

PARIS

POST-LOCKDOWN

A Secret Bucket List 




Welcome to your social distance-friendly guide to Paris during these strange times! 🤒

If you're feeling uncertain of what to do once our towns and cities start to open up again, that's what we're here for. If you need a new slogan to update #StayatHome, you can borrow our: *Don't be a Tourist* (in your own city). Be a seeker of stories and collector of local secrets instead.

Parisians are now permitted to roam the streets without papers in hand or a ticking clock on our freedom. Shops are slowly opening up their shutters, and markets will start coming back to life.

For the urban creature, cities are our new oyster. It's time to prowl unfamiliar neighbourhoods like a roaming detective, look up and admire hidden architectural details, seek out the Mom & Pop shops that need our support, follow street art trails and discover secret viewpoints. And while returning to "normal" may still seem a long way off for us all, let's not write off 2020 so easily. Adventure awaits!

 Print out this bucket list or keep it bookmarked. Locations are linked with more practical information. We will keep updating this guide as restrictions ease and more of the city's public spaces become safe to re-open. It goes without saying that we advise staying alert, wearing a mask and travelling with hand-sanitizer. Stay safe and alert!

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PARIS: YOUR OPEN-AIR MUSEUM

- [Country Bumpkin Lane](#), a Parisian countryside hideaway in the 14th arrondissement.
- Discover Paris in a sidecar. Feel the wind in your hair, racing down the Parisian boulevards and whizzing through backstreets, escorted by a time-travelling gentleman 'sidecarist'. Despite the lack of tourists, [Retro Tours](#) is open for business, just for Parisians.
- For an undiscovered alternative to Montmartre, escape to [the Other "Montmartre"](#) in the 20th arrondissement with just as much charm and just as many steps.
- Lose yourself in the little-known neighbourhood of [Quartier Mouzaïa](#), a labyrinth of leafy alleys and Parisian cottages built on an old gypsum quarry.
- Find the [Secret Paris Vineyard](#)
- Hunt for the [Lost River of Paris](#), using clues left by street artists.
- Seek out our [hidden Paris enclaves](#), including a secret city of flowers
- Time travel through [the tunnels to the Belle Epoque!](#) You can practically cross half the city by navigating a network of 19th century covered passageways, hopping from one to another, admiring the old merchant shops, glass atriums, mosaic floors and old typography. Find the trail between *Passage Verdeau* in the 9th arrondissement and *Galerie Vivienne* in the 1st or refer to our guide in Chapter 2 of *Don't be a Tourist in Paris*.
- [Paris's Park in the Sky](#) is the original highline.
- Find a door to the past, an untouched relic of old-world Paris hiding behind the façade of [22 rue Delambre](#), the same street where Hemingway first met Fitzgerald at the Dingo Bar in 1925. (Hint: press the intercom button and give a push on weekdays during delivery hours), a real-life time warp awaits. (*6ème; Métro: Vavin*)
- While strolling Amelie's cinematic neighbourhood, go and see what lies behind the gate [No. 40 rue Durantin](#) in Montmartre
- Cheer yourself up with Paris's rainbow streets. There's the insta-famous, [Rue Cremieux](#) aka "My 'little Portobello' in Paris" and the lesser-known [Cour d'Alsace Lorraine](#), a little rainbow village of ateliers in the 20th, with a mansion hiding at the end.

- Look for the [ghost brocante](#) and the mysterious gothic mansion at the end of *Impasse Marie Blanche*. (18ème)
- Play peekaboo with the Eiffel Tower in the 7th arrondissement. Find secret views of her starting with [14 rue Amélie](#): behind the concrete garage driveway, you'll find a charming country cottage with the most unexpected view. Appreciate her grandeur from a hidden art nouveau enclave at [Square Rapp](#) (off avenue Rapp, 7ème)
- Hiding behind bustling Bastille, a stunning [Belle Epoque solarium awaits](#) in the courtyard behind the Lenotre bakery (*10 Rue Saint-Antoine*, 9ème) and [Cour Damoye](#) is an unexpected little haven of calm and old world charm.
- Take a picnic on the water with the [Marin d'Eau Douce](#), soon to re-open their motorboat rental service any day now.
- [Find Provence in Paris on the Place Dauphine](#). This peaceful island enclave in the middle of the river Seine is the ideal spot for a hearty game of pétanque.
- Explore [La Petite Ceinture](#), the inner city railway abandoned since 1934.
- Keep the romance alive at the [Temple of Love a.k.a. le Temple Romantique](#), which sits on an island in the middle of a lake in the Bois de Vincennes, the largest public park in the city, which is now officially open again. The divine Rococo temple and the views over the lake won't disappoint, and a secret grotto awaits beneath the temple.
- Discover the [Misfit Mausoleums of Montmartre](#).
- Get lost in the mini-city of Pere la Chaise (main entrance open) and seek out [Paris's X Rated Grave](#).
- Spot the [former brothels of Paris](#).
- Discover the birthplace of communism and the [secrets of Belleville](#). Make sure to find this picturesque little square on [Rue des Cascades](#) and the peaceful [Passage Plantin](#), one of the narrowest streets in Paris.
- Sneak behind the gates of [Paris's most secret street](#).

