



VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Louvre Museum

Paris · From 49€

<https://musee-du-louvre.visit-tickets.com/en/> · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Fortress to Museum

GOOGLE **4.7** ★★★★★ 376 831 reviews

TIQETS **4.87** ★★★★★ 328 reviews

The story of the Louvre begins in **1190**, when King Philippe Auguste ordered the construction of a fortified castle on the banks of the Seine to protect the city from Norman raids. This modest stronghold, known as the Grosse Tour, served as a royal residence for centuries, evolving from a defensive fort into a symbol of French power. As the monarchy grew, the palace expanded, with successive kings adding wings and courtyards, transforming the site into a vast complex that reflected the changing tastes of the era.

In the 16th century, **Francis I** turned the Louvre into the emblem of the Renaissance in Paris. He commissioned artists and architects to decorate the palace, introducing Italian influences and establishing it as a center for art and culture. The palace housed several academies, including those of painting and sculpture, and became a home for artists and their workshops. This period marked a shift from a purely royal residence to a cultural institution, laying the groundwork for the museum that would later emerge.

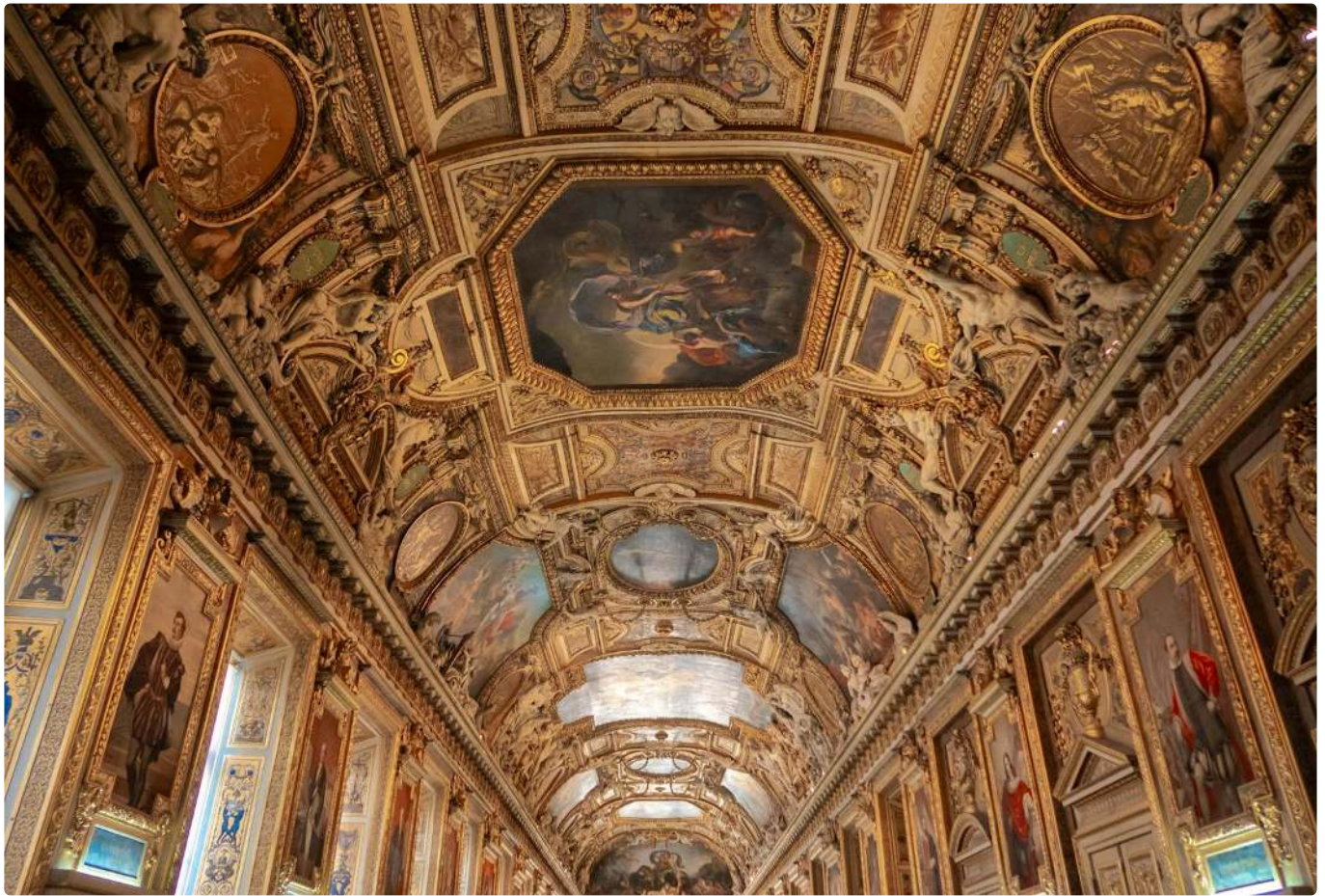
The idea of opening the palace to the public took shape during the Enlightenment, when the collections of the Crown were seen as belonging to the nation. The French Revolution completed this vision, inaugurating the museum in **August 1793** on the anniversary of the fall of the monarchy. At that time, the collections already included works confiscated from emigrating nobles and churches, and they continued to grow through war spoils, acquisitions, and archaeological discoveries. The museum thus became a national treasure, accessible to all and rich with history.

