Sights

The sights are grouped and listed in various key areas as shown on the map.

**Area:**

A  **Ile de la Cité** (Notre-Dame, Palais de Justice, Conciergerie, Sainte-Chapelle)

B  **Louvre and Tuileries gardens** (Orangerie, Jeu de Paume)

C  **Champs-Elyseés (8th)** (Arc de Triomphe, place de la Concorde, Grand Palais, Palais de la Decouverte, Madeleine, Parc Monceau)

D  **Grandes boulevards/Opéra (9th)** (Opéra Garnier, blvd Haussmann shops)

E  **Les Halles/rue de Rivoli/place Vendome/Bibliothèque Nationale (1st/2nd)** (St Eustache, Les Halles, St Germain l’Aux, place Vendome)

F  **Marais/Beaubourg/Bastille (3rd/4th)** (Pompidou Centre, Hôtel de Ville, place des Vosges, Bastille, Musée Carnavalet, Paris Plage)

G  **Left Bank (5/6th)** (Panthéon, Jardin de Luxembourg, Jardin des Plantes)

H  **Eiffel Tower (7th)** (Musée Branly, Invalides, Musée d’Orsay)

I  **Palais de Chaillot (16/17th)** (Musée Guimet, Musée d’Art Moderne)

J  **Montparnasse (14/15th)** (Montparnasse Tower)

K  **Montmartre (18/19th/10th)** (Sacre-Cœur, the funicular, Pigalle. Around La Villette in the 19th and the Gare du Nord in the 10th)

L  **The eastern arrondissements (11/12/20th)** (Bercy village, Père Lachaise cemetery)

M  **Bibliothèque François Mitterrand (13th)** (place d’Italie)

N  **Bois de Boulogne**

Inside these groupings, sites are then listed as described at the start of each section. We have tried to include the main variations on place names, including both French and British versions where appropriate. In this respect we have initially listed most sights by their French names, since this is what you may see signed or listed in Paris. In the text we have frequently reverted to using the more familiar British version for convenience.
In each area we have described the main opportunities for parking at the end, except for the Louvre and for Areas H and L. Generally, we have not tried to describe either roadside metered parking, nor the provision of BB spaces, as it is uncertain as to whether these will be available when you want to use them. For parking, we have mainly described UGCPs which have lift access up to pavement level. However, for minibus or high vehicle parking the roadside options may be the only practical ones, although there’s the Louvre CP and a few surface CPs alongside the Seine.

Île de la Cité
(Area A on the map)
The Île de la Cité is where Paris was founded in the pre-Roman period. It was a strategically important point in the middle of the Seine. Later it became the centre of royal and ecclesiastical power in the early Dark Ages. Symbolically it remains the centre of France, and all distances are measured from a point in front of Notre Dame Cathedral. The area is flat, apart from the steps and slopes going down to the riverside.

The main sights are the:

- Notre Dame cathedral;
- Crypte Archéological du Parvis;
- Palais de Justice
- Sainte Chapelle
- Conciergerie.

The whole island is very atmospheric, and the streets and buildings are steeped in history. The building facades represent fine architecture, and the gardens behind Notre Dame provide a quiet and shady spot with lots of benches and trees. The only major sight which is relatively easily accessible is Notre Dame. It is also possible with a little negotiation to visit the Sainte Chapelle.
The Île can be reached reasonably easily from the RER stations at Chatelet-les-Halles (~600m) and St Michel Notre Dame (~200m), although check on the status of the lift at St Michel. There is accessible parking in the place du Parvis, and being able to park right outside Notre Dame with lift access from the UGCP is a great joy! Taking a taxi may be a convenient way of getting there, and there’s a rank just across the square for taking one to get to somewhere else after your visit.

The place du Parvis has the Hôtel Dieu hospital on one side, and Notre Dame cathedral and the Seine on two other sides. Parts of the square outside are slightly rough cobbled. The kerb around the cathedral is ramped in places. The pl du Parvis is busy busy busy, with streams of visitors. There are cafés nearby so that you can have a coffee or a glass of something - and then just watch the world go by. On the riverbank just across the bridges in the 5th arrondissement, there are many traditional open stalls selling books and arty items with attractive and characteristic displays.

The Hôtel Dieu has (had in 2005) a very useful wheelchair toilet on the GF to the left of reception. We have put the details for this in the Good loo guide, based on our 2005 visits. Unfortunately in 2006 there had been some major changes in the hospital, and the Accident and Emergency (A & E) department was relocated to the left of reception, completely blocking access to the toilet. The relocation looked as though it might only be temporary, and due to work going on in the part of the hospital where A & E had previously been located. Hopefully the toilet will be available in the future - but we cannot be certain as to what will happen and it was still not available in mid-2007.

The Conciergerie, Sainte Chapelle and Palais de Justice are all in one big block. Back in the 15thC they were inside a walled mini-city at the end of the island. To really appreciate the significance of the site you need to read up a little history - which is readily found in other guidebooks.

**Nôtre Dame Cathedral**

6 place du Parvis, 75004  
Tel: 01 42 34 56 10  Fax: 01 40 51 70 98  
website: www.cathedraledeparis.com  
e-mail: info@cathedraleDeParis.com

One of the great examples of Gothic architecture, the Cathedral towers
over the pl du Parvis. It is one of Paris’ best known landmarks - a reflection of its architectural importance and history. The inside is wonderfully atmospheric and there are a number of services that are at least partly in English. Audioguides for visitors are available in various languages.

The entrance is over a threshold which involves +1 [18cm] step then –1 [3cm]. When going around you can see some magnificent stained glass, including the rose windows, as well as a multitude of tombs and memorials.

The inside is flat except for the ambulatory around the back of the altar, which has +3 steps to enter, and then –3 to leave. These steps are unramped although there is plenty of space for ramps. From the ambulatory it is step-free into the Trésor and the Sacriste du Chapitre. Side chapels are nearly all +1.

Nôtre Dame Tower/Tour
For the really adventurous, and slightly mad, going up the Tower involves +10+64+182+185 steps which is probably not possible for most of the users of this guide. A superb view rewards those who are able to make it to the top. There are no seats, and just a few places where you can ‘perch’.

Square Jean XX111
These are the gardens alongside the cathedral and the river, and provide a relaxed spot for a rest and/or for a picnic. There is an access gate D75, and a tarmac road/path running down alongside the river. On the left, there’s a shady garden area with plenty of seats and a children’s playground and sandpit. However, a 15cm kerb almost all the way along separates the tarmac from where the seats are. You can bypass the kerb by starting off under the trees just inside the entrance gate.

Crypte Archéological du Parvis de Nôtre Dame
1 place du Parvis, 75004
Tel: 01 55 42 50 10 Fax: 01 43 29 30 55
Located on the other side of the square from Notre Dame, and near the CP entrance. An interesting and well presented exhibition covering a great deal of Paris’ history. Exceptionally well lit.

Access in via –15 steps and then it is step-free inside. Although there is space to put in a lift in the stairwell, it is disappointing to find that no provision has been made for chair users and other disabled people, not even by using the CP lift and then providing an accessible underground link.
**Palais de Justice**

blvd du Palais, 75001

The centre of the French judicial system. Partly to balance the power of the Church, the Ile de la Cité also accommodated the Law Courts. This building, containing working courtrooms, is accessible to the public through the same entrance as the Sainte Chapelle. **It is not a ‘tourist sight’ in the accepted sense.** Signs lead round the east side of the chapel, past a lift: signed on the right, +1 step on to the pavement then +2 bypassed by a ramp, then through double doors on the right; the lift is on the left, through a tunnel into the main courtyard, which is around 70m across. On the left, a grand staircase leads via +18 +12 +7 steps into the court-house building. There is seating inside the entrance. The information desk, signposted ‘accueil’, is to the right, +10 with a steep stainless steel temporary ramp in place at the time of our visit. There are no adapted toilets in the building and many parts are only accessible via stairs. Pompiers (firemen) may be available to help if needed, but the building is geared to its main function as the courtrooms rather than as a place for casual visitors.

**Sainte Chapelle**

4, blvd du Palais, 75001

Tel: 01 43 73 78 41 Fax: 01 40 51 70 36


The Sainte Chapelle is inside the walled medieval mini-city area. The lower chapel was formerly used by palace servants, while the upper level was used by the king and his court and has some stunning 13thC stained glass. To make a visit worthwhile, it is essential to try to get into the upper chapel. The lower one has some attractive archways, but not much else, and has been turned into a souvenir and postcard shop.

The main entrance is opposite the Préfecture de la Police. It has +2–3 steps and (in 2007) tight airport-type security procedures with metal detectors [W80cm] and an x-ray machine for your bag and jacket. The layout is shown on the diagram. There is frequently a longish queue, and you have to go down quite a narrow passage. IF the steps would be a problem for you, there is a step-free alternative. You will need to negotiate with the guy by the entrance controlling the queue, and then with the police and security guards who are monitoring the exit. This is about 50m away opposite the place de Lutèce and in front of the cour du Mai with a massive flight of steps across the courtyard. The exit can
provide a step-free route to get in. See at the end our advice about using a wheelchair.
You will almost certainly be escorted if you use this route, and you may be ‘frisked’ as you are bypassing the security check. From the exit it is more than 150m to get back to the chapel, mostly across cobbles. The upper chapel, which contains some unique 13thC stained glass which is the reason for most people’s visit, is reached via a narrow spiral staircase with +3+3+3 steps and a handrail on one side only. You can ask about using the lift, which is by entrance G where +2 steps are bypassed by a ramp, however, to get permission to do this you’ll probably need to go and negotiate with the people by the ticket office/entrance to the Sainte Chapelle. It is marked on the diagram as the SC entrance. When we visited in 2007 they were most helpful. The lift (D67 W90 L130) leads to an upper level of the Palais de Justice, but is only available during weekdays when the courts are sitting. Like many other lifts in Paris it is not entirely reliable, and we’ve heard that it is sometimes en panne (out of action).
If you want to get to the souvenir shop in the lower chapel, go in through exit to bypass the –2–2 steps by the standard route.
On the far side of the cour du Mai there’s a potential wheelchair toilet (D80 ST75 SH48), BUT the door wouldn’t shut (!) as it jammed on the stone paving outside leaving a gap of about half a metre. The door didn’t look as though it had been maintained for months and possibly for years.

Because of the need to negotiate about the use of the lift in the Palais de Justice, it’s one of the places where a visitor might well find it an advantage to use a chair, even if only temporarily. Also, take your BB as ‘proof of disability’. As explained elsewhere, French nationals carry an orange identity card which specifies the degree/percentage of any disability. Foreign visitors do not have such a card, so disabled walkers who would find the 39 steps really difficult, can meet problems when explaining their need for using the alternative route. There can be both cultural and language barriers making it more difficult to communicate, especially to some harassed official at the entrance who is controlling a mass of possibly undisciplined tourists. A wheelchair user is more visually obvious and should attract a more immediate positive response.
Conciergerie
2 blvd du Palais, 75001
Tel: 01 53 73 78 50 Fax: 01 40 51 70 36 (different websites provided different numbers). The ones on the Monum site are Tel: 01 53 40 60 93 Fax: 01 53 50 60 96
website: www.paris.org/Monuments/Conciergerie or www.monum.fr

The prison museum is housed in the only surviving remains of the oldest palace of the French kings which is now part of the Palais de Justice. It remained in use as a prison until 1914. Among its inmates during the Revolution were Marie Antoinette, Danton and Robespierre. Exhibits include scenes of prisoners in cells, and their guards.

The main entrance on the blvd du Palais has –4 steps to the ticket hall, then –15 large steps to a large vaulted room, the Salle des Gens d’Armes, used for exhibitions. After that, +7 at the far end of the room gives access to the “rue de Paris” which formerly housed the poorest prisoners during revolutionary times. The Salle des Gardes is to the right with –2 steps to unadapted toilets. To the left is the shop and a ramp down to the prison itself. From here there are +20 to the upper level cells. Two exhibition rooms are a further +5 and +2 respectively. The Cour des Femmes courtyard, round which are the old cells for women prisoners, is +2. The chapel is +1 with D65: it then links to the upper prison level by –1+16. To get out, you will have to retrace your steps right back to the entrance.

Access is a slight challenge.

We were told that if you phone in advance, you can use the staff CP which is on quai de l’Horloge with step-free access to the courtyard then +1–8 steps into the Salle des Gardes, although this may be difficult to arrange at weekends.

Parking on the Île de la Cité

There are two UGCPS with a lift to the surface.

Parking Notre Dame
place du Parvis, 75004 (Parking guide page 99)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 260 spaces with 5 reserved for BB.
The entrance is clearly marked. One BB space on level minus one, four on level minus two. Lift access (D80 W110 L130) to and from the place du Parvis. Wheelchair cubicles (D70+ ST70+ SH50) in both the mens and womens toilets on level minus one.
Parking Harlay Pont Neuf
quai des Orfèvres, 75001  (Parking guide page 73)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 800 spaces with 10 reserved for BB.
The entrance is signed from the Pont Neuf and is clearly visible from quai des Orfèvres.
Only level –2 had public parking at the time of our visit, with 10 BB spaces. At the ‘Accent Dauphine’ a lift arrives at the surface next to the Hotel d’Harlay on place Dauphine.
There is an adapted toilet immediately beside the Palais de Justice exit. It was out of service when we visited, but had D90 and we were told that it has one fixed handrail and a large transfer area.

The Louvre and Tuileries gardens
(Area B on the map)
Most people arrive at the Louvre, either from the rue de Rivoli, or from the riverside. Some will come by car, via the UGCP off ave du Général Lemonnier. If you come on the surface, you enter a huge courtyard with its iconic glass Pyramid which is the main route into the palace and museum. There’s an alternative way in from the archway at 99 rue de Rivoli which provides another ‘lift access/step-free’ route to the Louvre museum. Away from the courtyard towards the Champs-Élysées are the Tuileries gardens which provide a pleasant spot in which to relax. The area around is flat.

This section describes:
• the Jardin des Tuileries;
• the Orangerie and Jeu de Paume galleries; and,
• the Carrousel du Louvre underground development, and then the Louvre museum.

Car parking is described in the Louvre write-up as there is an enormous UGCP attached to the Carrousel.

Jardin des Tuileries
The Tuileries Gardens are located between the Louvre and the place de la Concorde. They are all that remains of the Palace of the Tuileries, a former royal residence at the back of the Louvre which was destroyed during the Paris Commune uprising in 1871. They provide a welcome retreat from the hustle of central Paris, and became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.
There is step-free access both at the Louvre end and from Concorde. Near the Concorde entrance, on the right, there is a unisex wheelchair toilet (D90 ST100 SH50).

The gardens extend approximately 750m by 300m, with another 200m towards the Louvre in the Jardin du Carrousel. The paths have a slightly rough surface and can be bumpy in places. To bypass various steps you may have to take a slight detour and use a ramped alternative. More information is available on the museum website www.louvre.fr under Museum and Jardins & Tuileries.

Approaching from the Louvre, you will find interspersed hedges and sculptures of the Jardin du Carrousel before the gates which mark the entrance to the Tuileries gardens. After the circular fountain there are cafés with outdoor tables on either side. A children’s play area follows on the right, opposite the gate onto the rue de Castiglione, followed by two more cafés and a children’s trampolining area, and then the octagonal fountain adjacent to the ramps up to the Orangerie and the Jeu de Paume. The area bordered by the Terrasse de Feuillants and the rue de Rivoli contained a number of fairground rides when we visited in the summer, including the highly visible Ferris Wheel which is erected in the gardens for a couple of months. Wheelchair users get free entry to this. The entrance involves +1 [8cm] +1 [17cm] step and through a gate [W75cm]. Staff will assist chair users to transfer into a seat in one of the gondolas.

Musée de l’Orangerie (Orangerie Museum)
Jardin des Tuileries, 75001
Tel: 01 44 77 80 07 website: www.musee-orangerie.fr Closed Tuesdays
The Orangerie has recently been refurbished, and showcases Monet’s Nymphéas paintings “the haven of peaceful meditation”, and a collection of works by other artists such as Cézanne, Renoir, Picasso, Rousseau and Matisse.

It is on the river side of the Jardin des Tuileries, and has generally excellent access. Getting to the entrance is easiest through the garden by the place de la Concorde. Entering through the West gates you need to turn back on yourself up the right hand ramped path. You then have to go some 50m further round to the left.

The main entrance is at the place de la Concorde end of the building and clearly signed. It has +3 steps, but a security guard will open up a side door leading to a step-free route, and then you pass through the security check.
It is quite a small gallery on three floors, measuring only about 100m by 20m. A wheelchair may be borrowed if needed, and there are gallery plans available.

**Inside there is step-free access throughout**, firstly through to two oval rooms on the GF that house the *Nymphéas* and then via a lift to levels minus one and minus two. The lift (D80 W100 L140) is to the right behind the audioguide desk. Level minus one contains the bookshop and a small exhibition on the history of The Orangerie. The level minus two galleries are quite extensive and extend for some 100m with various side rooms. Beware of the inward opening door beyond the lift on this level. Some seating is available. There are **wheelchair cubicles (D90 ST110 SH50)** in both the mens and womens toilets, but are indistinguishable from the rest of the cubicles so you may have to be patient for them to become available. Level minus two also has an audiovisual room that screens documentary films and has space at the back for chair users.

**Jeu de Paume**
1 place de la Concorde, 75008
*Tel: 01 47 03 12 50 website: www.jeudepaume.org*  Closed Mondays
A thoroughly modern museum of photography, video and multimedia, the Jeu de Paume is located in the Tulieries Gardens (west end/north-west corner). It is quite a small gallery, measuring only about 80m by 20m. A wheelchair may be borrowed if needed.
To access, it is best to take the West End entrance of the gardens and turn into the first ramped path on the left.
The **entrance** is step-free. All floors are accessible by lift (D75 W100 L140), although the lift to the café needs a key (held by security). The exhibition floors are step-free, but there are no seats. There is a unisex **wheelchair toilet (D87 ST107 SH50)** in the basement. As you exit the lift, turn right and it is the third door on your right. The cinemas in the basement are step-free and have movable chairs.

**Carrousel du Louvre**
Underneath the Jardin du Carrousel and the Louvre courtyard there is a huge UGCP (details below), and also the **Carrousel du Louvre** which is a big underground shopping and eating centre.

The Carrousel du Louvre is built on two main levels. On the upper mezzanine level (minus one) is a huge food court with every conceivable kind of food available from different counters/providers. There are lots of
movable chairs, but the whole area can be congested, and maybe the first thing to do is to find a free (and accessible) table. The lower level (minus two) has a multitude of shops, the tourist information counter, and the toilets which are marked on our plan. It provides access to the Louvre museum via the ticket office in the Cour Napoléon under the glass pyramid. The new underground development is step-free, except for some shops which have split levels, and a few which have a single step at the entrance. The lifts described bypass all the main steps and escalators.

**Carrousel du Louvre CP**

ave du Général Lemonnier, 75001  (Parking guide page 70) UGCP. Maximum height 190cm for cars for 430cm for coaches. 600 spaces.

The approach by road to the UGCP is off a tunnel in the ave du Général Lemonnier and you can access it either off the rue de Rivoli, or the quai des Tuileries. Both are reasonably well signed. If you are on the quai des Tuileries you need to get well over to the left before you get there. As there is both a CP and a coach park, it is one of the few reliable places where you can park a minibus, albeit at considerable expense. There are a good number spaces for BB holders on level minus two of the CP. The lifts leading from the CPs are described below.

If you come into the Carrousel du Louvre from the UGCP, the various CP floors/levels are between the two levels described above. Hence when you get in one of the lifts (D90 W100 L200) from the CP there are five different exit levels, three leading to different parts of the CP, and two to the main floors described above. The levels indicated in the lifts are:

- **minus one** for cars;
- **M** (mezzanine for the food court);
- **minus two** for cars;
- **L** (for access to the Louvre museum, via the shopping halls); and,
- **minus three** for coaches and minibuses.
Musée du Louvre

Musée du Louvre
34-36 quai du Louvre, 75058
Tel: 01 40 20 50 50  Tel for disabled visitors: 01 40 20 59 90
website:  www.louvre.fr  e-mail: handicap@louvre.fr  Closed Tuesdays
The Louvre is the world’s largest royal palace with sections built in every
century from the 16th to the 21st.
The nearest car, taxi and coach dropping-off points are around 50-100m
from the pyramid, including the rue de Rivoli and the quai du Louvre.
The nearest accessible RER station is Châtelet-les-Halles which is just
over a kilometre away.
The nearest accessible Métro station is Pyramides on line 14 about 400m
away, and ‘accessible’ buses on routes 21, 24, 27, 39, 81 and 95 pass
nearby.

The ultra-modern entrance under the glass Pyramid was added in the
1980s by President Mitterrand. The museum contains some very famous
works of art, and is reported to have some 18km of corridors and halls.
Some 35,000 works of art are exhibited.
If you want to see the Mona Lisa, the Venus de Milo and other very
famous exhibits, one way to avoid the crowds is to get there really early.
Thursdays and Fridays also tend to be less crowded. The museum is open
on Wednesday and Friday until 21.30.
We would particularly like to acknowledge the assistance we were
given by Matthieu Decraene the Chargé de développement des publics,
Accessibilité et Handicap, Direction des Publics, Musée du Louvre who
proof-read and edited our write-up about this very complex building.

Getting to the Cour Napoléon
(the entrance foyer under the Pyramid)

The main entrance to the Louvre for pedestrians is via the Pyramid
which covers the Cour Napoléon way down underneath. This is the main
reception and ticket office area. The way into the Pyramid is flat and
wide, with escalators to go down. These are bypassed by a remarkable
piston lift called “le Tube”. There is no lift shaft in the conventional
sense, but a circular open platform rises from the floor of the reception
area a long way below on a huge hydraulically driven piston. In its early
years it had significant reliability problems, although these seem to have been largely ironed out.

Another step-free way to get to the Cour Napoléon is off the rue de Rivoli, by the arches called the Guichets du Louvre. **This route takes you through the Carrousel du Louvre underground shopping/eating complex described earlier.** The entrance is signed to *Galleries du Carrousel*, at 99 rue de Rivoli. The main route is via escalators, but there is also a well signed lift, although you will have to ask one of the security guards for access. To get to the lift, you have to go down the passage past where the escalators come up (on their left) and then on your right are the glass doors leading to a small archway. The lift is then on your right. The first lift (D90 W120 L130) leads to an intermediate level, and a second lift (D120 W130 L140) leads to the mezzanine (food court) on level minus one, and the shops/Louvre entrance on level minus two. At the bottom it exits by the passage leading to the Palais-Royal métro station exit. To get to the Cour Napoléon, head for the inverted pyramid and turn left.

Using this route as an exit from the Cour Napoléon, head towards the inverted pyramid, turn right and follow the signs for the Palais-Royal métro for about 100m. Along this route on level minus two, are the **only toilets** in the new shopping complex. These are situated near the bottom of the escalators which come down from the rue de Rivoli entrance. The ‘lift access’ route from the rue de Rivoli also brings you close to the toilets (which are marked on the diagram). To find them from the inverted pyramid, follow the exit signs to Palais Royal, and they are about 100m along the shopping parade on the right, just before the escalators. The toilets have **wheelchair cubicles**, one in the womens and one in the mens (D80 ST130 SH49 in the mens). There is a 50 cent charge.

**Visiting the Museum**

The museum is vast and it is impossible to see more than a fraction of it in one visit. If you plan your visit to see a sensibly restricted number of things and then come back a second time to see a bit more, you will probably enjoy what you do see twice as much. Just wait a while in the Cour Napoléon and watch the blank faces of the people who have ‘done’ the Louvre in half a day if you don’t believe us. Note that some of the standard guides produced by the Louvre are inappropriate for people with disabilities, in particular the *Guide for the visitor in a hurry* which really isn’t much help because it takes you via numerous monumental staircases.
The Louvre

The diagram shows where the main exhibition areas Denon, Sully and Richelieu are. They are accessed from the mezzanine level above the Cour Napoléon. The diagram shows wheelchair lifts to and from the main foyer level. Lifts D & E to and from the main foyer level.
Several conventional guidebooks have good floor plans, particularly the Michelin Green Guide. It may also be worth writing to the Louvre administration to get a copy in advance of their Plan/map for disabled visitors and possibly the Schedule of room opening hours. Both can help in planning your route, although until you are familiar with the layout, the closures are quite difficult to work out. The schedule of openings/closures is available on the website.

*We include two diagrams to illustrate key aspects of access around the Louvre, but the detailed plans which are available will have much more information.*

The Cour Napoléon (Napoléon Hall) is a huge area with ticket and information desks, restaurant, café, bookshop, giftshop, post office (D60), auditorium and wheelchair toilets. There is free access to this area and it is almost worth a visit, even if you don’t go on to see anything in the galleries.

When you arrive, go to the information desk and ask for the Plan/Map for disabled visitors, which is available in both French and English. It has diagrams and numbered sections. The different areas (such as Sculpture, Paintings and Islamic Art) are colour-coded on the map, and each lift is identified by a letter. We have tried to explain where you can get to with the various lifts, but different parts of the galleries are closed from time to time, and this can disrupt the ‘accessible’ routes. If you have a particular plan it may be sensible to check on closures at the information desk before you set out, and they will have the schedule of room opening hours.

It is worth spending a few moments getting to grips with the Plan/Map and checking where you can get to using the various lifts, since it will probably save you a lot of walking or wheeling.

You can borrow a wheelchair at the Information Desk although you have to leave your ID/passport as a deposit. Using a chair is a good idea for some, in view of the distances involved. If you want to reserve/book one in advance, ring Tel: 01 40 20 53 17 or e-mail: handicap@louvre.fr, and booking is essential for groups who may want to visit if they will need several chairs.

