**Paris Facts to Know:**

* Paris est la capitale de la France.
  + It is the economic, industrial, and commercial center of France.
* The River Seine separates the city into 2 parts: la rive droite (au nord) et la rive gauche (au sud).
* Vingt pour cent (20%) of the population of France lives in the Paris region.
* Paris is divided into 20 « arrondissements»

**La Tour Eiffel**

* Nick named « La dame de fer » (The Iron Lady)
  + Engineer: Gustave Eiffel
* The Eiffel Tower was originally built as the entrance arch for the World's Fair in 1889 and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution (1789)
* The Eiffel Tower is 320 meters (1050 feet) in height and was the tallest man made structure in the world for 41 years before being surpassed by the Chrysler Building in New York.

**Le Louvre**

* The collection of the Louvre Museum was first established in the 16th century as the private collection of King Francis I (François Premier)
* 35,000 Works of Art and over 600,000 objects.
* Mona Lisa (La Joconde) is found here.
* Glass Pyramid Architect: I.M. Pei

**Notre-Dame Cathedral**

* Situated in the middle of the city of Paris on an island
  + L’île de la Cité
* Constructed in the 12th and 13th century
  + Douzième et treizième siècles

**L’Arc de Triomphe**

* Commissioned by Napoleon in 1806 to honor his « Grande Armée »
  + Commemorates his victories
* The « Grande Armée » had conquered most of Europe and was then considered invicible. After his Austerlitz victory in 1805, Napoleon said to his soldiers : "You will return home through arcs of triumph".
* The names of 128 battles of the first French Republic and Napoleon's Empire are written on the white walls under the vault together with the names of the generals who took part in them.

**Les Champs Élysées**

* Huge road lined with designer shops for the wealthy along with tourist shops (like the Disney Store)

**Le Quartier Latin**

* Home of the *Université de Paris* where, in the 13th century, higher learning was conducted in Latin
  + This gave us the name

**Le Centre Pompidou**

* Paris’ museum of modern art
* The fountain with water powered art outside attracts street artists to entertain the masses (musicians, jugglers, mimes, acrobats, etc.)

**Le Musée D’Orsay**

* Previously a train station, this museum holds the grand artists of of the 19th century (dix-neuvième siècles)
  + Claude Monet
  + Pierre-Auguste Renoir
  + Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

**L'Obélisque de Louxor**

* Located at« La [place de la Concorde](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Place_de_la_Concorde) »
* Offered to France as a gift from Egypt in 1829

**L'Opéra Garnier (L'Opéra de Paris)**

* Setting of [Gaston Leroux](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaston_Leroux)'s (1910) *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* ([*The Phantom of the Opera*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Phantom_of_the_Opera))
  + Construction of the opera building started in 1862, but it wasn't completed until 1875, partly because an underground lake was discovered during construction. The small lake still exists under the opera building. It was the hiding place of the 'Phantom of the Opera' in Leroux's famous play.
* The marble Grand Staircase has a height of 98ft!
  + The large ceiling (inside the theatre) was painted in 1964 by Marc Chagall. The stage behind the auditorium is 60 meter high (197 ft) and has room for up to 450 actors.
* In late 19th century French society, you did not go to the opera, or even the dance hall, to view the mastery and grace of the world’s next greatest artists. No. You went to show off your wealth and to display your power.
  + Jewels for Women
  + Women for Men
  + Mainly used today for ballet performances

**Les Invalides**

* Burial site of Napoléon Bonaparte
* On 14 July 1789 it was stormed by Parisian rioters who seized the cannons and muskets stored in its cellars to use against the [Bastille](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bastille) later the same day.
* The building houses the [*Musée de l'Armée*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mus%C3%A9e_de_l%27Arm%C3%A9e), the military museum of the Army of France.

**Montmartre**

* Known for the white-domed Church, Le Sacré-Cœur (The Sacred Heart),which makes it the highest point in Paris.
* Popular gathering palce for artists

**Château de Versailles**

* The court of Versailles was the center of political power in France from 1682, when [Louis XIV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_XIV_of_France) (Le Roi Soleil) moved from Paris, until the [royal family](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_royal_family) was forced to return to the capital in October 1789 after the beginning of the [French Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution). Versailles is therefore famous not only as a building, but as a symbol of the system of [absolute monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absolute_monarchy) of the [*Ancien Régime*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancien_R%C3%A9gime).
* Galerie des Glaces--Gathering place of ppl hoping to receive invitation from the King