Over the centuries, the Louvre has been expanded and remodeled by successive regimes, adapting to new tastes and technologies. In the 1980s, the glass pyramid designed by **leoh Ming Pei** was added to accommodate mass tourism, creating a striking contrast between modern and classical architecture. Today, the museum covers 72,735 square meters of galleries, making it the largest art museum in the world, with a collection that spans eight centuries and multiple civilizations.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping through the glass pyramid, visitors are immediately struck by the sheer scale of the Louvre. The underground entrance leads to a vast atrium, where the light filtering through the glass creates a serene atmosphere, setting the tone for the journey ahead. The contrast between the modern pyramid and the classical architecture of the palace is both striking and harmonious, offering a glimpse into the museum's rich history and its role as a cultural landmark.

As you move into the galleries, the experience becomes even more immersive. The light in the rooms is carefully controlled to highlight the masterpieces, creating a sense of reverence and awe. The atmosphere is one of quiet contemplation, with visitors moving slowly through the spaces, taking in the details of each work. The promise of the visit is clear: here, you can encounter some of the most important works of art in the world, in a setting that is both grand and intimate.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS

1st arrondissement • Metro: Palais Royal - Musée du Louvre (L1, L7, L14) or Tuileries (L1, L9, 2 min walk)

OPENING HOURS

Closed on Tuesdays. Open 9am-6pm Monday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday; 9am-9pm Wednesday and Friday. Check for room closures during heatwaves.

FARES

Free for children depending on age (check variants). {promo}.

VISIT DURATION

Allow 3 to 4 hours to see the must-see masterpieces without rushing. A full day allows you to explore several departments, but the museum covers 72,735 m²: it i

PHOTOS

Photography is allowed without flash for personal use. Tripods and flashes are prohibited in the galleries. Check the specific rules for temporary exhibitions b

AUDIENCE

Suitable for families (dedicated spaces, children's audioguide), couples and art lovers. Groups of more than 16 people must book a specific tour. The museum is

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

**Metro / RER**

: Place Sainte-Opportune — 9 min à pied

Gare de l'Est (12 min) • Gare Montparnasse (12 min)

**Bus**

: Victoires — 8 min à pied

Gare de l'Est (18 min) • Gare Montparnasse (18 min)

**Car**

Gare de l'Est (11 min) • Gare Montparnasse (11 min)

**Vélib / Vélo**

Gare de l'Est (13 min) • Gare Montparnasse (14 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Louvre Museum ?



Paris

48°51.637' N, 2°20.259' E



ORGANIZATION

Organization

Niveau 0 (Rez-de-chaussée)

The ground floor of the Louvre is home to the Department of Ancient Sculptures, where you can see the **Venus de Milo** and the **Winged Victory of Samothrace**. This level also includes the Department of Egyptian Antiquities, with its impressive collection of mummies and artifacts. The galleries on this level are spacious and well-lit, making it easy to navigate and appreciate the works on display.

