

Paris

1) **Eiffel Tower** (Book your ticket 1-2 weeks in advance). I recommend booking your ticket for a time slot during the day 12pm-2pm.

- There are a couple options for the Eiffel Tower:
 - a) Buy ticket to walk up stairs from ground floor to second floor
 - b) Buy ticket to take elevator from ground level to second floor
 - c) Buy ticket to take elevator from ground level to top
 - i) This option makes you take two elevators. One to the second floor, then a second one from the second floor to the top.
 - ii) They sell small glasses of champagne at the top for around 20-30 euro for each one
 - iii) When you are coming down, if there are a lot of people on the second floor waiting for the elevator then you can take the stairs back down to ground level.
- If you go to the second floor or the top of the Eiffel Tower, I recommend going during the day (12pm-2pm).
- I really recommend getting the ticket to the top if you are going solo or with a small group. It is a really cool experience at the top and the elevators have glass doors on all sides. It is uncomfortable if you have a fear of heights.
- At nightfall (around 8PM), the tower will light up and sparkle for 4-5 minutes at the beginning of every hour (8:00, 9:00, 10:00) and is nice to see. I think it stops or does it for a final time at 11PM. Best time to see it is probably at 9:00 PM or 10:00 PM. You could get a spot on the grass at Eiffel Tower Garden (Jardin de la tour Eiffel) to watch it.
- Best picture spots during the day
 - a) Eiffel tower garden (jardin de la tour Eiffel on Google Maps). Choose here if you want a pic with a mix of grass and some trees. If there are still fences around the grass of the garden then you won't be able to get a straight shot of the tower without getting a fence in it. Eiffel tower garden is my recommended spot
 - b) Standing in the middle of the road on the bridge called Pont d'Iena. It's the only bridge next to the Eiffel Tower. Not hard to miss. You have to be quick when you go in the middle of the road to get a pic. The police come through every 5-10 minutes to get people out of the middle of the road. Probably best to wait until 1 minute after you see the cops clear out the people that are already standing there. This is the best place if you want to get a straight shot of the Eiffel Tower if there are fences in the Eiffel Tower garden
 - c) Esplanade Joseph Wresinski
 - i) You can take pics here without issues and get views from the opposite side of the Eiffel Tower garden

2) **Louvre Museum** (Book your ticket 1-2 weeks in advance)

This is the largest museum in the world.

Need 4-8 hours to walk around this museum. It takes a lot of time to see everything. You can look at the map of the museum and pick the sections you would be interested in to save time.

There will be hundreds of people standing in front of the Mona Lisa. Starting from the back, it takes between 20-30 minutes to get to the front to take a pic. They remove the people that are standing at the front every 15-30 seconds.

Here is a map of the museum:

<https://api-www.louvre.fr/sites/default/files/2024-06/Web%20-%20EN%20%20LOUVR E PlanG%20-%2004-2024.pdf>

3) **Sainte-Chapelle**

Nobody mentions this one, but it's top 3 for me. It's a gothic church with stained glass windows and is incredible to see during the daytime when the light is coming through the windows. Each window is a representation of a different chapter from the bible. Buy your tickets 1 week in advance. If you can't get a ticket online in advance, you can show up without one and wait in a line of people who don't have tickets. If you do not have a ticket, it takes about 30 minutes waiting to enter and then you can buy a ticket at the entrance for around 20 euro. Look at a map of what each stained glass represents when you're in there. Go during the day. Late morning or early afternoon would be best.

4) **Arc de Triomphe**

Famous monument that should not take more than 30 minutes to see. You can jog or walk through the traffic to stand underneath it too. It is a round-about street and always has cars and buses going around it

5) **Musee d'Orsay**

Mainly has paintings by popular French artists

6) **Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Paris**

Should not take more than 10-15 minutes to see outside of it. It was closed when I was there and is being restored. They plan to reopen it in December 2024. It should be open when you are there.

7) **Basilique du Sacré-Cœur de Montmartre**

Takes 30-45 minutes to see. Further away from the other attractions

8) **Boat ride on seine river**

Takes one hour and is a nice day activity

9) **Luxembourg garden** (Jardin du Luxembourg)

Cross through here if you are nearby or walking to another attraction. Takes between 20-30 min to see

10) **Take Paris metro**

Do not jump over the turnstiles to save yourself from buying a ticket. They have metro police that stand underground at switching points that stop you to ask for proof of a ticket. Single tickets should be 2.5 euro.