A general point is to be wary of the polished wood and marble floors throughout the building as they can be rather slippery. There is some
The diagram shows the location of the key lifts for Denon, Sully, and Richelieu. From the mezzanine you can go in one of three directions.

From the mezzanine you can go in one of three directions.

Lifts D, E to and from the main foyer level
Lifts K, L, M, N up to Denon
Lifts I, J up to Sully
Lift G to Sully
Lift P to Richelieu
Cour Napoléon mezzanine level
seating available in the galleries but because of its sheer size, you may have to walk quite a way between seats. Most exhibits can be seen by a chair user. The layout of the Louvre is confusing and the signposting is poor, though feel free to ask a member of the staff. The orientation Plan/Map mentioned earlier is invaluable.

Disabled visitors with one companion can obtain free access if they show some form of proof of disability, such as a photocopy of their blue parking badge. A disabled visitor and his/her escort do not have to queue to buy a ticket but simply need to show their valid ‘certificate/proof’ of disability at the control point. Group tours in English for up to eight chair users can be arranged for an appropriate fee, ring Tel: 01 40 20 85 88.

The Louvre is just unbelievably huge, and because you approach the various wings from underground (under the pyramid), it is quite a job to orientate yourself, and to know where you are going. If you just arrive and want to look around without prior thought, it can be totally overwhelming, and for that reason, at the end of this write-up, we include a suggested (accessible) route which takes in a number of the more popular and obvious works of art. Wherever you go, we recommend the use of the Audioguide.

There is a lot of useful information on the website, and in recent years the Louvre has made a serious attempt to improve its accessibility. We include one quote here “The museum wishes to reach out to visitors with special needs, and wants very much to provide them with a quality visiting experience regardless of their disability, and whether they visit in a group or as individuals.”

Among other facilities there are special tours and workshops, and a Tactile Gallery in the Denon Wing.

In the Cour Napoléon, after getting over your wonder at its vastness and obtaining both the leaflets we’ve mentioned, what you need to do is to find lifts D and E. These will get you up to the mezzanine level. There is a desk by the entrance to each wing where you can hire an audioguide and earphones. This provides descriptions of 1000 of the principal exhibits throughout the whole museum with commentaries in several languages.

It is possible to see around 95% of the exhibits on display by using the lifts, including all the most famous works of art.
All the lifts are larger than D75 W90 L120. The wheelchair toilets are more variable. Not all of the toilets provided/signed have an accessible cubicle, although many do.

We have made a detailed diagram of the mezzanine floor arrangement because this is the key to access to all parts of the Louvre. The main lifts are marked.

You must first decide which exhibition area/wing you are aiming for: Denon, Sully or Richelieu. Each of them is entered from the Cour Napoléon through the mezzanine/entresol level above. The exit you choose from the mezzanine will lead you to the appropriate lifts.

The Denon wing has the most problematic access, since on both the LGF and GF there are split levels making you dependent on a number of lifts en route. Sully is better in terms of access. Richelieu has split level problems on the LGF, with open/platform lifts to bypass steps, but the other floors are step-free almost everywhere, and lifts are only necessary for going between the main floors.

One snag which you may encounter is the closure of certain areas which can make access considerably more complicated as you have to work out where the lifts are to bypass the closed section. The schedule of room closures (mentioned earlier) may help, but on your first visit or two it’s quite difficult to work everything out. You may simply have to ‘go with the flow’!

In the first edition of this guidebook, published in 1974, it said of the Louvre:

“There are 17+7 steps at the main entrance, with no way of bypassing them. Inside we found only four lifts. One was heavily disguised as the doors had been wallpapered over to match that on the wall, so that only the staff knew where it was. Our survey team was asked for money to use the lifts. When we complained about this, the management representative we spoke to was most apologetic”.

There is NO doubt that things have changed for the better since then!
Denon Wing

At the entrance to the Denon wing from the mezzanine/entresol, just before the ticket control point, there is a wheelchair toilet (D75 ST95 SH51). The door was inward-opening, but this did not affect the side-transfer space. Lifts M and N lead from the entrance of the Denon wing at the mezzanine level to different galleries.

Denon lower ground floor

Both the LGF and GF have several galleries at different levels. In principle, most of the steps can be bypassed by the use of the relevant lifts (described below).

Take lift M (D75 W90 L155) to get to the Italian and Spanish sculptures in rooms 1 and 2. Off these rooms is a Tactile Gallery with handrails, descriptions in braille and some sculptures that can be touched. Behind these is a raised level (with +3 steps). Access to the northern European sculptures section is step-free from the Italian and Spanish area, and lift S goes to an extension of this exhibition on the GF (though it looks as though you’ve got to come back to the LGF in order to go elsewhere). The Roman Egypt gallery is reached via lifts K and L, and has a small café, 60% of which is step-free.

There is also access to the pre-classical Greece gallery via lift N. This, however, was out of order when we visited, so access was then only possible via +19 steps. At the end of this gallery, there is step-free access to gallery B (Coptic Egypt). Access from there to gallery C (which contains 60% of the Coptic Egypt exhibition) is via lift A (D80 W135 L135) which bypasses –3–5–9 steps. As lift A also goes to the GF, it should be possible to bypass lift N by using a circuitous route via the GF (an illustration of the complexities of access!).

Denon ground floor

This has the same layout as the LGF. Gallery A is reached by lifts K and L, room 4 (16th to 19thC Italian sculptures) by lift M, and gallery B (Etruscan and Roman antiquities) by lift N. Room 30, which links to the remainder of the Etruscan and Roman antiquities section, is via –6 steps from gallery B but these can be bypassed by taking lift A from the LGF.
This lift normally also provides access to rooms 18 to 27 through room 31, but as room 31 was closed during our visit, these rooms were only accessible from the Sully wing via lift C.

Rooms 28 and 29 were –7 from room 30 or +2, from room 27. Galleries D and E (17th to 19thC northern European sculptures) can only be reached using lift S on the lower ground floor: there is no step-free access to these from the remainder of the GF.

There is a ‘separate’ exhibition of the Arts of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas at GF level. These galleries can be entered from the Porte des Lions entrance, which is only open intermittently. Otherwise, access is from room 26 on the first floor of Denon via lift W, which takes you to the lower of three levels and adjacent to a wheelchair toilet (D80 ST80 SH45). An open lift (D95 W160 L125) takes you to the upper levels, bypassing 3 and 8 steps respectively. There are some video displays with fixed seating in this area.

**Denon first floor**

This is reached by lifts K and L, from where there is step-free access to much of the first floor. The Mona Lisa is in room 6. This area tends to be very crowded, so allow some time if you want to work your way into a position to get a good view.

To reach rooms 14 to 32 right at the end of the gallery, take the open lift (D80 W90 L140) by room 14 to bypass 10 steps. There are adjacent wheelchair toilets (D80 ST105 SH45).

The Crown Diamonds gallery in room 66 is reached from lift C in the Sully wing. You can also get there from room 3 (in the Denon wing) close to the Italian paintings gallery. Ask one of the security guards to open the (historic) door between room 3 and the Apollo gallery. **The staff are aware of this route for disabled visitors which provides direct access between the Denon and Sully wings, and saves a lot of time and effort.**

**Sully Wing**

At the entrance to the Sully wing from the mezzanine/entresol, after the ticket control point and to the left, there is a wheelchair toilet (D85 ST95 SH 50). This is near lift G, which provides access to all levels.
**Sully lower ground floor**

This comprises the Medieval Louvre exhibition which is step-free, although the map shows an open lift (labelled 7, which we didn’t see) at the end of the exhibition, and a lift labelled H which takes you to one of the oldest museum rooms, the Salle St Louis. Lifts I and J go to the GF.

**Sully ground floor**

Most of the GF galleries have step-free access and there is step-free access from Denon at this level, but there is no link between gallery A (in the oriental antiquities section) and room 17 (Greek antiquities) because there are technical/storage spaces in between. Between rooms 10 and 9 (linking to the Richelieu wing) there is an open lift (W110 L180): to operate, hold the button down. There are stairs between rooms 16 and 17 in the Sackler wing, which is within the oriental antiquities collection, which can be bypassed by using lift V down to a crypt and then lift U back up again. This route is not shown on the plans. Lift V (D80) is quite well hidden, so look carefully at where the black dot is on the Plan/Map.

**Sully first floor**

This is all step-free, although when we visited one side was closed and is due to reopen in 2011. There’s a step-free link between galleries 65 and 32 as this is above the arch. Lifts C and G link to the GF and the second floor, and lift T (D80 W110 L140) goes to the exit. There are useful step-free links into both Denon (from room 34 blue) and Richelieu (from room 43 magenta).

**Sully second floor**

Most of the second floor was closed when we visited. Lift G led to gallery B and then from room 19 via an open lift. In the 17thC French paintings exhibition (rooms 24 to 40) there were three platform stair lifts. This part of the museum is one of the least accessible, because you need to use at least eight open lifts or platform stairlifts to get around the far side of the Cour Carré. The platform stairlifts can only be activated by a staff member. There is no direct connection between gallery B and room 70, although
you can use lifts C or G to make the link step-free.
There are wheelchair toilets (D85 ST100 SH45) located near lift C, and between rooms 59 and 60 in the 19thC French paintings gallery.

Richelieu Wing

The main lift in Richelieu is lift P (D80 W115 L140) which goes to all floors. Lift R (D80 W115 L140) is also useful in conjunction with open lifts (all of which are W110 L140) to reach the split levels of the Cour Marly. **Except for one room, the entire Richelieu wing is step-free,** provided the lifts are working, and there are wheelchair toilets on every floor.
There are wheelchair toilets (D75 ST100 SH52) by the mezzanine/LGF entrance, just to the right.
It is step-free from the mezzanine to room 20.

Richelieu lower ground floor

From here, Cour Marly, a covered courtyard containing French sculptures, is to the left. The exhibition is spread over three terraces, leading up to the GF. The first terrace (via +6+12 steps) is reached by open lift 1 to the left. Lift R is located on the opposite side of this terrace and goes to the GF, first and second floors. To its left, open lift 3 bypasses +6 to the second terrace. The third terrace (+24) can only be reached step-free from the GF where open lift 4 bypasses –6.

Cour Puget, which contains more recent French sculptures, is a similar courtyard and can also be reached step-free from the entrance to Richelieu. The first terrace is reached by lift P, bypassing +18 steps. Open lift 5 then leads to the second terrace (bypassing +6). Again, the third terrace can only be reached from the GF. To get there, use lift P and from this level open lift 6 bypasses –6.

Richelieu ground floor

Reached by lifts P and R. All rooms have step-free access except the information room 1 bis (reached via –9–5 steps from room 7 yellow), although when we visited it contained little of interest.
Wheelchair toilet (D90 ST105 SH53) between rooms 6 and 8 of the Mesopotamia exhibition.
Richelieu first floor

 Reached by lifts P and R and contains the bulk of the Objets d‘Art exhibits. Step-free access to all rooms, although the staircase between rooms 67 and 5 (−9–3–3+15) means that to get between these areas you will need to go round the far side of the Cour Marly.

The Café Richelieu has step-free access to the inside tables but there’s −1 step to the terrace. The wheelchair toilet (D75 ST85 SH40) has an inward opening door and relatively little clearance (43cm) in front of the toilet. Better ones can be found off room 81 (D85 ST90 SH52) and between rooms 26 and 27 (D90 ST105 SH51).

Richelieu second floor

 Access is similar to that on the first floor with stairs (−17+16) blocking access between rooms 17 and 21, which can be bypassed round the Cour Marly. 

Wheelchair toilet (D90 ST105 SH52) between rooms 15 and 16 in the French painting section: not marked on all maps. The door is inward-opening but it’s a large cubicle.

Suggested tour

 We outline here a step-free route taking in several of the principal exhibits. It is simply one itinerary among a million other possibilities, but if you’ve never been to the museum before it ‘does your thinking for you’!

It should take about three hours to get round this mini-circuit, and that includes time for a few side-trips into rooms that may take your fancy. Disabled walkers may wish to focus on the Sully and Denon sections of the route, and leave out the excursion into Richelieu. The tour takes you around the first floor of both Sully and Denon, with a side trip in Sully to visit room 7. Then you go down and via the mezzanine (entresol), to get to the GF, first and second floors of Richelieu.

Start the tour in Sully entering from the mezzanine level (entresol).

- Take the opportunity of a quick look first at the Medieval Louvre and then use lift G on the left to get up to the first floor. Turn right, going past the staircases. Pass through rooms 32 and 33 (bronzes and precious objects);
• If you want to see the *Venus de Milo*, then take a side trip at this point. It is on the GF in room 7. From rooms 34/35, take lift C to the GF, and you will find the statue in room 7, quite close to where the lift comes down. Afterwards you simply take lift C back to the first floor and go on through room 34 into **Denon**;

• After the Rotonde, you will see the left side of the *Victoire de Samothrace*. Go through the historic Apollo Gallery (full of diamonds and other jewels). At the end of this gallery, ask one of the museum staff to open the door leading to room 3 (Italian paintings). If you are a disabled walker, you may need to show a copy of your Blue Badge or something similar. Go through galleries 3 and 5, and then room 6 contains *Veronese’s Wedding feast at Cana*, and the *Mona Lisa*. This room is likely to be really crowded, but if you are patient and approach the painting from the side, even a chair user should be able to get a good view;

• Continue to room 76, and turn left into room 77. Rooms 75, 76 and 77 contain large French paintings, including Géricault’s *Raft of the Medusa*. At the end of room 75 there’s an excellent view of the statue of the *Winged Victory of the Samothrace*;

• From room 76, return via lifts K or L to the mezzanine level (entresol) and enter the **Richelieu** wing on the other side. Take lift P to the GF. Turn right and go straight past the stairs and take the open lift to bypass the –6 steps to the Cour Puget sculpture terrace;

• Once you have finished, return to lift P and go to the first floor. Wander through rooms 96 to 67, which include the fabulous apartments of Napoléon III;

• Then take lift R from room 67 to the second floor and meander through rooms 21 to 39, which houses Dutch and Flemish masterpieces. Turn left and have a quick look at room 18 (the Rubens room) before returning to lift P via room 19, and returning to the mezzanine level for the exit.

*This route worked well in 2007, but obviously if major exhibits have been moved, you’ll have to work out an alternative. They should be able to help with this at the information desk.*

**Temporary exhibitions in the Louvre** are held in a hall off the Cour Napoléon which has –8 steps with handrails, and there are two platform stairlifs to bypass them.
The **Auditorium du Louvre** *Tel: 01 40 20 51 51* is off the Cour Napoléon and is used for concerts, ‘colloques’ (teach-ins), conferences and films. The entrance is flat but with heavy double doors. There is plenty of space at the top of the sloped seating for chair users.

**Toilets**

There are numerous wheelchair toilets in the Louvre as described above, particularly in the Richelieu wing which was only converted to gallery use about ten years ago. The toilets are mostly of pretty reasonable quality, but although all have fixed grab rails, none have retractable rails.

**Champs-Elyseés (8th)**

*(Area C on the map)*

The **Champs-Elyseés** stretch for around 2km from the Arc de Triomphe to the place de la Concorde and consist of a very wide tree-lined boulevard with chic shops and restaurants at one end, and gardens and parkland towards Concorde. The pavements are wide, and there is only the gentlest of slopes up towards the Arc. It is part of the *Voie Triomphale* which extends some 9km all the way from the Louvre to the Grande Arche in la Défense. The central part was used for a parade both by Hitler in 1940, and by General de Gaulle after the 8th May 1945 allied victory.

The 8th arrondissement is more than 2km east-west, and just under 2km north-south. **The main sights described here are:**

- the Arc de Triomphe in the place Charles de Gaulle (Étoile);
- the Grand Palais, Petit Palais and Palais de la Découverte, which are all together in the gardens and formed part of the buildings for the 1900 World Exhibition;
- the place de la Concorde, the Madeleine and the British Embassy;
- the Parc Monceau, Musée Cernuschi, Musée Nissim De Camondo and Musée Jacquemart-Andre, which are all in the northern part of the 8th.

Parking in the area is discussed at the end of the section and there are several UGCPs in the area with a lift, but distances to the various sights are considerable.
Place Charles de Gaulle (Étoile)
This is a huge roundabout with the Arc de Triomphe in the middle, and twelve roads going off from it, hence the name Star/Étoile. The RER station is accessible (see the chapter on Getting around).
Apart from the Champs-Élysées, which has its own special ambience, there aren’t many other ‘sights’ nearby. It’s a flat area.
If you’re only in Paris for a short time, you may find it easier to see the Arc de Triomphe from a car or a taxi. It is an experience to drive or be driven around the famous roundabout. If you are driving around it yourself, beware – as it does appear to be quite frenzied. The technique for driving is to head in with confidence, because you have right of way over every vehicle on your left. Make for the centre and drive round as far as you need – you can even do a complete circle back to the road you came in on. Once you get near to your desired exit, it will then be a fight to get out, because everything entering the roundabout has right of way over you. Just be patient and wait for suitable gaps.

There are numerous shops, restaurants and cafés down the Champs-Élysées, although these will not be the cheapest ones in town, as you’ll be paying for the location as well as the coffee or glass of wine! However it’s a great place, so don’t worry too much about the element of rip-off.

Arc de Triomphe
place Charles de Gaulle, 75008
Tel: 01 43 80 31 31 Fax: 01 42 22 71 61
Located in the centre of the pl Charles de Gaulle at the end of the Champs-Élysées, the Arc is a major and iconic Paris landmark. It was built by Napoleon nearly 200 years ago to celebrate France’s military achievements, and was not exactly designed with disabled visitors in mind.

The island on which the arch is located can be reached in one of two ways. Either by risking life and limb, crossing one of the most chaotic junctions in Europe on foot, or by using the subway from the Champs-Élysées or ave de la Grande Armée, which has –26 steps into it and +30 to get into the centre of the roundabout. There is no taxi drop off at the Arc de Triomphe itself.

If you are successful in the reaching the centre, it is step-free and lightly cobbled at the base. It is possible to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
with its eternal flame commemorating the dead from two world wars. The stone base of the arch serves well as a bench. From here you can see up and down the Grand Axis to the place de la Concorde one way, and the Grande Arche de la Défense the other. On a clear day it is impressive.

The ticket office for ascending the arch is on the way up from the subway, so access to this office is not step-free. *The ascent to the viewing tower at the top is only possible for intrepid walkers and those in narrow chairs with a sense of adventure and strong friends.* There is a lift (D80 W104 L120), but it is not always working. Even if it is, there are +2 steps to the lift which goes to a big room over the arch. There are a further +46 to the top outside viewing platform. Being a spiralled staircase (W95, handrails on both sides), there are some narrow and awkward turns to negotiate. The alternative to the lift is +146 steps from the bottom, which are narrow (69cm) with even more awkward bends.

For disabled visitors, it is almost certainly better to see the views from the more accessible lower levels of the Eiffel Tower, the Tour Montparnasse, possibly from the Grand Arche de la Défense or from the hillside by the Sacré-Cœur.

**Grand Palais**

ave Winston Churchill, 75008  
*Tel: 01 42 89 54 10 or 01 44 13 17 30 for the Galeries Nationales du Grand Palais*

*website: www.rmn.fr/galeriesnationalesdugrandpalais*

Individual temporary exhibitions may have their own websites, and may have variable opening days.

The Grand Palais formed part of the buildings for the 1900 World Exhibition, and is situated prominently near the riverside and in the gardens by the Rond Point des Champs-Élysées. Its curved glass roof and florid decorations are distinctive. It is attached to the Palais de la Découverte and is located opposite the Petit Palais. Exhibitions are held in different parts of this huge building, and some may use an alternative entrance at 3 ave du Général Eisenhower.

The Grand Palais was closed for many years while renovation work was undertaken, and this was still going on when we visited in 2006. It is due to be fully operational again in 2007. It houses large temporary exhibitions and we visited one of these. It measures some 200m by 80m.
None of the nearest UGCPs have lift access. The ones that do are all about 800m away. There are details on pages 126, 130 and 132 of the Parking Guide do (see the chapter on Getting around). There is a BB space in front of the Petit Palais and another in ave Dutuit behind it. The entrance from ave Winston Churchill is ramped, and virtually all the exhibits in the exhibition we went to were in the big hall, all of which is step-free. There is a café/bar with movable seating in the hall. **Wheelchair cubicles (D85 ST120 SH53)** are located in the toilets on the left side of the hall. When we visited there were two big cubicles in the women’s toilets, but the men’s were closed, so we didn’t see them. As the building has been refurbished, they should be OK.

**Petit Palais**

ave Winston Churchill, 75008  
*Tel:* 01 53 43 40 00  
*Reservations:* 01 53 43 40 36  
*website:* [www.petitpalais.paris.fr](http://www.petitpalais.paris.fr)  
*Closed Mondays*

The Petit Palais also formed part of the buildings for the 1900 World Exhibition, and is located right opposite the Grand Palais. Like the Grand Palais it has been undergoing renovation and restoration. Access has been greatly improved. The museum measures about 100m by 75m.

Parking is described in the write-up on the Grand Palais. The Petit Palais houses a major part of the **Musée des Beaux Arts** with a very wide range of art work: paintings, icons, sculpture, tapestries, and objets d’art. The collection covers a vast time scale from antiquity to the early 20thC. The Musée is on two floors, the GF and LGF. The main entrance is via +30+7 steps, which lead to the GF. There is a step-free alternative just 10m to the right of the steps which a security guard will open on request and which gives access to the LGF. Inside there is a lift (D72 W105 L125) linking the two floors. There are also open lifts to bypass virtually all the other stairs in the Musée area. On the LGF, open lifts (D80 W95 L150) bypass +4 and −4 steps. On the GF, there are open lifts to reach the mezzanine level of the café and to bypass the −3 −3 out into the garden.

The GF houses various exhibits, the bookshop, and a café where there is a **wheelchair toilet (D70 ST250 SH42)**. Signposting is quite good, and there are seats scattered around in the exhibition space.
**Palais de la Découverte**

ave Franklin D Roosevelt, 75008  
_Tel: 01 56 43 20 21 website: www.palais-decouverte.fr_ Closed Mondays

This is the old science museum, now supplemented by the City of Science and Industry at la Villette. It has a planetarium and many exciting demonstrations, some of which are in English. There is a visitors pamphlet in English and the website has good English pages. The **main entrance** has +3+13 steps, without handrails, up to the ticket hall, and then +13 without handrails to the ground floor exhibits. There is an alternative way in, which is clearly signed. It involves going about 30m to Porte B just around the corner in ave Général Eisenhower. This leads to a lift (D90 W130 L108) bypassing all the steps and giving access to all the floors. Inside, each floor is flat and step-free, and most exhibits are easily visible. A few exhibits have either +1 or +2 steps to reach them. 95% of the exhibits are visible apart from one small section on the GF which is +6.

If you want to go to the Planetarium, it’s best for a chair user to ring in advance, as the staff have to remove a seat to make a space if you can’t transfer. Alternatively you may be able to ask when you arrive so as to be able to go at the end of your visit.

There is a unisex **wheelchair toilet (D85 ST75 SH51)** on the GF behind the café.

**Place de la Concorde**

This is a huge square at the other end of the Champs-Élysées by the Jardin des Tuileries. There’s a fine view over the Seine towards the Assemblée Nationale. Like Étoile, it’s quite a challenge for the driver. There is a vast area of open space, with limited guidance about where you should be. It is by far the largest square in Paris with an area of some eight hectares. To those more familiar with older British measures, that’s about twenty acres.

During the Revolution it was the site for the guillotine, and more than a thousand people were beheaded in the square. It now houses a 3000 year-old obelisk from the temple of Ramses II at Thebes in Egypt.

Just inside the Jardin des Tuileries which opens off the eastern side of Concorde are the Orangerie and Jeu de Paume galleries, both of which have good access, and are described elsewhere.
La Madeleine
place de la Madeleine, 75008
Tel: 01 42 65 52 17
Situated in the centre of the square this is a historic church, whose entrance facade resembles a Greek temple. You will have to fight your way across quite heavy traffic and then up +1+14+14 steps with handrails. It is flat inside except for the crypt. The crypt, including a chapel in which morning mass is celebrated, is reached by +3+1 and then a spiral staircase –15 –11 with handrails from inside or +2+1–1 from the outside north entrance. There are no toilets. It has an induction loop. We were told that there are discussions about improving access, but it may be some time (if ever) before anything happens.

British Consulate
18 rue d’Anjou, 75008
Tel: 01 44 51 31 00 Fax: 01 44 51 31 27 website: www.fco.gov.uk
The Consulate is located on rue d’Anjou - around the corner from the British Embassy on rue Faubourg Saint-Honoré. It is the place to go if you are from the UK and lose your passport, and one of our team had to go there for that reason!

Entrance +1 [15cm] step, and the Consulate is at the end of the corridor on the left. To get into the Consultation Area, there is a rigorous metal detection security arrangement (D78) which can be bypassed by going through a wider door (D87). The surveyors envisaged some manoeuvring for a wheelchair user. An adapted cubicle doubles up as the female toilet (D85 ST130 SH40 but with an inward opening door).

