hotel.com

Doubles from €325 with breakfast.

Métro: Saint-Germain-des-Prés.



▲ HÔTEL BOURG TIBOURG, 4th

A stay at this bijou boutique hotel squirrelled away in the Marais is like stepping into a jewellery box. Designed, like l'Hotel, by Jacques Garcia, the 30 intimate rooms feature antique furniture, vintage treasures and luxurious fabrics. Oriental touches and scented candles add to the ambience. For an evening in, borrow one of the Bourg Tibourg's classic film DVDs and ask for popcorn.

Tel: (Fr) 1 42 78 47 39

www.bourgtibourg.com

Doubles from €290, breakfast €20.

Métro: Hôtel de Ville.



▲► HÔTEL DES ACADÉMIES ET DES ARTS, 6th

At the heart of the Left Bank, this stylish boutique hotel celebrates the culture of this famously creative district. With 20 rooms over five floors, the decor makes for a passionate weekend: the bohemian Comedienne rooms boast huge red velvet headboards, while the bijou Parisienne Left Bank rooms all have one of Jérôme Mesnager's seductive White Body series of paintings that are scattered throughout the hotel. To relax after a long day's sight-seeing, draw up a chair by the roaring fire and order a drink.

Tel: 0330 100 3180

www.mrandmrsmith.com

Doubles from £136, breakfast €16.

Métro: Vavin.



◀ HÔTEL DES SAINTS PÈRES, 6th

A trip to Paris isn't complete without taking in some of the city's art treasures. At the Hôtel des Saints Pères, you don't need to leave your bed to do so. In the Fresco room, the entire ceiling is a 17th-century work by the École de Versailles. Its 37 other rooms also offer impressive paintings set off by tasteful and elegant decor. If you can tear yourself away, the Louvre is a short walk across the Seine.

Tel: (Fr) 1 45 44 50 00

www.paris-hotel-saints-peres.com

Doubles from €220, breakfast €18.

Métro: Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

PHOTOGRAPHS: MR & MRS SMITH; GILLES TRILLARD



▲► SAINT JAMES PARIS, 16th

For a hotel with the wow factor, try the fabulous Saint James Paris: this stunning château close to the heart of the city was built on the site of Paris's airfield, from which hot-air balloons used to take off. This history is reflected in the hotel's character-filled decor. The sumptuous neo-classical mansion features a grand staircase, a library-bar and a gorgeous dining room. With its 49 individually styled rooms, a spa, a Michelin-starred restaurant and a terrace garden, the Saint James Paris will sweep you off your feet.

Tel: (Fr) 1 44 05 81 81

www.saint-james-paris.com

Doubles from €380, breakfast from €29.

Métro: Porte Dauphine.



► HÔTEL SAINT-JACQUES, 5th

With its crystal chandeliers, draped curtains, canopied beds and gilt mirrors, the Hôtel Saint-Jacques oozes romance. Scenes from the 1963 Audrey Hepburn movie *Charade* were set here and photos of the shoot are displayed on the staircase down to the breakfast room. The hotel is at the heart of the Latin Quarter, and its 36 individually decorated rooms offer either a balcony or large windows, while some have a view over the Panthéon or Notre-Dame.

Tel: (Fr) 1 44 07 45 45

www.paris-hotel-stjacques.com

Doubles from €95, breakfast €14.

Métro: Maubert-Mutualité. ►►



▲ Apartment, Rue Rambuteau, 3rd

If you want the freedom to explore the City of Light at your own pace, then renting a self-catered apartment is an excellent choice, particularly when it is in the bustling heart of the city.

My first-floor studio apartment from the RentParis agency could hardly have been more central – nestling between the trendy Marais district a few steps away to my left and the strikingly modern Centre Pompidou less than five minutes' walk in the opposite direction. The flat is tucked away inside a building on the eastern edge of Rue Rambuteau, a bustling street lined with greengrocers, *pâtisseries*, cafés and restaurants.

This tastefully furnished modern hideaway has an open-plan area containing a bed, table and chairs, and kitchen, plus a separate bathroom. The bed is large and extra-soft, the wardrobe spacious and the kitchen well-equipped with a cooker, refrigerator, microwave and washing machine.

RentParis specialises in handpicked rentals close to the major attractions. A personal greeter welcomes guests when they arrive and suggests the best places to visit and eat in the neighbourhood. Each apartment also has a directory providing more information on how to make the most of your stay.

Peter Stewart

www.rentparis.com

The Marais Beaubourg Rambuteau Cathi apartment sleeps two people and costs from €60 per night.

Métro: Rambuteau.



