

Contents

INTRODUCTION	7
FACTS ABOUT PARIS	8
History	8
WWII.....	17
Geography	20
Climate	20
Ecology & Environment	20
Flora & Fauna	21
Government & Politics	21
Economy	22
Population & People	22
Arts	23
Society & Conduct	29
Religion.....	30
Language.....	30
FACTS FOR THE VISITOR	35
When to Go	35
Orientation.....	35
Maps	36
Tourist Offices.....	36
Documents.....	37
Embassies	39
Customs.....	41
Money	41
Post & Communications	45
Online Services	47
Travel Agencies.....	47
Books	48
Newspapers & Magazines....	49
Radio	49
TV	50
Video Systems.....	50
Photography & Video	50
Time	51
Electricity	51
Weights & Measures	51
Laundry	52
Public Baths	52
Toilets	52
Health	52
Women Travellers	54
Gay & Lesbian Travellers	54
Disabled Travellers	55
Paris for Children	56
Libraries	56
Cultural Centres	57
Dangers & Annoyances.....	57
Lost & Found	58
Legal Matters	58
Business Hours	59
Public Holidays & Special Events	59
Doing Business	61
Work	61
THE ARCHITECTURE OF PARIS	63
GETTING THERE & AWAY	75
Air	75
Bus	77
Train	77
Car & Motorcycle	79
Hitching.....	79
Boat	79
Warning	80
GETTING AROUND.....	81
To/From The Airports	81
Bus	82
Metro.....	83
RER.....	84
Car & Motorcycle	85
Taxi	86
Bicycle.....	87
Organised Tours	87
THINGS TO SEE & DO	90
Walking Tours	90
Louvre Area	93
Les Halles Area.....	98
Marais	100
Bastille Area	105
Île de la Cité	106
Île Saint Louis.....	109
Jardin des Plantes Area	110
Latin Quarter	112
Montparnasse.....	116
Eiffel Tower Area	120
Place de la Concorde Area	122
Champs-Élysées Area	123
Parc de Monceau Area	125
Opéra Garnier Area	126
Bercy	128
Montmartre	129
Bois de Boulogne	136
Bois de Vincennes	137
La Défense	137
Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace.....	140
Activities	140
Courses	140

PLACES TO STAY 142

Accommodation Services ..	142	Renting a Flat	143	Montmartre & Pigalle	148
Family Stays	142	Houseboats	144	Student Accommodation	148
Short-Term Flats	143	Camping	144	Hotels	148
Serviced Flats	143	Hostels & Foyers.....	145		

PLACES TO EAT 159

Food	159	Gare Saint Lazarre & Grands		Place de la Nation	181
Drinks	162	Boulevards Areas	175	Chinatown Area	181
Louvre & Les Halles Areas	162	Gare du Nord & Gare de		Montparnasse Area	182
Marais	165	l'Est Areas	176	Montmartre & Pigalle	183
Île Saint Louis	168	Bastille Area	177	University Restaurants	185
Latin Quarter	169	Oberkampf, Ménilmontant			
Champs-Élysées Area	174	& Belleville Areas	179		

ENTERTAINMENT 186

Listings	186	Theatre.....	190	French Chansons	195
Booking Agencies	186	Cabaret	191	Pubs, Bars & Cafés	196
Discount Tickets	187	Opera & Classical Music ..	192	Gay Paris	201
Cinema	187	Rock	194	Spectator Sports	202
Discos & Clubs	187	Jazz	195		

SHOPPING 205

Bookshops	205	Jewellery	207	Antiques	208
Department Stores.....	206	Music.....	208	Food & Wine.....	208
Clothes & Fashion		Camping & Sports		Gift & Souvenir Ideas	209
Accessories	206	Equipment.....	208	Flea Markets	210

EXCURSIONS 211

Parc Astérix	211	Versailles	215	Chartres	226
Saint Denis	211	Fontainebleau	220	Beauvais	231
Disneyland Paris	213	Chantilly	224		

INDEX..... 233

MAPS 245