Parc Monceau (Monceau Park)
blvd de Courcelles, 75008
Tel: 01 42 94 08 08.
Located below Montmartre, on the blvd de Courcelles, this is a beautiful garden measuring about 200 by 500m. It has a simple criss-cross path running throughout. There is pay-and-display parking at the north and east entrances with one BB space at the east entrance on ave Velasquez. There are step-free entrances from blvd de Courcelles in the north and ave Velasquez in the east. There are public ‘squat’ toilets (D61) which are up +3+2 steps by the north entrance - not accessible! The park has a lake, refreshment kiosks and makes a pleasant escape from hectic sight-seeing. Two interesting museums, the Cernushi and Nissim de Camondo, are close by.
**Musée Cernuschi**

7 ave Velasquez, 75008  
*Tel:* 01 53 96 21 50 or 01 45 63 50 75  
*Fax:* 01 53 96 21 96 or 01 45 63 78 16  
*website:* [www.paris.fr/musees/cernuschi](http://www.paris.fr/musees/cernuschi)  
Closed Mondays

This museum is located in what used to be the house of the banker Henri Cernuschi, and contains his collection of Oriental Art. There is one BB space directly outside the entrance. The front entrance is step-free to the reception and the ticket office. However, after this, there are +4 steps to the start of the exhibition and the lift. Staff told us that they would be happy to lift a wheelchair user up these steps. The first lift (D75 L145) can be used to reach the LGF where there is an unadapted toilet. It also goes up to the first floor level of the exhibition. Once on the first floor, the exhibits are all step-free. The lift up to the second floor is located in the back room of the house. It has D80. The second floor exhibits are also all step-free.

**Musée Nissim De Camondo**

63 rue de Monceau, 75008  
*Tel:* 01 53 89 06 50 or 01 45 63 26 32  
*website:* [www.lesartsdecoratif.fr](http://www.lesartsdecoratif.fr)  
Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

Situated on the east side of the Parc Monceau, this small, elegant house, built in 1910, contains an 18thC art collection and is furnished in the style of that period. It was given to the nation by Count Moïse de Camondo. There is some parking in rue de Monceau, and a possible drop-off point in the forecourt about 25m from the entrance.

Having crossed the gravelled forecourt, the entrance is up one step. This building used to have a lift, installed in 1911, but we were told that it will never be in use again. Therefore, the only access to the first floor is +33, and a spiral staircase +40 to the second floor. Both have handrails on both sides. There are narrow doors, with the minimum being 74cm. There is no toilet.

**Musée Jacquemart-Andre**

158 blvd Haussmann, 75008  
*Tel:* 01 45 62 11 59  
*Fax:* 01 45 62 16 36  
*website:* [www.jacquemart-andre.com](http://www.jacquemart-andre.com)  
*e-mail:* message@musee-jacquemart-andre.com

The lavishly ornamented mansion of the 19thC banker contains an impressive art collection.
Only the GF (which is 60% of the museum) is accessible to wheelchair users, but it is well worth a visit. There is a car/taxi drop-off just outside the entrance, and parking on nearby streets if you are lucky. The entrance from the street is step-free, and the ticket office is down the corridor on the left, attached to the shop (+2–2 steps to enter and –2 to exit). The exit to the shop leads you to a gravel road up to a courtyard. There is a step-free route, bypassing the shop, which leads you to the main courtyard by a set of doors. To enter the house there is a platform stailift to bypass +7 steps. The GF is then step-free. There is a tea-room on the right.

The first floor is up a wide spiral staircase with handrails (+2 +25 +17). Once on the first floor it is step-free. To exit there is another staircase (–12–13–6–13), which has handrails except for the bottom three steps. Some rooms on the GF are normally seen when exiting, having come down from the first floor. If you cannot get up the stairs, you can ask a member of staff to move some roped barriers to enable you to see the rest of the GF rooms.

The (inaccessible) toilet is on the GF at Room number 5, and it has three doors to enter, minimum D55, with ST0.

**Salle Pleyel**

252 rue du faubourg Saint-Honoré, 75008  
*Tel: 0 42 56 13 13*  
*website: www.sallepleyel.fr*

Located near the junction with ave Hoche. The Hoche UGCP (*Parking guide page 140*) with lift access to the street, is about 150m away. A concert hall for both recitals and orchestral concerts which has just been completely refurbished. Considerable efforts have been made to accommodate disabled visitors, and several features are very good. One door to the right has a ramped step with just a small lip to bypass the +1 [11cm] step elsewhere. There are step-free routes almost everywhere, bypassing many steps.

The hall is on three levels, and there are wheelchair spaces and step-free seats on each level. In the stalls, this is just a small number, and they are right at the back under an overhang, so the acoustic is not likely to be very good. Probably the best ones are at the front of the first balcony, although there are some more at the back. There are also some chair spaces, and seats with step-free access at the front of the second balcony. There’s a large lift (D90 W300 L200) to link the various levels, and there’s a special and separate lift to take disabled concert goers to the bar.
level during the interval and down to the GF where the toilets are. On the GF there are four groups of toilets (two mens and two womens), and in the mens the only cubicle was a **wheelchair cubicle (D80 ST100 SH50)**.

**Salle Gaveau**

45 rue la Boétie, 75008  
*Tel: 01 49 53 05 07  Fax: 01 49 53 05 08*  
*website: www.sallegaveau.com*

Located near the junction with ave Delcassé. None of the nearest CPs have lift access to the street, and the ones in the 8th that do are listed at the end of this section.

The Salle Gaveau is a classical concert venue where restoration work was still going on when we visited at the end of 2006.

The main entrance has +1 step, but a side entrance is ramped. A lift (D85 W165 L105) goes to all the floors except the third. There are three separate halls in the building. In the main concert hall, there are spaces for chair users on the lower floor in the boxes along the sides of the orchestra stalls, and on the first floor balcony.

There are also two recital/meeting rooms, Rostropovitch and Marguerite, both of which can be reached step-free, and which have movable chairs, so that there are potential spaces for wheelchair users. We were told that a **wheelchair toilet** would be in place on the GF by the lift by mid-2007.

*Parking in the 8th arrondissement*

Parking on the surface is limited with relatively few metered spaces and very few BB spaces. This is partly because of reserved spaces for residents. There is an UGCP some 300m from the place de la Concorde, and a number of UGCPs with lift access down the Champs-Élysées, the nearest being at the junction with George V.

**Parking Alma-George V**

10 ave George V, 75008  (*Parking guide* page 122)  
UGCP. Maximum height:190cm. 497 spaces.

This CP is near the end of the pont d’Alma. There are two entrances on ave George V - one opposite rue La Trémoille and the other on the corner of the junction with place de l’Alma. Both are obvious from the surface. There are six BB spaces; three on level minus one, and one each on the other levels.
Lift One (D80 W105 L140) goes to the surface without steps and comes up between rue La Trémoille and place d’Alma. The exit via Lift Two involves steps.

Wheelchair toilet (D75 ST80 SH47) on level minus one. From the lifts, the toilet is the fourth door on the left after the exit sign.

**Parking Champs Élysées**
103 ave des Champs-Élysées 75008  (*Parking guide* page 126)
UGCP. Maximum height:190cm. 670 spaces.
The entrance is on the junction with rue La Boétie, and is obvious from the surface.
We saw nine BB spaces, on levels minus one, minus three (where the reception and toilets are) and level minus five.
There are four internal lifts, but only one (rue de Berri Two, with D80 W105 L135) goes to the surface. It comes up on the pavement at 90 Champs-Élysées, 30m from the rue de Berri.
The three other lifts come up as far as level minus one.
There are **two wheelchair cubicles, one in the mens (D85 ST200 SH42), and one in the womens (D80 ST90 SH40)** on level minus three.

**Parking George V**
55 ave George V, 75008  (*Parking guide* page 138)
UGCP. Maximum height:190cm. 830 spaces.
The entrance on ave des Champs-Élysées, next to the junction with rue Galilée, is obvious from the surface. The CP is just 250m from the Arc de Triomphe.
Ten BB spaces. There are two lifts (D75 W100 L120) that go to ground/street level on either side of the road, by 88 Champs-Élysées.
Wheelchair toilet (D80 ST300+ SH47) on level minus three. Although the door opens inwards, the cubicle is enormous. Come out of the lift and go left past the administration desk. The toilets are then on the right, and are clearly marked.

**Parking Hoche**
18 ave Hoche, 75008  (*Parking guide* page 140)
UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm. 967 spaces.
The entrance is well-signed and obvious from the surface, located at 12 ave Hoche, on the corner of ave Berhe Albrecht. You can also approach from other side of the road, just before rue de Faubourg Saint-Honoré.
Once inside, turn right for Hoche Étoile, NOT Hoche Monceau, which does not have any BB spaces. There are seven BB spaces, all located next to the reception near the entrance. There is one lift (D79 W105 L140) next to the BB spaces. It comes up on ave Hoche, near the junction with rue de Faubourg Saint Honoré, and directly opposite the main CP entrance. **There is an adapted toilet (D68 ST75 SH41)** located next to the lift, opposite reception. You will need a key from reception. The door should open wider than 68cm, but it was blocked by an advertising board, which we were able to move with some difficulty.

**Madeleine-Tronchet**

place de la Madeleine, 75008  (*Parking guide* page 142)

UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 700 spaces.

On the north-west corner of Place de la Madeleine, this huge car park has 3 BB spaces on each of the 4 levels. Lifts go to the surface and level –1. Toilet on level –1 by the vehicle entrance; follow the signs for Accueil and the toilets are to the right. One cubicle is a **wheelchair toilet (D90 ST100 SH50)**.

**Parking Marceau-Étoile**

82 ave Marceau, 75008  (*Parking guide* page 144)

UGCP. Maximum height 210cm. 503 spaces.

The entrance is obvious, on ave Marceau near the junction with rue Newton.

We saw six BB spaces (most of the CP is private); numbers 1052 and 1053 (on level minus one), 2061 (on minus two), 3061 (on minus three), and 4053 and 4062 (on minus four). Level minus five is only for private parking.

There are three lifts. They lead to different pedestrian exits, and all are well signed.

Sortie Vervet has the only lift (D80 W110 L140) that leads to the surface, and comes up at 82 ave Marceau. You need a ticket to get back in again. There’s a **wheelchair toilet (D85 ST100 SH51)** on level minus one.
Grandes boulevards/Opéra (9th)  
(Area D on the map)

This section covers some of the largest shops in central Paris, *Printemps* and *Galeries Lafayette*, and also the Opéra Garnier. All the sites listed are in the southwest corner of the arrondissement, and quite near the line 14 stations at Gare St-Lazare, Madeleine and Pyramides which are all about 400 to 500m away.

**Printemps Haussman**
64 blvd Haussman 75009  
*Tel:* 01 42 82 57 87  
*website:* www.printemps.com/international

A large department store spread across three buildings, which are connected by walkways over the streets. The buildings are located near the intersection of blvd Haussman and the rue du Havre. There is a taxi drop-off point outside and parking in the attached UGCP (*Parking guide* page 155).

The sales floors of each building are all approximately 100m by 50m, with between seven and eleven floors per building. Each building has a number of entrances, most of which are step-free. The main entrance, into the *Printemps Mode* building, is on the corner of blvd Haussman and rue Charras. The information desk is by this entrance, and supplies a useful map of the store, as well as keeping a wheelchair which can be borrowed. Four lifts (D130 W175 L180) in the centre of this building provide step-free access to seven of the eight floors.

*Printemps Beauté et Maison* is linked by step-free walkways on the second and third floors to *Printemps Mode* as well as having step-free entrances at street level. Two lifts (dimensions as before) link to all levels except the top (ninth) floor which can only be reached by escalator from the floor below. This is rather a shame, as the ninth floor houses a restaurant/café with a roof terrace and spectacular views over Paris. *Printemps Homme* is linked to *Printemps Beauté et Maison* by step-free walkways on the second and third floors and also has step-free entrances from the street. A lift (D80 W130 L135) gives access to all floors.

There are **wheelchair cubicles (D85 ST90 SH49 with movable HR)** in the toilets on the first floor of Mode, on the first floor of Beauté et Maison.
(D85 ST100 SH53 with fixed HR) and on the first floor of Homme by the lift (D85 ST115 SH47 with movable HR). There are numerous cafés around the store with movable tables and chairs.

**Galeries Lafayette**

40 blvd Haussman, 75009  
*Tel:* 01 42 82 36 40  
*website:* www.galerieslafayette.com

Probably Paris’ most famous department store, Galeries Lafayette occupies three buildings along the blvd Haussman. The main store is known as *Lafayette Coupole*, because of the grand cupola or spire which sits on top of the central circular galleried area. All entrances to this building from the blvd Haussman are step-free: other entrances involve between 2 and 14 steps.

There are two lifts either side of the central gallery serving levels –1 to 6. At the time of our visit, one set of rather ancient-looking lifts were out of service, seemingly permanently, so that only one lift (D140 W240 L147) was serving the whole building. Be prepared for a long wait at busy times.

The GF has a split level up +7 steps to approximately 15% of the floor. This mezzanine contains the international area, VAT refund desk for tourists, wigs and hair products and the Haagen-Dazs café. Access to this mezzanine level from street level involves +3+11 from rue Mogador and rue Chaussée d’Antin, so there is no step-free access to it. However, if you do manage to struggle up there, you will find a **wheelchair toilet** (D85 ST100 SH50).

Floor 7 is reached by an escalator from the level below or +12+12+12+12 steps from level 5 and is step-free except for a temporary ramp up a +4 split level.

Fitting rooms were mostly of a standard size, measuring approximately D100 W100 L100+. The Etam concession in the third floor lingerie section had a double-sized cubicle, but it was full of boxes when we visited. There is a small lounge area with chairs and sofas on some floors near the central gallery. All cafés and bars have step-free access except for Bar Bubbles (*Bar à Bulles in the store guide*) on level 1, which has high (110cm) tables.
SHOPPING AROUND THE BLVD HAUSSMANN TO THE RUE DE RIVOLI
Wheelchair toilets that can be accessed without steps are located as follows:

- Level 0 (D85 ST105 SH52) to the back of the store from the blvd Haussman entrance and to the right, near the socks;
- Level 1 (D85 ST95 SH50) by the Designers’ section;
- Level 2 (D85 ST110 SH50) by the bridge to the men’s store;
- Level 6 (D85 ST85 SH50) opposite the lift by the main Lafayette Café.

The mens store, Lafayette Homme, is across rue Mogador from the main store and linked to it by overhead bridges linking levels 1 and 2 in the main store to levels 2 and 3 in the mens store. The lower bridge has +15 steps at the main store end, bypassed by an escalator and platform stairlift. The lift is staff-operated: there is an intercom and phone to call a member of staff, but only at the top of the stairs and the phone is 155cm off the ground.

The upper bridge has +6 steps at the main store end bypassed by a platform stairlift (L105 W80). Again, you need to use either the intercom (at both ends) or the phone (only at the top of the stairs) to call a member of staff to operate the lift. The phone elicited a response when we tried, but it was 150cm from the floor, out of reach for some chair users.

Once in the men’s store, all floors can be reached from two lifts, one near the link bridges (D110 W145 L137) and rue Mogador side of the building, and the other (D90 W128 L133) tucked away in the corner near the rue Charras side of the building. On level 1 this lift is within the Chênevert restaurant.

There are three food outlets in the building which have rather variable amounts of wheelchair-friendly seating. In the café on level 3, such seating is only outside on the garden terrace and all seating inside is of the high bar table variety.

Wheelchair cubicles (in both the mens and womens toilets) are located as follows:

- Level 0 (D75 ST160 SH50) near the lift at the rue Mogador side of the building. The cubicle door is inward opening but there is ample room inside.
- Levels 2 and 3 (D85 ST95 SH48)
Lafayette Maison, the home store, is across the blvd Haussman from the men’s store. Step-free entrance from blvd Haussman and place Diaghilev. Lifts (D145 L200 W175) at the end of the building give step-free access to all five levels. **Wheelchair cubicles (D90 ST190 SH50)** on level 3.

**Monoprix**  
rue Caumartin 75009  
Near the junction with rue de Provence. A reasonably large supermarket, below ground level, reached by a lift (D80 W96 L140) from street level. Step-free throughout. Changing room in the lingerie section measures D100 W120 L105. No toilet.

**Square Villemin**  
rue des Récollets 75010  
A tranquil enclosed garden a stone’s throw away from the Gare de l’Est. One BB parking space on the corner of the rue Faubourg St Martin. The garden is about 100m square and step-free throughout, with smooth cobbled paths. There is also a children’s playground and a **wheelchair toilet (D85 ST90 SH49)** in the toilet block.

**Opéra (Palais Garnier)**  
place de l’Opéra, 8 rue Scribe, 75009  
Tel: 01 47.42.57.50.  
The building, which was built in the latter half of the 19thC for Napoleon IIIrd, is one of the iconic monuments in central Paris. Since the opening of the Opéra Bastille, the programmes here at the original Opéra now consist mainly of ballet and contemporary dance. Parking is difficult in this central location, but for a matinée it would be possible to use the UGCP at Galeries Lafayette.  
If you are simply coming as a visitor, just to see the building, then access is problematic, because of the steps described below. We were told, however, that with building work already under way, access should have improved by 2008.  
If you want to see a show, then you need to negotiate with the box office. Disabled people with tickets for a performance can go in through the artists entrance on place Diaghliev from which there is step-free access to some seats (presumably using a service lift). We were also told that there is a disabled person’s toilet, although we were unable to see it.
There are +10 steps without handrails at the main entrance to the vestibule and box office, followed by a further +10 without handrails once inside.

Take one of the two main lifts (D84 W200 L100), on either side of the second set of steps, to the first floor. From here there is flat access to the front side of the stalls. Although vision may not be brilliant from here, this very old theatre was not designed with wheelchair users in mind, and space is almost non-existent. Alternatively you can try the boxes (D67) on the second, third and fourth floors which are +1, but you need to check the details with box office staff in advance. There are unadapted toilets on every floor.

**Paris Story**
11bis rue Scribe, 75009
Tel: 01 42 66 62 06 Fax: 01 42 66 62 16
website: www.paris-story.com

This has a 50-minute multi media presentation in a cinema covering key events in the history of Paris since Roman times. The commentary is multilingual. There are three wheelchair spaces, but access is via a long platform stairlift which bypasses –30 steps. A chair user will need to somehow alert staff in the office at the bottom of the stairs that they want to use the lift. It can take quite a while to get down, particularly if there are two or three chair users. Note that not all the staff have the appropriate training to operate the lift, so you will increase your chances of getting in by phoning first (if that is an option).

**Parking in the 9th arrondissement**

**Edouard VII**
face au 15 rue Edouard VII (off rue de Caumartin), 75009  *(Parking guide page 149)*

UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm. 500 spaces.

The entrance is signed from rue de Caumartin. We saw two BB spaces near each set of lifts and the Parking guide says that there are ten altogether. There are two sets of lifts. A pair of lifts (D80 W95 L130) come up on to place Edouard VII which the other, a single lift (D80 W95 L130) comes up by the blvd des Capucines. No adapted toilets.
Haussmann C&A
16 rue des Mathurins (near place Daighilev), 75009 (Parking guide page 153)
UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm. 410 spaces.
The entrance is from blvd Haussmann, near Auber metro station. The Parking guide says that there are five BB spaces. There are two sets of lifts. A pair of lifts (D75 W120 L130) lead to blvd Haussmann where there is a small lip/tiny step down to the pavement. The other lift (D80 W130 L120) comes up by the rue de Caumartin. Both sets come up outside the C & A store. No adapted toilets.

Haussmann Galeries Lafayette
95bis rue de Provence (entrance from the back of the store), 75009 (Parking guide page 154)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 750 spaces.
The Parking guide says that there are eight BB spaces, and lift access to the street.

Haussmann Printemps
98 rue de Provence, 75009 (Parking guide page 155)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 600 spaces.
The entrance is signed from the rue de Provence, but you have to go down rue Charras, and the way in is off blvd Haussmann. There are twenty-four BB spaces, spread over eight levels. Three lifts (D105 W155 L150) come up to the street in a passage leading to rue de Provence near the junction with rue Charras. Wheelchair toilet (D75 ST115 SH50) on level minus one.

Montholon
square de Montholon, 75009 (Parking guide page 158)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 475 spaces.
The entrance is just off rue La Fayette. We found eight BB spaces on different levels, and the Parking guide says that there are fifteen. One lift covers the levels up to minus one. Another lift (D80 W110 L205) which is signed from the reception/accueil desk goes up to the surface in the square. Wheelchair toilet (D85 ST105 SH48) on level minus one.
Les Halles/rue de Rivoli (1st/2nd)
(Area E on the map)

The area to the north of the Louvre is the principal shopping area of Paris, and the main boulevards in this area are lined with expensive boutiques and large department stores. One major change since the last edition of the guide is the disappearance of the massive department store, the Samaritaine. We understand that this is because the buildings were old, and could not be upgraded economically to meet current health and safety standards.

For those travelling by public transport, the easiest point of entry is through the massive underground shopping centre at Les Halles, built in the 1960’s on the site of the city’s demolished central market. The ‘accessible’ line 14 of the Métro and lines A and B of the RER all connect here, although navigating your way around the Les Halles complex is not immediately straightforward.

The 1st and 2nd arrondissements are generally flat, with some cobbled streets. They cover an area which is approximately 2km east/west and 1km north/south.

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In this section, the write-ups start in the east (at les Halles), and follow a generally westerly direction. Only the Bibliothèque Nationale (Site Richelieu) and the Galerie Vivienne are in the 2nd arrondissement.

The Paris Plage event which happens every summer and stretches along the riverside from the 1st to the 4th is written up in the next section.

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Forum des Halles
101 Porte Berger, 75045 Cedex 01
Tel: 01 44 76 96 56  Fax: 01 44 76 96 50
website: www.forum-des-halles.com

The Forum is a multi-level underground shopping centre built above the Chatelet-les-Halles RER station. Although it was only built in the 1960’s there are discussions going on about its redevelopment within the next ten years. Just to the north is a pedestrianised area up towards the rue Réaumur. This is good for access except that many of the streets are cobbled.

On the surface there is a park and gardens, dominated to a large extent by the contemporary architecture of the new Forum, together with the
traditional (circular) Bourse de Commerce building and the St Eustache church with its flying buttresses.
The shopping centre is built around a huge hole in the ground called the place Basse, which goes right down to level minus three. There are shops and restaurants on levels minus one, minus two and minus three. Then you have to go down further to minus four for the RER ticket office and minus five for the platforms. The restaurants are mainly of the ‘fast food’ variety.

There are two pairs of lifts, from Porte Rambuteau (to the north and colour coded red) and Porte Berger (to the south, colour coded green). All have (D75 W160 L100).

On level minus three, there are two sets of new wheelchair cubicles (D75+ ST70+ SH45) in the mens and womens toilets near the lifts from both Rambuteau and Berger. There is a 40 cent charge in each case.

The main level in the centre is minus three. There are two information desks there, where you can get a plan of the layout showing where the various shops are. This is also where to go if you want to go on the RER but cannot use the escalators going down to the ticket office and then to the platforms.

The website says that these desks are only staffed between 10.00 and 19.30, so outside those hours you may have to get help from the security staff who should be around all the time.

The lift access to the RER is via a service area, and you will be escorted down to the ticket office to arrange your travel. Then further lifts provide access to the platforms. In our experience (although this is limited), the lifts at Chatalet-les-Halles have been more reliable than a number of the others on the RER in central Paris.

On level minus three there is a central open-air plaza which is at the bottom of the ‘huge hole’, place Basse, referred to above. This provides a picnic and recreational area for families, but getting there involves either +7 or +4 steps, depending on where you are. If you arrive via +7 then you are at the higher level of the plaza, and if via +4, then you are at the lower level.

There are two UGC cinemas in the complex, one (the Ciné Cité) on level minus three, and the other (the Orient Express) on level minus four. Both say that they have chair spaces in the screens.
St Eustache (Church)
rue Rambuteau, 75001
On the north side of the Jardin des Halles. A 16thC church with rich decorations inside, and an impressive façade with flying buttresses outside. It is often used for organ recitals. Step-free entrance on the south side of the church from place René Cassin (the west end entrance has +4 steps). Inside you are greeted by soaring arches and a well-lit interior. Step-free although with some uneven flagstones.

St Germain l’Auxerrois (Church)
place du Louvre 75001
On the rue de l’Amiral de Coligny, across from the Louvre and adjacent to the Mairie of the 1st Arrondissement. It has a fine porch and some interesting stained glass windows. The entrance has +2+1 [13cm]−1 [15cm] steps and then is flat inside. We were told that an induction loop covers the front five rows.

Musée de la Publicité
107 rue de Rivoli 75001
*Tel:* 01 44 55 57 50 *Fax:* 01 44 55 57 84
*website:* www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr
A museum about advertising, with a range of temporary exhibitions. It is located in the Louvre building near the junction with the ave du Général Lemonnier. From the street, entrance to the museum is on the right and the shop is on the left (in number 105), both of which have step-free access. Tickets are purchased from the office in the museum entrance. Step-free access to the exhibitions is via a lift (D85 W120 L135) which is located in the shop and goes to the three upper floors and the basement. **Wheelchair toilets** on the basement to the right and right again from the lift (D85 ST95 SH52) and on the third floor about 20m to the left from the lift (D85 ST95 SH50).

