

“Travelling in our wedding outfits was a great idea – until the airline lost our luggage!”

City of love

French kiss in the most romantic city on earth. Ooh la la!

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON MOORE

Paris isn't just the capital city of France, it's also the beating heart and soul of Europe. Steeped in history, culture, fine food and fashion, Paris is the playground of starry-eyed lovers who come to express their undying affection and indulge their senses more deeply than ever before. Here's a sensory guide to the honeymoon hot spot...

See

Spectacular landmarks occupy every street corner. Check out the Eiffel Tower, open until midnight (tour-eiffel.fr); walk under Napoleon Bonaparte's symbol of victory, the Arc de Triomphe (arcde-triompheparis.com); climb the towers of the gothic cathedral Notre Dame (notre-damedeparis.fr), which is immortalised in Victor Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*; and leave a padlock on one of the lovers' bridges along the River Seine. Then kick back at the Moulin Rouge (moulinrouge.fr), where showgirls make eyes pop with the can-can.

Get arty at some of the most famous museums in the world such as the Louvre (louvre.fr), which showcases Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, Greek goddess sculpture *Venus de Milo* and Napoleon's original apartments. Be transfixed by the glorious statues *The Kiss* and *The Thinker* at the Rodin Museum (musee-rodin.fr). And for contemporary work, the Centre Pompidou is a must (centrepompidou.fr). Of course, no trip to Paris is complete without a stroll down the chic Avenue des Champs-Élysées to shop for everything from Louis Vuitton bags to Ladurée macarons and Mercedes!

Taste

Delectable treats await you at each bend. Bakeries open their oven doors before your eyes with warm baguettes and croissants tumbling out for breakfast. Indulge in irresistible macarons in dozens of flavours – you can't go past the posh Pierre Hermé boutiques (pierreherme.com). And while you're sating your sweet tooth, grab a table for two at the Angelina tearoom near the Louvre (angelina-paris.fr). For a really divine meal out, hit up l'Atelier de Joël Robuchon (joel-robuchon.net), currently ranked the 12th best restaurant in the world, for traditional offerings from foie gras to French Champagne!

Smell

Fragrance is one of the strongest links to memory – you just have to sniff a drop of Chanel No. 5 to be transported back to that magical moment you had while wearing it. And Paris is full of scented delights to make new memories with. Take a stroll through one of the perfectly landscaped gardens for a floral scent-sation. Top of the list are the Jardin des Tuileries and Jardin du Luxembourg. And you can't go past the flower shop window displays without having a sniff. Take a peek at vibrant florist Varda (varda.fr), or swoon through the Marché aux Fleurs (flower market) on the Île de la Cité near Notre Dame.

