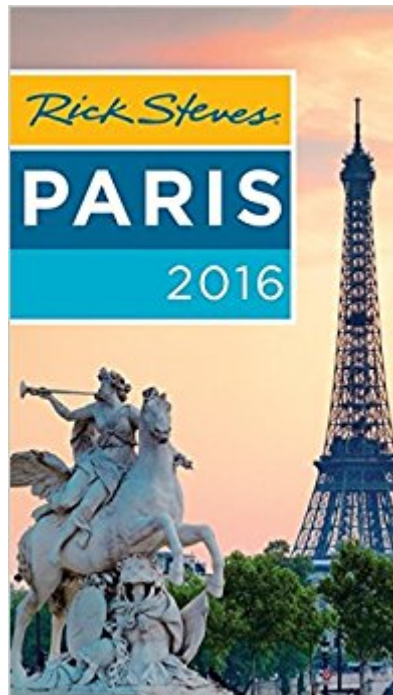




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# Rick Steves Paris 2016



## Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling in the City of Light&#151;Paris. With the self-guided tours in this book, youâ€™ll explore the grand Champs-Élysées, the eye-popping Eiffel Tower, and the radiant cathedral of Notre-Dame. Learn how to save money and avoid the lines at the Louvre and Orsay Museums. Enjoy the ambience of Parisian neighborhoods, and take a day trip to the glittering palace of Versailles, or to the Champagne-soaked city of Reims. Then grab a café crème at a sidewalk café and listen to the hum of the city. Youâ€™ll see why Paris remains at the heart of global culture. Rickâ€™s candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants in delightful neighborhoods. Youâ€™ll learn how to navigate the Paris Métro, and which sights are worth your time and money. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and an app and podcast (Rick Steves Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (RickSteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 80 at Rick Steves' Europe, Inc.&#151;in Edmonds, Washington, just north of Seattle&#151;Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening for Americans. Steve Smith manages tour planning for Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door

and has been researching guidebooks with Rick for two decades. Fluent in French, he's lived in France on several occasions, starting when he was seven, and has traveled there annually since 1986. Steve's wife, who is an expert on French cuisine and wine, provides invaluable contributions to his books, as do his two children. Gene Openshaw is a writer, composer, tour guide, and lecturer on art and history. Specializing in writing walking tours of Europe's cultural sights, Gene has coauthored 10 of Rick's books and contributes to Rick's public television series. As a composer, Gene has written a full-length opera (Matter), a violin sonata, and dozens of songs. He lives near Seattle with his daughter, and roots for the Mariners in good times and bad.

I have been to Paris before on a trip planned by someone else, and we missed a lot and didn't understand a lot of what we did see. This trip with the book in hand was totally different. I really felt confident about how to get around, what to do, and why I should care about what I was seeing. This book is written like a real tour guide vs a collection of descriptions. It helps you to plan an agenda for your days. For most of the big sites, it even gives you a written walkthrough you follow as you visit. For example - a museum will have explanations of all the big things you would see there, and it's written to where it tells you the exact way to walk through the museum to see them all. It's really like a tour written in words. We really liked the Left Bank neighborhood walk - which told us about a lot that we would have otherwise never have known about - unless we had paid for a tour guide (which I imagine would be the same as what we did ourselves). A can't-miss bonus is the free iPhone app described in the book. Steve actually reads a few of his walkthroughs - including instructions on when to pause and how to get to the next spot to start again. We found the section where he summarizes the days of the week and what is closed each day to be really helpful. Tips on transportation to each site and whether the museum pass works there was really helpful.

We've been to Paris 4 times over the last 20 years, and are planning our 5th trip. We always use Rick Steves Paris as one of our books. This newest edition is over 700 pages (!) so be aware the paper used is tissue paper-thin to keep the weight down. \*What we love about his books: his sightseeing recommendations are spot on. He gives some offbeat "secret" tips for interesting sights not in other guides, as well as good suggestions on how to avoid lines at the popular ones. He keeps us from being bogged down in museums through his great directions on the best way to walk through them to see the important works. For first timers, he provides complete general information about arriving, getting around, and the such. He gives ideas for walking tours and itineraries to fit different lengths of stay. As a bonus, he adds some humor to his writing (albeit,

sometimes corny). \*What we don't like: Early on, we tried a few of his restaurant recommendations and were surprised at how mediocre they were- and it's not easy to find mediocre food in France; hopefully the recs. are better in his newer books. Years ago, we tried a couple of his hotel recs. (in places other than Paris) and found them to be a bit too Spartan for our taste. Rick's indiscriminating palate aside, we are big fans of his books. We've bought many of his guides over the years (not just Paris) and have found that all of them have helped enrich our travels. \*\*\*May, 2016\*\*\* back from Paris with an additional comment. Recommend double-checking details on the attractions' websites. We found that some things like hours of operation, special events, Museum Pass inclusions had changed since Rick Steves' writing.

This is the absolute BEST Paris guidebook. Just spent a week there for the first time. Scanned it before, on the plane, and ended up carrying this around ALL the time. Very conveniently sized, easy to hold in one hand, fits in any small bag, felt totally safe walking around and using this as a reference. Nice color maps up front and other maps throughout make it easy to find your way around. Complete index. Exceedingly handy tab descriptors on all pages make it easy to flip through and find what you're looking for. Excellent advice and insight to metro, walking on your own tours, bus/boat/bicycle tours, sights, museums, neighborhoods, eating, sleeping, money, language. What to do if you have one, two, or three days. Walking guidance on how to see the highlights of the Louvre in two hours--which was perfect! I didn't use them, but there are also sections on Paris with children and a half dozen day trips. I even read parts of it to natives when they wanted to know what they were looking at (e.g., Pere Lachaise). All in all, totally indispensable. Highly recommended.

I've been to Paris quite a few times, and have gone through quite a few guidebooks in doing so. For me, this is one is tied for the very best. The other really great one is "The Eyewitness Guide (EG)." The EG is really visual with lots of drawings, maps, and even 3D cutaways of the main sites like Notre Dame. But it's also really heavy and a lot to carry around with you. By comparison Rick Steves' guide is much lighter weight, easy to carry with you and has an incredible density of great information. The Rick Steves guide emphasizes the very best thing to do in Paris - walk around and see the city on foot. Paris is a magical city, and walking around is the best way to experience it. Rick Steves gives you lots of walks, and is organized based on how much time you have (a day, three days, five days, etc) and what part of town you are in. It gives lots of great tips - like buying the museum pass to save time, food shopping streets, and how to avoid crowds - and lots of great hidden treasures to visit. And all the important stuff - museum schedules, day trips outside of Paris,

hotel and restaurant recommendations, are all right there and easy to find. This really is one of the very best, if not the best!

His books, including this one, have all the little tips and details that I want to know when I travel. I will say that I haven't particularly cared for many of his restaurant recommendations as the establishments seem to be riding on their past laurels. The food is usually good to bad and/or crowded with tourists that may have read this book. I have always had good experiences by asking the hotel concierge for recommendations and even having them book and enjoying more of what the locals experience.

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