

## 99:00

Paris is a city split and defined by its great river, the Seine. The waters down which the Vikings once sailed now pass beneath iron footbridges and the stone of La Pont Neuf – painted by Rodin and a feature of numerous films – before flowing around the Île de la Cité, past the famous church of Notre Dame and out towards its mouth at Rouen.

This is a good place to get your bearings. The north or right bank of the river was traditionally the richer, grander side, and the left the poorer and more avant garde. Getting around is easy: Buy a 'carnet' (10 tickets) and use the Metro, bus or RER trains.

## 10.00-15.00

Take a walk from your hotel – Paris is a city best experienced on foot – or an open-top bus tour around the city. Your two-hour ride will take you past all the main sights, including the Champs-Élysées, the Eiffel Tower, Sacré Coeur, the museum at the Louvre, Notre Dame, and the Pompidou Centre. The Cityrama tour allows you to hop on and off the bus at stops around the city over two days.

After getting your bearings, hop out at Montmartre and the

famous church of Sacré Coeur, and gaze down at the city below. The church's acoustics are outstanding – attending a service here is well worth it. Then amble down the steep cobbled hill to Montmartre, home to street artists and buskers. This is where Picasso, as a penniless artist, sold his paintings for meals; nowadays you have to pay for the food, but a three-course meal with a glass of wine won't set you back much. On your way, stroll past the famous Moulin Rouge, which still hosts nightly can-can cabaret

### 16.00

Head into Le Marais for a spot of window shopping. Once a favourite of French kings, it fell into decline after the Revolution but is back in fashion and the old royal mansions have been restored. Wander down Rue St Antoine, one of Paris' oldest streets and once used for jousting. Henri II was fatally wounded here by a lance in 1559 when a wedding party for his daughter got a bit out of hand.

As a Jewish area, look out for some amazing bakeries, although it tends to be quieter on Saturdays.

# 19.00

As dusk approaches, head towards Place Vendôme, via Tuileries Gardens near the Louvre museum. Down rue Daunou, a side street not far from the Ritz, is Harry's Bar – Hemingway's old haunt and the birthplace of the Bloody Mary drink is a fitting place to end your evening in style.



# **DAY 2:**





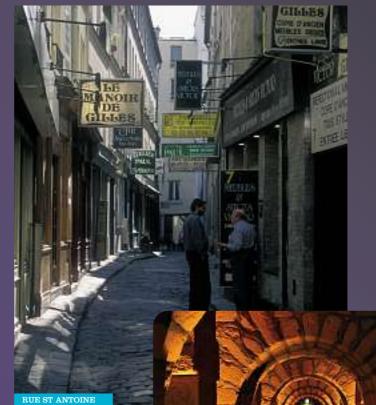
## 16.00



## 18.00









CATACOMBS