The **Palais Royal Gardens** are behind the Palais Royal and can be reached step-free either through the arch to the left of the Palais (opposite the Hôtel du Louvre) or from the place de Valois. Behind the Palais is a courtyard with an installation consisting of truncated black and white pillars. This opens out into conventional French gardens, about 250m long, with immaculate flowerbeds and fountains. There is one step down into the gardens, ramped in places. Plenty of benches and chairs; the paths are unsurfaced but even.
Bibliothèque Nationale, Site Richelieu
58 rue de Richelieu, 75002
Tel: 01 53 79 83 15  website: www.bnf.fr
A large 18thC building that holds part of the National Library of France. The rest is in the new Bibliothèque François Mitterrand in the 13th. The (old) building, here, houses public reading rooms and temporary exhibitions. The entrance from rue de Richelieu leads into a cobbled courtyard, from which there are +6 steps to the main entrance, with its foyer and shop. A further +3 lead to the temporary exhibition area. Alternative access is available on request via a staff-operated service lift (D90 W90 L140), immediately to the right of the front gate, up a 20cm kerb. This takes you to the basement level, where 80m past dusty cabling and water pipes, leads to another service lift (D90 W100 L150, one of a bank of three), which will take you to the temporary exhibition level. Here you can see the Richelieu reading room, a huge oval room with three galleries of books. There are –3 steps into the room but you can go through the administrative area to enter via a ramp at the far end. The same lift provides access to the coins and medals exhibition (otherwise +17 +19 +9), which also contains a variety of other artefacts. Half the exhibition is +20 with no lift access. The lift also serves the Galerie Mazarine, with its attractive painted ceiling, and the manuscript reading room.

Galerie Vivienne
Off the rue Vivienne or the rue des Petits Champs, 75002
An attractive early 19thC shopping arcade with smart shops, near the Bibliothèque Nationale. Step-free from rue des Petits Champs, –1 [10cm] –4 steps from rue de la Banque. After the first few shops there are –5 steps to the remaining 40% of the arcade but this section can be reached step-free from rue Vivienne. The arcade has an attractive mosaic floor that is a little uneven.

St Roch (Church)
296 rue St Honoré, 75001
On the corner of rue St Roch. A large church started in 1653 with 18thC chapels added and with an extensive collection of works of art from abandoned and destroyed churches. Entrance +13 steps, and then step-free inside.
The Place Vendôme is a short walk north of the Jardin des Tuileries up the rue Castiglione. The centrepiece of the square is a large commemorative column celebrating Napoléon’s victory at Austerlitz. The square is also home to the Paris Ritz hotel, the Ministry of Justice and a number of smart designer shops. The surface is cobbled but fairly even, and step-free except for a step at the base of the column. There are no restaurants on the square, and care needs to be taken of the traffic, which passes through the centre of the square although this is far from obvious given the lack of pavements, street markings and the like.

Parking around les Halles

There are two main CPs for the Forum les Halles, Rambuteau Nord and Berger Sud.

For BB holders, the preferred option is to use Berger, level B where there are BB spaces and step-free access into the centre.

There’s another CP with lift access near St Eustache. We were told that there were two entrances: one from rue Coquillière and one from rue Berger. There is one level with three BB spaces. There is step-free access to lifts which take you into the Forum les Halles shopping centre, and to the surface on allée André Breton.

Berger Sud

BP 180, 75001 (Parking guide page 69)
UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm. 980 spaces.
The Parking guide says that there are four BB spaces.

Entered from rue du pont Neuf or rue des Halles.

Rambuteau Nord

BP 180, 75001 (Parking guide page 78)
UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm. 980 spaces.
There are entrances from rue de Turbigo; rue du pont Neuf; rue Coquillière and rue des Halles. The Parking guide says that there are nine BB spaces.

St Eustache

rue Coquillière, 75001 (Parking guide page 79)
UGCP. Maximum height: 185cm. 380 spaces.
The Parking guide says that there are three BB spaces.
In addition, parking with lift access to the surface is possible at:

**Saint Honoré**
39 place du Marché St Honoré, 75001  *(Parking guide page 81)*
UGCP. Maximum height: 270cm. 680 spaces. 16 for BB.
To enter, follow place du Marché Saint-Honoré after 29 Juillet, off rue de Rivoli, then go along the square around to the left to find the entrance.
Some of the BB spaces are right by the entrance ramp and the pattern is repeated on each floor.
Adapted cubicle in the womens toilet on level –1.

**Sébastopol**
43 blvd de Sébastopol, 75001  *(Parking guide page 82)*
UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm. 520 spaces.
The *Parking guide* says that there are ten BB spaces.
The entrance is just past the intersection with rue Berger, while the exit is some way away on rue de Renard. There are ten BB spaces; two each beside the lift on the five lower floors.

**Réaumur Saint-Denis**
40 rue Dussoubs, 75002  *(Parking guide page 86)*
UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm. 370 spaces.
Reasonably well signed, and just north of the pedestrianised area en route to les Halles.
There are 8 BB spaces scattered around, two of which are right by the entrance.

**Turbigo Saint-Denis**
149 rue Saint-Denis, 75002  *(Parking guide page 88)*
UGCP. Maximum height: 300cm. 500 spaces.
The *Parking guide* says that there are twenty BB spaces.

Note also

**Halles Garage**
10 rue Bailleul, 75001  *(Parking guide page 72)*
UGCP. Maximum height: 280cm. 350 spaces.
There are no spaces for BB vehicles, and no lift to the surface. The reason for including it is its claim to accommodate higher vehicles.
The Marais district stretches from the place de la Bastille to the Hôtel de Ville, and includes:

- the oldest square in Paris (the place des Vosges); and,
- some fine pre-Revolution residential architecture.

Immediately alongside it in the 4th arrondissement is the Pompidou Centre.

In or just off the rue Rambuteau/rue des François Bourgeois which forms the boundary between the 3rd and 4th arrondissements are:

- the Musée Carnavalet;
- the Archives Nationale; and,
- the Musée Picasso (all in the 3rd).

The word Hôtel is used simply to mean ‘House’ and many of the museums are now set up in different family houses, particularly in these arrondissements.

The whole area is pretty flat.

We have included the write-up on *Paris Plage* in this section, although it stretches from the pont des Arts in the 2nd arrondissement through to the pont de Sully in the 4th.

**The sites are listed as follows:**

- Bazaar Hôtel De Ville
- the Pompidou Centre
- St Merri church
- Hôtel de Rohan
- Hôtel de Soubise
- Hôtel de Sully
- Musée Carnavalet
- Musée Picasso
- Place des Vosges
- Hôtel de Ville
- Paris Plage
Bazaar Hôtel De Ville (BHV)
52-64 rue de Rivoli, 75004
Tel: 01 42 74 90 00 Fax: 01 42 74 96 79
website: www.bhv.fr
A large department store opposite Hôtel De Ville. It occupies the block bounded by rue de Rivoli, rue des Archives, rue de la Verrerie and rue du Renard. There is step-free access from rue de Rivoli, but there are numerous other entrances, mostly with steps. The store is spread over seven floors. There are two lifts in the Verrerie/Archives corner (D95 W145 L170) and another in the Verrerie/Renard corner. On the second floor there is a split level (with ±7 steps) which can be bypassed by an open lift (D80 L145) in the centre of the store floor. There is a terrace café on the seventh floor which provides good views of the city, but you can only get there via +12 +11 +1 –1 steps. A restaurant on the fifth floor directly opposite the Verrerie/Archives lifts provides a self-service alternative, but without the view. Also on the fifth floor by the lifts in the Archives/Verrerie corner, there are wheelchair cubicles (D90 ST80 SH50) in both the mens and womens toilets. The cubicles are not clearly indicated as being different from the others!

Centre Pompidou (Pompidou Centre)
place Georges Pompidou, 75004
(postal address: Centre Pompidou, 75191 Paris Cedex 04)
Tel: 01 44 78 12 33 (main enquiries)
(for disabled visitors) Tel: 01 44 78 49 54 Fax: 01 44 78 16 73
website: www.centrepompidou.fr Closed Tuesdays
The area around the centre is called Beaubourg after the somewhat disreputable medieval village that once stood there. Nowadays the gently sloping piazza in front of the building is a focus for a wide variety of performers trying out their songs, mime, juggling and poetry. If the weather is good it is a very animated scene. The centre is included in the recommended itinerary including les Halles and Notre Dame.
The centre is an ultra-modern structure which opened in 1977. It has recently been refurbished. It is built ‘inside-out’ with the services and pipework on the outside of the building, leaving a vast amount of space inside.
It measures about 170m by 60m with eight different floors/levels. These go from minus one (below the main reception level), up to level six where there is a restaurant and several small exhibition rooms. The reception level is effectively level 0.
The Pompidou Centre is located on the east side of pl Georges Pompidou. Taxi/car drop off in rue de Renard/rue St Merri. The website has good information, some of it in English, including the Maps of the Levels. The access pages are only in French, but include some good information.

The main entrance to the GF (level 0) is from pl Georges Pompidou. Using an alternative entrance from rue de Renard near corner with rue de St Merri through door marked Entrée Reservé Au Personnel avoids the cobbled slope and takes you directly to the upper mezzanine level. On level 0 there is an information desk, ticket office, book shop and cloakroom. Wheelchairs can be borrowed from the cloakroom if ID is left. There is a wheelchair toilet (D90 ST105 SH50) to the left of the ticket office. You will need to get the code from the information desk.

Permanent features include the Musée National d’Art Moderne (National Museum of Modern Art) on the fourth and fifth levels, and the Bibliothèque Publique d’Information (Public Information Library) mainly on the second and third levels with a wide range of both French and foreign books, together with slides, films and periodicals. There is also the IRCAM (Institute for acoustic and musical research) which promotes a number of programmes and exhibitions. There are two cinemas/auditoria with chair spaces and an induction loop on levels one and minus one.

Major exhibitions are held in various parts of the centre.

**The building is basically flat and step-free everywhere as long as you use the lifts, but there are long distances involved.** The main method of getting between floors within the building is by escalators in transparent tubes on the outside of the structure. If you need to use the lifts, then there are three lifts centrally located (D75 W120 L140) which go between the basement, ground floor (level 0) and level 1. Level 1, also referred to as the mezzanine, is a huge balcony running around three sides and looking down on the entrance area.

To get to the other lifts (D95+ W190+ L130+) on the outside of the building for reaching the fourth, and sixth levels, you have to go some 150m. Turn left from the central lifts, left again past the café area, then around to the right to get to the corner of the building, and back along the outer wall to where the lifts are.

The Musée d’Art Moderne is housed on the fourth and fifth levels, with two internal lifts linking just those two floors making it all step-free. On the sixth level there are further galleries and a restaurant.
The library is accessed from the rue de Reynard in the south-east corner of the centre. The library occupies the first, second and third floors. Access to all floors by lift (D80 W90 L120) behind the escalators.

There are two cinemas, one located in the basement and the other on the first floor. These were both closed during our visit. They have induction loops fitted and a separate wheelchair entrance.

**Adapted toilets**
There are accessible/adapted cubicles in each of the mens and womens toilets indicated on the floor map available from the information desk. The signs on the map are really tiny, and quite difficult to see. The toilets are located in the basement (minus one); on the GF (level 0), second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth levels. The GF toilet requires a code in order to use it, available from the information desk. The specification for the adapted cubicles is quite poor with somewhat restricted ST space and poor positioning of the handrails, and they have not been upgraded during the recent major refurbishment.

**Eglise Saint Merri**
rue Saint Martin, 75003
*Tel:* 01 42 71 93 93
Situated to the south of the Pompidou Centre on a lightly cobbled pedestrian street. Entrance +1. Step-free inside except for +2 to the small prayer area before the high altar. Ramp to the left of altar could bypass this if moved by someone. All the chairs are movable.

**Hôtel de Rohan**
87 rue Vieille du Temple, 75003
*Tel:* 01 40 27 60 96
This house displays temporary exhibitions from the National Archives, which change every two months or so. The building is very close to the Hôtel de Soubise. At the entrance, cobbles lead to +7 steps. The exhibitions are all on the first floor, which is +14 but no HR; +15 with HR; +14 no HR. All of the rooms retain their 18thC character, but there is no bypass to the stairs.
Hôtel de Soubise

Archives Nationales, Musée de l’Histoire de France
60 rue des Francs-Bourgeois, 75003
Tel: 01 40 27 62 18 or 01 40 27 66 45
website: www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr
e-mail contacts for different subjects can be found on the website
Closed Tuesdays

The archives and museum are housed in two adjacent buildings.
Napoleon I built the Archives in 1808 and the building now houses the
Museum of the History of France. It is described as being one of the finest
buildings in the Marais. One BB space on rue Mont Mercy about 15m
from entrance. The building is fronted by a cobbled courtyard 60m long
by 30m across. The street entrance has +1 step, bypassed by a ramp, and
then a paved, shady colonnade, with some movable chairs and tables, runs
around the courtyard. There is a ramp on the far right-hand side from the
colonnade onto the cobbled courtyard 15m from the building, the entrance
to which has +4 to a set of double doors.

You need to bring ID such as a passport or driver’s license. At reception,
you must register and leave your bag. The first floor is +20 +20, but this
can be bypassed via a goods lift/monte charge, also used for transporting
documents. Someone will accompany you the 65m, over rough cobbles.
To reach the lift there is +1 step (they plan to build a ramp) then +4
[19cm]. The lift has D120.

This goes to an archive library, a grand Napoleonic wooden room, not
usually seen by the public. From here it is around 80m, through a door
(D76), to the reading room, which contains movable chairs. There are no
adapted toilets or aids for the visually impaired.

Any book or document can be ordered from the Guichet and will be
available in around an hour. There are some fine works of art on display.

Hôtel de Sully

62 rue Saint Antoine, 75004
Tel: 01 44 61 20 00

The building is currently occupied by the Caisse Nationale des
Monuments Historiques et des Sites. It measures approximately 100m by
40m, with two courtyards. The surrounding area is flat. Taxis can stop by
the pavement outside the main entrance. The main entrance is step-free
from the rue Saint Antoine. The front courtyard is cobbled, though these
are quite smooth. There is an information centre. From this, +4 then −4
steps lead to the second (rear) courtyard. This has a hard, sandy surface,
with some benches in a lowered section with −3 steps.
At the time of our visit there was a temporary ‘Jeu de Paume’ exhibition in the basement at the back of the rear courtyard, +5 then −23 bypassed by a lift. From the basement, −6 leads to a sub-level. We found only one toilet, not adapted.

**Musée Carnavalet**
23, rue de Sévigné, 75003
Tel: 01 44 59 58 58 Fax: 01 44 59 58 11
website: www.paris.fr/musees/musee_carnavalet  Closed Mondays
Housed in two large Renaissance mansions (Carnavalet and Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau) and surrounded by attractive gardens, this museum captures the history of Paris through a collection of paintings, sculptures and archaeological finds. They have gone to some lengths to improve accessibility, but the attitude of staff members was extremely variable! Good plans and diagrams can be printed off from the website.
About 60% of the building is accessible without steps, with a little help. In the other 40% there are split levels with ±4 and ±7 steps. There are some unavoidable cobbles en route.
Via the main public entrance at 23 rue de Sévigné, there are +3 steps to the Accueil desk, where you can get help from a member of staff.
Inside this house (Carnavalet), there is step-free access to the GF via an alternative entrance off the rue des Francs-Bourgeois, where after some cobbles, there’s a ramp on your right, leading to room 10. The door en route may need to be unlocked. Once there, most of the GF is step-free. To get to the upper floor there are +34+34.
To get to the other building, you need to go via 29 rue de Sévigné. There’s a bell outside, or you may have organised a staff member to open the gate. Across the 50m of cobbles there’s a ramp leading into the second house which has a lift (D80 W100 L130) leading to the first and second floors. Most of this second house (Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau) can be visited step-free, and there’s an overhead link across to the first floor of Carnavalet but there are +4 steps at the end.
In Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau, there are two wheelchair toilets (D80 ST80 SH50) at the far end of the Orangerie on the GF. There are two more (D80 ST80 SH47) on the first floor.

**Musée Picasso**
Hôtel Salé,  5 rue de Thorigny, 75003
Tel: 01 42 71 25 21  Fax: 01 48 04 75 46
website: www.musee-picasso.fr  Closed Tuesdays
There is no parking at the museum but there is one BB space on rue de la Perle, around the corner to the right of the museum when facing it. The entrance is at 5 rue Thorigny and has a dropped kerb outside. It is 25m across the cobbled front courtyard to the ticket office on the right. The main entrance has +4 steps from the courtyard but chair users can enter step-free through a wide door opposite the ticket office, which can be unlocked on request.

It is evident that much effort has gone into providing step-free access through as much of the museum as possible, with the result that the only steps inside the building are +3 to the cloakroom at the left of the main entrance, +1 (D56) to a little room on the first floor with a few pictures of the building’s renovation, and –15 –4 (no handrail) to the lower level of the gift shop, which sells postcards and souvenirs. Looking round each floor will cover a distance of around 150m and there are some chairs around to sit on.
The GF and basement are step-free, with slopes throughout. One lift (D130 W170 L134) is hidden behind a wall but is shown on the guide-map and staff should be around to help.
There is a wheelchair toilet (D75 ST75 SH53) next to the wheelchair entrance.
The garden at the back is reached from the museum via –5–2 steps. A sandy path leads to the back of the garden, where there is a café with movable chairs and tables.

Place des Vosges
Eastern end of rue des Francs Bourgeois, 75004
There are entrances all round the square, which is surrounded by colonnaded pavements full of restaurants. Very attractive.
No public toilets found.
The square is full of benches and seats, all well shaded by groups of well-groomed trees; the paths are open, firm and sandy and there is a play area.

Hôtel de Ville
place de l’Hôtel de Ville, 75004 (enquiries desk at 24/29, rue de Rivoli)
Tel: 01 42 76 40 40  Fax: 01 42 76 62 30
This is the official residence of the mayor of Paris and the principal meeting place for the city’s administrators. It has an attractive façade outside and the interior is very grand in parts with delicate chandeliers
and decorated ceilings. **At 24 rue de Rivoli, there is an enquiry desk**, and there are sometimes small exhibitions in the hallway en route. Access is via an open lift (D80 L130) which bypasses +4 steps. Because it is a ‘working’ building, the only way to see the inside is on an official guided tour. Individuals can book a place on a weekly tour in French or groups can arrange a tour to be conducted in other languages, including English. These visits last about an hour and cover around 250m inside.

For disabled visitors, if you have booked in advance, staff can take the details of your vehicle and you will be able to park in the inner courtyard, the entrance to which is on rue de Lobau. From here, lifts (D78 W100 L138) are about 70m walk across cobbles to enter the building and reach the second floor on which the tour starts. Flat access is then possible to the whole of the remainder of the tour.

There is a **wheelchair cubicle (D70 ST80 SH50)** in the mens toilet on the second floor.

**Paris Plage**

Paris Plage is a now annual fixture on the Rive Droite for a month at the end of July and the beginning of August. Since 2002, the embankment road between the Pont des Arts and the Pont de Sully has been closed to traffic for a month (taking advantage of the fact that many Parisians are on holiday during August) and is given over to an artificial beach, complete with sand, deck chairs and watersprays for the benefit of curious tourists and those locals who haven’t managed to flee the capital. There are ice cream sellers, street artists and a great deal else along the length of the beach, which have a different theme each year (in 2005 it was Brazil, to tie in with a concurrent festival of Brazil in France). Visiting the ‘beach’ is very pleasant but slightly incongruous. Bear in mind it’s likely to be quite crowded, especially if the weather is warm. Distances may be long.

The layout is likely to change from year to year, so this write-up, based on the 2005 plage, is simply intended to give you an impression of what to expect. To reach the riverbank, you will need to use one of the cobbled slopes down from the pavement above, such as the one between the Pont des Arts and the Pont Neuf (opposite rue de l’Amiral de Coligny), between the Pont Neuf and Pont au Change, or at the Pont Louis-Philippe. The plage is about 3km long and is closed off from the road network for the
duration. The best places for a tax drop-off are on the bridge. Parking nearby is tricky.

Despite being a ‘beach’, the surfaces are tarmac road: the sandy areas and other attractions are on raised wooden decking areas, with frequent ramps (W110) for access. We found the official guide to Paris-Plage very useful although the kiosk that we obtained it from was difficult to find. Apart from the deckchairs in the sand, seating was limited to areas outside restaurants and cafés, but people are likely to be sitting all along the narrow strip, especially on hot days.

A number of portable toilets were provided. Our 2005 map did not mark any wheelchair toilets, but we found wheelchair cubicles at all three toilet “banks”, albeit in each case extremely well concealed. The one we found between Pont D’Arcole and the Pont Louis-Philippe had D95 ST80 SH62.

Parking in the 3rd and 4th

Georges Pompidou
4 rue Brantôme, 75003 (Parking guide page 92)
UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm/350cm for coaches. 600+ spaces.
Entered from the rue Beaubourg, in the Berger tunnel.
The large UGCP has split levels, ramps and BB parking spaces, with lift access from the rue Saint-Martin exit up to the Piazza area. The UGCP for cars has the usual height restriction of about 1.9m.
There is a CP alongside for coaches, which would therefore take a minibus or a car with a stowage pack on top, but there is no lift access from this section. If you park in the coach park, to get to a lift, you have to come out into the tunnel area, and use the entrance to the CP for cars - triggering the barrier arm to go up if necessary, by activating the relevant low level sensors!
In theory, coaches drop off (and pick up) their passengers on the surface and park underneath, and when the building was designed, nobody thought about adapted minibuses which might want to use the facility.

Saint-Martin
253 rue Saint-Martin, 75003 (Parking guide page 93)
UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm. 470 spaces.
Entered from the corner of rue St Martin and rue Réaumur. The Parking guide says that there are two BB spaces.
Baudoyer
4 place Baudoyer, 75004  (*Parking guide* page 94)
UGCP. Maximum height: 195cm. 320 spaces.
Entered from the rue de Rivoli opposite the Mairie of the 4th
arrondissement. The *Parking guide* says that it has six BB spaces.

Saint-Martin Rivoli
4 rue Pernelle, 75004  (*Parking guide* page 102)
UGCP. Maximum height: 187cm. 230 spaces.
Entered from the corner of rue Saint-Bon and rue Pernelle. There is
a sign on rue de Rivoli. To reach ground level it is necessary to take
two stairway lifts (up the side of the stairs). This is how our surveyors
described them, and it sounds as though there is a lift cabin that uses an
inclined track, like several on the RER. You come up by the exit ramp on
rue Pernelle between the pedestrian street of Saint Martin and Nicholas
Flamet. There are seven BB spaces. **Wheelchair toilet (D80 ST200+ SH50)** though with no toilet seat when
we visited, on level –2, straight ahead of the lift, though the stairway lifts
make the journey slow and we were told that staff may need to operate the
door. The office is 30m to the right of the lift, and presumably there is an
intercom to activate the lift to get back down again!

Left Bank (5/6th)
(Area G on the map)

The left bank area near the river is the home to many attractive pubs
and restaurants. Sadly, not many are ‘accessible’ and even fewer have a
wheelchair toilet - but it’s a lively scene, not to be missed. It is also the
home of the Sorbonne, and hence (at appropriate times of the year) parts
of the left bank are distinctly ‘studenty’.

The write-ups here start with those in the 5th arrondissement, and work
generally from east to west across the area which is about 1.5 km north/south and as much as 3 km east/west.

Jardin des Plantes (Botanical Gardens)
2 rue Buffon / 57 rue Cuvier / 36 rue Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 75005
Tel: 01 40 79 56 01
website: www.mnhn.fr  Closed Tuesdays
The gardens were founded in 1626 and form an important part of the National Museum of Natural History. The buildings include the Gallery of Evolution; the Gallery of Paleontology and the Gallery of Mineralogy. There is also a zoo. Details of the other sites which are part of the National Museum can be found on the website.

The Gardens
The gardens themselves are around 500m by 100m with sometimes uneven tarmac paths and benches scattered around. There are three main entrances, all with step-free access, one from place Valhubert (giving a spectacular view up to the main museum), one from rue Geoffroy Saint Hilaire and one from rue Cuvier (this has large gratings that might cause problems). Nearest parking is at Gare d’Austerlitz, from where it is around 150m to a flat side entrance on rue Buffon.

The Zoo
Tel: 01 40 79 37 94
Described by one surveyor as ‘The most depressing thing I have ever seen,’ this small zoo is in the north quarter of the gardens. There is flat access from either rue Cuvier or the Gardens themselves. Rough tarmac and gravel paths with pot-holes and shallow steps or ramps to most of the animal houses, for example: +3 steps to the vivarium; ramped access to the reptile house; +5 +3 to the lion and tiger enclosure, which has stood empty since 1973. Most exhibits are flat inside, some with handrails, but many animals can be seen from the path.

Mineralogy Gallery
Large building, but with the majority of it closed when we visited, situated between rue Buffon and allée Havy within the gardens. Main entrance has +12 steps. Once inside, previous surveys reported flat access to most of the exhibits, which were on a low level with Braille and descriptions, but on this occasion the only part that was open was a further +3. This level had a wheelchair toilet (D75 ST110, SH50!)

Palaeontology Gallery
Tel: 01 40 79 30 00
Situated by the rue Buffon/blvd de l’Hôpital entrance to the gardens, the entrance has +5 steps. There are +2 to the main exhibit floor (75m by 20m) and +30 to each of the floors above (no lift). The shop is +3 from the entrance and the unadapted toilet (D56 ST0) is +3–24 down dark, slippery steps.
Grande Gallerie de l’Evolution
Tel: 01 40 79 54 79
This is by far the best of the Natural History Museum galleries, with numerous interactive displays. The entrance, off rue Geoffroy Saint Hilaire, near the junction with rue Buffon (south-west corner of the Gardens), is flat with heavy double doors. Security guards are always on hand to help. The museum is set over five floors: there is flat access to levels 1, 2 and 3 from four lifts (D75 W130 L140) situated on the ground floor (to the left once through the ticket barrier); flat access to the sub-ground floor is via a lift (D75 W110 L130) to the right, before the ticket barriers; every floor is step-free. Almost all of the interactive displays are at a low height, but sometimes partially obstructed by small, immovable seats. Lighting is quite low throughout. There is a café, with movable tables and chairs, on the first floor and a shop (step-free) on the right, after the entrance. Wheelchair cubicles (D75 ST75 SH47) in both mens and womens toilets, located on the left after reception but just before the ticket barrier. There is also a wheelchair cubicle (D75 ST80 SH47) in each of the womens toilets on levels 1, 2 and 3. Overall it’s pretty cool.

