

PALACE OF VERSAILLES

A COMPREHENSIVE VISITOR'S GUIDE

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Introduction

The Palace of Versailles is an extraordinary architectural feat and is regarded as one of the most beautiful historic monuments in the world. A leading tourist attraction in France, the royal residence and the surrounding gardens attract over 10 million people every year, making it one of the most visited landmarks and a must-do while visiting France.

Illustrating more than five centuries of French history, the Palace not only houses remarkable works of art - it stands as a work of art itself. A remarkable example of 17th-century European architecture, the exquisite palace contains over 2,300 rooms, including the famous Hall of Mirrors and the glamorous King and Queen's apartments. Equally as impressive as the castle are the estate's stunning gardens. Spanning over 230 acres, the Gardens of Versailles feature 50 fountains, 620 water jets, hundreds of sculptures, approximately 200,000 trees and more than 210,000 flowers.

In this guide, we will help you discover the finer intricacies of this royal palace and how to enjoy all that it has to offer without getting overwhelmed by the wealth of its many attractions.



Plan Your Visit

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Opening Hours

Château de Versailles

Tuesday to Sunday, 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM (high season) Tuesday to Sunday, 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM (low season)

Carrosses Gallery

Tuesday to Sunday, from 12:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Gardens of Versailles

Every day, 8:00 AM to 8:30 PM (high season) Every day, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM (low season)

Park

Every day, 7:00 AM to 8:30 PM (high season) Every day, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM (low season)

Marie Antoinette Estate & Palace of Trianon Tuesday - Sunday, 12:00 PM to 6:30 PM (high season) Tuesday - Sunday, 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM (low season)

High season - From 1 April to 31 October Low season - From 1 November to 31 March

The entire premise of the Palace of Versailles remains closed each year on May 1st.



Getting There

By Train

There are 3 train stations close to the Palace of Versailles :

- Versailles -Château-Rive Gauche (RER Line C-Paris Austerlitz, Saint-Michel, Champ de Mars-Tour Eiffel)
- Versailles -Chantiers (departing from Paris Montparnasse)
- Versailles Rive Droite (departing from Paris Saint-Lazare)

Traveller Tips

By Bus

RATP 171 departs from Pont de Sèvres) and drops you at Versailles Place d'Armes.

By Car

If you're driving there by car, you'll want to get on the Peripherique (the Paris beltway) and exit, direction, Rouen on A13. With no traffic, you can make it to Versailles in about 20 minutes. There is a metered public parking lot in front of the Chateau. Pay on exit using either a credit card or cash.

- If you're taking the RER C line from Central Paris (multiple stations): take trains "VICK" or "VITY" to Versailles Rive Gauche which is the closest to the castle. This is the last station on the line. The journey is 30 minutes long depending on where you get in from.
- If leaving from Paris Montparnasse station, take the Line N to Versailles Chantiers.
- If leaving from Paris Saint Lazare station, take Line L to Versailles Rive Droite for a 20m walk.

Car and coach parking available at all these places :

- Place d'Armes
- Bailly Walk
- Grand Trianon
- Petit Trianon
- Queen's Hamlet



Accessibility

Disabled visitors may be dropped off by vehicles near Entrances A and B, in the Honour Courtyard.

Full disabled access :

- State Apartments (in the Palace
- Grand Trianon

Partial disabled access

- Park
- Gardens
- Marie-Antoinette's Estate

Bag Deposit

The following items must be left at the bag deposit: walking sticks, umbrellas, pointed, sharp or blunt objects, suitcases, briefcases, rucksacks, shopping and other bags, pushchairs, children's cars, push scooters, helmets, camera tripods, reproductions and casts.



Left luggage office near Entrance A are for Individual Visitors Left luggage office near Entrance B are for Groups

At the Trianon Palaces, there is a left luggage office at the Grand Trianon and another at the Petit Trianon.



