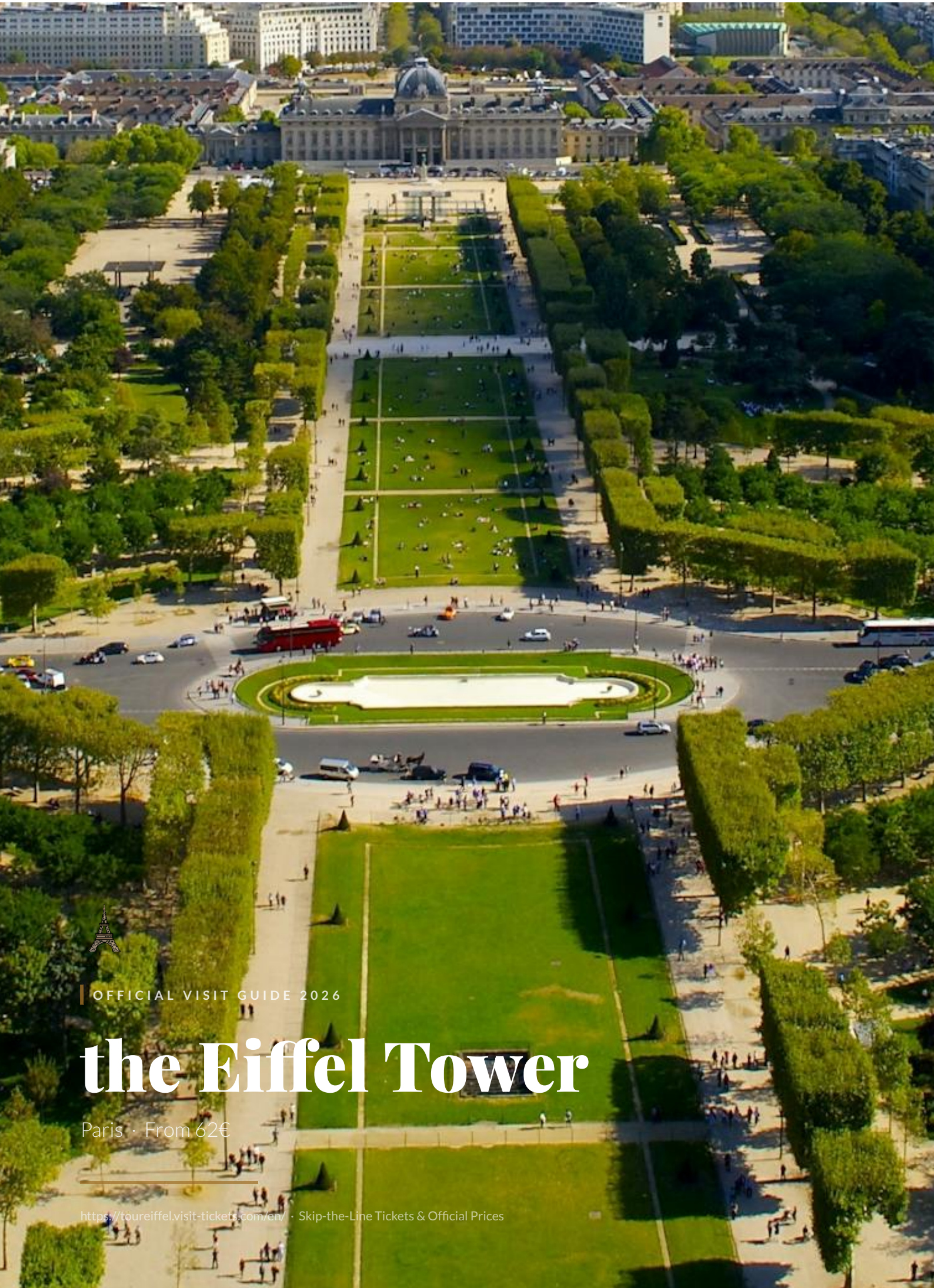


OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Eiffel Tower

Paris · From 62€

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History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

The Iron Giant's Rise

GOOGLE 4.7 ★★★★★ 486 749 {pdf_label(lang, 'reviews')}

TIQETS 4.44 ★★★★☆ 21 248 {pdf_label(lang, 'reviews')}

The Eiffel Tower, born from the visionary mind of **Gustave Eiffel**, was originally conceived as a temporary centerpiece for the 1889 World's Fair, celebrating the centenary of the French Revolution. Designed by engineers Maurice Koechlin and Émile Nouguier, and refined by architect Stéphen Sauvestre, the structure was initially called the « 300-meter tower ». Its construction began on January 26, 1887, and was completed in just **two years, two months, and five days**, a feat of industrial engineering that stunned the world. Assembled from 18,038 iron parts and 2,500,000 rivets, the tower stood as a bold symbol of modernity and French ingenuity.