▲ HÔTEL DE NESLE, 6th

The moment you enter the Aladdin's cave that is the reception of the Hôtel de Nesle, in the Latin Quarter, you know you've found somewhere special. While the reception is crammed with bric-à-brac and objets d'art, the 18 rooms (nine of which are en suite) each carries a different theme; so take your pick from Ancient Egypt, the Sahara, Victor Hugo's *Notre-Dame de Paris*, Molière and a host of others. The hotel doesn't serve breakfast, but what better excuse to wander out into Saint-Germain for a *café crème* and a croissant?
Tel: (Fr) 1 43 54 62 41
www.hoteldenesleparis.com
Doubles from €85.
Métro: Odéon.



▲ HÔTEL LES DAMES DU PANTHÉON, 5th

France's history features some formidable women, many of whom are celebrated at Les Dames du Panthéon. Using a mix of vintage and retro furniture and decor, each of the six floors draws on the life of a different notable woman, or group of women, including George Sand and Édith Piaf. Those who are looking for romance should check in to the rooms decorated in pinks and reds, which are inspired by the boudoirs of *Les Cocottes* – 19th-century courtesans who seduced the aristocracy of the period.
Tel: 0330 100 3180
www.mrandmrsmith.com
Doubles from £103, breakfast €17.
Métro: Luxembourg.

GETTING THERE

Flybe has flights to Paris CDG airport from a number of UK airports including Birmingham, Exeter, Manchester, Glasgow and Bournemouth. To book visit www.flybe.com



▲► Hôtel la Trémoille, 8th

This five-star gem nestles in the so-called Golden Triangle, a haven of fashion houses and designer boutiques bordering the Champs-Élysées. The chic Paris address opened as a luxury hotel in 1925 and has been a popular choice for society's high-flyers ever since, in particular during the 1960s when jazz greats including Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington stayed here.

The hotel is an effortless blend of elegance and modernity, with an impressive Haussmann facade, clean colour lines, marble fireplaces and an Aubusson tapestry hanging over the main staircase. The 80 generously sized rooms and 13 suites evoke the splendour of inter-war Paris, decorated in shades of yellow ochre, chocolate and cream, but with the bonus of the latest technology.

My top-floor room had all the trappings of a plush Paris pad – with a super-soft queen-size bed, wall-to-wall wardrobe, 40in plasma television and marble bathroom with gold-plated taps. There is even a 'hatch' for room service, so guests don't need to get up and open the door to receive their order. In a final flourish, the two sets of balconied double windows look over the rooftops of this fashionable corner of Paris.

Dinner can be enjoyed in the LeLouis² restaurant, laid out with chestnut-coloured chairs and glass tables, and including private alcoves separated by



chainmail curtains. Chef Fabrice Debois adds a modern twist to classic French dishes, and I opted for the tuna steak with a crusty, basil-infused polenta and sautéed mushrooms followed by a praline-filled choux bun sprinkled with chocolate. Breakfast is equally appealing, and guests can enjoy à la carte options or a buffet, including fresh pastries and glass-potted yoghurts as well as *crêpes* and eggs cooked to order.

PS

Tel: (Fr) 156 52 14 00
www.tremoille.com
Doubles from €325, breakfast from €29.
Métro: Alma-Marceau.



WHERE TO STAY

▲ HÔTEL 123 SÉBASTOPOL, 2nd

Film fans will love this fantastic movie-themed hotel not far from the famous cinema Le Grand Rex. The lobby is decorated with cinema posters, a hall of fame and a popcorn machine, and the reception sits beneath an illuminated billboard. The themed bedrooms have been designed by such cinematic glitterati as film-score composer Ennio Morricone and César-award-winning actress Elsa Zylberstein, and are modern and a lot of fun. The hotel's basement projection room can be booked for a private viewing.
Tel: (Fr) 1 40 39 61 23
www.le123sebastopol.com
Doubles from €195 including breakfast.
Métro: Réaumur-Sébastopol.

HÔTEL OPÉRA DIAMOND, 8th

Those looking for a stay with a touch of glitz and glamour should book in to the Hôtel Opéra Diamond. Many of the walls throughout this Best Western hotel are black and studded with crystals, while the plush and elegant bedrooms offer padded headboards, also adorned with

crystals. It might sound a little OTT, but it's surprisingly roomy and comfortable, and is in a handy location for walking to the Champs-Élysées.
Tel: (Fr) 1 44 70 02 00
www.hotel-opera-diamond.com
Doubles from €119 including breakfast if you book online.
Métro: Saint-Augustin.