Exporing Interview of the second seco

Highlights of the Estate of Versailles





Château de Versailles

The Château de Versailles counts amongst the world's most prestigious monument and is designated UNESCO World Heritage site and a "Monument historique". With over 700 rooms, the palace offers a peek into the lives of the French monarchy's most influential figures. From the glittering Hall of Mirrors to the stunning portraits that sweep the ceilings of the Royal Apartments, tour the Palace and travel back in time. With over 60,000 artwork collections, Versailles showcases five centuries of French History.

All ticket options to the Palace of Versailles gives you access to the Chateau. The cheapest Versailles ticket option comes with an audio guide and costs €18. However, this involves waiting in a queue for 30 mins to 2 hours. Our recommendation would be a skip the line ticket or a guided tour with priority access to beat the queue and enter the palace from a dedicated gate with almost no wait.

Opening Hours

Tuesday - Sunday from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM (high season) 5:30 PM (low season)

Last entry : 6:00 PM (high season) and 5:00 PM (low season)





The Park

The Park is situated beyond the Gardens and thanks to the two large water features - Grand Canal and Lake of the Swiss Guards - the Park extends the gardens seamlessly. Situated around the Grand Canal, the Versailles Park offers incredible views of the Gardens and Palace. Picnic on the lawn or ride around on a Segway tour as you take in the grandeur of the Royal Estate. The Park covers approximately 800 hectares, marked with straight paths going in and out of wooded areas and farmed lands.

Opening Hours

Daily from 7:00 AM to 8:30 PM Last entry is at 6:00 PM





Carrosses Gallery (The Royal Stables)

Step back in time as you browse through the works showcased at the the Carrosses Gallery. Created by Louis-Philippe, the gallery houses a valuable collection of carriages, sleds, cars and harnesses.

The Carrosses Gallery is located at the right side of the courtyard, across from the Castle entrance and is a free attraction.

Opening Hours

Tuesday - Sunday from 12:30 PM to 6:30 PM Last entry is at 6:00 PM



Marie Antoinette's Estate

To catch some time away from regal affairs and matters of the court, the kings of Versailles built themselves more intimate spaces close to the Park.

This estate was most closely associated with Queen Marie-Antoinette who commissioned landscaped gardens centred around a hamlet of cottages, hence leading to the estate being named after her.

Entrance to the Marie Antoinette's Estate is included only in the Passport Ticket. Your general admission ticket does not allow entry to these parts of the Estate.

Opening Hours

Tuesday - Sunday from 12:00 PM to 6:30 PM Last entry is at 6:00 PM





Domaine de Trianon

Adjacent to the Park is the estate of Trianon, home to the Grand Trianon and Petit Trianon palaces, as well as the Queen's Hamlet and a variety of ornamental gardens. Entrance to the Grand Trianon, Petit Trianon and the Queen's Hamlet is included only in the Passport Ticket. Your general admission ticket does not allow entry to these parts of the Estate.

Grand Trianon

Petit Trianon

The Grand Trianon is a unique architectural building which King Louis XIV used as a private residence where he could spend time with Madame de Maintenon. It was originally known as the 'Marble Trianon' on account of the pink marble panels which adorned the palace's elegant façades.

The Petit Trianon, considered to be a neo-classical masterpiece was

completed in 1768 for King Louis XV. This new royal residence was a symbol of the king's passion for the botanical sciences: he was keen to have a home in the heart of the gardens to which he devoted so much of his time.

Queen's Hamlet

The Queen's Hamlet was a result of the queen's fascination with the charms of rural life. Inspired by the traditional rustic architecture of Normandy, it includes a windmill and dairy, as well as a dining room, salon, billiard room and boudoir. Though it was reserved for the education of her children, Marie-Antoinette also used the hamlet for promenades and hosting guests.



Gardens of Versailles

Designed by André Le Nôtre by taming and levelling the surrounding woods and marshes, the Gardens at the Palace of Versailles are a testimony of French designing and detailing for centuries. They are marked by a myriad of fountains, sculptures, walks, parterres and groves with the palace as their backdrop and a canal in the forefront, offering a spectacular sight. All these elements of this incredible place come alive with the rhythm of tunes, colourful and dramatic lighting effects in the musical shows staged regularly.