Initially met with fierce criticism from Parisian intellectuals who called it an eyesore, the tower quickly won public favor. By 1889, it had become a global icon, and by 1929, it had held the title of **tallest structure in the world** for 40 years. Though originally intended to be dismantled after 20 years, its value as a radio and television transmitter ensured its survival. Over the decades, the tower's height has been modified with the addition of antennas—most recently in 2022—bringing its total height to **330 meters**.

Today, the Eiffel Tower is more than a monument; it is a living landmark. It serves as a broadcasting hub, transmitting radio and television signals across Paris. It has hosted scientific experiments, been a symbol of resistance during WWII, and welcomed over **300 million visitors** since its opening. Its status as the highest publicly accessible observation point in the European Union—located at 279.11 meters on the third floor—makes it a must-see for every traveler.

The tower's legacy is woven into the fabric of Parisian life. It has inspired countless artists, poets, and filmmakers, and its image is recognized in every corner of the globe. From its humble beginnings as an engineering experiment to its current status as a cultural and architectural masterpiece, the Eiffel Tower remains a **symbol of human ambition** and the enduring spirit of innovation.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping onto the Champ-de-Mars, you are immediately drawn to the towering silhouette of the Eiffel Tower, a **monument of iron and light** rising against the Parisian sky. The air hums with anticipation as you approach the base, where the intricate latticework of the structure reveals a blend of industrial strength and delicate artistry. The sunlight glints off the metal, casting shifting shadows that dance across the pavement, creating a sense of awe and wonder.

As you enter, the atmosphere shifts—suddenly, you are part of a grand narrative. The **vertical rhythm** of the iron beams guides your gaze upward, inviting you to explore. Whether you choose the stairs or the elevator, the ascent is a journey through history and design. At each level, the view expands, revealing Paris in ever-greater detail. The city unfolds like a living painting, with the Seine winding through the heart of it all. The experience is both intimate and vast, a personal encounter with one of the world's most iconic structures.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS

7th arrondissement · Metro: Bir-Hakeim (line 6, exit 1) or Trocadéro (lines 6 and 9, 10 min walk)

OPENING HOURS

Hours vary by season and school holidays. Closed on January 1, May 1, and December 25. Check the official website before visiting.

PRICES

Adult ticket from 62,00 €. Child (4-11 years): 10,00 €. Free for children under 4. Discounts for students and seniors. {promo}.

VISIT DURATION

Plan for 2 to 4 hours for a complete visit, including elevators, floors, and panoramic views. More time if dining at the Jules Verne restaurant.

PHOTOS

Personal photos allowed everywhere, including at the top. Flash prohibited. No commercial photography without permission. Professional cameras must be declared

AUDIENCE

Ideal for families, couples, first-time visitors, and panoramic view lovers. Accessible for people with reduced mobility via elevators, though some areas are li

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation

Metro / RER

: Avenue Paul Doumer — 9 min à pied

Invalides (10 min) · Gare Montparnasse (13 min)

Bus

: Musée d'Art Moderne - Palais de Tokyo — 6 min à pied

Invalides (14 min) · Gare Montparnasse (19 min)

Car

Invalides (8 min) · Gare Montparnasse (12 min)

Bike / Vélo

Invalides (9 min) · Gare Montparnasse (15 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Eiffel Tower ?



📍 Paris

🌐 48°51.502′ N, 2°17.669′ E



ORGANIZATION

Levels and Access Points

Niveau 0 (Rez-de-chaussée)

The ground level welcomes visitors with ticketing offices, information desks, and the entrance to the elevators. You'll also find the **Champ de Mars** plaza, offering a wide view of the tower's base and the surrounding park. The **first floor** is accessible by elevator or stairs and features the Gustave Eiffel Hall, a space for events and exhibitions. The **restaurant Madame** serves light meals and drinks, perfect for a quick refreshment before ascending further.

Niveau 2

The second floor, located at 115 meters, offers breathtaking panoramic views of Paris. It houses the **Jules Verne** restaurant, a gourmet dining experience with a view. The floor also features an exhibition space and a gift shop. Visitors can enjoy the **observation deck**, which wraps around the tower, providing 360-degree vistas. The **stairs ticket** option allows visitors to climb 674 steps to reach this level, offering a more physical and immersive experience.

