

## Paris !

A simple sleep at the end of the 20th century, Paris has once again become a modern city awake to the world. Thanks in part to Mayor Bertrand Delanoë, who took office in 2001, the city has undergone profound transformations. To name but a few: Paris Plage (which transforms the banks of the Seine into an immense beach promenade every summer), La Nuit Blanche (which hands over the keys to the city to artists every October) and Vélib', the ubiquitous bicycle rental system that has changed the nature of transportation in Paris.

The gay community, meanwhile, grew up alongside the city and also led the way. Much of its heart still resides in the central Marais district, where you'll find dozens of gay bars, restaurants and establishments. Whether you prefer trendy or comfortable scenes, whether your passion is for R&B, traditional music, or French and international pop, there's something for everyone.



Gays and lesbians are as integrated into daily life here as anywhere else in the world. The community is less conscious of its identity than in many American cities, perhaps because it's less necessary: resistance to equality eroded or went underground long ago. They can be seen in thousands of cafés and restaurants, in gay bookshops or simply browsing the prolific gay media options in the Marais, where they'll be reading for the evening.

You're likely to meet friendly faces in every part of the city, from Montmartre to Saint Germain des Prés.

It's hard to get bored in Paris! Did you know that Paris is one of the top 10 gay destinations to discover? Summer or winter, autumn or spring, you'll be spoilt for choice!

Entertainment is king in the City of Light. And you'll find plenty of things to do, too. If you've never visited Paris as a tourist, don't miss the opportunity to do so. And if you're like the many gay tourists who come back to experience Paris "by the night", you're sure to fall in love every time. For Paris or for Parisians?

A humanist metropolis of love, food, art, design, shopping and nightlife. Gay and lesbian tourists are considered a natural part of society. So it's no surprise that the Paris gay pride march is so popular every year. The gay pride march is usually held at the end of June.

No is it surprising that Paris is one of the most popular gay destinations in the world, given that Paris is the favorite gay destination for tourists of all classes.

In summer, Paris is simply magical. However, the City of Light is a must-see destination whatever the season, whether it's high tourist season or not. It has to be said that in August, there are very few Parisians living there. Vacations mean that people leave Paris to travel and enjoy the countryside. You simply won't notice that there are fewer people around. Quite the opposite, in fact. August is very popular with tourists, so the city is teeming with activities of all kinds.



Summer is also a time to take it easy. Parks are popular at lunchtime, boulevards lined with monuments fascinate every day, and the iconic bistros of Paris's gay district, Le Marais, make the day even more enjoyable. As soon as evening arrives, the nightlife begins, with bars and discos opening their doors. Paris has it all. A gay bar for bears, a fetish discotheque or a once-in-a-lifetime party. A traditionally liberal country that legalized homosexuality in 1791 during the French Revolution and gay marriage in 2013, France is frequently named as one of the most gay-friendly countries in the world, ahead of Canada.

Gay tourists need take no extra precautions when visiting Paris. A visit to the Marais district will quickly make you feel at home. It's a beautiful neighborhood with a rainbow of colors. Paris is also about nightlife, world-class museums, haute couture boutiques, iconic architecture, French cuisine and gastronomy, and an intoxicating atmosphere that will make your trip to Paris even more enjoyable. If Paris is the ultimate French destination, you'll find plenty of tourist attractions all around, especially in the Île-de-France region. Imagine seeing castles like Versailles and the country's most beautiful parks.

Throughout the year, the LGBT scene is showcased in a wide range of fields, from cinema and sport to literature, visual arts and music.

The cinema also puts the spotlight on LGBT creation, with the International Women's Film Festival from April 4 to 12, 2025 and the [Chéris-Chéries](#) film festival in November. Queer Week is also taking place in a number of venues across the Ile-de-France region, with a varied program of debates, walks, evening events and performances.

If you're a theater addict, the [Théâtre de la Reine Blanche](#), in the 18th arrondissement of Paris, often stages plays with LGBTQ+ themes.