Opening Hours

Tuesday - Sunday from 8:00 AM to 8:30 PM Last entry is at 7:00 PM



Garden & Fountain Shows

On select days, a variety of musical fountain shows take place in the Gardens of Versailles. To access the gardens and attend these shows, you will need a Versailles Passport ticket or a Versailles Guided Tour with Priority Access + Passport ticket. With a standard admission ticket, you won't be able to visit the gardens on days of the show. Read on to know the different types of Garden and Fountain shows at the Palace of Versailles.

Know Before You Go

Garden shows do not take place from November 1st till 31st March. During this period, entry to the Gardens is free on all days.

From April 1st to 31st October, Garden shows take place on Friday, Saturday Sunday and Tuesday. During these days, your admission tickets are by default inclusive of entry to the shows and will cost about 10 euros more. If you do not wish to pay the extra 10 Euros for the garden shows, plan your visit for the remaining days of the week.





The Musical Gardens

The immense gardens at the Palace of Versailles present an extraordinary experience when accompanied by the French Baroque period music playing in the background providing just the feel of 17th century Royal French style ambience and setting.

Musical Garden Hours

The Musical Gardens takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays from April to October.





The Musical Fountains

The Musical Fountains Shows are one of the major attractions at the Palace of Versailles gardens. One of its kind, the show brings alive scores of historical fountain masterpieces dancing to the tunes of Baroque music.

Musical Fountain Hours

These shows take place every Saturday and Sunday during summer months (31 March to 28 October 2018) and on Tuesdays from (22 May to 26 June 2018) besides a few more public holidays.





The Fountains Night Show

Fountains Night Show banks on the magic of illumination, music and staged effects at night glorifying the formal French garden with splendid visuals and musical extravaganza. Climaxing with spectacular fireworks, this show leaves an indelible mark on the viewers.

Fountain Night Show Hours

The show features every Saturday from 16 June to 15 September with water displays from 8:30 PM to 10:40 PM and fireworks from 10:50



PM to 11:05 PM.



	lusical Fountains Show	Night Fountains Show	Musical Gardens Show
Opening of the groves	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fountain displays	Yes	Yes	
Musical accompanimen	t Yes	Yes	Yes
Lighting		Yes	
Fireworks		Yes	

• Groves open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

- Groves close at 5:30 PM on 28 July, on 4, 11, 18, 25 August, 1, 8, 15 September and 28 October.
- Musical Displays are from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Musical displays end at 5.30 PM on 28 July,4, 11, 18, 25 August, 1, 8, 15 September and 28 October.
- Water Display is from 11:00 AM to 12:00 AM, and from 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM on weekdays and public holidays and end slightly early on Tuesdays.
- Mirror Fountain has a water display every 10 minutes from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- Water Theater Grove has a water display every 15 minutes from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- Neptune Fountain has a water display every 15 minutes from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



Timings

Palace Of Versailles Map

Here's a compact Palace of Versailles Map that will help you find your way around the 800 hectare estate. You can download this map on your phone and keep it handy for your visit. Zoom in for optimal view.



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Know Your Entrance

With millions of tourists visiting the palace every year, the crowd that throngs the gates of Versailles are getting bigger every day. Different gates have been designated for people carrying individual tickets, skip the line tickets and guided tour groups - all this to reduce confusion amongst tourists and to manage thousands of tourists entering the palace more efficiently. The main entrance to the Palace of Versailles is through the Court of Honor (Cour d'Honneur). Upon entering the courtyard, there are 3 entrances to the Palace of Versailles you must be wary of.





Entrance A (to the left)

This entrance is reserved for guests who have already purchased individual tickets online. For those who haven't, you will have to queue up at the ticket counter and then enter via Entrance A. Wait times at Entrance A are anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours

Entrance B (to the right)

This entrance is for groups with a reservation for a guided tour as well as those carrying skip the line tickets. Entrance B gives you much quicker access and has hardly any wait time.