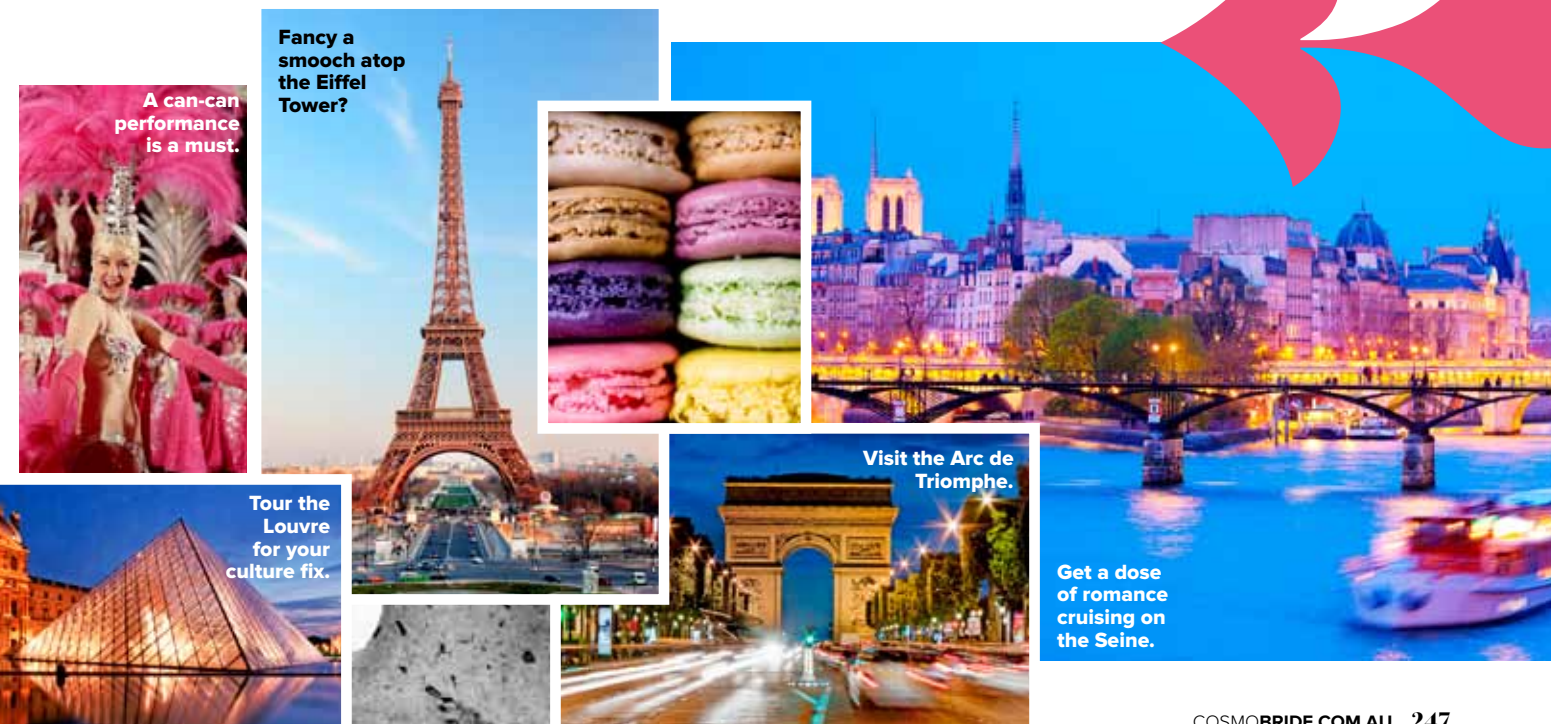
Touch

Aside from basking in the bliss of kissing and holding hands with your hubby as you stroll through the ville, there are many other textural experiences beckoning. Feel the plush velvet curtains in your Parisian hotel room (see p.248), silky scarves at Hermès (hermes.com), Chantilly laces in the tiny fabric shops in the Montmartre district, the breeze on your face as you cruise the River Seine on a boat, or the cold flagstones of the ancient Les Catacombes (catacombes-de-paris.fr).

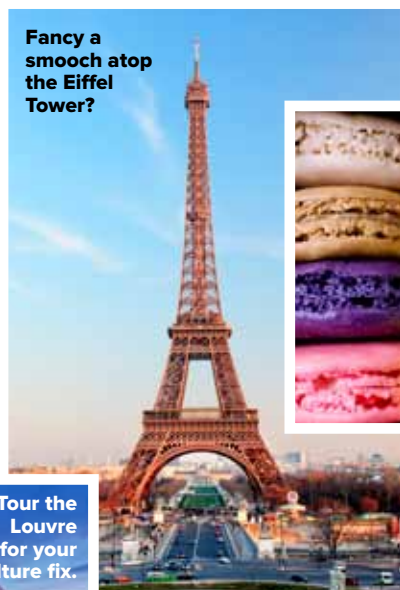
Hear

French history is fascinating even to the most defiant scholar. Almost every building in town has a secret to tell of heroes and revolutionaries. Who could resist listening to tales of Napoleon's battles at the Musée de l'Armée (invalides.org) or going back in time at La Conciergerie prison (conciergerie.monuments-nationaux.fr/en) to hear the story of Marie Antoinette's final days before getting the chop? You can also listen to the sweet sounds of music at the ornate Palais Garnier (operadeparis.fr), musicians busking on street corners, the roaring crowds at Le Lido cabaret (lido.fr) and church bells everywhere. ▶