Niveau 5 (Terrasse)

The summit, located at 279.11 meters, is the highest publicly accessible point in the European Union. From here, the city stretches out in every direction, with landmarks like the **Notre-Dame**, **Champs-Élysées**, and **Montparnasse Tower** visible. The **observation platform** is enclosed for safety, but the views are uninterrupted. The summit is accessible only by elevator from the second floor, and tickets must be booked in advance. The **twinkling lights** of Paris at night create a magical atmosphere, especially during the tower's nightly sparkle.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

Access by elevators to floors, but some areas are restricted. Lockers available.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Children's tickets, secure areas, restaurant on the 2nd floor. Bring warm clothing.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

Must-See Moments at the Top

01 Third Floor Observation Deck

Summit View at Sunset

The **summit view at sunset** is the most iconic experience at the Eiffel Tower. As the sun dips below the horizon, the sky blazes in shades of pink and gold, while the city lights begin to twinkle below. The 360-degree panorama includes landmarks like the **Champs-Élysées**, **Notre-Dame**, and the **Seine**. The atmosphere is serene and awe-inspiring, making it a must-see for every visitor.

> 💡 In 2022, the tower's height was increased with a new antenna, making the summit view even more expansive. The **new antenna** allows for better signal transmission and a slightly higher vantage point.

02 Second Floor

Climbing the Stairs to the Second Floor

Climbing the **674 steps** to the second floor is a physical and rewarding experience. It allows visitors to appreciate the intricate ironwork and engineering of the tower up close. The ascent is steep but manageable, and the view from the top of the stairs is already stunning. This option is ideal for those who want a more immersive experience.

> 💡 The stairs were originally designed for workers and maintenance, but they were opened to the public in the 1980s. Today, they are a popular choice for visitors seeking a more active way to reach the second floor.

03 Second Floor

Dining at the Jules Verne Restaurant

The **Jules Verne** restaurant, located on the second floor, offers a gourmet dining experience with a view. The menu features French cuisine with a modern twist, and the **panoramic windows** provide a stunning backdrop. It's perfect for a romantic dinner or a special occasion.

> 💡 The restaurant was named after the famous French writer Jules Verne, who was known for his futuristic visions. The name reflects the tower's role as a symbol of progress and innovation.

04 Summit

Nighttime Sparkle Show

Every hour on the hour, from dusk until 1:00 AM, the Eiffel Tower sparkles with **1,000 lights** for five minutes. The effect is magical, transforming the tower into a glittering beacon. The sparkle show is especially beautiful when viewed from the summit, where you can see the lights reflected in the Seine.

> 💡 The sparkle show was introduced in 1985 and has become one of the most iconic features of the tower. The lights are synchronized to music, creating a symphony of light and sound.

05 First Floor

The Gustave Eiffel Hall

The **Gustave Eiffel Hall** on the first floor is a versatile event space that hosts exhibitions, conferences, and private events. It's named after the tower's designer and features elegant decor and large windows overlooking the Champ-de-Mars.

> 💡 The hall was originally used for exhibitions during the 1889 World's Fair. Today, it's a popular venue for corporate events and weddings.

06 Summit

The Tower's Antennas

The tower's **antennas** are not just functional—they're part of its evolving identity. Installed over the decades, they have increased the tower's height and enabled it to serve as a major radio and television transmitter.

> 💡 The most recent antenna, added in 2022, is part of a modernization effort to improve signal transmission. It's also the tallest antenna on the tower, making the summit even more impressive.

07 Ground Level

The Champ-de-Mars Park

The **Champ-de-Mars** is a large green space that stretches along the Seine. It's perfect for a picnic, a walk, or simply relaxing while enjoying the view of the tower. The park is also home to the **Palais de Chaillot**, which houses several museums.

> 💡 The Champ-de-Mars was originally a military training ground. Today, it's a peaceful oasis in the heart of Paris, offering a contrast to the tower's industrial design.

08 All Levels

The Tower's Historical Significance

The Eiffel Tower is more than a tourist attraction—it's a **symbol of French innovation**. Built for the 1889 World's Fair, it was meant to celebrate the centenary of the French Revolution. Its design and construction were groundbreaking, and it has since become a global icon.

> 💡 In 1914, the tower was used to intercept German radio transmissions during World War I. Its strategic importance helped secure France's victory in the war.