Entrance H

Reserved for guests with disabilities.

How To Save Time At The Entrance?

If you have not purchased your tickets online, you will have to stand in queue at the ticket counter before entering via Entrance A. While the wait times at the ticket counter can take anything between 15 to 30 minutes, the security check at Entrance A circles around 30 minutes to 2 hours.

If you have purchased skip the line tickets or tickets for a guided tour online, you can enter via Entrance B. This entrance is the quickest way to access the Palace with hardly any wait time.





Getting Around The Estate

The best way to experience the Palace of Versailles is to walk through its halls and gardens. A more intimate experience, walking at your own pace allows you to comfortably see all the important highlights of the palace and enjoy its beauty. If you're a healthy and physically fit person, then walking is the best way to experience the palace. Remember to wear comfortable shoes. However, if you aren't in the mood to walk, then there are quite a few options available for you.

Segway

You can find guided tours on Segway for groups of 8 people at the palace.

Price : €35 for 1 hour. €55 for 1 person for 2 hours.

Rowing Boats

Take a trip in a rowing boat along the Grand Canal and discover the park from a different perspective. Price: ≤ 12 for half-hour, ≤ 16 for 1 hour



Bike Hires

Discover the park on a rented bike. Hire point is at Little Venice along the Grand Canal. Price: €6.50 per half-hour, €8.50 per hour, €2 per additional 15 minutes, €18 per half-day (4 hours), €20 per day (8 hours)

Small Electric Vehicle

Explore the gardens and park of the Palace of Versailles in a small electric vehicle. Tailor your visit to suit your desires without getting tired. Price : €34 per vehicle per hour, €8.50 per additional 15 minutes.

Little Train

Explore the park aboard the Little Train on which you can get on and off different stops within a single circuit. Price: €7.50 full rate (€5.80 for under 18s - get on and off at different stops within a single circuit) and €4 for a single journey.





Visitor Tips

There are two audio guide pick-up counters, both located on the ground floor : one at the entrance to the Apartments of Mesdames, and another at the entrance to the Gallery of Castles, just after crossing the Royal Court.

Audio guides are available in 11 languages - Spanish, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese and Russian

Admission tickets to the Palace of Versailles is free for children below the age of 18 and for EU citizens below the age of 26. However, if you purchase tickets with access to the Musical Garden and Fountain shows, only children under the age of 6, regardless of nationality, are eligible for free entry.

Animals are not allowed in Marie-Antoinette's Estate or inside the gardens and groves.

Use of camera flashes and mobile phones is prohibited inside the

Museum.

Use of extendable monopod stick poles for smartphones is strictly prohibited in the rooms of the Museum





Frequently Asked Questions

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Q. When is the Palace least crowded?

A. The best time to visit the Palace of Versailles is after 2.30 PM as a majority step out for lunch at around this time and most organised tours step out of the Palace to explore the rest of the estate around this time. It is advisable to reach the Versailles Estate at 9:00 AM, try out the Versailles Palace Gardens, the Park, take a tour around the estate then enter the Palace of Versailles between 2.30 - 3:00 PM

Q. What is the difference between the Regular ticket and Skip the line ticket? Can I purchase the ticket at the ticket counter?

A. As the name suggests, Skip the line ticket gives you priority access and allows you to walk past the queues. Due to the large influx of tourists, Skip the line tickets help you to save your time waiting in queues that could take anywhere between 30 -120 minutes

Q. What is the difference between a Regular ticket and a Passport ticket?

A. A passport ticket allows you additional access to Marie Antoinette's estate as well as the amazing musical gardens show which does not come as part of the regular ticket. Areas that are common and can be accessed by any of these include - The castle (Royal Apartments + Hall of mirrors), The park & the carousel.

The musical show garden/fountain show only happens till end of October. Also, Passport tickets allow you to re-enter the Palace while the regular tickets do not.

Gardens can only be accessed on Wednesday & Thursday through regular tickets as there is no fountain shows on these two days.