“Paris is the playground of lovers who come to indulge their senses”



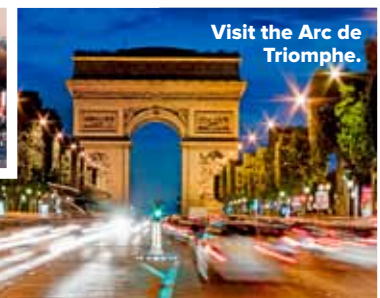
A can-can performance is a must.



Fancy a smooch atop the Eiffel Tower?



Tour the Louvre for your culture fix.



Visit the Arc de Triomphe.



Get a dose of romance cruising on the Seine.

Parisian honeymoon



The Saint James Paris has a beautiful historic exterior.



Get cosy in the grand restaurant.



Hot air balloon-marquees add flair to The Terrace.



Retreat to the Tonkinoise suite.

Where to stay for...
French kitsch

SAINT JAMES PARIS

LOCALE Situated in Paris' upscale 16th district, Saint James Paris is within walking distance of designer shopping strips Avenue Victor Hugo and Avenue des Champs-Élysées, and landmarks such as the Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower. **THE VIBE** Eccentric and extravagant. This chateau-hotel masterpiece was built in 1892 on an airfield. It was first established as The Thiers Foundation by first lady Madame Dosne-Thiers in memory of her late husband, President Adolphe Thiers. The foundation offered talented students scholarships at the creative mansion for decades, with many going on to be politicians, historians and writers, such as Georges Huisman, who created the Festival de Cannes, and famous philosopher Michel Foucault. In 1985, the building was restored and became a luxe hotel. Today, the kitschy chateau is frequented by the rich and famous looking for privacy and a special experience.

SLEEP Forty-eight rooms and suites are on offer, each with a unique theme. The Love Pavilion hideaway has a private spa with its own steam room, double tub and two massage tables! **EAT** The restaurant serves seasonal cuisine including dishes such as quail stuffed with foie gras, garden peas and wild mushrooms, served with verbena-mint jus. The Library-Bar retains all its historic quirk with 12,000 books on display, and you'll feel as if you've stepped back in time enjoying an alfresco menu on the terrace styled in homage to the history of the chateau. **RELAX** If burning off those croissants on a stationary bike or pumping weights in the chandelier-embellished Exercise Room sounds too strenuous for your honeymoon, book in for a semi-precious stone massage, infused with orange and vanilla fragrances at Spa Germology, which is exclusive to the hotel's club members and guests. **CHECK IN** Room rates start at \$398*; see saint-james-paris.com.

HÔTEL DANIEL

Where to stay for...
boutique chic

LOCALE In the heart of the very elegant 8th district, Hôtel Daniel is centrally located just two blocks from the Avenue des Champs-Élysées and chic Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré. It's surrounded by antique and fashion boutiques and world-class restaurants. **THE VIBE** Warm, friendly, sophisticated. The epitome of French chic, the hotel oozes romance and charm. Built in 1870 (and renovated for the hotel opening in 2004), it retains all the charms of the local Haussmannian architectural manner. It's so beautifully furnished in 18th century, chinoiserie-style, you'll feel as if you've stepped into another world. In the lobby alone sea-green handmade De Gournay Chinese paper printed with delicate birds and flowers hugs the walls, Oriental furniture and carpet from Kazakhstan is artfully placed, and a ceiling mirror looks down on you. **SLEEP** The steep spiral staircase leads up to the 26 rooms and seven suites, with the attic room boasting views of the Parisian rooftops. Every room is decorated uniquely with divine