TIPS

Your Perfect Visit Guide

TIMING

Visit during sunset for the most magical experience. The golden light and changing skies create an unparalleled view from the summit. Plan to arrive 30 minutes before sunset to secure your spot.

BILLET

Book your tickets 4 to 6 weeks in advance, especially during summer and school holidays. Summit tickets sell out quickly. Choose between elevator-only or stairs + elevator options based on your preference.

PARCOURS

Take the stairs to the second floor for a more immersive experience, then use the elevator to the top. This avoids long queues at the base and allows you to enjoy the view from both levels.

PHOTO

The best photo spots are on the second floor and at the summit. The second floor offers a wide view without the long queues. Capture the sunset from the top for the most iconic shot.

PAUSE

Have lunch at the Jules Verne restaurant on the second floor. It's a gourmet experience with a view, perfect for a break between floors.

ENFANTS

Children under 4 enter for free. Bring warm clothing for the top, as it can be cold and windy. The Champ-de-Mars is a great place for kids to run and play before or after the visit.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide is available in French, English, and Spanish. It's worth it for those who want to learn more about the tower's history and engineering. Focus on the second and third floors for the most informative content.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable shoes and bring a light jacket or scarf for the top. The temperature drops by about 10°C at the summit. Lockers are available at the base for storing coats and bags.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Should I book my Eiffel Tower visit several weeks in advance?

Yes, during high season (July–August, school holidays), booking several weeks in advance is strongly recommended to guarantee access to the top. Tickets sell out quickly, especially for sunset time slots. Without a reser

Is it possible to book a ticket to the top of the Eiffel Tower?

Yes, tickets for access to the top are available, but require advance booking. You can choose between an elevator ticket or stairs + elevator. Some tickets also include lunch at the Jules Verne restaurant on the 2nd floo

How far in advance can I cancel?

Cancellation terms depend on the ticket provider. Generally, cancellations are possible up to 24 to 48 hours before the visit, with partial or full refunds. Check exact conditions at the time of booking.

Is there a current promotion?

Yes, promotions are sometimes available, especially for children, seniors, or groups. Some partners offer combo deals (Eiffel Tower + cruise or museum). Check current promotions on booking websites.

Can I climb the Eiffel Tower by stairs?

Yes, some tickets include climbing by stairs, especially up to the second floor. You climb 674 steps to reach the 2nd floor, then can take the elevator to the top. It's a more physical and immersive option, ideal for tho

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

The Tower's Hidden Rooms

Did you know the Eiffel Tower has hidden rooms? During World War I, a secret room was used to intercept enemy radio transmissions. Today, some of these rooms are still accessible to the public, offering a glimpse into the tower's military past. The **secret room** is located on the first floor and is part of a special exhibition.

The Tower's Weight

The Eiffel Tower weighs approximately 10,100 tons. But here's the surprise: it's lighter in summer! Due to thermal expansion, the iron expands in the heat, causing the tower to grow slightly taller and lose a bit of weight. The **thermal expansion** effect is a fascinating example of physics in action.

The Tower's Color

The Eiffel Tower is painted in a special shade called '**Eiffel Tower Brown**'. It's repainted every seven years, requiring 60 tons of paint. The color was chosen to complement the iron and blend with the Parisian skyline. The last repaint was completed in 2023.

The Tower's Birthday

The Eiffel Tower was inaugurated on March 31, 1889. To celebrate, Gustave Eiffel hosted a grand party with music, dancing, and fireworks. The tower was lit up for the first time that night, marking the beginning of its legacy as a symbol of Paris.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The Eiffel Tower is nestled within the vibrant **Champ-de-Mars**, a vast green space perfect for a pre- or post-visit stroll. Just across the Seine, the **Palais de Chaillot** offers museums and panoramic views from its terrace. For a romantic aperitif, head to **Le Café de l'Homme**, where you can sip wine while watching the tower sparkle at dusk. The **Musée d'Orsay**, housed in a former railway station, is just a short walk away and offers a deep dive into Impressionist art. Nearby, the **Jules Verne** restaurant on the second floor of the tower itself provides a gourmet dining experience with a view. Whether you're seeking culture, relaxation, or a glass of champagne, the area around the tower is rich with possibilities.



Standing at the summit of the Eiffel Tower, you are not just observing Paris—you are **part of its story**. The wind brushes your face, the city glitters below, and for a moment, time stands still. This is more than a visit; it's a **moment of connection** with history, art, and the human spirit. Let the tower lift you—not just physically, but emotionally. It's not just a view; it's a feeling. And once you've seen Paris from here, you'll never see it the same way again.