[The Palais de Tokyo](#), known for its avant-garde approach and eclectic programming, has often featured works or artists exploring queer and LGBTQ+ themes such as Cally Spooner - "Everything Might Spill" in 2018 or Zanele Muholi - "Faces and Phases" in 2022.

Queer-friendly vide-dressing events are a unique and inclusive way to combine fashion, community and sustainability.



You'll be able to bargain at LGBT+ vide-dressing events in several locations around Paris. Indeed, many queer-friendly boutiques offer vide-dressings in the Marais district, guaranteeing inclusivity, conviviality and sustainable commitment. Examples include [Le Dépôt](#), [Les Mots à la Bouche](#), and temporary workshops in cafés such as [La Mutinerie](#).

[Le Point Éphémère](#), on the banks of the Canal Saint-Martin, hosts alternative events, including occasional queer-friendly dress-downs, often accompanied by DJ sets or creative workshops.

[Le Hasard Ludique](#), a former train depot transformed into a cultural space, regularly hosts inclusive markets, including queer-friendly clothing sales.

November is THE month of gay, lesbian, bi and trans culture, with 3 unmissable end-of-year film events. Between [Chéries-Chéris](#) and the [Paris International Lesbian and Feminist Film Festival](#), there's plenty to see! Some years, books take center stage with the Salon du livre gay, highlighting a little-observed segment of literary production. It's a rare opportunity to make discoveries and meet great authors.



## Gay pride 2025

Saturday, June 28, 2025 - Paris Pride launches the city's summer party and event season. Over 700,000 spectators and participants attend the gay parade.



## Jerk Off

Festival | Spectacle - divers

From 3 to 11 Avril 2025

Jerk Off, the LGBT+ multidisciplinary cultural festival.

## THE LGBT CENTER PARIS-ILE-DE-FRANCE

The Centre LGBT Paris-Ile-de-France is a place where you can find out about artists whose work focuses on gay, lesbian, bi and trans issues, through temporary exhibitions.

### *Cinémas*



When it comes to cinema, [the Luminor - Hôtel de Ville](#), the [Mk2 Beaubourg](#) and the [Mk2 quai de Loire](#) regularly offer gay-themed screenings, in addition to hosting various events at Paris gay and lesbian festivals. Whether short films, animated features or documentaries, their programming is eclectic, giving you the chance to see little-distributed works.



## Libraries



If you're looking for a “specialized” book, check out Des mots à la bouche. Located in the heart of the Marais district, this store offers a wide selection of books, from lesbian comics to erotic gay novels, including gay press and art books. On Rue de Charonne, the [Violette & Co](#) bookshop plays the same game, with an added feminist touch. At La Musardine, the focus is on erotica in all its forms.



## [Les Mots à la Bouche](#)

Bookstores and multimedia (CDs - photo and computer equipment)

37 rue Saint-Ambroise, Paris, 75011



## Librairie La Musardine

Bookstores and multimedia (CDs - photo and computer equipment)

122 rue du Chemin Vert, Paris, 75011



## Cinéma Luminor - Hôtel de ville

Cinema

20 rue du Temple, Paris, 75004



## [MK2 Beaubourg](#)

Cinéma

50 rue Rambuteau, Paris, 75003



## [MK2 Quai de Loire](#)

Cinéma

7 quai de la Loire, Paris, 75019





## [Théâtre La Reine Blanche Scène des Arts et des Sciences](#)

Theater

2 bis Pass. Ruelle, 75018 Paris

The Marais, a lively and festive district for the LGBTQ+ community, Pigalle and its old lesbian cabarets, the Palais Royal, a Mecca for men's meetings in the 18th century, and the Père Lachaise cemetery with its graves of gay personalities: gay Paris has been written for centuries, and its heritage can be discovered on guided tours.

### **ParisGayVillage**

Paris Gay Village will be your ally in your discovery of gay and lesbian Paris. Since 2005, the association's tour guides have put together some 30 guided tours, many of which are available in English. Explore the Madeleine district to learn all about the life of Jean Cocteau, stroll through Saint-Germain-des-Prés, where the LGBT community of the 50's and 60's was vibrant, stroll through the cemeteries in search of the graves in which homosexual couples rest, in love for eternity...