LOCAL SHOPS & SMALL BUSINESSES

- The legendary [Paris flea market](#) has reopened (masks required). Find our collector's guide to the flea market [here](#).
- Paris' [little museum of antique gramophones and musical treasures](#) has re-opened to the public. Masks obligatory.
- Support our beloved riverside booksellers of Paris: [Les Bouquinistes](#). To get their literary fix, Hemingway and other great artistes browsed the very same book stands that still squat on the banks of the Seine today. Even without tourists, there are some open for business on the Quai de la Tournelle, 5eme, and the Quai Malaquais, 6eme.
- Calm your nerves at the [Herboristerie de la Place de Clichy](#), the oldest and most famous herbalist in Paris and a treasure trove of healing magical potions.
- Tucked away in a delightful hidden passageway of the Marais, pay a visit to [Peps on the Passage de l'Ancre](#). It's the last umbrella repair shop in Paris!
- Pop in to the most charming curiosity cabinets in the city, [L'Objet qui Parle](#) and mythological taxidermy shop, [Design et Nature](#).
- Love ceramics? There are four floors of incredible handmade ceramics and objets d'art at [Empreintes](#), in a renovated old atelier of the Marais. Open from Tuesday, May 19th.
- Support an independent fashion brand chez [Bourgine](#). It's not just a fashion boutique, it's in a whimsical world of its own where stories become wearable.
- Discover a hidden bazaar of African design – incredible beaded furniture, charming tableware, colourful wax prints, unique Malian jewellery, nostalgic matchboxes at [Boutique Csao](#) in the Marais.
- Find a Belle Epoque theatre hiding inside a [Parisian shoe store](#). While you're in the area, find traces of the old wine making village that once stood her at [No. 42: Villa Poissonnière](#).
- Paris' [Last House of Fans](#). Ask to see the archives (and pick up a pretty fan for summer).

FOOD À EMPORTER

Pick up lunch from the [Marché des Enfants Rouge](#), one of the oldest and most hidden markets in Paris. The eccentric Alain and his galette/crêpe sandwiches are the stuff of legend.

Try the adorable bread bowls at [Les Bols de Jean](#): from Mushroom risotto topped with a poached egg to a cheesy shepherd's pie, your food is served inside a toasted and buttered brioche, so you can scoop out the insides and devour your dish until there is nothing left.

At the risk of getting Style Spied around MessyNessy's Paris HQ on Place Maubert, try Paris's finest croissant at [La Maison d'Isabelle](#) (they have a trophy and everything). Brown brown buttery bliss that takes you back to your first ever croissant. While you're there, pick up some fig brie at [Fromagerie Laurent Dubois](#): indisputably the best cheese shop in Paris.

Discover the smokin' chimney cakes at [Alma the Chimney Cake Factory](#).

Stop in at [Chez Bob Tunisien](#), a welcoming little sandwich shop full of character, Bob will make you a mean baguette sandwich – Tunisian style.

Indulge at [Meert](#), an ornate pastry shop with a long legacy dating back to 1761. Their dainty, chewy waffles come sandwiched with either vanilla or speculoos cream are too good to resist.

Find the most instagrammable cakes [Broken Biscuits](#).

Dive into the [Time Machine Sweet Shop of Paris](#).

FAKE A VACATION

- From [Paris to Provence](#) in 1 Hour (by car).
- [Island Hopping](#) in Paris (by bike)
- For some darker tourism, consider the [real-life “Hunger Games” Mini-City](#)
- The Last [Peach Orchards of Paris](#)
- Medieval Time-Capsule Town of [Provins](#) (less than an hour from Paris)
- Find clues left behind from the [Forgotten Treehouse bars of Paris](#)
- Take a trip to the [Suburban Paris Ghost Town](#)
- If you can find someone to rent you a canoe, go in search of Paris’s [Lost 1930s Nudist Utopia](#).

Wherever you are, if you'd like any advice from the MNC team, please get in touch with your Keyholder concierge anytime: concierge@messynessychic.com

Stay curious!