

Other Thoughts

Department Stores

A great department store to visit is the BHV across from the Hotel de Ville. The kitchen department has great things at prices far less than the U.S. Also the most amazing hardware and fabric departments. I buy large fabric remnants and then make tablecloths out of them.

Another beautiful store is the Galleries Lafayette - the stained glass dome in the center of the store is gorgeous. It's above the perfume and make-up department. This is very near the Opera Garnier – a beautiful building. Visit both of these, then have lunch in one of the many nearby cafes.

Paris Life at 19th Century Shopping Arcades (pedestrian indoor gallerias) – SF Gate Article
<http://www.sfgate.com/travel/article/Sample-of-Paris-life-at-19th-century-shopping-5254094.php>

A great 1/2 day trip is to take the RER to St. Germain-en-Laye

Only about 20 minutes outside of Paris. When you come out of the RER station, you are right across the street from the chateau where Louis the 14th was born. Very pretty gardens to stroll through. If you happen to be there on a Market day (Sunday and I think also on Tuesday), the town square is turned into a market with everything you can imagine - food, flowers, scarves, carpets, clothes, etc. Great fun and some really great deals.

Roving street markets in Paris

Great place to shop for snacks (olives, bread, cheese), and items for home like tablecloths, kitchen gadgets, dishes. These start early in the morning and are generally done by noon. They are all over town, but these are three favorites:

- Saxe Breteuil - Thurs, Sat
Metro: Duroc or Segur. Check map and make your way to the Place Breteuil. Look towards the Eiffel Tower and you will see the market stalls on the Avenue Saxe.
- Richard Lenoir - Thurs, Sun
Metro: Bastille. When you exit the metro station, exit onto Place de la Bastille. You will see the market on one of the streets that ends at the Place.
- Dupleix - Wed, Sun
Metro: Dupleix. This market runs underneath one of the few elevated stretches of the metro. Just exit the metro and you'll see the market.

Good strolling neighborhoods (for wandering/window shopping/no agenda days!)

- The Marais (Rue des Rosiers/Rue des Francs Bourgeois/Place des Vosges/Rue de Veille Temple)
- The Rue Cler/Rue St. Dominique/Rue de Grenelle area
- Ile St. Louis
- Rue St. Antoine (starting at the Place de la Bastille, and going west)
- Rue de Rennes (if you're in a shoe buying mood)
- Rue du Cherche Midi
- The area between the Bon Marche Department store and Blvd. St. Germain - little streets - very charming.

Small Museums

- If you have not been to the Musee Marmottan, it's a nice, small museum with a wonderful collection of Monet's. Not too crowded; in a nice old house; can do it all in about 1 ½ to 2 hours. The neighborhood is nice too (16th Arrondissement), with lots of cafes to choose from when you're done with the museum. <http://www.marmottan.com/>
- Another wonderful small house museum is: Jacquemart-Andre, <http://www.musee-jacquemart-andre.com/en/jacquemart/> Nice café here for lunch after touring the museum. Free audio guides. This is another museum that can easily be seen in 1 ½ to 2 hours.
- Worth a visit: St. Chapelle on the Ile de la Cite. Second floor stained glass is stunning. The ground floor glass is also beautiful, too, but look for the stairs at the rear of the church and make the trip to the 2nd floor.