Niveau 1

The first floor of the Louvre is dedicated to the Department of Paintings, where you can see the **Mona Lisa** and other masterpieces by Leonardo da Vinci. This level also includes the Department of Decorative Arts, with its collection of furniture, ceramics, and other objects. The galleries on this level are more intimate, with a focus on the details of each work.

Niveau 2

The second floor of the Louvre is home to the Department of Graphic Arts, with its collection of drawings and prints. This level also includes the Department of Islamic Art, with its impressive collection of textiles, ceramics, and other objects. The galleries on this level are less crowded, making it a good place to take a break and explore the collections at your own pace.

ACCESSIBILITY

**Disabled Access**

Wheelchair-accessible museum with elevators, ramps, and free wheelchairs at the entrance.

**Families**

Family route, workshops, children's audioguide, and free entry for under-18s residing in the EEA.

**Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish, Italian, German

A photograph showing the back of a person's head and shoulders as they look at a painting on a wall in a museum gallery. The painting is a small, framed work with a dark, ornate frame. The wall is a light, textured color.

Must-sees

SELECTION

Masterpieces Not to Miss

01

Salle 711

Mona Lisa

The **Mona Lisa** is one of the most famous paintings in the world, with its enigmatic smile and detailed background. The painting is protected by glass, and visitors are often seen taking photos of it. The light in the room is carefully controlled to highlight the details of the painting, creating a sense of reverence and awe.

💡 The painting was stolen in 1911 and recovered two years later, making it even more famous.

02

Salle 345

Venus de Milo

The **Venus de Milo** is a marble sculpture of the Greek goddess Aphrodite, discovered on the island of Milos in 1820. The sculpture is missing its arms, which adds to its mystery and allure. The light in the room is carefully controlled to highlight the details of the sculpture, creating a sense of reverence and awe.

💡 The sculpture was discovered by a farmer who was digging in his field, and he initially thought it was a piece of rock.

03

Salle 704

Winged Victory of Samothrace

The **Winged Victory of Samothrace** is a marble sculpture of the Greek goddess Nike, discovered on the island of Samothrace in 1863. The sculpture is missing its head and arms, which adds to its mystery and allure. The light in the room is carefully controlled to highlight the details of the sculpture, creating a sense of reverence and awe.

💡 The sculpture was discovered by a French archaeologist who was excavating the site, and he initially thought it was a piece of rock.

04

Salle 345

Code of Hammurabi

The **Code of Hammurabi** is a stele inscribed with a set of laws from ancient Babylon, dating from the 18th century BCE. The stele is made of black diorite and is covered with cuneiform script. The light in the room is carefully controlled to highlight the details of the inscription, creating a sense of reverence and awe.

💡 The stele was discovered in 1901 by a French archaeological team, and it is one of the most important legal documents from the ancient world.

05

Salle 704

The Liberty Leading the People

The **Liberty Leading the People** is a painting by Eugène Delacroix, depicting the French Revolution of 1830. The painting is a powerful symbol of the struggle for freedom and democracy. The light in the room is carefully controlled to highlight the details of the painting, creating a sense of reverence and awe.

💡 The painting was commissioned by the French government to commemorate the July Revolution, and it became one of the most famous paintings in the world.

06

Salle 345

The Scribe

The **Scribe** is a statue of an Egyptian scribe, dating from the 4th dynasty. The statue is made of greywacke and is one of the most famous works of ancient Egyptian art. The light in the room is carefully controlled to highlight the details of the statue, creating a sense of reverence and awe.

💡 The statue was discovered in a tomb in Saqqara, and it is one of the most important works of ancient Egyptian art.

07

Salle 711

The Virgin of the Rocks

The **Virgin of the Rocks** is a painting by Leonardo da Vinci, depicting the Virgin Mary, the infant Jesus, and the infant John the Baptist. The painting is one of the most famous works of the Renaissance. The light in the room is carefully controlled to highlight the details of the painting, creating a sense of reverence and awe.

💡 The painting was commissioned by the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception in Milan, and it is one of the most famous works of the Renaissance.

08

Salle 704

The Wedding at Cana

The **Wedding at Cana** is a painting by Paolo Veronese, depicting the wedding of Jesus and Mary. The painting is one of the largest in the Louvre, measuring 6.77 meters by 9.94 meters. The light in the room is carefully controlled to highlight the details of the painting, creating a sense of reverence and awe.

