

History of Paris



The history of Paris goes back over 10,000 years, during which time the city grew from a small mesolithic settlement to the largest city, and capital of, France.

The foundation of the city

1. The Arènes de Lutèce



2. The Thermes de Cluny



Paris was probably founded by the Gauls, who built a small settlement on the left bank of the Seine river. The city is mentioned, with the name of Lutetia, by Julius Caesar who came here in 53 BC. There aren't many antique remnants in Paris.

Paris became a capital city

1. Sainte Geneviève statue in the Luxembourg Garden



2. Clovis II grave in the Saint-Denis Basilica



Clovis the Frank, the first Christian king, made of Paris his capital from 508.

In 451, Sainte Geneviève led a prayer that was said to have saved Paris by diverting Attila's Huns away from the city. She still is the patron of the city.

She founded the Saint-Denis Basilica where the French kings were buried till the Revolution in 1789.

Medieval times

1. The Conciergerie is a part of the old Palais de la cité



As a result of the continual menace of barbarians invasions, the original settlement was moved to the Ile de la Cité, and from there it expanded along the banks of the river.

The first residence of the Merovingian kings was the Palais de la Cité. And after one of the Crusades, Saint Louis (1226-1270) built the Sainte Chappelle.

2. Notre Dame's Cathedral and the Sainte-Chappelle



Built on the site of a Christian basilica which had been occupied previously by a temple dating from Roman times, Notre Dame's Cathedral was begun in 1163. It took more than a century to be built.

1. The Louvre castle



Philip Augustus II came to the throne (1180-1223) and the construction of the Louvre began.

Because of civil disorders, Charles V built the Vincennes castle in the XIVth century.

2. Vincennes and Versailles Castel



And in the XVIIth century, Louis XIV decided to have a wonderful castle built outside Paris: it is the Versailles Castle.

1. The Cluny museum and its tapestry « la dame à la Licorne »



There is a Medieval time museum in Paris. Its structure is perhaps the most outstanding example of civic architecture in medieval Paris. It was formerly the townhouse of the abbots of Cluny, started in 1334.

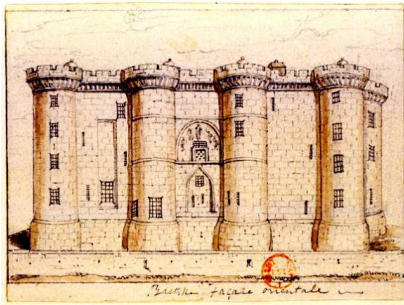
2. The Sorbonne University



The Sorbonne University was founded in 1257. It was first a Faculty of theology but not anymore.

Modern times

1. The old jail of la Bastille and the Bastille Square today



1789 is the date of the French Revolution. The jail of La Bastille is a symbol but doesn't exist anymore.

Napoleon was crowned emperor in 1804. The Arch of triumph was built and his corpse is in the Church of the Invalides.

2. Arch of Triumph and the obelisk in the Concorde Square

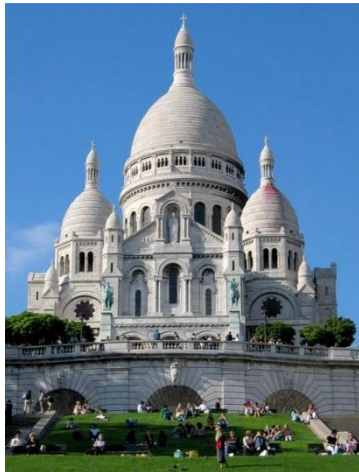


The obelisk which is in the middle of La Concorde square was donated by Mehemet Ali in 1830 to the king Louis-Philippe.

1. Opera Garnier



2. The Sacré Cœur in Montmatre



Napoleon III became emperor (1851-1870).

He entrusted the task of replanning the city to Baron Haussmann: The markets of les Halles were built, the Bois de Vincennes and Bois de Boulogne laid out, the Opera erected, and the great boulevards, typical expression of its historical era, were opened out.

The Sacré Cœur was built after the civil war of The Commune de Paris in 1870.

Contemporary times

1. The Eiffel Tower and Beaubourg Center



The Eiffel Tower was erected in 1889 as the entrance arch to the 1889 World's Fair. It has become an icon whereas at the beginning, it was planned to be destroyed.

Many modern buildings have been built by several presidents. For example the Beaubourg Center by Pompidou, the pyramid of the Louvre museum by Mitterrand. There are also the Opera Bastille, The Forum des Halles, the Cité des sciences, etc.

2. The pyramid of the Louvre museum



Pictures

- http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ar%C3%A8nes_de_Lut%C3%A8ce#mediaviewer/File:Ar%C3%A8nes_de_Lut%C3%A8ce2.JPG
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