antiquities from the hotel owners' extensive world travels. Find bath salts sourced from the Dead Sea and hand-crafted olive oil soaps in your private bathroom, while rich velvet curtains, soft silk cushions and French books add charm to your room. Rooms also have a safe, Wi-Fi, TV and access to a 24-hour concierge. **EAT** Enjoy traditional French cuisine with Mediterranean influences at the intimate Restaurant Daniel. There's no long wait for service, the food portions are substantial and exceptional quality, using the freshest ingredients, plus the service impeccable. Try the lightly crumbed and shallow-fried frog legs with a glass of Louis Roederer Champagne, or the house-made pastries and desserts with high tea. **RELAX** Simply reclining on a comfy chaise in the lounge area reading your copy of *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway will have you rejuvenated. **CHECK IN** Double rooms start at \$507* per night; see hoteldanielparis.com.



The welcoming facade of Hôtel Daniel is just a hint of what's to come.



Restaurant Daniel.



The gorgeous Junior Suite.



Where to stay for...
pure luxury

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, PARIS

LOCALE With one of the city's most stylish addresses, the Mandarin Oriental is in the heart of the luxury brand district surrounded by the likes of Chanel, Chloé, Miu Miu and Gucci. It's less than a 10-minute walk to the Opera Quarter, where the golden Palais Garnier (opera house) and shopping department-store Mecca the Galleries Lafayette await. **THE VIBE** The Mandarin Oriental is five-star with its service. It has all the benefits of a large hotel – 24-hour room service, a pool, spa, multiple eateries with extensive menu selections – but feels remarkably intimate and private. Ask the concierge to help you plan your trip and book event and museum tickets. The hotel is just over a year old, so it's still sparkling new. In a previous life, it was an annex of the Ministry of Justice, but has been architecturally redesigned with the perfect blend of Parisian chic and modern luxuries, including touches of the Mandarin Oriental brand's heritage. **SLEEP** There are 99 rooms and 39 suites, many of which have their own unique design elements, ranging from Art Deco-style chandeliers to Oriental flourishes. They all contain the mod cons (TV, Wi-Fi, separate bathroom). The views range from garden courtyards and stylish street outlooks to breathtaking glimpses of the Eiffel Tower (ask for the Cabochons or Atelier Suites).

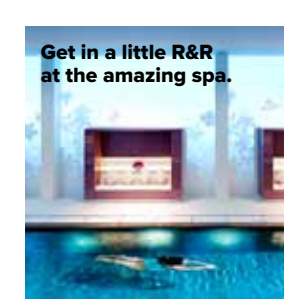
EAT Start another magical day in Paris with breakfast at Camélia (named after the camellia courtyard it spills onto). On the menu: chocolate croissants, divine cheese, fruit, mueslis and cereals, freshly squeezed juices and hot breakfast options, of course. They're open for lunch too, or experience a meal on the sixth-floor terrace among a gorgeous garden with city views. Don't leave without making a reservation at Sur Mesure, recently awarded two Michelin Stars. Chef Thierry Marx puts together an award-winning menu with offerings such as grapefruit mousse and caviar. Then rest your tired French-pedicured feet over a glass of wine at Bar 8 after dusk. **RELAX** The Spa at Mandarin Oriental has a holistic philosophy toward the mind, body and soul developed in consultation with traditional Chinese medicine specialists and aromatherapists. Set aside half a day of pure pampering to indulge in the Paris Passion, a 3-hour-and-20 minute luxurious treatment. It includes a hydration and anti-ageing body scrub infused with pomegranate and honey, followed by a replenishing body wrap created with other yummy ingredients. Post treatment, unwind in either the beautiful pool, the herbal steam room or fitness and wellness centre. **CHECK IN** Rooms from \$960*; see mandarinoriental.com/paris. **COSMO**

Lap up the romance with a meal on the Mandarin Oriental's terrace.

Check out more beautiful pics of the city of love to get you in the mood. Download the free **viewa** app, select the **Cosmo Bride** channel, then hold your phone or tablet over this page to see the Parisian image gallery.



The Royale Mandarin Suite – the ultimate experience.



Get in a little R&R at the amazing spa.



Camélia restaurant.



Each room is decked out in pure luxury.