### **Meeting The French**

Want to know all the secrets of the Marais ? Meeting the French's gay-friendly guided tour of this historic district takes in the bars, clubs, restaurants and stores familiar to LGBTQ+ culture. From old buildings to chic boutiques, it's also an opportunity to learn more about the history of Paris' gay community.

If there's one district in Paris that's particularly popular with the LGBT community, it's the Marais! Nestled between the Place de la Bastille, Place de la République and Place de l'Hôtel de Ville, it's home to the majority of the capital's gay-friendly venues. Bars, clubs and shops of all kinds have sprung up here over the last 30 years, making this district an authentic yet trendy little village where all kinds of visitors meet.

Ideal for shopping, the district boasts many must-see spots, from designer boutiques to designer stores and the famous [Bazar de l'Hôtel de Ville \(BHV Marais\)](#).

The Marais is also renowned for its cultural dynamism. Some of Paris's greatest museums ([Centre Pompidou](#), [Musée national Picasso-Paris](#), [Musée Cognacq-Jay...](#)) and numerous art galleries (Thaddaeus Ropac, Daniel Templon, Karsten Greve...) have set up shop here, making this district an essential stop-off point for Parisian artistic life.

It's also in the Marais that every year, at the end of June, participants in one of Paris's major festivities gather: the March of Pride.

Here is a selection of 10 places not to be missed during a stroll in the Marais:



## The BHV Marais

52 rue de Rivoli, Paris, 75004

In the heart of Paris, a stone's throw from Notre-Dame and opposite the Hôtel de Ville, in the trendiest and most cultural district in Paris, Le BHV Marais is THE new place to stroll and shop.

What's new? A revitalized facade, 45,000 sq. m. of warm, contemporary furnishings, 900 brands to discover and events to enjoy every day...

Creative, inspiring and relaxed, Le BHV Marais has not forgotten its loyal fans of DIY, culture and home furnishings.

Fashion is now added to the range of products offered by this multi-specialist department store.

For 160 years, Le BHV Marais has been the only life-style department store in Paris to offer such a wide range of products under one roof!



## Maison de Victor Hugo

Hôtel de Rohan-Guéméné - 6 place des Vosges, Paris, 75004

Located on the prestigious Place de Vosges, in the heart of the Marais district, Victor Hugo's house invites visitors to enter the intimacy of the famous French writer. He lived on the second floor of this private mansion from 1832 to 1848, where he wrote some of his major works and much of *Les Misérables*. The tour of the apartment follows the three main stages of his life: before, during and after his exile in Guernsey, through the presentation of his furniture, various souvenirs and astonishing interior decorations. The second floor is reserved for temporary exhibitions, featuring his drawings and an iconography of his literary work. The museum organizes guided tours of Victor Hugo's apartment, as well as workshops for younger visitors (information available from the museum secretariat). An extensive library is open to the public by appointment.



## Place des Vosges

It's the jewel in the crown of the district, which has plenty to offer! Place des Vosges is one of the oldest and most beautiful squares in Paris. Visitors stroll under its arcades or through the alleys of the central garden, admiring the superb red-brick facades. Shops, open on Sundays, add to the liveliness of the place. The square is the ideal starting point for a stroll through the Marais, one of the capital's most charming historic districts, for the heritage treasures it houses and the atmosphere it exudes. The many 17th and 18th century mansions have been transformed into internationally renowned museums: Musée Picasso Paris, Musée Carnavalet, Victor Hugo's house... Rue des Rosiers, the epicenter of Paris's Jewish community, is a must-see for its atmosphere, stores and restaurants. And there are countless bars and clubs that make the Marais France's largest gay district.