Amsterdam

1) Rijksmuseum

This is one of my favorite museums. It is the Dutch national museum and mainly has paintings. The artwork you will see here is amazing, and the popular Dutch artists you'll see are Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer, and Frans Hals. There are some pieces by Van Gogh too, but there is already an entire museum for him that you should see

2) Van Gogh museum

Highly recommend this. It is interesting to learn about his life story and see how many paintings he created in such a short time. If you like Van Gogh's style then you definitely need to see this one

3) Canal cruise on a small boat

Takes about 40 minutes to 1 hour. There are many different tour companies for this. I used a company called Blue Boat Company that departs near the Maagd Van Amsterdam monument

3) Coffee Shops

They have many different options of weed to buy. There are a lot of coffee shops around red light district area

4) Red light district

See this at night. Type in "De Wallen Red Light District Amsterdam" on maps and it should show you the spot. The main streets you need to walk are called Oudezijds Voorburgwal and Oudezijds Achterburgwal. You can walk on both sides of the canal for each street

5) Vondelpark

Nice to walk around at during the day

6) Anne Frank House

I did not go here

7) For nightlife, I went to a nightclub called **Lovelee** that was recommended by a Dutch girl that grew up there. It has house/tech house music and is a good time. Get there between 10:45-11:30 pm. Closes at 5 AM. All the other nightclubs are closer to the red light district.

Munich

1) Marienplatz

This is the central square of the old town where the town hall is. Good place for a picture in front of the town hall. Nice to walk around the different streets of the old town around Marienplatz.

2) St. Peters Church

Very close to Marienplatz. Go here during the day and you can buy a ticket to take stairs to the top of the church. Great view of the entire city at the top. You can walk in a full circle at the top to see all sides of Munich. Highly recommend this if you like viewpoints to get a bird's eye view of the city

3)The Eisbachwelle

Located at the edge of English Garden (Englischer Garten). It is a place where people surf on the river. Fun to watch during the day.

4)English Garden

Walk around here for a bit after you see the Eisbachwelle. Most people are relaxing in the park or swimming in the river.

5)Beer Garden

I can't remember the name of the one I went to, but there are many of them around there. You could check out "Viktualienmarkt Beergarden"

6)Nymphenburg palace

Further away from Marienplatz. Only need 1-2 hours to see this palace and you can pay for tickets when you get there. Probably easier to pay for them online before though. I remember there not being a lot to see inside the palace

7)Hofbrauhaus Munchen

A Bavarian restaurant close to Marienplatz

8)Olympia Park

This will take some time to get to if you are staying near Marienplatz. If they have events going on there that you could get tickets to then it would be worth it. Otherwise, I would recommend seeing English Garden instead of this if you only have time to see one park. The stadium is pretty far inside the edge of the park too if you're coming from Marienplatz. This one was not really worth it to me.

Hamburg

1)Miniatur Wonderland

This is the largest model train system in the world. The attention to detail, city models, and timing of the trains are incredible.

2)Hamburg Town Hall

3)Elbphilharmonie

City's newest landmark that is a concert venue.

4)Speicherstadt

Warehouse district. Could walk around here for 30 min to 1 hour. UNESCO World Heritage Site.

5)Hamburger Kunstalle

Art museum. Takes 1-3 hours to see everything. Not too big.

6)St. Michaels Church

7)Alter Elbtunnel

Underground tunnel. I did not go here. Not sure if there is much to see

7)**ReeperBahn**

Famous street for nightlife in Hamburg. If you're looking for a night out, walk down this street and you'll find something

Berlin

1)**Berlin TV Tower**

Buy tickets 2-3 days in advance to get a time slot that you want. Tickets are 50 euro each. The reason I liked this viewpoint is because it has between 50-100 pictures with descriptions of all the main sights of Berlin that you can read about while you are looking out at them.

2)**Brandenburg Gate**

3)**Berlin Wall**

Highly recommend this because there are pictures and descriptions (between 50-80) about the history of the wall as you walk along it. You could spend 1-2 hours just reading the information they have at the wall. Make sure you see the **East Side Gallery** of the wall where hundreds of artists, starting in the 1990s, have painted on the wall.

4)**Reichstag Building**

5)**Berlin Cathedral**

6)**Museum Island**

You can choose from one of the many museums in this area that you want to see.

7)**Techno**

Go to a techno club at night. Sysyphos is the one I tried to get into but I got denied because I did not answer their questions right. Wear all black and know the names of the DJs that are playing before you go in case they ask you who's playing. The lines to get into the good techno clubs are really long. You'll have to wait 1-3 hours to get in if you go between 9pm-12am unless you find a way to cut the line. Expect to pay between 20-40 euro for entry.