Mosquée (Mosque)
39 rue Geoffroy St Hilaire, place du Puits de l’Ermite, 75005
Tel: 01 45 35 97 33     Closed Fridays
website: www.mosquee-de-paris.com  (When we checked in 2007 it said that the website was ‘up for sale’ and it is not a proper site for the mosque !)
Another website is: www.sacred-destinations.com/france/paris-mosque.htm
The mosque was built in the 1920s and includes designs and decor from a number of countries. It is very close to the Museum of Natural History in the Jardin des Plantes.
There are four BB spaces quite near the mosque, on rue des Quatre Temps, rue d’Aubenton and rue Geoffroy St Hilaire.
Guided tours of the mosque leave every 20 minutes from the caisse (ticket office). The entrance has +2+3 steps without handrails and there are +4+5 into the first quadrant. From here there is a small step into the prayer area or −5−1−2−6 down into the Moorish style sunken garden which symbolises paradise.

Arènes de Lutèce (Lutetia Arena)
ruge de Navarre, 75005
The remains of a genuine Gallo-Roman arena, now forming a small
attractive park which provides a sheltered spot, ideal for a picnic and interesting in its own right. Lutetia as the Roman name for Paris. The main entrance is located on rue de Navarre, near the junction with rue des Arènes. The arena is straight down a gentle slope and is now used for pétanque, one of the more common versions of boules. The arena itself is flat. The ground is fairly rough, but the whole place is small, so there’s not far to go. Alternatively, turn right up a gentle incline to a viewing area with benches and there’s a wheelchair toilet (D75 ST85 SH53). To get in press the button to right of door. Left from the entrance takes you up a steep slope and +20 steps to an alternative viewing area. A separate section of the park can be accessed from rue des Arènes. It is +4, bypassed by a steep ramp. From here it is +2 or a ramp to a children’s playground. To get to the viewing area and the Arènes from here directly is +27.

L’Institute du Monde Arabe (Arab World Institute)
1 rue des Fossés-Saint-Bernard, place Mohammed-V, 75005 (75236)
Tel: 01 40 51 38 38 Fax: 01 43 54 76 45
website: www.imarabe.org  e-mail: rap@imarabe.org Closed Mondays
Spread over twelve floors with a variety of cultural activities. There is step-free access from the street and six lifts give access to all floors. There are a terrace and restaurant on the ninth floor (see Ziryab Restaurant write-up below). On level minus two there are wheelchair cubicles (D80 ST90 SH40) in both the mens and womens toilets.

Ziryab Restaurant
Institut du Monde Arabe
1 rue des Fosses Saint Bernard, place Mohammed 5, 75005
Tel: 01 53 10 10 16 Fax: 01 44 07 30 98
website: www.yara-prestige.com
Located on the ninth floor of the Institute du Monde Arabe, this restaurant offers North African cuisine and a fantastic view of Notre Dame. The toilets on the ninth floor are adapted but wheelchair cubicles are located on level minus two, accessible by lift.

Panthéon
place du Panthéon, 75005
Tel: 01 44 32 18 00 Fax: 01 44 07 32 33
This became the burial place for “great men who died in the period of French liberty”. Mirabeau, Voltaire and Rousseau have their tombs in the
PANTHEON

The building has had a varied history, sometimes being used as a church; at one time it was the headquarters of the Commune, and later it became a lay temple. It has a fine exterior and impressive dome.

There is limited metered parking in the pl du Panthéon, and a UGCP on rue Soufflot nearby (Parking guide page 108). The entrance is on pl du Panthéon opposite rue Soufflot and has +11 steps. The building is huge and the site measures about 100m by 100m.

Although there has been a major refurbishment, access has not been improved.

On the GF there are +5 steps to a raised level which goes right around the building with exhibitions spread along it. There is a Focault Pendulum hung from the Dome (with its motion maintained by the motion of the Earth). The crypt containing the tombs of Voltaire and Rousseau is –12 –26 to the right of the signed access. From the crypt it is +8 to see a display about the history of the Panthéon.

The adventurous can attempt to reach the terrace which is +188 with handrails up a narrow spiral staircase from the crypt. It is a further +30 with handrails and +12+6 without handrails to view the painted ceiling of the dome.

St Julien le Pauvre (Church)
1 rue St Julien le Pauvre, 75005
Tel: 01 43 54 52 16
website: www.people.ku.edu/~asnow/ (not an official website)

This small 13thC church is close to St Séverin. The main entrance has 10m of cobbles, then –2 steps. Alternatively it is possible to use the adjacent side-door entrance through the gardens which has –1. This side entrance needs opening by the staff who can be found at the information desk on the left, by the main entrance. The inside of the church is flat. The adjacent gardens, Square R Viviani, have flat entrances and are mostly flat with numerous benches, although there are some cobbles. There are superb views of Nôtre Dame from the gardens.

Eglise de Saint Severin
1 rue des PrLtres St Serverin, 75005

This 16thC church is located on the South side of the Seine, across from Notre Dame. There is metered parking on the surrounding roads and one BB space on the corner of the rue de la Parchiminerie and the rue Saint Jaques, although the facility is regularly abused.

The main entrance has +3 +2 steps and narrow doors (when only half the door is open). The information desk is a further +1. Here, a member of
staff can be asked to open the doors to a side entrance, which will provide easier access from the corner of rue Saint Jaques and rue Saint Severin via +1 +1 small steps.

Hôtel du Cluny (National Museum of the Middle Ages)
6 place Paul Painlevé, 75005
Tel: 01 53 73 78 00/01 53 73 78 16
website: www.musee-moyenage.fr (with pages in English)
e-mail: lettreinfo.musee-moyenage@culture.gouv.fr
Two buildings have been combined to make up this site. The first is one of the few private houses in Paris in the 15thC (the mansion of the Abbots of Cluny), while the other contains the remains of some Roman baths dating back to 200AD. They form a museum with some exceptional exhibits including stained glass and a unique collection of medieval tapestries. **Access is a challenge!** There are steps everywhere, and no lift to link the various levels.

There are 30m of cobbles in the courtyard before you get to the main entrance. Then +2 steps give access to three small exhibitions and the bookshop. From here it is −14 to the old church and then +3+2 to other exhibits. A further +34 takes you to the upstairs hall. It is then −2−27 to the bookshop and −2 to exit. There are some tactile exhibits for visually impaired visitors.

Palais et Jardins de Luxembourg
rue de Vaugirard, 75006
The Palais, situated on the rue de Vaugirard where it meets rue de Médicis, is the home of the French Senate, the upper house of parliament. The garden (about 500m x 500m) surrounding the Palais is beautifully laid out, the heart of it being a Medici fountain dating from the 17thC. The gardens are also filled with statues, modern art exhibits and play host to a variety of activities, including pétanque, tennis, a playground and, in the western part of the garden, pony riding.

All entrances to the garden are step-free and the path surfaces are compacted grit. There is plenty of seating available. Step-free access to the fountain is either from the Palais at the northern end or from the southern end.

There are two **wheelchair toilets** in the garden, neither of which we were able to survey. One is located near the rue Guynemer entrance to the north-west of the park and the other to the south-east of the park near the blvd St Michel, where a fixed ramp bypasses +2 steps.
**Eglise St Sulpice**
place St Sulpice, 75006  
*Tel:* 01 46 33 21 78.

A 17thC church, located between rue Palatine and rue St Sulpice. It is dedicated to St Sulpicious, a 6thC archbishop. Metered parking is available around the church. The main entrance on place St Sulpice is made difficult by cobbles and +12 steps, but there is a step-free entrance about 150m round the church on the rue Palatine. Once inside the church, there are +2 or +3 to the altar and steps into some side chapels, but it is otherwise flat.

**Eglise St Germain des Prés**
3 place St Germain des Prés, 75006  
*Tel:* 01 55 42 81 33  *Fax:* 01 46 33 15 05  
*website:* www.eglise-sgp.org

The oldest church in Paris and steeped in history. The current church dates back to the 11thC and incorporates the remains of an earlier 6thC church. Located by the junction with rue Bonaparte. It is possible to be dropped off in the cobbled forecourt. The main entrance is across some 15m of cobbles and has +2+2 steps. Alternatively, there is a +1+5 entrance from the rue de l’Abbaye which avoids the cobbles. Inside, from the nave, the information desk is +1 and the chancel, side chapels and displays are +2, but the church is otherwise step-free. There are two little gardens in the grounds around the church: one on the rue de l’Abbaye side has step-free access, the other on the boulevard St Germain is +1 and has a remarkable mosaic.

**Parking in the 5th and 6th**

There are five UGCPs in the 5th and 6th with lift access to the surface:

**Maubert Saint-Germain**
39 blvd Saint-Germain, 75005  *(Parking guide page 106)*

UGCP. Maximum height: 185cm. 620 spaces.  
Entrance at the junction with rue des Bernardins. There are five BB spaces. Lifts two and three (D75 W90 L80) link the lower levels to level minus one. The blvd Saint-Germain lift (D80 W100 L115) goes from level minus one to the surface, but our survey says that there are +3 steps to get to it (which we have to say sounds unlikely!). **Wheelchair toilet** *(D75 ST85 SH53)* near the office on level minus one.
Patriarches
4 place Bernard Halpern, 75005 (Parking guide page 107)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 380 spaces.
Entrance from place Bernard Halpern. We saw eight BB spaces. When we visited, the lift was under renovation, and this was due to be completed early in 2008. Wheelchair toilet (D85 ST110 SH40) next to the office/accueil on level minus one.

Soufflot
18 rue Soufflot, 75005 (Parking guide page 108)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 791 spaces.
Entrance on right after turning into Soufflot off Saint Martin. No designated BB spaces.

Marche Saint-Germain
14 rue Lobineau, 75006 (Parking guide page 110)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 700 spaces.
Entrance from rue Clément. The Parking guide says that there are 15 BB spaces.

Saint-Michel
9 blvd St-Michel, 75006 (Parking guide page 114)
UGCP. Maximum height: 190cm. 435 spaces.
Entrance from place Saint-André des Arts. We saw five BB spaces. The lift (D80 W95 L140) to Sortie Seine only goes up to level minus one. The other lift (D80 W100 L140) to Sortie Cluny goes up to street level by 9 blvd St-Michel. No toilets.

Eiffel Tower, les Invalides, Musée d’Orsay (7th)
(Area H on the map)

This area includes some key attractions, including the Hôtel des Invalides, where Napoleon is buried, and some important museums as well as the iconic Eiffel Tower. Quite near the Tower is the starting point for the Bateaux Parisiens river boat trips (see Getting around) and just across the river is the Palais de Chaillot. The arrondissement is triangular in shape, with the ‘long’ side along the Seine stretching for nearly 3km.
In the write-up the sites are described going generally from the west, starting with the Tower and working gradually east via the Musée du quai Branly, the Hôtel des Invalides, with the Orsay at the end. There are very few CPs in the 7th, and as the area is large, we have included details within the individual write-ups.

**Le Tour Eiffel (Eiffel Tower)**

Quai Branly, 75007

*website*: www.tour-eiffel.fr

The tower is probably the most famous landmark in Paris. Gustave Eiffel designed it for the World Exhibition of 1889, and despite being detested and criticised by numerous artists and writers at the time, has since attracted over 200 million visitors. It is included in one of the recommended itineraries.

It is situated at the west end of the Champ de Mars, which is a huge expanse of grass going down to the École Militaire. Parking is quite difficult. We found a BB space opposite ave du Suffren and rue Champfleury, and metered parking around some of the surrounding residential streets. An alternative is the CP for the Bateaux Parisiens, which is at the port de la Bourdonnais opposite ave de la Bourdonnais, off the Quai Branly. This is about 300m from the tower and is ideal if you plan to take a boat trip as well, as suggested in the itineraries, although the CP is not cheap! There is no vehicle height restriction, so it is ideal if you’re driving a minibus. There is also the UGCP in the new Musée Branly which is about 400m from the tower. The tower has three floors, and the first and second floors are accessible by lift. In the past the rules were rather relaxed regarding access to the third floor, but on our visits in 2005 and 2006 we were repeatedly told that wheelchair users and other disabled people are not allowed on the lifts from the second to the third floor due to health and safety regulations, which apply to all ‘rolling vehicles’ and to people who might be described as ‘ambulant disabled’.

Note that the queues are long.

The tower has four legs, each with a huge lift. The North leg is ramped directly to the ticket office, though it is a little steep, then it is flat to the lifts. The South leg has +9 steps to the ticket desk, and is the entrance for those who want to walk up for a reduced entry fee. You will also find a menu for the Jules Verne Restaurant, which is on the first floor. The West
leg has +3 steps, which can be bypassed by a ramp to the left of the ticket kiosk. Usually one leg is closed, and on our visit it was the East leg. This is accessed by an open lift, operated by staff, bypassing +7. From there it is flat, with chain barriers that are operated by staff.

Our survey team including a chair user, went to the front of the queue for the West leg, where we found a member of staff who led the team off to the kiosk to purchase the tickets. We were then led along the step-free entrance, effectively following the exit route. As the lift descended we kept to the left to allow the passengers to exit, and then we went into the lift as others entered from the opposite side. In this way we were able to avoid queuing for approximately one hour.

On the first floor you can only see out of the Champ de Mars side unless you use the −7 steps to the main viewing area. This is because the central part of the tower is occupied by the restaurant, a conference centre, cinema, souvenir shop, café and post office. All of the facilities have flat access, apart from the cinema (+15). The viewing area is restricted by a balustrade all the way round at a height of 110cm. There is a wheelchair toilet (D80 ST185 SH50) with a retractable and fixed bar, but it was full of cleaning materials which we had to move. We were told that they were only there temporarily (but we’ve heard that story before many times!). The area can get very busy, and iron beams often obscure the views.

To reach the second floor where you can get a better view, you can either stay on the lift from ground level, or take the lift from the first floor. The main section is flat and there is the possibility of ascending +18 for better views, avoiding another balustrade. There is a straight staircase from the

We contrast, with some sadness, the entry in the 1993 edition of Access in Paris, and reflect that we said much the same in 1974 and 1985. Now, in the 21st century, chair users and disabled walkers are not allowed go to the third level. UGH !!!

“The queues for the third floor can be huge and on peak days you may face a waiting time measured in hours, however, our survey team made their presence known and were ushered ahead of the queues. The view from the third level is unique, and our chair users got up and down perfectly well, with only a little help from friends.”
Level 3  +15 steps to open air view

Level 2  +18 steps to lift

Level 1  –7 steps to viewing area

Those with a motor disability are no longer allowed up to level 3
covered area, which contains one further souvenir shop and a café. Again, the architecture requires maze-like turns through narrow gaps. There is a wheelchair toilet (D90 ST92 SH45) in the main toilet block at the centre of the covered area, with a retractable bar and fixed handrail (one of the very few like this that we found).

The queues for the third floor can be huge. Note that, as we have said earlier, disabled people are no longer allowed to go up to the third floor. The final lift is reached via +18 steps from the second level. At the very top you exit from the lift in to the lower section of the third floor which is enclosed. It offers a view through 125cm high windows with a handrail, and a labelled map helps you ‘spot’ the various sights on the skyline. There are seats, but they don’t provide any view. To get the open-air view, there are +15 steps to the upper section where only wire mesh obstructs the view.

Just by the East pillar there is an underground public toilet (40c charge). A clear sign points over slightly rough ground to an open lift (D80 W85 L130) to bypass –22 steps. The lift leads to toilet where the attendant will open the wheelchair cubicle (D90 ST150 SH50).

**Musée du Quai Branly**
218/222 rue de l’Université, 75007
Tel: 01 56 61 70 00  Fax: 01 56 61 70 01
website: www.quaibranly.fr  e-mail: contact@quaibranly.fr
Closed Mondays

The museum is housed in a striking building designed by Jean Nouvel. It provides a new perspective on non-western arts and civilisation. When we visited in 2006, the museum had only just opened, and work was still ongoing to finish various sections. Pedestrian access is from the rue de l’Université, where the entrance is step-free. CP access is from the Quai Branly, and there are 12 BB spaces in a UGCP with just over 500 spaces. Height restriction 2m.

The museum exhibits are mainly inside on an upper level, measuring about 250m by 50m, although there are also some in the garden. There is a good leaflet with a plan of the site, showing where the lifts and toilets are. One lift goes directly from the CP to the Les Ombres restaurant. The main entrance from rue de l’Université gives access to the gardens, and it’s about 50m to the ticket office. Wheelchairs may be borrowed, although when we visited all five were being used. Two lifts (D90
W140 L130) near the entrance bypass the –25 steps to the cloakroom in level minus one, and a further –28 to level minus two where the Theatre/Cinema is. Here there are mens and womens toilets, each with wheelchair cubicles (D90 ST100+ SH48).

To use the lift to bypass the 100m gently sloping ramp from the entrance level up to level two you will need staff assistance. Level one does not seem to exist!

The main gallery is flat and barrier-free, except for the occasional cattle-grid which is easily bypassed. Lighting in the galleries is relatively low, and the writing by the exhibits is quite small. There are three galleries, the west, the east, and the multimedia gallery. The west gallery has wheelchair cubicles in the mens and womens toilets, while the east gallery has a unisex wheelchair toilet.

In the garden area some 10m from the entrance, there is a slightly cramped bookshop with step-free access. There is also a restaurant about 50m away off the garden.

**L’Hôtel des Invalides (National Army Museum)**

129 rue de Grenelle, 75007  
*Tel:* 01 44 42 38 77  
*website:* www.invalides.org

The building was constructed in 1674 under the orders of Louis XIV to accommodate the veterans from his various campaigns. Big enough to hold 4000 injured soldiers, it is dominated by the gold plated Eglise du Dôme which now houses the tomb of Napoléon.

The other main buildings within it are the Church of St Louis and the Army Museum. The Musée de L’Armée is itself made up of three separate parts; Louis XIV to Napoléon III, World War I (closed for renovation when we visited), and World War II. All are well worth a visit. **80% of the complex is step-free.**

There are two main routes in, and there’s a side entrance:

- the first is from place des Invalides at the end of ave du Monsieur Gallieni (at the north of the site) over 75m of concrete path and 10m of cobbles leading to the central courtyard, Cour d’Honneur. However, from here there are +5 steps to access the gallery and all other buildings;
- the second way in avoids the +5 steps by using the south entrance from place Vauban over 75m of gravel path up to the Eglise du Dôme
but **the easiest way** is through the side entrance on blvd des Invalides (just south of the junction with rue de Varenne). There is plentiful parking there, including 4 BB spaces. This entrance gives flat access over 50m of concrete path to the Eglise du Dôme.

Facing the Eglise, there is a café to the left, to the west side of the church. The café entrance has +2, although there is a step-free route if you go around the corner to the left. There are movable tables and chairs inside. There is also an information point, where one wheelchair is available for use, and ticket office to the left of the church. Again the entrance is +2, also bypassed by going past it and back via a bookshop, or by going through the café.

The **Musée de L’Armée’s Louis XIV to Napoléon III Galleries** are located on the east side of the courtyard. There is a step-free entrance with a lift (D75 W105 L140) located straight ahead and then to the left, accessing all floors. On the 4th floor, the top floor, there is a section that has +10 steps, bypassed by a lift (D85 W120 L140) hidden behind a door. It is not immediately obvious, as you need to double back to your right as you come out of the main lift. This section houses a collection of scale models of fortified sites made from 1668 onwards, and, although the lighting is dim, is well worth seeing.

The **Musée de L’Armée’s World War II Galleries** are further down the walkway to the left of the Eglise du Dôme on the Westside of the courtyard. A flat entrance gives access to a wheelchair lift (D90 W95 L140) which goes to all three floors. Most exhibits are visible from chair level and seating is available. There is a wheelchair toilet (D75 ST80 SH50) just by this lift on the first floor. There is a second lift, with the same dimensions, by the exit that also gives access to the basement where there is a wheelchair cubicle (D85 ST140 SH42) in each of the mens and womens toilets.

The **Eglise du Dôme’s** main entrance has +14 steps, with no handrails, but once inside the gallery is flat. Napoléon’s tomb is obscured by a barrier, H95cm. To get level with the tomb in the crypt, there are slightly spiralled −17, then −26, from the gallery. Other tombs are in recesses on the upper gallery which is +6, without handrails. The floor is either carpet or marble throughout, and there are no seats in the building.
Eglise St Louis des Invalides is a spacious, peaceful church, with flat access from the centre of the gallery around the Cour d’Honneur. The church is quite grand in size, and and elaborate in parts. To the left and right of the church are +40 steps leading to a balcony overlooking the central courtyard, and not worth the effort!

Musée Rodin
Hôtel de Biron, 77 rue de Varenne, 75007
Tel: 01 44 18 61 10  Fax: 01 44 18 61 30
website: www.musee-rodin.fr
The museum is an elegant townhouse, dating from 1728, set in beautiful gardens, and housing almost all of Rodin’s sculptures. It is located at the junction of rue de Varenne with blvd des Invalides. Nearest parking is on the blvd des Invalides with 4 BB spaces 150m away, by the side entrance to the Hôtel des Invalides (towards ave de Tourville). At the time of our visit they were two months away from finishing a new building and entrance to the grounds. We were told that it should be possible for a BB holder to park just inside the entrance if the visitor phoned in advance.

The main entrance to the site is flat and gives access to the gardens, which are about 200m by 100m. The paths are mostly gravel, with some cobbles, and there are benches dotted around. For a step-free route to the gardens at the rear of the house, you need to keep left, bypassing –11 steps to the right. This will then give access to the café and the toilets (100m away) on the right side of the gardens. The café entrance has +1 [7cm], then D74 with movable tables and chairs inside and out. The wheelchair toilet (D85 ST110 SH51) is to the right of the café over 2m of smooth cobbles. The main entrance to the museum (20m from the main site of the entrance) has +3 +1 steps, bypassed by two fixed ramps, one with a 2cm lip.

There are two floors. The ground floor is step-free and houses sculptures, each with written descriptions at a low height (typically 85cm), but with small lettering. There is also step-free access to the ground floor shop. The first floor houses the other half of the collection reached via +12 +13 +15 with HR. One wheelchair is available for use at the museum main entrance.

Les Egouts de Paris
place de la Résistance, 75007
Tel: 01 53 68 27 81
e-mail: visite-des-egouts@paris.fr  Closed Thursdays and Fridays
The sewers are located at the south-east corner of Pont de l’Alma, on the
corner with Quai d’Orsay. Unfortunately, access to the sewers requires a
descent of –21–7–8 steps, only part of which has a handrail.  
*When we wrote earlier editions of the guide it was possible to go down using a service lift.*
Once the lower floor level is reached however, disabled visitors will be able to view 95% of the exhibitions step-free, and can certainly experience the unique environment. There are +2 to the Belgrand Gallery, but these can be bypassed by an alternative route through which you will be guided. One 50m passageway is only 50cm wide, but this too can be bypassed. Toilets are unadapted (D65, ST negligible) and are +6 steps to reach them.

**Musée d’Orsay (Orsay Museum)**
1, rue de la Legion d’Honneur, 75007  
*Tel*: 01 53 63 04 50  *Fax*: 01 42 22 71 61  
For access information *Tel*: 01 40 49 47 14 for individuals or *Fax*: 01 42 22 11 84.  
*website*: www.musee-orsay.fr  *e-mail*: laurence.imbert@musee-orsay.fr

Formerly a railway terminus and hotel, the Musée d’Orsay now houses exhibitions of paintings, photography, furniture and sculpture dating from 1848 to 1914. The imposing façade and imaginative use of space and lighting make the museum a treat inside and out, and the Orsay provides the basis of a recommended itinerary. It is more compact than the Louvre, although you will still cover between 500 and 1000m if you want to see the majority of the collection, and the architecture of the building requires negotiating some narrowish aisles and making numerous lift journeys. Seating is limited and the museum can get very crowded, especially in the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist sections on Level 5.

Metered street parking is available on the place Henry de Monthelant, between the museum and the river, and rue de Lille. There are two BB spaces on the corner of pl Henry de Monthelant and rue de la Legion d’Honneur, and one on rue de Lille, 500m from the museum’s main entrance. Each of these spaces is step-free to the entrance, after a kerb, and there is a taxi rank that also offers step-free access beside the blue badge spaces on pl Henry de Monthelant. Using the CP on the Port de Solférino, alongside the river, involves coming up the ramp and crossing a busy road but it’s a convenient spot, and can take vehicles over 2m height.
Disabled visitors do not have to queue and receive free entry for themselves and one companion.

Go in via Entrance C, which is on the right as you face the museum on rue de la Legion d’Honneur. We were advised that people should take along some proof of disability, such as a photocopy of your blue badge, as French citizens have to bring a card with them to qualify.

The Information Desk, to the right of Entrance C, supplies a special plan of the museum, in both English and French, showing the location of lifts and wheelchair toilets. Wheelchairs are available for loan, for which a piece of identification is required as a deposit. The system of lifts is complicated by the fact that none of them reach all floors, and our surveyors found that the internal signposting was poor; they recommend that you look at the map before approaching the rooms of the museum. The museum also provides disabled persons with the possibility of being accompanied from the museum entrance to the permanent collections. This service is free but subject to staff availability. On week-ends, they request that you make an appointment several days in advance by telephone or fax. Visits are also conducted in International Sign Language and were told that it is best to check availability in advance.