## Centre Pompidou

Rue Beaubourg, côté Saint-Merri (jusqu'en mai 2021), Paris, 75004

The Centre Pompidou, designed by Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers, is a marvel of twentieth-century architecture, recognizable by its outdoor escalators and enormous, colorful pipes. It houses the Musée National d'Art Moderne, a world reference for its collections of 20th and 21st century art. Works by key artists are displayed chronologically in two areas: the modern period from 1905 to 1960 (Matisse, Picasso, Dubuffet...) and the contemporary period from 1960 to the present day (Andy Warhol, Niki de Saint Phalle, Anish Kapoor...). In addition to these permanent collections, internationally-renowned exhibitions are held all year round on the top floor, from where the panoramic view over central Paris and its rooftops is unbeatable. It's a great place to spend half a day, or even the whole day, eating at the Georges, learning at the Bibliothèque publique d'information and browsing in the gift store. At the foot of the Centre, in the Piazza, the Atelier Brancusi presents a unique collection of works by this major artist in the history of modern sculpture.



## Musée national Picasso-Paris

5 rue de Thorigny, Paris, 75003

The Musée national Picasso-Paris collection comprises over 5,000 works and 200,000 archive items. By virtue of its quality, scope and the diversity of the artistic fields represented, it is the largest collection of Picasso's work in the world, providing an overview of the artist's painted, sculpted, engraved and drawn works, as well as a precise evocation of his creative process. The museum offers a wide range of cultural activities for all kinds of visitors, with the aim of sharing Picasso's work with as many people as possible. Come and explore the richness of Picasso's creation, and make your encounter with the works a unique experience.



## Hotel de Béthune-Sully

62 rue Saint-Antoine, Paris, 75004

Set between courtyard and garden, the Hôtel de Béthune-Sully is one of the finest private mansions in Paris. In the heart of the Marais district, this 17th-century monument was the home of Henri IV's Superintendent of Finances, Maximilien de Béthune, Duc de Sully. Since 1967, it has housed the headquarters of the Centre des monuments nationaux. The Cour d'Honneur houses its information center. The bookshop is open to all. The large lower hall features a ceiling with painted beams and joists. The garden, originally plant embroidery, gives access to the Place des Vosges. It is not open to the public, but you can cross the courtyard and garden during opening hours to access the Place des Vosges.





## [Hôtel de Ville de Paris](#)

Mairie de Paris - Place de l'Hôtel de Ville, Paris, 75004

Since 1357, the Hôtel de Ville de Paris has been the seat of the Paris municipality. The current neo-Renaissance building was rebuilt by architects Théodore Ballu and Edouard Deperthes on the site of the former Hôtel de Ville, burnt down during the Paris Commune in 1871. You can visit the Town Hall, a place of power and prestige. Guided tours, subject to reservation, are organized by the Service du Protocole. Visitors can discover the Salle des Fêtes, designed as a replica of the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. Major free exhibitions are also organized, to great acclaim.



## [Musée Cognacq-Jay - Le goût du XVIIIe](#)

8 rue Elzévir, Paris, 75003

The Musée Cognacq-Jay, in the heart of the Marais district, recreates the atmosphere of a Parisian home during the Age of Enlightenment. Housed in a handsome 16th-century mansion, between courtyard and garden, the museum is home to an exceptional collection of 18th-century works of art: paintings by Boucher, Chardin and Fragonard, drawings by Watteau, sculptures, stamped furniture and precious objects (jewelry, snuffboxes, Saxon porcelain, etc.). Ernest Cognacq and his wife Louise



Jay, founders of La Samaritaine department store, bequeathed the collections to the City of Paris in 1928.



## Musée des Arts et Métiers

60 rue Réaumur, Paris, 75003

The museum's treasures trace the history of technology since the 16th century, in seven fields: scientific instruments, materials, construction, communication, energy, mechanics and transport. The former abbey of Saint-Martin-des-Champs is the setting for the collections, which are presented chronologically. Visitors will discover a charming automaton from 1784, La Joueuse de tympanon, Foucault's Pendulum (1851) and an aeroplane from 1897. The tour ends... at the Arts et Métiers metro station, inspired by Jules Verne's Nautilus.



## Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature

62 rue des Archives, Paris, 75003

The Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature is housed in the 17th-century Hôtel de Guénégaud and the 18th-century Hôtel de Mongelas, in the heart of the historic Marais district. In this prestigious setting, visitors (whether amateurs or the curious) discover paintings (Desportes, Chardin, Oudry, Vernet), hunting weapons, naturalized animals from Africa, America and Asia, and numerous objets d'art.