Q. Can I visit the Palace of Versailles during the Winter months?

A. Yes you can visit the Palace of Versailles, but be warned that winters in France can get quite chilly and can drop to 3 degrees celsius, so make sure to layer up. Know that the Gardens and Fountain shows do not take place during these months. If you have a choice between visiting the Palace of Versailles in winter or summer, we'd definitely recommend visiting in summer.

Q. How much time should I set aside for Versailles visit?

A The.Versailles Estate is spread over 800 hectares and apart from the Palace of Versailles, one must take some time out to visit the Trianon Palace, Marie-Antoinette's Estate, the Coach Gallery and take a leisure walk around the Versailles Gardens and the Park. Travel from Paris to Versailles and back will consume around 2 hours of your day, so keeping the travel , meal hours and time taken to explore the Palace, we would recommend keeping aside a whole day to visit the Estate of Versailles.

Q. When can I visit the Palace of Versailles for free?

A Between the months of November to March, the first Sunday admits free entry for all to the Estate of Versailles.

However, you also qualify for free entry into Versailles if you are less than 18 years old or are a European Union resident under 26 years of age. On days of musical fountain show, access for gardens is free only for children below 6 years of age.



Explore Paris With Headout

Eiffel Tower



Skip The Line: Eiffel Tower Tickets with Host

Highlights : 2nd level Tower access | Host Escort | 10% Cash back Eiffel Tower tickets on the official website sell out months in advance and buying tickets on ground consume 2 hours in queue. Headout offers last minute skip the line tickets to the 2nd floor and Summit at the best price online!

Skip The Line Eiffel Tower Summit with Seine River Cruise Highlights : Combo Tour/ Free Cancellation / 10% Cash back An ideal combo delight , swoosh past the 2 hour long queue to the Eiffel Summit and enjoy a seine river cruise that starts at the foot of Eiffel. Experience the sights of Paris from the land and waters in 3 eventful hours!

Paris in a Day : Eiffel Tower, City Tour & Seine Cruise Highlights : Combo Tour/ Audio Guide | 10% Cash back Take in the best of Paris in just 4 hours! Enjoy unparalleled views of Paris from the Summit of the Eiffel Tower, take an audio guided city tour on AC coach and round off your Parisian adventure with a panoramic cruise down the Seine.

Seine Cruise



Bateaux Parisiens Seine River Dinner Cruise With Wine Highlights : 3 course dinner with drinks | Glass Boat | Live Entertainment Hop aboard a Bateaux Parisiens glass-canopy boat and discover Paris from the water while you enjoy an enchanting 3 course dinner cruise. Get 10% cash back on this experience only on Headout!

Bateaux Mouches Seine River Dinner Cruise With Wine *Highlights* : 4 course dinner | Wine Bottle | Live Entertainment Savour the sights of Paris on a Seine river cruise with an early evening French dinner accompanied by a bottle of wine and live music. It's simply magical. Get 10% cash back on this experience only on Headout!

Seine River Cruise and Paris City Tour Combo

Highlights : 4 hour Combo Tour | 10% Cash back | Audio Guide Tour Paris in an air-conditioned coach, cruise through the City of Lights on a luxurious trimaran and spend 4 hours discovering Paris from a unique vantage point.



Cabaret



Moulin Rouge Show With Champagne & Paris City Tour *Highlights* : *Combo Delight* | 1/2 *bottle of champagne* | 5% *Cash back Immerse yourself in an audio guided open bus tour of illuminated Paris and your evening with the best cabaret show in Paris, the Moulin Rouge while you sip on champagne and witness the exceptionally colourful routines.*

The Lido Show with Champagne

Highlights : Admission Tickets | Champagne | 5% Cash back

Get discounted tickets for the one of the best cabarets in Paris on Headout! Step into The Lido and take in the glamorous atmosphere and visuals of crystals, feathers, chandeliers and other stunning luxurious statement pieces on a 90 minute enchanting adventure.