Access is step-free to most of the collection, of which the main exhibits are on floors 0, 2 and 5. These are served by lifts A, B, C and D at the clock end of the museum. Minor collections lie on floors 2bis, 3 and 4, which are served by Lift E, which is at the opposite end of the building.

In the main entrance lobby, you are confronted by a flight of steps leading down to floor 0, but these can be bypassed by taking the corridor to the left, past a number of exhibits. This takes you right along what was probably one of the platforms in the old station. At the end, you can turn around and go past various exhibits down gentle ramps/slopes, finishing up at the bottom of the flight of steps.

On floor 0, access to the rooms is from three aisles, the central alley, Seine gallery and Lille gallery. For the central alley, which slopes gently upwards up to the Opera, take lift A or B down to floor –1, and take the access ramp. Alternatively, follow the Seine gallery or Lille gallery towards the Opera, from where you can join the higher end of the central alley. Floor 2 is divided into two zones, with stairs in between. Step-free access to zone 1 is via the Lifts A, B, C and D while zone 2 is served by Lift E, or a ramp from floor 1. A small number of exhibits are 115-130
cm off the ground or need to be looked down on from that height. Several of the rooms are dimly lit to protect the paintings.

**Details of the lifts are as follows:**

- A and B are located on either side of the main entrance after the ticket barriers, and go to levels –2, –1, 0 and 2 (zone 1). Lift A was out of order on our visit, but Lift B (D75 W105 L140) was working;
- C (D80 W105 L140) is on the far right after the ticket barriers and goes to levels 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5;
- D (D80 W105 L140) is on the far left after the ticket barriers and goes to levels 0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6;
- E (D70 W105 L135) is the back left of the museum and goes to levels 0, 2 (zone 2), and Rooms 25-27 on 2bis, 3, 4, 5

All of the lifts except A and B are concealed by heavy doors and can be operated with a call button for a wheelchair user. However, our surveyors found one that did not work and we had to push the door open manually.

There is an auditorium on level –2 where concerts, lectures and film events are held. It has three wheelchair spaces and an induction loop. The glorious museum Restaurant, open for lunch and tea on most lunchtimes and afternoons, is situated on level 2, in what used to be the restaurant of the hotel of the Gare d’Orsay. The café on level 6 had fixed seating and high tables (H92cm), while the others have movable furniture. On level 5 a terrace affords a lovely view of the Seine from the café, if it is open.

There are five unisex **wheelchair/adapted toilets**, all with movable and fixed handrails, and outward opening doors. The first, and **adapted toilet** (D87 ST40 SH50) is on level –2, near the auditorium and lift. The sink partially blocked the side transfer. On level –1 there was a **wheelchair toilet** (D85 ST140 SH53) to the right on the way out of Lift A. Also on level –1, there are two further **wheelchair toilets** on the left of Lift B. Both are unisex, with one inside the main toilet area (D85 ST95 SH52) and one separate (D88 ST104 SH51). The final **wheelchair toilet** (D85 ST75 SH51) is on level 6, near Lift D and the café.
**Lé Bon Marché**
24 rue de Sèvres, 75007  
*Tel:* 01 44 39 82 80  *Fax:* 01 44 39 80 50  
*website:* www.lebonmarche.fr

A department store stylishly designed to give an airy, palatial style inside. There are two buildings, the main shop and La Grande Epicérie, linked by a footbridge from the first floor.

The nearest CPs are place Boucicaut (*Parking guide* page 121) and Bac-Montalembert (*Parking guide* page 116), but neither has lift access from the parking levels to the surface. There are two BB spaces on the rue du Bac, just by the entrance.

There are step-free entrances on rue de Sèvres, and the corner where rue de Sèvres meets rue Velpeau, while the others involve either +1 or +6 steps.

The rue de Sèvres entrance leads to an information desk with store maps, and there are two lifts (D79 W150 L147) to the right which serve GF and floors 1, 2 and 3.

The entrance by rue du Bac has a lift (D78 W103 L135) that serves the basement, GF and floors 1 and 2.

All levels of the Bon Marché are step-free. On the second floor, there is step-free access to a pricey café, with movable tables and chairs. A unisex *wheelchair toilet* (D85 ST100 SH50) is at the back of the café. Another *wheelchair toilet* (D85 ST100 SH50 with two retractable HRs, one on each side) is on the third floor, to the left of the lifts.

The entrance to La Grande Epicérie from rue de Sèvres is step-free, but +1 from rue du Bac. The GF is step-free, with a wide range of mouth-watering and expensive food from all over the world.

To avoid the escalators leading to the first floor, there is access via the main store. Open lifts (D90 L200) bypass +4+4+4 steps. A restaurant on the first floor with movable seating is step-free, except for a small ridge to the outdoor seating.

**UNESCO**
7 place de Fontenoy, 75007  
*Tel:* 01 45 68 10 00  *Fax:* 01 45 67 16 90  
*website:* www.unesco.org  *e-mail:* bpi@unesco.org
Houses the general secretariat of the UNESCO, which includes an important collection of art in an influential building. Free guided tours must be arranged in advance, while for individuals they take place at 3pm on Tuesdays in English and at 4pm on Wednesdays in French. Tours include a film.

Nearest CP is to the right of the main entrance on rue Fontenoy (height restriction 1.80m), with 2BB spaces outside the entrance on place de Fontenoy. An open lift, bypassing +5 steps, is located on ave de Suffren, which is on the left of the entrance.

**Parking in the 7th**

For the Eiffel Tower, probably the best suggestion is to use the CP in the new Musée Branly. An alternative would be to use the CP by the Bateaux Parisiennes on the riverside.

For the Orsay there is riverside parking about 250m away, although you have to come up a longish slope, or you might even use the Louvre UGCP off ave du Général Lemonnier.

There is some metered parking, which may work out if you’re lucky.

**La Tour Mauborg-Orsay**

10-12 blvd de La Tour Mauborg, 75007  (*Parking guide* page 119)

UGCP. Maximum height 210cm. 433 spaces.

The entrance is obvious from the surface, just before the corner of quai d’Orsay and blvd de la Tour Mauborg. There are 5 BB spaces. The lift surfaces 40m from the corner with the quai d’Orsay. **Wheelchair toilet (D85 ST105 SH51).**

**Palais de Chaillot, Guimet (16/17th)**

(*Area I on the map*)

This section includes a number of sights, and in particular museums and galleries which are fairly close to the Palais de Chaillot, alongside the Seine.

**These are:**

- Cité de l’architecture
- Musée de la Marine (Navy Museum)
- Musée de l’Homme (Museum of Mankind)
- CinéAqua Aquarium du Trocadéro
There is just one place that we are including the 17th, and that is the Palais des Congrès de Paris at porte Maillot.

16th

Palais de Chaillot (also called Trocadéro)
place du Trocadéro, 75016
Tel: 0158 51 52 00  Closed Tuesdays
websites:  www.parisdigest.com/monument/palaisdechaillot;
www.citechaillot.fr
On the right bank of the Seine, across the river from the Champ de Mars, the two-winged Palais and its gardens form a stunning backdrop to the Eiffel Tower. Built in 1937, for the World Exhibition, the Palais houses museums and a cinema. At the time of our visit, one wing was just finishing a major renovation.

It is built at the top of the Chaillot Hill, which gave the Palais its name, and is one of the few hills in Paris. Approaching it from the other side you come first to the place du Trocadéro with the gap between the two buildings providing a wonderful view back over the Seine of the Eiffel Tower and the Champ de Mars.

The fountains in front of the Palais are spectacular when they are on and can be particularly attractive at night when floodlit.

There is a taxi drop-off point in front of the building on pl du Trocadéro, and one BB parking space just off the Trocadéro, at the start of ave Paul Doumer.

From the pl du Varsovie at the end of the pont d’Iena and on the riverside, there is a lightly gravelled path (our wheelchair user had no difficulties) that leads up the slope around and behind each wing, avoiding over 60 steps.

From the place Trocadéro on the other side of the building, you can reach the marbled floor of the Parvis des Droits de l’Homme et des Liberties (Human Rights and Liberties), which is an extensive space between the two wings of the Palais affording excellent views. Access is via the gentle
ramps which bypass +5 on one side and +7 on the other. At the other end of the +5 steps in front of the west wing there’s a really steep metal ramp. The ramps in the middle are much gentler. For the east wing we were told that the open lift (bypassing +7) would be refurbished and repaired in 2007.

The East Wing contains the **Cité de l’architecture et du patrimoine** (a museum and exhibition centre covering French architecture and heritage from the 12thC onwards). When we visited in August 2007 it was just about to reopen after a major refurbishment, but we were unable to see inside as it was still a building site. The museum has its own website [www.citechaillot.fr](http://www.citechaillot.fr) which includes an excellent cutaway diagram illustrating its layout. You find this under *Informations pratiques* leading to a pdf of *Plans et informations*. This suggests that the best entrance for a chair user is from the side of the building a little way down the hill off ave du Président Wilson. This provides access to level 0 from where there is lift access down to level –1, from where a second lift goes down to levels –2 and –3. Toilets for disabled people are shown at the far end of the galleries on level 0, and on level –3.

The West Wing contains the **Musée de la Marine (Navy Museum)**, and the **Musée de l’Homme (Museum of Mankind)**. The entrance to these is just off the central marbled area the Parvis des Droits de l’Homme et des Liberties by the place du Trocadéro. In the foyer leading to the Museum of Mankind there’s a **wheelchair toilet (D85 ST75 SH50)** which is over to the right after you come in through the doors, with the ticket office on your left. Straight ahead is a café/restaurant with fine views over the Seine and the Eiffel Tower. The toilets nearby in the foyer leading to the Navy Museum are unadapted.

The **Navy Museum** has a fine exhibition with canons, model boats, pictures and films which illustrate the history of the French navy. It has its own website [www.musee-marine.fr](http://www.musee-marine.fr) although this covers other naval museums in France as well. The entrance from the place Trocadéro has already been described, off the central Parvis. The upper part of the museum is step-free and is about 80m long. You can see a wide range of interesting exhibits. Inside there are –38 steps down to a lower level. These can be bypassed by going back to the museum entrance, and then going round the outside of the building down the hill to some
doors into the lower level, a distance of around 100m. You obviously need to ask the staff to open this route for you (and show you exactly where it is). Once on the lower level, everything is step free, and the –2 in the basement is bypassed by a ramp.

The Museum of Mankind is on the upper levels of the west wing. Its website is http://www.mnhn.fr/museum/foffice/transverse/transverse/accueil.xsp. From the foyer there is a small staff operated lift (D70 W100 L110) which accesses the first floor where a steepish and slightly slippery ramp (with no handrail) bypasses –5 steps. The lift also goes to the second floor where to reach most of the exhibits there are either –10 or –11, and the route via –11 steps leads to a disabled persons toilet!

**CinéAqua Aquarium du Trocadéro**
Jardins du Trocadéro, 2 ave des Nations-Unies 75016
Tel: 01 40 69 23 23
website: www.cineaqua.com e-mail: info@cineaqua.fr
The Aquarium is sited of the road leading up from the pont d’Iena towards the right side of the Palais de Chaillot. It sounds like a really exciting place to go, with over 500 species of marine life on display in eleven different zones. We didn’t manage to visit, but their website says that the Aquarium is fully accessible to chair users and that guide dogs are allowed (which sounds as though people are both friendly and aware). There are entertainments both for children (during the day) and some late night music for those who are slightly (?) older. There’s also a café/restaurant and a cinema. Have a look at their website for details.

**Musée Guimet (Museum of Asiatic Art)**
6 place d’Iena, 75016
Tel: 01 56 52 53 00
website: www.guimet.fr Closed Tuesdays
A museum with a fascinating collection from Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Vietnam among other places. It is spread over six floors and is situated towards the top of the hill on which the Palais de Chaillot is built, leading up from the riverside. There are good floor plans on the website. At the entrance which is curved, there are between +6 and +9 steps to get to the reception area. When visited at the end of 2006, the outside open lift to bypass these had been broken for many months and had acquired a good crop of weeds. We were told that there were plans to build a ramp outside - which is nearly always a better option than a lift, as it can’t break down.
Inside, there is an Accueil/Ticket office, and then +5 to the GF, bypassed by an indoor open lift (D80 L130). From the GF there is lift (D80 W100 L120) access to the other five floors. There are two lifts, although one is labelled as being for staff use only. Virtually everywhere is step-free, and once they have built the ramp at the front, access will be excellent. On the LGF (labelled RJ, rez de jardin) there’s an auditorium, a restaurant, and some toilets with wheelchair cubicles (D90 ST150 SH50) in both the mens and womens.

**Musée d’Art Moderne**
11 ave de Président Wilson, 75016
Tel: 01 53 67 40 00 Fax: 01 47 23 35 98  Closed Mondays
The museum is located in the east wing of the Palais de Tokyo. It has recently been renovated and has much better facilities for disabled visitors than when we last visited in the 1990s. There are, however, a number of split levels, and access is dependent on whether a number of lifts are working. You might have to back-track quite a bit when your route ends up leading to some stairs.
There is a step-free entrance, clearly marked, leading to a lift (D100 W100 L120) bypassing +10+5 steps and taking you to the upper GF (level 4). Inside it is possible to get to see about 70% of the collection step-free if all the lifts are working. Some temporary exhibits can be reached via an open lift (W90 L120) bypassing +4.
Getting to the café involves –23+3 from the upper GF.
There’s another lift (D110 W240 L150) which goes from near one set of toilets on level 4 to the basement (level 2) and the upper gallery (level 6). By the other set of toilets on level 4 (the upper GF) there’s a unisex wheelchair toilet (D70 ST80 SH45).

**Palais de Tokyo**
13 ave de Président Wilson, 75016
Tel: 01 47 23 54 01
website: www.palaisdetokyo.com e-mail: info@palaisdetokyo.com
Closed Mondays
Located in the right hand section of the building housing the Musée d’Art Moderne, this space is used for temporary modern art exhibitions. The +7+5 steps at the entrance are bypassed by a ramp, about 20m to the right. From here, almost the whole of the this gallery is step-free, except for one small area which is +8. The area is quite large, measuring some 100m by 50m, and there is are no seats. To get to the LGF you need to ask a
staff member and use the service lift which bypasses \(-22\) steps. There are \textit{wheelchair cubicles (D90 ST100 SH50)} in both the mens and womens toilets. There is also a café on the LGF, but while the food serving area is \(+3\), some tables can be accessed step-free.

\textbf{Musée Marmottan Monet}

2 rue Louis Boilly, 75016  
\textit{Tel: 01 44 96 50 33  Fax: 01 40 50 65 84  
website: www.marmottan.com  e-mail: marmottan@marmottan.com}

Michel Monet bequeathed 165 of his father’s works to the museum, which also includes works by Renoir, Pissarro, Morisot and Manet. The museum is a converted 18thC house located on rue Louis Boilly, on the corner with ave Raphaël. Taxi/car drop-off is outside the main entrance where there is also a designated BB space 200m away on the corner of ave Prudlan and ave Raphaël. The entrance has \(+1+11\) steps. Once inside the museum the GF is flat, and the basement, housing the famous \textit{Impression Soliel Levant} (from which the Impressionist movement got it’s name) and Monet’s late Waterlily Canvasses, can be reached by a small lift (D80 W100 L90) which is on the left side of the museum. There is plenty of seating available, and all the works are visible from wheelchair height. A very small lift (not measured, but there was barely enough room for two people standing) goes to the first floor. Museum staff told us that some disabled visitors had sometimes stood in the lift with their folded chair alongside them, and had been helped back into their chair by museum staff on reaching the first floor. Obviously this arrangement is not suitable for all! Unadapted toilets are situated on the stairs on the way down to the basement. The nearest \textit{wheelchair toilet (D90 ST105 SH55)} is in the children’s play area in the Jardins du Ranelagh just under 100m away from the museum entrance.

\textbf{Musée du Vin}

rue des Eaux, 75016  
\textit{Tel: 01 45 25 63 26  Fax: 01 40 50 91 22  
website: www.museeduvinparis.com  e-mail: info@museeduvinparis.com}

The Musée du Vin is located on the rue des Eaux. It is near the Pont de Bir Hakem. It is not well signed but can be found through the gates at the other end of the road from the River Seine. There is space for taxi/car drop off 15m from the entrance, and there is metered parking on the rue
des Eaux, within 100m of the museum. The museum is housed in the wine cellars of the Minimes Monastery, which was destroyed during the Revolution. It is a must-see for all French wine enthusiasts. There’s a free booklet in English describing the exhibits. The entrance to the museum is step-free, and all exhibits are on the same level along a 150m underground route. The narrowest gap on the route is 73cm where a large barrel protrudes into the passage way. There is no seating on the route. There is a wheelchair toilet (D80 ST80 SH50) just inside the entrance, to the right. There is a restaurant located at the back of the museum with movable seating for lunches and (free) wine tasting.

17th

Palais des Congrès de Paris
place de la Porte Maillot, 75017
A large conference centre just inside the Périphérique with an auditorium and an upmarket shopping centre (Les Boutiques de Paris) beneath it. There is lift access from the Porte Maillot CP, whose entrance is immediately outside the front entrance, and a taxi rank on the blvd Gouvion St Cyr from where it is a step-free 20m up a ramp into the Palais at level 0.

There are seven entrances of which three are step-free: the main entrance on the place de la Porte Maillot and the entrance immediately round the corner of the building to either side. The conference centre itself is closed to the public but levels 0 and A contain a variety of designer shops and several cafés and restaurants. Both floors are step-free with lifts (D110 L140 W185) going between them. The auditorium (La Grande Amphithéâtre) has step-free access from one side. If you book in advance the staff can remove seats to accommodate a wheelchair. The UGC cinema has +4 or –21 steps with no chair spaces. Neither the cinema nor the auditorium has an induction loop. Wheelchair toilet (D75 ST82 SH52) on level 0 past the police station at the far end of the centre from the main entrance.

Parking in the 16th and 17th

Apart from in the Bois de Boulogne (see later section), parking in the 16th is quite sparse, and one of the few UGCPs with lift access is on the place Victor Hugo but it’s about 700m down ave Raymond Poincaré to get to
The metered street parking will not be quite so crowded as it is in some other parts of the city, but it’s pot luck as to what you may find, and last time we visited we used the Victor Hugo CP as we couldn’t find anything on the streets. The sites we have included are all quite close together, but you might like to consider parking at the Musée Branly across the river.

**Victor Hugo**
place Victor Hugo, 75016  (*Parking guide* page 240)  
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 550 spaces.  
Entrance from 74 ave Victor Hugo. The *Parking guide* says that there are seven BB spaces.  
The lift (D75 W95 L130) comes up to street level by 90 ave Victor Hugo.  
No adapted toilets.

**Carnot**
20 ave Carnot, 75017  (*Parking guide* page 245)  
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 399 spaces.  
There are 6 BB spaces. It is near the Arc de Triomphe, and has lift access.

**Mac Mahon**
9 ave Mac Mahon, 75017  (*Parking guide* page 248)  
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 421 spaces.  
There are 4 BB spaces. There’s a well-signed lift that surfaces in the ave Mac Mahon. This CP is also close to the Arc de Triomphe.

**Mairie du XVIIème**
16 rue des Batignolles, 75017  (*Parking guide* page 249)  
UGCP. Maximum height 185cm. 335 spaces.  
There are 5 BB well-signed spaces. One lift comes up on rue des Batignolles.  
**Wheelchair toilet** *(D85 ST210 SH50)* on the right as you exit, opposite the lift. Ask the nearby office for the key if it is locked.

**Porte Maillot**
place de la Porte Maillot, 75017  (*Parking guide* page 254)  
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 1782 spaces.  
There are 33 BB spaces mostly in the yellow and pink sections on levels –5 and –6, with five lifts. Using the lifts, you can exit directly on place de
la Porte Maillot or the Palais des Congrès. **Wheelchair toilet (D85 ST105 SH49)** by the CP exit.

### Montparnasse (14/15th)
**(Area J on the map)**

These are two big arrondissements on the southern edge of the city centre, bounded by the Périphérique and covering some 4km east-west and 2km north-south.

The principal sight is the **Montparnasse Tower** which is right on the boundary between the arrondissements. It’s also an area with a lot of hospitals - though we hope that you don’t need their facilities. There’s always a reasonable chance of finding a wheelchair toilet somewhere on a hospital site (though it’s by no means certain). The 15th arrondissement borders the Champ de Mars with the Eiffel Tower, and has the Paris Expo exhibition site alongside the Périphérique in the south.

#### Montparnasse Tower

place Bienvenue, 75015 (33 av du Maine, 75755 Cedex 15)  
Tel: 01 45 38 52 56  Fax: 01 45 38 69 96  
website: www.tourmontparnasse56.com

This **200m high office building provides the most accessible and spectacular views of Paris** and is an alternative to the Grand Arche de la Défense and the Eiffel Tower. There is a slight glitch however, in that getting to the ticket office is complicated.

The UGCP has a lift from Zone B near the BB spaces that goes directly to the lobby. Alternatively there are two pedestrian entrances to the lobby. One from the north, off rue de l’Arrivé, which is flat, and the other from the south, off rue du Départ, via +2 steps. **However tickets must be bought from the booking office which is +20 from outside the north entrance.**

These can be bypassed via a 200m trek through the nearby shopping centre (although not on a Sunday, as the shopping centre is closed). By the lobby’s north entrance go straight ahead for about 75m until you reach some escalators. Turn right and you will find the Galleries Lafayette. About 20m into them there is a lift, on the left which will take you to the first floor. Turn left out of the lift and doors to the ticket office are in the far right hand corner of the shop.

Once you’ve bought your tickets, the only way to bypass the 20 steps is
to retrace your route back to the lobby. Large lifts (D110 W200 L150) just off the lobby take you up to the 56th floor and a stunning panorama (on a clear day) along with a small exhibition of photos showing Paris’ development over the years. The windows are only 70cm high, making them at eye level for wheelchair users, although a 30cm ledge makes it difficult to see straight down. A luminous frieze and annotated diagrams, at a height of 120 to 170cm, help you identify the major sites. Most of the viewing area is step-free with carpeted or polished wood floors although 20% is via –3. Also on this floor is a café with movable chairs, together with a small cinema with ramped access and one wheelchair space at the back. The roof on the 59th floor offers an open-air view, but the +72 –3 steps to get there poses a challenge. There are unadapted toilets (D57 no ST) on the 56th floor. The nearest wheelchair toilets are in the next door shopping centre.

**Jardin Atlantique**

This is a rooftop garden area on top of the central part of Gare Montparnasse and is surrounded by office blocks on all four sides. The theme reflects the fact that the trains run to the Atlantic coast, though it seemed rather obscure and you might be hard pressed to work this out. The main entrance is on place des 5 Martyrs du Lycée Buffon on blvd Pasteur but there are two other entrances via lifts (D90 W160 L170) that are enclosed in green “cages”, both located on rue du Cdt R Mouchotte. Only one lift provides ramped access to the gardens and this is situated near the intersection with ave du Maine, by one of the entrances to the station itself. The lift will take you up to a walkway which has a wooden slatted surface and handrails on either side. This leads to a further walkway that overlooks some of the platforms of Gare Montparnasse. 50m ahead, following the signs for “Centre Sportif (tennis) Jardin Atlantique”, there is ramped access to the garden. Jardin Atlantique is approximately 200m x 250m and has ramped access throughout. There are grassy areas and enough seating for about 500 people, some of which is dual level, for children and adults. However, the seating is not underneath the trees, which provide shade. The centre of the garden exhibits some rather impressive structures but, although this has flat access, the surface leading to the central point is cobbled and very uneven. Tennis courts run down one side of the garden and by these are some table tennis tables (H74). Accessing the garden by way of the other “cage” lift, situated further down rue du Cdt R Mouchotte by the Parking Gaité Montparnasse, entails +19 steps after crossing the walkway above the road.
Note that there’s a **wheelchair toilet (D90 ST70 SH47)** in the Hotel Le Meridian, 19 rue du Cdt René Mouchotte, opposite the Gare Montparnasse. There are two entrances to the hotel. A main one with steps going down, bypassed by an open lift; and a smaller one which is step-free. If you go in through the smaller entrance, the toilets are almost directly in front of you via –3 steps which are bypassed by a ramp. If you use the main entrance, the toilets are away to the left, and are well signed.

**Cimetière Montparnasse (Montparnasse Cemetery)**

3 blvd Edgar Quinet, 75014  
*Tel: 01 44 10 86 50  Fax: 01 44 10 86 86*

Less then 500m away from the Tour Montparnasse is the Cimetière. This is a flat area measuring some 400m by 600m. There are several entrances dotted around the edge of the cemetery, all of which are step-free or +1 (less or equal to 5cm high). The main entrance is on the blvd Edgar Quinet and is step-free. There is metered parking available nearby with one BB space just by the main entrance, and two others at either end of rue Émilie Richard. The graves, including those of Emile Durkheim (sociologist), Edgar Quinet (historian), Sartre (philosopher), César Franck and Saint Saëns (composers) are tightly packed. The graves behind those visible from the main tarmac paths which criss-cross the cemetery are therefore inaccessible to chair users. There are maps available at the entrance showing the locations of famous graves. The toilets at the main entrance are just holes in the ground with handrails, but there is a good **wheelchair toilet (D85 ST130 SH50** with a retractable bar, a fixed bar and an outward opening door) just next to Porte 4 on rue Émile Richard.

**Parking in the 14th and 15th**

**Gaité Montparnasse**

15 rue du Commandant Mouchotte, 75014  *(Parking guide page 210)*  
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 1855 spaces.  
Located half way down rue du Commandant Mouchotte. There are 37 BB spaces mostly on levels –3 and –4, served by two lifts. Using these, you can exit directly to street level.