Paris also boasts a number of addresses with a particular sympathy for the LGBT community. Often located in the Marais, but not exclusively, they contribute to making Paris a welcoming and festive city. Here's a quick roundup of the must-visit addresses !

As the capital of gastronomy, Paris is brimming with gourmet addresses of all kinds, from small Parisian brasseries to grand restaurants. Mainly located in the Marais district, but throughout Paris, some establishments extend a special welcome to the LGBT community, often indicated by a rainbow symbol on their frontage.

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Looking for a lively atmosphere? Transformist cabarets offer you the chance to dine in the company of some of the world's most famous performers: Kylie Minogue, Céline Dion, Edith Piaf, Lady Gaga... They'll put on a show that's out of this world, with unusual moments ranging from comedy to emotion. See you at Chez Michou or l'Artishow.

## Gay and lesbian bars in Paris



The Marais, once a unique community landmark, still boasts some iconic establishments. For a drink day or night, head to [COX](#) ! Open since 1995, this trendy bar attracts such a varied clientele that they spill out onto the surrounding sidewalks sipping drinks, just like at the Quetzal. A friendly atmosphere guaranteed! On Rue des Lombards, the atmosphere is: virile at [Bear's den](#) with its aptly-named population, To dance while having a drink, take a trip to Les Souffleurs where the team serves unmissable cocktails.

Other great bars include [Café Voulez-Vous](#) on rue du Temple, [Who's bar](#) on rue Saint-Merriou and Duplex on rue Michel Le Comte. L'Enchanteur organizes karaoke evenings to sing the hits of yesteryear and today.

If you stray a little further from the Marais, you'll soon come across a Parisian gay night institution, recognizable by its exotic façade (and late-night happy hour): the [Banana Café](#). Near the Gare de l'Est, [Café Moustache](#) is one of the capital's oldest gay bars. And from May to October, the banks of the Seine on the right bank are home to the [Marcounet](#) summer barge, a year-round venue for jazz & world concerts, cabarets and cultural events.

Depuis quelques années, les lieux de sorties fleurissent dans les arrondissements proches du Marais jusqu'aux 19e et 20e arrondissements. Parmi les nouveaux venus dans le paysage gay et lesbien, [Le 17](#) est situé 17 rue de la Folie Méricourt avec des DJs et animations régulières.

For a girls' night out, head for the area around the Centre Pompidou, where [La Mutinerie and Bar'ouf](#) share a busy stretch of Rue Saint-Martin. Workshops, concerts and other events punctuate the festive program at these 2 not-to-be-missed addresses for Parisian lesbian nights. Also in the Marais district, [3W Kafé](#) (Women With Women) is an emblematic local venue offering a cosy atmosphere and dance evenings.



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Just a stone's throw away, [La Champmeslé](#), one of the first all-girls bars to open in the 70s, is the place to be ! Atypical events such as cabaret and fortune-telling evenings are organized in a relaxed atmosphere.

And if you're more of a Left Banker, head to [the Cabaret des merveilles](#) cocktail bar in the 6th arrondissement for queer and feminist cultural exchanges, concerts and stand-up comedy. For dancing, Le Rive Gauche is a quaint old institution in the traditionally lesbian Left Bank, which in the 1930s was the place to be for the "Colette generation" - women only.

## Clubs LGBT à Paris



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After 2 a.m., head to one of Paris' LGBT-friendly addresses to dance until dawn ! At [Le Tango](#) (La Boîte à frissons), you can sway your hips in a good-natured atmosphere to a musical program ranging from pop to kitsch hits. Lesbians, gays, bi, trans, heteros - everyone's welcome!

A sexy address in the district, the [Raidd Bar](#) has established itself as a must-visit spot in the Marais, with its surprising decor and gogo dancers. At [CUD](#), one of the Marais' most popular male venues, you can dance to the latest hits on a basement dancefloor, while at [Gibus](#), near the Canal St-Martin, the evenings are never the same.