💡 The painting was commissioned by the Confraternity of San Rocco in Venice, and it is one of the largest paintings in the world.

TIPS

Tips for a Perfect Visit

TIMING

Book your ticket for the opening at 9:00 AM or in the evening on Wednesdays and Fridays until 9:00 PM. These slots are the least crowded and allow you to see the masterpieces without the rush.

BILLET

Online booking is strongly recommended, even if you are eligible for free admission. It guarantees you a precise timed slot and avoids waiting at the ticket office.

PARCOURS

Don't try to see the entire museum: with 72,735 m², it's impossible in one visit. Choose 3 to 5 major works and one or two departments that interest you.

PHOTO

The morning light between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM offers the best conditions under the dome. Avoid using flash and position yourself to capture the details of the works.

PAUSE

The Louvre offers several restaurants and cafés on site, ideal for a mid-tour break. Allow one hour for lunch to recharge, especially if you plan a full day.

ENFANTS

If you're coming in a group or with children, prefer morning slots before 10:00 AM to avoid crowds. Families can also consult the dedicated services on the official website for accessibility.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide is available in 9 languages and costs 6 €. It's a great way to learn more about the works on display, especially if you're visiting for the first time.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable shoes, as you'll be walking a lot. The museum is wheelchair-accessible, with elevators, ramps, and free wheelchairs at the entrance.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I really need to book in advance?

Yes, online booking is strongly recommended, even if you are eligible for free entry. Timed slots go quickly in high season and on weekends. Book at least 1 to 2 weeks in advance in summer or during school holidays.

How far in advance can I cancel?

The cancellation policy depends on the supplier ticket: some offers allow free cancellation up to 24h before, others do not. Check the exact conditions before paying. In case of late cancellation, the refund may be parti

Is there a promotion running?

Seasonal promotions appear regularly on standard tickets and guided tours. Family tickets and premium packages are sometimes discounted. Check the ticket page before buying to take advantage of the day's offer.

Is the ticket valid for temporary exhibitions?

Yes, with the same ticket, you have access to the permanent collections and temporary exhibitions. This is a major advantage compared to other museums. Check the list of current exhibitions on the official website before

How long does it take to visit the Louvre?

Allow 3 to 4 hours to see the must-see masterpieces like the Mona Lisa or the Venus de Milo. A full day allows you to explore several departments, but the museum covers 72,735 m². It is impossible to see everything in a

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

The World's Largest Museum

With 72,735 m² of rooms and galleries, the Louvre surpasses the Hermitage in Saint Petersburg (66,842 m²) and the National Museum of China (65,000 m²). This immense area explains why it's impossible to see the entire museum in one visit.

8.7 Million Visitors

In 2024, the Louvre welcomed 8.7 million visitors, three-quarters of whom were foreigners. It is the most visited art museum in the world and the most frequented paid cultural site in France.

Opened in 1793

The museum was inaugurated in August 1793, on the occasion of the anniversary of the fall of the monarchy. At that time, the collections already included works confiscated from emigrating nobles and churches.

More Than 500,000 Works

The Louvre holds more than 500,000 works, of which only 36,000 are on display to the public. The majority remain in storage, which means that each visit offers a window on a small part of the collection.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The Louvre is located in the heart of Paris, surrounded by some of the city's most iconic attractions. Just a short walk away, the **Jardin des Tuileries** offers a peaceful retreat, with its beautiful gardens and fountains providing a perfect place to relax after a long day of sightseeing. The **Musée d'Orsay**, located across the Seine, is another must-see, with its impressive collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works. For a taste of Parisian cuisine, the **Café du Louvre** offers a terrace overlooking the museum's forecourt, with simple menus and a friendly atmosphere. The area is also home to numerous boutiques and galleries, making it a great place to shop for art and souvenirs.



The Louvre is more than a museum; it is a living testament to the power of art to inspire and connect us across time and space. The experience of standing before the **Mona Lisa** or the **Venus de Milo** is unforgettable, a moment of pure emotion that lingers long after the visit. Whether you are an art lover or a first-time visitor, the Louvre offers a unique and profound experience that will leave you inspired and eager to return.