**Tour Montparnasse**

33 ave du Maine, 75014  *(Parking guide page 217)*  
UGCP. Maximum height 200cm. 650 spaces.
There are 12 BB spaces, served by a lift that has +1 [16cm] step en route. The lift brings you up to the entrance to the tower, although tickets must be bought from a higher level before ascending (see the detailed write-up).

Falguière
81 rue Falguière, 75015 (Parking guide page 224)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 253 spaces.
The entrance is on a one-way street accessed from place Falguière. The ten BB spaces are well-marked on levels –1 and –2, with a lift coming up onto rue Falguière. Wheelchair toilet (D85 ST105 SH49) on level –1, near the pedestrian exit to the road. There was no seat on the toilet when we visited.

Gare SNCF Montparnasse Océane
17 blvd de Vaugirard, 75015 (Parking guide page 225)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 285 spaces.
On the corner of rue de Départ and ave du Maine. 5 BB spaces, with well-signed access to the station and Tour Montparnasse. For the Tower/Tour, it is easier to use the Tower’s own CP.

Gare SNCF Montparnasse Pasteur (Parking guide page 212)
17 blvd de Vaugirard, 75015 is listed separately in the Parking guide, but has the same address as Océane. It too has lift access.

Lecourbe Mairie du 15ème
143 rue Lecourbe, 75015 (Parking guide page 227)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 325 spaces.
The entrance is on rue Lecourbe, at the junction with rue Peclet. There are 4 BB spaces on levels –1 and –2, with lift access on to place Hubert Monmarché.

Montmartre, la Villette (18/19/10th)
(Area K on the map)
Each main arrondissement is quite large, measuring almost 3km by 2km, but the main places of interest are gathered into much smaller areas. In the 18th this is around Pigalle and the Sacré Cœur, while in the 19th it is around the Cité des Sciences and the Bassin de la Villette canal. The 10th
includes two main stations the Gare du Nord and Gare de l’Est, which are described elsewhere, but we include information about parking in the 10th.

18th

The sites/sights listed are:

- Place du Tertre
- Basilique du Sacré Cœur
- Eglise St Pierre (St Peter’s Church)
- Musée de Montmartre (Montmartre Museum)
- Musée d’Art Naïf (Museum of Naïve Art)
- Musée en Herbe (Children’s Museum)
- Montmartre cemetery
- Le Petit Train
- Eglise St Jean
- Marché aux puces (Flea market) de St-Ouen

Montmartre is built on the only significant hill in Paris. A couple of centuries ago it was a village outside the city which had several windmills for grinding flour; hence the ‘Moulin Rouge’ and the ‘Moulin de la Galette’ which inspired many painters. Its reputation comes largely from the writers and artists who were attracted to the area. Now it has a mixed atmosphere. There is still a ‘village’ at the top of the hill, and parts are really attractive although others are swamped by tourists. There are also streets with neon lights and strip clubs at the bottom of the hill. Parts of the area, for example around place Pigalle, are decidedly sleazy.

*Montmartre is one of the most atmospheric, but unfortunately least accessible, parts of Paris, containing many hilly, stepped and cobbled streets.* The streets can become crowded, with access restricted by shop displays and cafés which overflow onto the pavement.

**The best way to get to Montmartre is probably to take a taxi to just above the Sacré Cœur, as parking in the narrow surrounding streets is difficult.** If you want to get into the Basilica, then take your taxi to rue du Chevalier de la Barre which is behind the Basilica, but where the step-free access is. You can get both in and out of the church from there, and then when you go to the other places like the place du Tertre it is at least generally downhill.
There’s a small CP (often full) just below the Sacré Cœur in the pl du Parvis. Parking at the bottom of the hill in Barbès-Rochechouart is an option, and the CP is about 500-600m from the bottom of the funicular.

Immediately in front of the Sacré Cœur from the blvd Rochechouart, there are over 200 steps up the steep hill called square Willette. These can be bypassed by a highly accessible/step-free funiculaire (funicular railway) which goes from place St Valadon to the rue du Cardinal Dubois. At the top a call button and intercom will allow you to get the gate opened if the ticket office is not staffed.

When visited in August 2007 the funicular was ‘under repair’ and not operational. It had been out of action since December 2006, but when we consulted Infomobi in November 2007, we were told that it is now working well.

Even when it is working, there are still some steepish slopes and cobbled surfaces leading from the funicular further up the hill but the railway takes away much of the hassle.

Alongside the Sacré Cœur to the west is the place du Tertre, a bustling square of painters’ and artists’ galleries.  
*There are some superb views to be had from the hillside – a visit is worth it just to see these and to wander round looking at the artists’ work.*

Getting up to the top by car is a slight challenge, because of the number of one way streets. One way to do it is to go around the rue Caulaincourt from the blvd de Clichy. Then just past the Lamarck Caulaincourt metro station, fork to the right up rue Lamarck and then turn sharp right into rue la Bonne. If you follow rue Lamarck, it will take you right around the Basilica and not to it. Because it is on a steep hill, quite a number of links shown on some maps turn out to be flights of steps, which makes navigating more interesting.

The write-ups in this section are grouped first around the sites which are on top of the hill, and then the others which are at a lower level.

*At the top of the hill*

**Syndicat d’Initiative (Tourist Office)**

21 place du Tertre, 75018

*Tel: 01 42 62 21 21 Fax: 01 42 62 60 68 e-mail: s.i.montmartre@noos.fr*  
On the corner of rue Norvins. Entrance has +1–1 steps.
Place du Tertre
Alongside the Sacré Cœur to the west is the place du Tertre, a bustling square of painters’ and artists’ galleries. The surface is largely cobbled, but when the weather is warm, the scene is very animated.

Basilique du Sacré Cœur
place du Parvis du Sacré Cœur,
35 rue du Chevalier de la Barre, 75018
Tel: 01 53 41 89 00
website: www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.fr
e-mail: basilique@sacre-coeur-montmartre.fr
This huge white basilica dominates Paris’ northern skyline. It is at the top of Paris’ biggest hill and is surrounded by slopes and cobbled streets. There is very limited parking. There are a few spaces just below the steps, but these are nearly always occupied.
There are taxi dropping-off points just below or just above the church itself. If travelling by taxi, ask to be dropped off at the rear of the basilica on the rue du Chevalier de la Barre if you want to avoid the main steps.

From the funicular there’s a steepish climb, and at the front of the church there are at least +25 steps without handrails into the building.
There is, however, a step-free/single step route into the church.
This involves going right to the top of the hill up rue St EleuthiPre past the Église St Pierre, around the back of the church and down the other side. It’s a mainly uphill cobbled route of about 200m, and there are kerbs/a single step involved en route. Just opposite the small park, there’s a separate building attached to the main church, which is probably the Guesthouse Ephrem at 33 rue du Chevalier de la Barre. There is +1[8cm] step and the door is 76cm wide. It is linked to the Basilica by an elevated walkway. What you see is a big arch with the enclosed walkway on top. There’s an intercom by the gate, but this is not always answered.
The route should be available during what the Sister at the Welcome Desk describes as ‘normal office hours’. This is between 09.30 and 17.30, seven days a week.
Advice we have had from several visitors is that the most reliable way of using this route is for an able-bodied friend to go into the Basilica and find a staff member to activate the lift (D85 W100 L140) from inside. The route and lift facility are not signed.
The lift takes you up level with the nave of the church, where everything is step-free, so you can go round and see the magnificent
mosaics and stained glass. The church is quieter than Notre Dame and has a more prayerful atmosphere. There is a small somewhat congested souvenir shop. Signposting inside is good. To get to the dome, you must first go via –40 steps down to the crypt and then up +296 without handrails.

The nearest wheelchair toilet (D78 ST95 SH40) is in the Parc de la Turlure whose entrance is on the corner opposite the wheelchair users entrance to the Sacré Cœur. The toilet is in a green hut less than 50m inside the park, near the railings.

**Eglise St Pierre (St Peter’s Church)**
2 rue du Mont Cenis, 75018  
*Tel: 01 46 06 57 63*

Located just east of place du Tertre, it is the only remaining part of a great medieval abbey. There is very limited parking. There is a step into a (very rough) cobbled courtyard and the entrance has a further +2. It is then flat inside the church, except for +3 to a small gift shop and information desk.

**Musée de Montmartre (Montmartre Museum)**
12 rue Cortot, 75018  
*website: www.museedemontmartre.com (Although this seems to have been ‘under maintenance’ for most of 2006 and 2007 !)*

There is a drop-off point outside but no parking in the immediate vicinity. Entrance +3 steps to the ticket office and a garden area, then a further 20m and –2 to the exhibition, which tells the history of the area. The basement is –11–6, the mezzanine +9 and the first floor +16. No lifts and the unadapted toilets are in the basement.

**At the bottom of the hill**

**Musée d’Art Naïf (Museum of Naïve Art)**  
**Musée en Herbe (Children’s Museum)**
Halle St Pierre, 2 rue Ronsard, 75018  
*Tel: 01 42 58 72 89 Fax: 01 42 64 39 78  
website: www_hallesaintpierre.org e-mail: info@hallesaintpierre.org*

An old market hall now housing two exhibitions including a fascinating collection of colourful ‘naïve’ art. It is located in Montmartre to the right of the steps leading up to Sacré-Cœur, and opposite the funicular. There
are 4 BB spaces within c100m of the entrance. Main entrance and GF step-free to reception, exhibition area, gift shop and café. You can get to the 1st floor exhibitions using the lift (D75 W100 L190) which bypasses +26 steps. There was one flat table which would be difficult to see from wheelchair height. Nice quiet café inside. There is a **wheelchair toilet (D75 ST95 SH38)** on the 1st floor to the right as you come out of the lift.

**Cimetière de Montmartre (Montmartre Cemetery)**
ave Rachel, 75018
This is in an area below the rue Caulaincourt, which passes overhead on a viaduct from which you can get an interesting view. It is a long way down from the hilltop and you would be advised to use a taxi or take the car, unless you are content to look down from the viaduct. Famous people including Émile Zola (a writer with a street named after him in almost every French town), Hector Berlioz (composer), Offenbach (composer), Nijinsky (ballet dancer) and Alexander Dumas (novelist) are buried here. The cemetery covers an area of approximately 500m by 300m and the entrance is at the end of ave Rachel where street parking is available with one BB space. It has a grid of paths, some cobbled and some tarmaced, which run in approximately 60m squares. It’s a bit hilly. The tombs themselves are not all accessible from the main paths due to several steps, but there should be more than enough famous ones on view to satisfy your curiosity. Most of the tombs are grand and there is plenty of interesting stonework.

There is nowhere to sit inside the cemetery, but there are benches on ave Rachel. **Wheelchair cubicle (D105 ST200 SH40)** with an inward opening door, but the cubicle is large in the womens toilets just inside the entrance gate and to the right.

**Le Petit Train de Montmartre (Promotrain)**
*Tel: 01 42.62 24 00  Fax: 01 42 62 50 30*
*website: www.promotrain.fr  e-mail: promotrain@wanadoo.fr*
Despite it being slightly expensive, we recommend this motorised train trip if you can get on board. It gives a 35 minute guided tour of Montmartre and relieves the difficulty of getting around this otherwise very hilly area. It starts from place Blanche in front of the Moulin Rouge on the blvd Clichy. You can also take it from the place du Tertre opposite the Eglise St Pierre. Tickets can be purchased on the train or reserved by phone or fax on the numbers above. **Note that the carriage doors are only 40cm wide and are 30cm above ground with no lower step. The seats are**
also only 30cm deep. Transferring or getting into the little carriages may present problems, but with some help it should be possible for some chair users and for most disabled walkers.

**Eglise St Jean l’Evangéliste (Church of St John the Evangelist)**
place des Abesses
Designed by Baudot and completed in 1904, this church was the first to be built out of reinforced concrete and is architecturally interesting for this reason. Located at the end of rue des Abesses, where there are two BB spaces. Step-free entrance to nave, though if the main doors are not open, the entrance is through a narrow door (D65). Inside it is almost totally flat except for +1 to a display area. The seating is movable.

**In the north by the Périphérique**

The **Marché aux puces (Flea market) de St-Ouen** (website: www.parispuces.com) is located just to the north of the Périphérique by the porte de Clignancourt on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. Said to be one of the largest flea markets in Europe, it grew up in the 19thC on the city boundary and became an established trading centre in the 1920s. It now has over 2000 stands which extend over a considerable distance selling antiques, books and works of art. The central area of the market lies on either side of the rue de Rosiers, but stalls also extend along the ave Michelet underneath the Périphérique as far as the blvd Ney.

There is a UGCP at Marché Malassis which we were told has no BB spaces. Alternatively, there is a surface CP in the ave de la porte de Clignancourt which has two BB spaces but gets very busy on market days.

The roads are mostly tarmac, although there are some cobbled areas and slopes, and the whole area is a little dilapidated. There are a number of indoor arcades, which are mostly accessible. Marché Malassis, which contains mostly 20thC pieces, is on two floors with a lift (D110 W140 L215). We were told that there were no wheelchair toilets in the area.

The nearby Marché Dauphine holds 18th and 19thC pieces and bookstalls. It is also on two floors with lifts (D109 W104 L220). Unadapted toilets only.
The nearest **accessible toilet (D75 ST85 SH46)**, we could find was in the porte de Clignancourt branch of McDonalds, on the junction of rue Belliard and rue Letort. It was on the far left from the entrance but as this was the only toilet serving the whole restaurant, it was rather busy.

**Parking in/for the 18th**

**Anvers**  
41 blvd Rochechouart, 75009  *(Parking guide page 147)*  
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 526 spaces.  
This CP is located on the edge of the 18th and across the road from rue Steinkerque and at the north end of the place d’Anvers. It is about 250m from the funicular going up to the Sacré Cœur.  
There are seven BB spaces on level minus one. The lift (D75 W90 L130) comes up on the corner between the square and the blvd Rochechouart. **Wheelchair cubicles (D90 ST80 SH48)** in both the mens and womens toilets on level minus one (though in the mens there was no toilet seat!).

**Barbès-Rochechourt**  
104 blvd de la Chapelle, 75018  *(Parking guide page 263)*  
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 265 spaces.  
Located just over 500m from the funicular, on the north side of the road by rue des Islettes. One BB space on level minus two (the top level). Lift (D80 W100 L140) to the street via a corridor with a gentle slope and three doors (D95) en route. **Wheelchair toilet (D75 ST80 SH48)** near the entrance on level minus two.

**19th**

**La Villette**  
A huge site which has been extensively redeveloped since the days when the area contained Paris’s main cattle market and slaughterhouses. It includes a large number of attractions.

**La Villette is home to:**  
• the Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie (an enormous science museum);  
• La Géode (a huge silver sphere housing an IMAX cinema);  
• l’Argonaute (a submarine which is open to the public);  
• the Cinaxo simulator;
• the Cité de la Musique;
• the Zenith concert hall; and,
• the Grande Halle - an exhibition and performance space.

The Parc de la Villette covers an area of more than 50ha (>130 acres). It extends more than 600m from the back of the Cité des Sciences, split down the middle by the Canal de L’Ourcq (which is bordered by a cobbled path on either side). Two pedestrian bridges cross the canal, reached by 22 steps or lifts on each side, which measured (D79 W91 L200) in 1992. All four lifts were out of order at the time of our visit in 2005 and when we asked in 2007 at the information centre by the Fontaine aux Lions we were told that they are still somewhat unreliable.

The area provides a variety of things to do, away from what one might describe as ‘tourist’ Paris, with a wide range of performances and events, including exhibitions, open air cinema, rock concerts, and classical music. Apart from the possible problems getting across the canal, the area is generally flat, although there are rather more cobbles than one might expect in a recent development. The atmosphere in the park is very relaxed, and there are plenty of things to see and do.

There is a series of themed gardens throughout the park, with les folies. These are large red pavilions which host a variety of events and functions. Some feature a ramp to an upper level. What they provide includes a child care centre; a café; an arts workshop; a video workshop etc etc. There’s a list under the Michelin Green guide map.

Most of these are on the south side of the canal.

The main children’s garden is on the north side, near the Geode, but there are others between the Grande Halle and Zenith.

There are a number of modern sculptures in the park and our survey team were particularly taken by the protruding wheel, pedals and handlebars of a giant bicycle apparently buried on its side.

To visit both sides without risking the unreliable lifts, you can either use the blvd Macdonald bridge, or you might even take a taxi to (or from) the Science Museum to the Cité de la Musique. There are UGCPs at both ends of the park.

On the south side, the Fontaine aux Lions provides a focus with a huge open space around it, leading to the Grande Halle and into the parc.
**North side of the canal**

**Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie**

30 ave Corentin-Cariou, 75019.

*Tel: 01 40 05 70 00 (switchboard) 01 40 05 80 00 (for voice mail messages)*

*website:* www.cite-sciences.fr/english (which includes an impressively detailed accessibility section, with a helpful write-up for visitors with learning difficulties)

*Tel for mobility impaired visitors: 01 40 05 70 86*

*e-mail:* jp.ferragu@cite-sciences.fr

*Tel for visually impaired visitors: 01 40 05 75 86*

*e-mail:* h.corvest@cite-sciences.fr

The Cité is a massive structure on several floors, almost completely surrounded by an artificial lake. It measures some 250m by 100m, and the park stretches more than 600m to the Cité de la Musique.

From the bus station (200m away) or the Porte de la Villette metro station (100m), the step-free route to the entrance is across a cobbled area and up a ramp.

Alternatively an UGCP (*Parking guide* page 213) on two levels, reached by car from blvd MacDonald or quai de la Charente, contains 36 BB spaces and has lifts (D140 W155 L145) to one of the entrances or ramps into the lowest floor of the building.

Alternatively, from the taxi drop-off point in the coachpark, follow the signs left at the top of the ramp, go through the black metal doors and take the lift to level 0.

As you go through the main entrance on level 0, there is a circular information desk in front of you, and a spacious hall with two pairs of escalators going up and down, linking to level 1. The ticket office is almost straight ahead, while the lifts for chair users are away on your right, along with the cloakroom, where you can borrow a wheelchair if you need one.

The plans and leaflets available for disabled visitors, in both English and French, are only moderately helpful. Many of the facilities, including the lifts and toilets, are only shown in rather faint print. In addition, the floor plans cover the areas inconsistently and as a result it is not always easy to identify where things are.
The museum is on levels 1, 2 and 3, which is the area for which there is a charge.
On levels –1 and –2 there is a Médiathèque, which is a multi media library and resource centre open and available to the public.
Generally, the provisions made for disabled visitors inside are exceptionally good, with particularly impressive provision for blind and partially-sighted visitors (including brightly-coloured signing
and braille and tactile displays) and for those with hearing difficulties for whom there are special audioguides.

From the ticket hall, disabled visitors can use one of the lifts to levels 1 and 2 where the main exhibitions are situated, thus bypassing the escalators. Access throughout is step-free via ramps and lifts (the smallest of which was D80 W110 L140), apart from one small mezzanine level in the optical illusions exhibition (reached via 33 steps) and the flight simulator (+6 steps). Only one pair of lifts goes to the smallish area on level 3, and these are marked on the plan. Where there are interactive displays with fixed screens, there is also normally a space without a screen for a chair user. Seating is limited in some areas, and there are quite long distances involved.

Wheelchair cubicles (D80 ST60/80 SH49) are provided in all the toilets throughout the museum. These are of unique design, and the one’s we looked at had very wide cubicles with space for ST on either side of the loo pedestal. While well-intentioned, this design does not allow for the proper provision of support bars, nor of accessible toilet paper.

On level –2 there is a restaurant with an open lift (D75 L130) bypassing –5 steps, to get down to the ordering counter and lower seating level. Our survey team in 2005 had some slight concern about the mouse which joined them in the restaurant for lunch, although in 2006 we could find no sign of our companion!

La Géode

Tel (info): 01 40 05 79 99 Tel (booking): 01 39 17 10 00 (booking fee charged) or 08 92 62 45 50 (premium rate phone line but no booking fee). You can book tickets at the main Cité des Sciences ticket office. This huge IMAX-screen cinema is located in a giant reflective sphere at the back of the Cité des Sciences, and is reached step-free from level –2 in the museum/cité. Inside is a café with movable tables and chairs. A lift takes you up to the auditorium, which has five wheelchair spaces. English language headphones are available but there is no induction loop. Wheelchair toilet (D85 ST78 H49) at the back of the foyer.

The Argonaute is a French naval submarine from the 1950’s, now located about 100m from the back of the Cité des Sciences, with flat access from level 0. From here there is a lift (D80 W90 L140) down
to the Argonaute museum which is step-free. **Wheelchair toilet (D98 inward opening but plenty of space ST80 SH40, no handrail or basin)** in the museum.

The Argonaute itself is outside the museum, supported about 3m above the ground. Unsurprisingly, access inside is difficult because of steps and narrow passages. A radio-guided tour involves ±22 steps through the submarine, and it is so cramped that you virtually need to wriggle to get through.

**Cinaxe**
26 avenue Corentin Cariou, Parc de la Villette 75019  
Tel (info): 01 42 09 85 83 Tel (booking): 01 40 05 12 12

The Cinaxe simulator is about 200m from the northern entrance to the parc, immediately adjacent to the southwestern corner of the Cité des Sciences building. There is step-free access (minimum gap 80cm) into the simulator, where chair users must transfer into a fixed seat. Seatbelts are fitted as the simulator moves during the show, but we were assured by the manager that the movements were exciting rather than violent. Nonetheless, as with many rides of this type, restrictions apply to pregnant women and those with cardiac problems or epilepsy. Nearest toilets are in the Cité des Sciences building.

**South of the canal**

At the south end of the **Parc de la Villette** is another collection of sights/sites. These are mainly grouped around the place de la Fontaine aux Lions which is an impressive fountain in large square. The square is cobbled in parts, with some smoother paved sections, but these are simply there to create an attractive pattern and not to provide smoother access routes. Around the fountain there are an Information centre in one corner, the Grande Halle, the Cité de la Musique and the Café de la Musique. On the same side of the canal there is also the Zenith concert hall some 500m from the fountains. The Conservatoire de la Musique (confusingly labelled Cité de la Musique in the Michelin Green Guide map) is a high school for music students. It is located behind the **Accueil Sud** information centre.

One interesting feature is a tactile path laid out for those who are visually impaired which takes you (we think) all around the park. We saw it near the Grande Halle when it was just being put down, and it provides some ridged paving which you can feel through your shoes, and is about 50cm wide.
Grand Halle
211 ave Jean Jaurès, 75019
Tel: 01 40 03 75 00  Fax: 01 40 03 78 98
website: http://www.villette.com/fr/plan_site.htm
e-mail: contactvillette@villette.com

There’s no sign on the site map of the website that there’s any information for disabled visitors.
The present Great Hall was the cattle market hall and is a fine example of the 19thC architecture. After two and a half years of work, the Grande Halle opened its doors again in September 2007 with an exhibition/event called Beasts and Men that will question the way we relate to animals.
We are told that the Grande Halle is fully accessible to wheelchair users, and that there are something like twenty adapted toilets in various parts of the building for disabled visitors. This must be one of the largest number anywhere in Paris!
The auditorium with 1500 seats is stepped, but there are 24 places for chair users in front of the stage. An underground venue Salle Boris Vian has lift access, 300 seats and eight wheelchair spaces.

Musée Cité de la Musique
221 ave Jean Jaurès, 75019
Tel: 01 44 84 45 00 (admin); 01 44 84 44 84 (information and bookings)
website: www.cite-musique.fr

The Cité de la Musique provides concerts and exhibitions, a huge media library and a museum, as well as educational and publishing activities. Much of its material is in French.
It’s a large and quite complex group of buildings which were designed by someone who used flights of steps as an architectural feature. It’s full of novel modern ideas, and there’s quite a good plan/diagram on the website. The lift from the UGCP off ave Jean Jaurès, comes out on to a cobbled walkway some 60m from the entrance.

Step-free entrance, and we were told that most parts of the complex can be reached without steps. When we visited, there was a major refurbishment under way, and we were only able to see the entrance, the Mediatheque, and most importantly, the toilet behind the information desk. We were told that with the use of lifts the whole building is accessible and that the concert hall has twenty wheelchair spaces, on both the Parterre (pit) level, and the Amphitéâtre.
There is an extensive programme of concerts.
There is a wheelchair toilet (D80 ST120+ SH50 with both a fixed and
retractable bar) on the GF behind the information desk and caisse. Go to the right of the caisse (ticket desk), and then immediately left. We visited the Médiathèque which is accessed via a lift (D75 W100 L130). Inside, on level 3, it is ramped down the long slope inside, with a progressively lower ceiling. In the last space, the ceiling is just high enough for small children to sit and play. The area is equipped with computers and musical archives, and is primarily for fairly serious study. The adapted toilet (D80 ST68 SH42 but with an inward opening door) is near the lift on level 3.

**Café de la Musique**
213, ave Jean Jaurès, 75019  
Tel: 01 48 03 15 91  Fax: 01 48 03 15 18
In the summer there are many outside tables. To get to the tables inside, there are +3 steps from the square with the fountains, –4 from the corner near ave Jean Jaurès but there’s a step-free route from the main path leading into the Cité de la Musique. Go under the big arch and turn right. Inside there is a wheelchair toilet (D80 ST75 SH52) in the corridor labelled ‘toilettes’. It is behind the first door you come to (on the right), and the second is for the mens and the third for the womens. The door is not marked or signed in any way, and the indicator said that it was always ‘occupied’ although in fact there was nobody there.