Crazy Horse Paris

Highlights : Admission Tickets | Champagne and goodies | 5% Cash back Indulge in an evening of charm and seduction with Crazy Horse Paris, one of the top premier cabaret houses in the world and experience an evening filled with artistic expression and celebrations of femininity. Drink some sparkling champagne to add on to the exuberance of the evening!

Louvre Museum Skip The Line Ticket with Host *Highlights* : Skip The Line | Expert Host Commentary | 10% Cash Back

Museums In Paris



Being the most famous museum in the world, tickets for Louvre Paris are almost always hard to get! Book last minute tickets with skip-the-line-access from Headout and swoosh past the 45 minute average queue to see 460,000 works of art inside Louvre. Bonus 30-minute introduction to the museum by an expert local guide too!

Priority Access to Musee de L'Orangerie and Musee d'Orsay Highlights : Best of 2 Museums | Skip The Line | 3 month validity Visit two of the most popular museums in Paris, head straight in without waiting in queue and revel in the world of art. Tickets from Headout are valid for a period of 3 months from the date of purchase and gift you the flexibility of visiting the museums anytime within the period!

Paris All Access Museum Pass

Highlights : One Pass, 60 Museums | Skip the Line | 10% Cash back For museum aficionados, there's no better pass than the Paris Museum Pass! Buy your Pass from Headout with an exclusive 10% cash back and enjoy free priority access to over 60 museums and monuments, including the Louvre, Orsay Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral and Arc de Triomphe among others. It's hassle free and a guaranteed money saver!



Paris Attractions



Skip the Line Paris Catacombs Tickets with Audioguide Highlights : Priority Entrance | Audio Guide | 8% Discount

Skip the winding queues that usually extend upto 3-5 hours and walk into a 2 km network of mysterious tunnels with the most sought after ticket in Paris. On this audio guided tour, explore the history of 6 million Parisians buried just 20 meters below the streets of Paris.

Skip The Line: Arc de Triomphe Rooftop Tickets

Highlights : Skip the Line | Rooftop Access | 10% Cash back Gain priority access to the Arc de Triomphe and go atop the rooftop of this iconic monument! The rooftop is the only place in Paris that gives you a stunning view of the 12 Parisian avenues radiating from the center of the city! Bask in these panoramic views to your hearts fill!

Notre Dame Cathedral & Sainte Chapelle

Highlights : Combo Delight | Skip the line Guided Tour | 10% Cash back Bask in the beauty of two of Paris's greatest works of architecture, Notre Dame and the Sainte Chapelle with our skip the line expert guided tour. Rather than buying indiviual tickets to both attractions, why not try this combo delight and save a few euros!

Paris To Loire Valley

Best Day Trips **From Paris**



Highlights : *Skip The Line | Complimentary Guidebook| 10% Cash Back* Located 3 hours from Paris, Mont Saint Michel is a UNESCO World Heritage site that deserves a visit while in Paris. Grab entry tickets to this fairytale castle and explore it with our complimentary guidebook.

Paris to Normandy

Highlights : Guided Small Group Tour | Transportation to/fro Paris | F&B Embark on an expert guided day trip to Normandy, and soak in the somber sacrifices made by the allied soldiers during World War II. Vsit the museum on Utah Beach, bask in the apple orchards of Normandy and catch amazing views over the English Channel from the cliffs at Ponte du Hoc.

Paris to Reims

Highlights : Guided Tour | Transportation to/fro Paris| Hotel Pick up Enjoy a full-day tour of Reims, a city famous for its medieval politics and champagne. This 11-hour day trip from Paris will allow you to savour some of the best champagne in the world and soak in the magnificence of the Reims Cathedral. Get flat 5% cash back on your tickets with Headout!





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Why Book With Headout?



Headout is a trusted platform used by 100K+ people, each month



Get the lowest prices on the internet with last minute availability



Discover and connect with 10,000+ experiences



Browse verified reviews and professional



Have questions? Live chat or simply call our travel experts who are available 24/7



Headout on the go

Download our mobile app for easier & faster checkout. We can send you the download link to get started right away!