▼ HÔTEL SEZZ, 16th

When it comes to personal service, this hip design hotel not far from the Trocadéro breaks the rules: instead of

a traditional reception desk, you are welcomed by a personal assistant who offers a welcome drink and caters to your every whim (within reason). Behind the classic Haussmann facade, the 26 rooms offer bold, edgy design with grey stone and dark wood, set off by deep-pile rugs in red or mustard.
Tel: (Fr) 1 56 75 26 26
www.paris.hotelsezz.com
Doubles from €290, breakfast from €18.
Métro: Passy.

IDOL HOTEL, 8th

Those with a love of music shouldn't look past a hotel that names its rooms *Light My Fire*, *Give Me the Night* and *My Chérie Amour*. If you detect a musical undertone to this playful attitude, you're right: the whole place is designed around a jazz, soul and funk theme. A disco vibe infuses its gloriously kitsch decor, with bright colours and bold patterns. The hotel opened in December 2014 and is already – wait for it – hitting the right note with visitors.
Tel: (Fr) 1 45 22 14 31
www.idolhotelparis.com
Doubles from €142, breakfast from €17.
Métro: Europe. ➔



PHOTOGRAPHS: ASTOTEL; MANUEL ZUBLEVA



▲ W PARIS-OPÉRA, 9th

Space comes at a premium in Paris, and at the W Paris-Opera you can book a Cozy room that makes the most of the smaller area. With decor that draws on both the classic Parisian Haussmann architecture and cutting-edge design, it has plush carpets, a large bay window from which to look on to the street (or to stare at the stars) and a 40in TV to make it the ideal place to escape the bustle of the city. If all that sounds a little claustrophobic, the hotel offers rooms at the other end of the scale: the Extreme Wow suite covers 88 square metres, has an enormous round bed and a separate lounge and dining room.

Tel: (Fr) 1 77 48 94 94

www.wparisopera.com

Doubles from €340 including breakfast.

Métro: Opéra.

HÔTEL MONTMARTRE MON AMOUR, 18th

For a romantic stay in Paris, look no further than this very reasonably priced boutique hotel in the heart of Montmartre. Each of its 24 rooms offers modern, colourful decor and celebrates romance in all its forms. The eight deluxe rooms each focuses on a famous French couple, including Édith Piaf and Marcel Cerdan, and Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir, with photographic murals and well-known quotes.

Tel: (Fr) 1 46 06 03 03

www.hotelmontmartremonamour.com

Doubles from €119, breakfast €15.

Métro: Château Rouge. 🚶

NEXT
MONTH
WHERE TO
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PROVENCE

NEW PLACES TO STAY



▲ Les Piaules, 11th

If you're looking for a more dynamic, urban experience of Paris, this new hostel in the up-and-coming Belleville quarter could fit the bill. It is the brainchild of three childhood friends who decided that Paris needed a hostel à la française. As well as the usual dormitories, used mainly by backpackers, Les Piaules offers seven en-suite double bedrooms, four of which have access to the rooftop terrace, with views over Montmartre. The hostel, housed in a 1930s art-deco building, also has a bar where you can have a snack and try local beers.

Sophie Gardner-Roberts

Tel: (Fr) 1 43 55 09 97, www.lespiaules.com

Doubles from €90, rooftop doubles €120.

Métro: Couronnes.



▲ 9 Hôtel République, 10th

Ideally placed just a short walk from the lively République and Canal Saint-Martin areas, this 48-room hotel reopened last December after a year-long facelift. The exterior of the original Haussmann building has been preserved, except for the intriguing midnight-blue, ground-floor facade. The interior has been entirely refitted in a sleek, modern style, with parquet flooring, floating benches and minimalist decor. The overall effect is tranquil and soothing, providing a welcome breather from all that shopping and bar-hopping.

SG-R

Tel: (Fr) 1 40 18 11 00

www.le9hotel.com/fr/

h/9-hotel-republique

Doubles from €109, breakfast €15.

Métro: Jacques Bonsergent.

▲ Amastan, 8th

This hotel, the first to be unveiled by the new Amastan brand, opens this spring not far from the Champs-Élysées and the fashionable district of Rue Faubourg-Saint-Honoré. As its location would suggest, its 24 rooms boast envy-inducing interiors with a signature blue parquet flooring and bespoke furniture made from ash, dark walnut, lacquered oak, copper and brass. As well as its swish interiors, the hotel offers complimentary breakfast, bottled water (in rooms and public spaces), Wi-Fi and Nespresso coffee machines. Meanwhile there is a stylish bar, garden and pop-up space which will host temporary art exhibitions, installations and fashion projects. **CB** email: reservation@amastanparis.com www.amastanhotels.com Doubles from €300 including breakfast.