[Le Dépôt Club & Cruising](#) is a staple of the Paris LGBT+ nightlife scene: open every day, cruising for men in the afternoon... [Le Klub](#) is the queer reference for experimental music.

## Gay and lesbian parties in Paris

Regularly, Paris's LGBT community (and visitors passing through) comes together for recurring events held in various venues across the city, where everyone is welcome.

In Paris, the number of pop-up parties is growing fast ! Don't miss the famous *Wet For Me* parties (hosted by the Barbieturix collective) or *Flash Cocotte*, which change locations almost every edition (including Cabaret Sauvage, Wanderlust, Social Club, and others). In La Villette park, the bar-restaurant *À La Folie* hosts numerous gay and gay-friendly parties in its club space. *Le Point Éphémère*, on the banks of the Canal Saint Martin, is another popular nightlife spot for the LGBT community.

The regular *Doctor Love* events, on the other hand, are held at the T7. These parties are typically themed around love, seduction, and romantic or sensual energy, hence the name.

At *Club Haussmann*, *Les Follivores* liven up the République area with a quirky vibe and a mix of French and international hits, creating a warm, lively atmosphere until dawn! At *La Java*, gay parties like *Trou aux Biches* follow one another with a unique flair.

Sunday evenings have become an unmissable occasion, with several gay parties happening at *Rosa Bonheur* in the Buttes-Chaumont park, as well as at various bars like *Le Café A* for the *La Dimanche* party and *Badaboum* club near Bastille.

The LGBT community also gathers regularly for after-work events held at different venues, each offering a distinct ambiance. Check out *L'Apéro des Garçons*, which takes place every Saturday in summer for drinks on the terrace of *La Boîte*, and *La Martine* and *La Grosse Martine* on Fridays during the summer and Thursdays the rest of the year.



### Banana Café

Bar

13 rue de la Ferronnerie, Paris, 75001

The Banana Café is a staple of Parisian gay nightlife.



## La Java

Discothèque et club

105 rue du Faubourg du Temple, Paris, 75010

Created in the early 1920s, La Java is a legendary club located in the trendy and vibrant Belleville neighborhood.



## Débonair Café

Discothèque et club

36 quai d'Austerlitz, Paris, 75013

Located on the rooftop of the Cité de la Mode et du Design, along the banks of the Seine, Le Débonair is a bar-club popular with young...





## Badaboum

Salle de spectacle

2 bis rue des Taillandiers, Paris, 75011

The Badaboum is located in the lively Bastille district.



## Gibus

Discothèque et club

18 rue du Faubourg du Temple, Paris, 75011

Le Gibus is a gay club in Paris, located in the 11th arrondissement, just steps from Place de la République.



## [La Machine du Moulin Rouge](#)

Discothèque et club

90 boulevard de Clichy, Paris, 75018

Formerly known as "La Loco," La Machine du Moulin Rouge was born from its acquisition by the famous cabaret in January 2010.



## [Maxim's](#)

Restaurant gastronomique

3 rue Royale, Paris, 75008

In the sumptuous Belle Époque decor of Pierre Cardin's restaurant, guests savor exceptional products.



## Cabaret Michou

Cabaret / Spectacle

80 rue des Martyrs, Paris, 75018

The Michou cabaret, located on the Montmartre hill, is France's most famous drag cabaret, where dazzling impersonations take center stage.



## Le Petit Prince de Paris

Restaurant classique

12 rue de Lanneau, Paris, 75005

There are also gay-friendly restaurants outside of the Marais! The proof is in *Le Petit Prince de Paris*.





## Le chant des voyelles

Restaurant classique

2 rue des Lombards, Paris, 75004

Le Chant des Voyelles is located in the heart of the Marais, just steps from the Saint-Merri Church. An unmissable gay-friendly spot.



## Au diable des lombards

Restaurant classique

64 rue des Lombards, Paris, 75001

Entering this former warehouse turned restaurant is like crossing the Atlantic and finding yourself in an American-style atmosphere.