**Zénith de Paris**
Parc de la Villette, 211 ave Jean Jaurès, 75019  
Tel: 01 42 08 60 00  
website: www.le-zenith.com/paris  e-mail: info@le-zenith.com
This concert hall for an audience of nearly 6000 was built in 1983. We were unable to establish any firm information about its accessibility, but it seems likely that there will be chair spaces.

**Parking for la Villette**
The two key CPs with lift access are by the Cité des Sciences at the north end and by the Cité de la Musique in the south.

**Cité des Sciences**
30 ave Corentin Cariou, 75019 (Parking guide page 274)  
UGCP. Maximum height 185cm. 1500 spaces. North of the canal.
The entrance is from 59 blvd Macdonald, but note that the whole area is quite busy as there are bus and taxi routes and stopping points. There are 36 BB spaces, and lift access to the surface, quite near the museum entrance.

**Cité de la Musique**

211 ave Jean Jaurès, 75019  *(Parking guide page 273)*

UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 950 spaces. South of the canal.
The entrance is reasonably well signed off ave Jean Jaurès. There are ten BB spaces. There’s a quite badly signed lift (D75 W100 L130) from one end which comes out on to a cobbled walkway, from which it’s about 80m to the information desk for the Cité de la Musique. You can also get to other parts of the Parc de la Villette (see diagram).

**10th**

The arrondissement includes two major rail stations, and a number of hotels, but not many sights of interest to tourists.

**Parking in the 10th**

**Euronord-Lariboisière**

1 bis, rue Ambroise Paré, 75010  *(Parking guide page 164)*

UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 511 spaces.

The entrance is clearly signposted from rue Ambroise Paré. There are 10 BB spaces. The lift near the Accueil comes up at the junction of rue Ambroise Paré and rue de Maubeuge (signposted exit Gare du Nord). Adapted toilet (D85 ST100 SH50, although ST was at an angle) near the Accueil. There was +1 step, but we were told (in January 2006) that this was to be ramped.

This is the CP used by th car rental companies for collecting and returning cars hired at the Gare du Nord.

**Franz Liszt**

6 place Franz Liszt, 75010  *(Parking guide page 165)*

UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 298 spaces.

Entrance from rue des Petit Hôtels. There are 6 BB spaces. The lift comes up in a cobbled courtyard in the place Franz Liszt, opposite Saint-Vincent de Paul church.
Garage d’Abbeville
5 rue d’Abbeville, 75010  (Parking guide page 166)
MSCP. Maximum height 350cm. 290 spaces.
Enterance from rue d’Abbeville, at the place Franz Liszt end. There is one big BB space right at the entrance opposite the Accueil. This CP is included because of the 350cm height restriction.

Gare du Nord
18 rue de Dunkerque, 75010  (Parking guide page 168)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 1220 spaces.
Enterance from rue de Compiègne. There are 25 BB spaces alongside the lifts, with at least three on each level. The lifts come up inside the station.

Gare SNCF Paris-Est Saint-Martin
place du 11 Novembre, 75010 (Parking guide page 170)
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 386 spaces.
Enterance from rue du Faubourg Saint-Martin. There are 15 well-signed BB spaces. The lift comes up into a cobbled courtyard in the place du 11 Novembre, at the front of the station.

Grand Garage Saint-Laurent
52 rue des Vinaigriers, 75010  (Parking guide page 171)
UGCP. Maximum height 300cm. 200 spaces.
The entrance is on a one-way street, so you must approach from the blvd de Magenta end. This is a valet parking service (so in effect there are 200 BB spaces!). Just drive into the foyer and they will do the rest. The 300cm maximum height means minibuses can be parked here too.

The eastern arrondissements
(11/12/20th)
(Area L on the map)
We haven’t included any sites/sights in the 11th, as it seems to be mainly a residential area.
The main area of interest in the 12th is the strip alongside the Seine from the Parc Omnisports de Bercy, through the Parc to Bercy Village. The railway lines and sidings that lead into the Gare de Lyon occupy a great swathe of land north of this strip, and there are few other
sites of interest to the visitor in the 12th, apart from the Opéra de la Bastille. Just outside the arrondissement, and beyond the Périphérique is the Bois de Vincennes.

**In the 20th there’s the Père Lachaise cemetery, and the Marché aux Montreuil open market.** As the sights are well spread out, parking is described just after each write-up.

### 12th

**Opéra de la Bastille**

120 rue de Lyon, 75012  
*Tel:* inside France 0892 89 90 90 from abroad: +33 (1) 72 29 35 35  
*Disabled people needing special seating, including chair spaces, should*  
*Tel:* 01 40 01 18 50  
*Website:* www.operadeparis.fr

The Opéra Bastille is one of the prestigious buildings of the 1980s, built to commemorate the bicentenary of the fall of the Bastille in 1789. It is located right by the place de la Bastille. Drop off point outside the front entrance. There’s a UGCP at Opéra-Bastille about 150m away, see below. It has some BB spaces and lift access to the street.

The spacious foyer has a flat entrance, with lifts from either end of the main hall. Chair users are asked to contact the Opéra at least two weeks in advance if possible to improve the chances of reserving a space. The best chair spaces are on the Parterre where you can watch without having to transfer. This is reached by lift (D110 W140 L140) and there is a **wheelchair toilet (D80 ST95 SH50)** nearby.

**Parking for the opera**

**Opéra-Bastille**

34 rue de Lyon, 75012  *(Parking guide page 196)*  
UGCP. Maximum height: 200cm. 670 spaces.  
Some BB spaces for people (D110 W140 L140) to street level or to the Grande Salle de l’Opéra.

**Bercy village**

The Bercy area has a long history. Until 1860 it was an independent community. Being outside city walls, it was equally outside of Paris police jurisdiction and the place became a haven for revellers in the
17th and 18thCs. It became famous for its wine-making. In the 1960s, however, the wineries of Bordeaux established a quality standard of a fine wine’s origins through labeling it “Bottled at the Chateau” that consumers could refer to no matter where they purchased a bottle of wine, and the shops at Bercy slowly began closing down. The space was left abandoned until 1979 when a sporting hall was erected, helping revive Paris’ eastern outskirts.

**Bercy Village** is now France’s top urban recreation destination, and considered to be within the boundaries of Paris. You’ll find trendy boutiques, restaurants, a fitness club, a cinema, concert hall, and more. Open on Sundays and with some pedestrianised areas, and its proximity to the Park, the Village is a big favorite with families from all over.

Bercy village is near the ‘accessible’ Line 14 station Cour St Emilion, and there is nearby UG parking with lift access back up to the street. There’s also an Ibis hotel with five adapted rooms, see *Accommodation* chapter.

**Le Cour St Emilion** is a lively and compact development in the heart of the Village. There are a good number of restaurants with both step-free access and a wheelchair toilet. The main problem for chair users is that the original cobbles have been retained in many places, making the surface somewhat bumpy. More than half the shops and boutiques have step-free access. It is very near the attractive Bercy park.

There are good plans/diagrams of the Cour marking the location of the public toilets, with a wheelchair toilet (D90 ST85 SH47). There are at least four restaurants/bars with step-free access and a wheelchair toilet.

**Le SaintM**, 34 Cour St Emilion 75012  
_Tel: 01 43 40 21 21 Fax: 01 43 40 58 58_  
Two very tiny lips/steps [2cm] to get in, and there are movable chairs and tables. An open lift provides access to the wheelchair toilet (D80 ST80 SH46) which is in the basement.

**Le Bistro**, 30/32 Cour St Emilion 75012  
_Tel: 01 43 40 24 40 Fax: 01 43 40 00 54_  
Step-free access via a very gentle ramp. Wheelchair toilet (D80+ ST80+ SH46) on the GF.

**The Frog (pub)**, 25 Cour St Emilion 75012  
_Tel: 01 43 40 70 71_
Step-free access from the other side of the building. **Wheelchair toilet (D85 ST90 SH40).**

**Punta Cana Bar**, 39 Cour St Emilion 75012  
*Tel*: 0810 810 410  *website*: www.clubworld.fr  
The bar de la Discotheque. **Wheelchair toilet (D75 ST100 SH49)** reached via a lift (D75 W100 L140) to bypass –4 steps.

There is also a multiplex cinema called **UGC Ciné Cité**. This is at the end of the Cour and reached via a large lift (D110 W120 L200). It has wheelchair spaces in all the screens, and on the displays it tells you whether the film is in the original language with French subtitles (VO), or whether it has been dubbed in french (VF). There is also said to be a concert hall there, but we didn’t find it.

**Parc Bercy**  
The park is about 2km long, and the area combines the traditional working French garden style with the wild flowers of the Jardin Yitzhak Rabin, and the modern lines of concrete and bamboo of the Bercy park itself. It lies alongside the Seine between the Bercy and Cour St Émilion RER stations. There are step-free entrances from rue Paul Belmondo and rue de l’Amboise on the eastern side, and from Bercy Village to the south. The northern side is dominated by the colossal Palais Ominsports de Bercy centre, up to which it has at least +6 steps from all sides, while to the west the quai de Bercy alongside the river can only be reached by huge staircases.

There is an underground ramp linking the Jardin and the Parc, but this appeared to be permanently closed when we visited, meaning that access between the two was across the rue Joseph Kessel. Surfaces vary from smooth paving (about 40%) and rough ground (40%) to cobbles (20%). There are a large number of benches. Nice on a sunny day, but not particularly worth a special trip.

**La Maison Rouge**  
10 blvd de la Bastille, 75012  
*Tel*: 01 40 01 08 81  *Fax*: 01 40 01 08 83  
*website*: www.lamaisonrouge.org  *e-mail*: info@lamaisonrouge.org  
is a small art gallery with a café/bar, located near to the pont de l’Austerlitz. Access to the café is step-free with a **wheelchair toilet (D75 ST85 SH51).**
Parking in the 12th

**Lyon Diderot**
198 rue de Bercy, 75012  *(Parking guide n/a)*
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 301 spaces.
On an island in front of the Hotel Mercure and Gare de Lyon, just 25m from the station entrance. There are 7 BB spaces.

**Méditerranée Gare de Lyon**
26-44 rue de Chalon, 75012  *(Parking guide page 194)*
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 1500 spaces.
There are 36 BB spaces in this huge CP with five well-signed entrances. The lifts come up on the east side of the station, in place Henri Fresnay. There is a special lowered CP ticket slot for disabled car users, marked with illuminated signs.

**Bercy**
quai de Bercy, 75012  *(Parking guide page 182)*
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 300 spaces.
The lift comes up near the sports centre in the park. 11 BB spaces.
**Wheelchair toilet (D85 ST95 SH55)** just beside the exit barriers.

**Bercy-Terroirs**
40 ave des Terroirs-de-France, 75012  *(Parking guide page 183)*
UGCP. Maximum height 190cm. 1735 spaces.
For Bercy Village, with 53 BB spaces. The entrance is obvious from the surface, opposite the place des Vins de France. Use the lift marked ‘Les Vignobles’ to reach street level, which surfaces by a bus stop and opposite the Métro. The exit is step-free.

**20th**

**Père Lachaise cemetery**
is the largest in Paris, covering an area of 43 hectares: a significant area in the 20th arrondissement. Famous inmates include Oscar Wilde, Edith Piaf, Jim Morrison and numerous others.

The area is hilly and there are steep inclines throughout the cemetery. Step-free entrance from the junction of rue de Roquette at the junction
with blvd Ménilmontant and from avenue Père Lachaise off place Gambetta. The other two entrances (at place August Métivier and the rue de la Réunion) involve long flights of steps.

Maps of the cemetery are available for sale and it’s a good idea to buy one before you go in, as signposts are few and far between and it is very easy to get lost inside. The cemetery is extraordinary, with ornate tombstones and mausoleums lining the avenues and leaving the visitor in awe of the architectural lengths the Parisians go to in order to honour their dead.

**Access inside the cemetery is difficult**: most paths are cobbled, with many steep slopes and some steps. Places to sit down are few and far between. There are no toilets on the site.

**Marché aux Montreuil**
porte de Montreuil
7am-6pm Sat, Sun, Mon
Situated between ave du Prof André Lemiere and the Périphérique this open market is a strip of stalls about 250m long, selling new and second hand clothing, a variety of household items and bric-a-brac. We saw few tourists, but it provides a great insight into local life and there’s many a bargain.

It is accessible from rue Lucien Lambeau of place de la Porte, with parking either at Porte de Montreuil UGCP or across the Périphérique on rue des Drs Déjérine. The area is largely step-free and the surfaces are smooth, but it is congested with people and vehicles. The nearest accessible toilets are located in the Suitehotel opposite the centre of the market or the Ibis Hotel at the Porte de Montreuil end.

**Bibliotheque François Mitterrand,**
place d’Italie (13th)
(Area M on the map)

The 13th arrondissement measures nearly 3km east-west and about the same north-south.

**The main sights and places of interest are the Bibliothèque Nationale in the east, and the area around the pl d’Italie in the centre. The APF has its headquarters in blvd Auguste Blanqui, and the Paris branch is also in the 13th off pl de Rungis. Both have a wheelchair toilet, but**
are quite some distance from places of interest.
The write-ups start on the eastern side of the arrondissement, and work westwards.

Bibliothèque Nationale de France
(site François-Mitterrand)
quai François Mitterrand, 75013
Tel: 01 53 79 59 59 (info) 01 53 79 37 37 (disability info)
website: www.bnf.fr e-mail: accueil.handicap@bnf.fr
Located on the bank of the Seine between quai François Mitterrand and ave de France this massive library is served by line 14 (station Bibliothèque François Mitterrand). The library was designed by Dominique Perault and opened in 1994 to house the growing collection of French literature and media.
The building covers an area of some 400m by 200m and has four, eighteen storey, L-shaped towers which rise above a wooden esplanade. BB holders can park in the staff car park accessed from quai François Mitterrand (max height 1.9m) from where the lift gives direct access to the library. There is alternative parking in the CP Tolbiac Bibliothèque (see below).
The rest of the library is underground and rooms come off a walkway around an enclosed rectangular garden. Access to the esplanade is step-free from ave de France but via +50 steps from quai François Maurial. From the esplanade there are two entrances down to the bibliothèque, one located at the rue Émile Durkheim end (east) and one at the rue Raymond Arow end (west). Each has a lift (D110 W110 L125) which can be requested by intercom or a ramped moving walkway. These take you down to the level housing the public library. Information points are located at each end (east and west) and there is a good accessibility leaflet available (in French). The internal dimensions of the walkway round the public library are 200m by 60m. This gives access to various rooms including an impressive collection of newspapers, scientific journals and an exhibition room.
There is a café at the east wing with a terrace looking out over the central garden.
The design has clearly considered access issues. The floor is step-free (except for a small section in the science library where staff will help you retrieve journals). Rooms are available for the visually impaired which have machines translating books into braille, among other facilities for the visually and hearing impaired. The lower levels contain research
libraries which are not open to the public – the same applies to the towers. **Wheelchair cubicles (D70 ST70 SH48)** are located in the mens and womens toilets next to the information points of the east and west wings. We took a tour which explained the history of the architecture although this is not normally available to non-members and is only in French.

**Cinema Mk2 Bibliothèque**
128/162 ave de France, 75013
Tel: 01 44 67 30 00

Located close to Bibliothèque Nationale François Mitterrand on ave de France the cinema has flat access to the ground floor. There are **wheelchair cubicles (D85 ST90 SH50)** in both the mens and womens toilets behind and to the right of the ticket booths. The cinema has 14 screens and there are two lifts to the other floors. We were told there are two big screens with about 12 spaces for wheelchairs and the small screens have 4 to 6 spaces. The café on the ground floor has step-free access.

**Italie 2 Shopping Centre**
place d’Italie, 75013
*website*: www.italie2.com

The Italie 2 shopping centre covers three floors and contains shops and restaurants, including a branch of Printemps and a cinema. There are five entrances. The main one is located on Place d’Italie and is step-free, as is the entrance on rue Vandrezanne. The entrance on rue Babillot has +2 steps. There are two entrances on ave d’Italie; the entrance which is nearest to place d’Italie (about 50m) is step-free but the other one further down has +11.

Underground parking is available, spread over three floors. There are 10 BB spaces on floor level –1. However these are located behind a barrier, for which you need to get a personal access card from the information kiosk on ground floor level, (75m into the shopping centre from the place d’Italie entrance). However when we went to this kiosk the staff behind the desk had never heard of these access cards and claimed there was no barrier! The best solution to this is probably to ignore the BB spaces for they are not that close to the lifts (at least 50m) and there are much closer spaces available on all three levels of parking. Two sets of lifts serve the underground parking (D110 W180 L125) and they go up to all three levels of the shopping centre. A third set of lifts is situated 20m from the information kiosk on the ground floor of the shopping centre,
in the direction of place d’Italie. These only serve the shopping centre. The right-hand lift when facing the lift doors is the largest (D129 W134 L219). The left-hand lift is (D86 W100 L145). The cinema is accessed on the lower ground floor at the place d’Italie end. A shopping centre lift needs to be taken to bypass the –11 at the main entrance. Printemps is located on the ground and first floors. There are no lifts within the store (only escalators), so disabled visitors may have to exit the store to use the lifts.

The main set of toilets Italie 2 is located on the lower ground floor (level minus one). They are 20m to the right of the lifts which are closest to the information kiosk and place d’Italie and opposite la Croissanterie. There is a wheelchair cubicle (D85 ST90 SH48) in both the womens and mens toilets but with no toilet seat when we visited.

There are two restaurants, which are visible when you come in from place d’Italie on level two. They can be accessed by lift, and the Hippopotamus restaurant has movable furniture and a unisex wheelchair toilet (D100 ST120 SH50) at the back. The El Rancho restaurant next door also has a wheelchair toilet (D90 ST100 SH45).

Hôpital la Pitié – Salpêtrière: Église Saint-Louis
83 blvd de l’Hôpital 750013 (one of the entrances)
The Église Saint-Louis in the Hôpital la Pitié-Salpêtrière is a lovely surprise and off the established tourist track. The hospital was originally built by Louis XIV to help sick or socially disadvantaged women and children. It is now a major Paris hospital.

In each parking area there are at least two well-signed BB spaces. Enter through Entrée Salpêtrière (47 blvd de l’Hôpital). Take the right fork, go under the archway entitled “Division Lassay” or through the adjacent passage piétons and you will come into cour Lassay. Enter the church by the ramp. The magnificent church is 85% step-free inside (+1 to the central octagon). 20m past the ramped entrance to the church is a nice park with ramped access.

Plans of the hospital complex are available from the Accueil desks at both the Lassay and Salpêtrière entrances.

There is a unisex wheelchair toilet (D80 ST85 SH50) near Entrée Lassay at 83 blvd de l’Hôpital. From here, follow the buildings around to the left for some 50m, and the cubicle is in the toilet block which is through the first door on the right inside the building marked Admissions.

If you have come in via the Entrée Salpêtrière, then take a sharp right and go some 150m along a tree-lined boulevard and up the slope to the Entrée Lassay.
Manufacture des Gobelins
42 ave des Gobelins, 75013
Tel: 01 44 08 52 00
website: www.monum.fr  Pre-booked guided tours only.
The Gobelins’ Tapestry Factory continues to use 17thC production methods and produces tapestries and carpets for the French elite.
The complex is only open for guided tours (2pm, 2:45pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) and staff told us it was best if disabled visitors took the 2pm tour and arrived a little early. Tours last around two hours with the commentary in French.
It is divided into three sections, with visits to:
• the Gobelins high relief tapestry workshops;
• the Beauvais low relief tapestry workshops; and,
• the La Savonnerie carpet factory.
There are some seats along the route.
The main entrance is located on the ave des Gobelins, right by the Gobelins metro. There is a step-free entrance through a gate which is followed by a 250m cobbled road to the entrance (+1 step) of la chapelle Saint-Louis de Gobelins, the site of the ticket office. The Gobelins factory is a 50m walk along a cobbled road from the ticket office. The entrance is step-free and the workshop is step-free throughout. There are –4 steps at the exit but these can be bypassed by going back out of the entrance.
The Beauvais and La Savonnerie are located in the same building as each other. From the Gobelins factory there is a 50m cobbled road then you go through a building which step-free to enter but –3 to exit, then –1. The Beauvais and La Savonnerie building has a 7cm lip at the entrance. The lift in the building is very large (we saw into it but were not allowed to measure it) and it gives access to both floors of tapestries. The tapestries in Beauvais may be somewhat difficult to view head on from a chair users eyeline (being 115cm high at front, and then sloping down away from you) but can be viewed more easily from the side in the spaces in between the tapestries. (This problem does not apply to Gobelins or Savonnerie).
We did not come across any toilets during the tour.

Parking in the 13th

Parking Tobiac Bibliothèque
(Parking guide page 207)
This serves the Bibliothèque National François Mitterrand and the accompanying RER station on line 14 of the same name. Entrance for
cars is on rue Émile Durkheim near the corner with the avenue de France with a height restriction of 1.9m. There are 19 BB spaces on level 1 near to the 2 lifts which give access to the street (D80 W110 L135). The lifts from any other levels only go as far as level 1 (not to street level). The lift to the street comes out on rue Émile Durkheim between quai François Mauriac and rue Jean Anouilh. Access to the lifts from the streets is by ticket or intercom.

**Bois de Boulogne**

*(Area N on the map)*

The **Bois de Boulogne** is a huge park to the west of Paris which occupies almost 900 hectares. It includes the Longchamp and Auteuil racecourses, several lakes, the Jardin d’Acclimatation, and the Parc de Bagatelle. At the southern end is the Stade Roland Garros where the French Open Tennis tournament is played. Most of the park is accessible by car and parking is easy. The road system has many one way routes. Once out of the car there are numerous “walks”, but few dropped kerbs. The park provides a welcome haven from the hustle and bustle of Paris without being far from the centre, although a lot of traffic uses the main roads. It is perhaps worth noting that parts of the Bois de Boulogne have a rather bad reputation as a ‘red light’ area, so a little discretion is sensible, and visiting after dark is generally not advised. Most of the time, as a casual visitor, you’ll probably not notice anything much amiss. There is an excellent map of the park and its attractions in the Michelin Green Guide.

**Jardin d’Acclimatation (Children’s Amusement Park)**

Carrefour des Sablons

*Tel: 01 40 67 90 82 Fax: 01 40 67 98 73*

*website: www.jardindacclimation.fr*

The garden measures approximately 600m by 300m and is situated on the northern boundary of the Bois off the Carrefour des Sablons. It exists primarily as a children’s amusement park and on some days there are special events. For a family with a young child who may get bored with too much history and/or culture, it can provide a welcome contrast to other parts of Paris.

There are three entrances - at Sablons, Madrid and Neuilly. Access is generally quite good. The area is relatively flat, and most paths are
tarmaced. When you arrive you are given a map showing where things are, and there’s a sort of circular route around the site. There’s an aviary, some animals, and some fun walks. There are plenty of roundabouts and rides, and visitors can assess the practicality of getting on board when there. Minor barriers include +2 steps to the Accueil desk and +2 to the restaurant opposite the aviary. The other two restaurants, Le Club House de Golf and La Ferme du Golf are step-free.

Le Théâtre had –12 steps leading down to it and no sign of a way of bypassing them.

Le Petit Train starting from the Sablons entrance had a coach in front which was flat, and about 50cm off the ground which looked as though a chair user could be lifted on. The main seats were 80cm high in open-sided cars.

Two of the toilet blocks include a wheelchair toilet (D90 ST90 SH49). They are the one near the theatre, and the one in the golfing area.

**Jardins de Bagatelle**

route de Sèvres B Neuilly 75016

*Tel: 01 40 67 97 00*

Famous for well manicured collections of roses, irises and daffodils, the Bagatelle consists of the formal gardens of an earlier château dating from 1777, in the north west of the Bois de Boulogne. It was an area where several members of the royal family and their favourites used for the building of discreet and rural hideouts, away from the court. The buildings in the grounds now hold two museums and a concert hall that stage concerts and exhibitions at certain times of the year, particularly in the summer.

There are two entrances.

*Entrée Grille d’Honneur* is easier with access from a small road that comes off the junction of allée de la Reine Marguerite and allée de Longchamp. There’s a BB space to the right of the gate and a wheelchair toilet (D80 ST85 SH52) on the left after the entrance.

The *Entrée Grille de Sèvres* is off the route de Sèvres de Neuilly and involves a 50m walk up a cobbled slope from the BB space on the street, with a wheelchair toilet (D80 ST125 SH49) on the right after you enter.

Spanning an area roughly 2km by 750m, the surfaces in the gardens vary from concrete to gravel, especially near the buildings and formal sections. There are also several adventure routes: paths leading in and out of planted areas, down large gravel steps, designed to help children understand more about their environment.
The excellent museum is in two parts:

- the Trianon with +9+9 steps, although the staff were able to help our chair user up the steps when we visited;
- the Gallery (step-free via the exit ramp, bypassing –5–3). The gallery has a **wheelchair cubicle (D75 ST75 SH49)** in both the mens and womens toilets.

The Orangerie where the concerts are held, was closed when we visited but has a **wheelchair toilet (D80 ST125 SH49)** on the right as you face it. All of the information provided in the gardens, including pamphlets and signposts, were in French and the maps did not show the toilet. The gardens contain numerous benches, occasional steps and steep gradients and an expensive restaurant (see below).

The **restaurant** is located 100m to the right of the Grille de Sèvres B Neuilly from which there is step-free access into the park via the cobbled slope. A gravel path takes you past the toilet block, which includes a **wheelchair toilet (D75 ST95 SH50)**. This is approximately 50m from the restaurant, which is further up on the right. There are outside tables and chairs as well as an inside area, both step-free. The restaurant serves fairly expensive and probably high quality French food in a lovely setting in the gardens.