

# 24 TIPS

EVERY TRAVEL DIVA NEEDS FOR A

# PARIS

# ADVENTURE





## Just imagine starting your day with a flaky, buttery croissant and café au lait as you watch the Champs-Élysées come alive ...

If traveling to the City of Lights is on your bucket list, then you're in the right place because I'm about to spill ALL the tea on how to enjoy Paris like a Diva. Here are a few of my personal tips for visiting one of the most romantic cities on the planet:

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### **Watch the weather before traveling.**

Paris weather, like love, is very unpredictable – you can experience all 4 seasons in one day. Pack clothes that can be easily layered, an umbrella, jacket and a chiffon scarf to stay ready!

### **Take money out like a Diva with ATMs.**

They're everywhere, along with money exchange outlets on various corners, too.

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### **Have an open mind.**

Paris is an old city with its own unique charm so keep an open mind when you discover buildings and streets that aren't modern.

### **Keep your passport and blue/black pen handy while flying.**

You will need to complete an immigration form before you land.

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### **Invest in good walking shoes.**

They're a must for standing in long lines while out touring. Cute flats are recommended for an evening out on the town for dinner and a show.

### **Don't book a hotel near Charles De Gaulle Airport.**

Paris isn't close to it at all. At 40-50 minutes away, it's a ride, girlfriend!

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### **Get a small amount of euros before you leave the States.**

Less than 100 euros is fine – try to get the smallest denomination possible. This way, you'll have money on hand for tips or small purchases before you have a chance to access larger amounts of cash.

### **Plan your ride from Paris — Charles De Gaulle airport to your hotel.**

Choose rideshare, shuttle service, private car or Uber – just check multiple options to see what's reasonable. Most taxis charge 55 euros and up to travel from the airport to a hotel in the city, but this can include up to 3 passengers. Feeling up to a challenge? Take the city train.

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**Call your cellphone service provider, credit card company and bank before you travel to Paris.**

Tell them you're vacationing in France. Also, if you're planning any day trips to other countries, please let them know that as well.

**Learn a little French.**

Parisians will notice and appreciate the effort. Hospitality workers often speak and understand English but you should definitely try to speak the language of the land even if it's just "bonjour" or "pardon."

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**Don't be alarmed by the small rooms and bathrooms in Paris.**

This is normal in most hotels.

**Leave the tips alone, except for housekeeping and bellboys.**

Almost all workers in France get a wage. I can't fathom not tipping someone who gives me service, so I always leave 1 or 2 euros on the table - no matter what.

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**If you book a room with a roommate and require two beds, call the hotel in advance and be sure your reservation notes this requirement.**

Two beds in most Paris hotels will be two twin beds. One bed in Paris hotels will be a full-size bed.

**Watch the pickpockets.**

Unfortunately, pickpocketing is notorious in Paris. Carry a crossbody purse or wear a fanny pack with a zipper. Never, ever carry an open tote bag — it's too easy for someone to take off with your magic and your items!

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**Girlfriend, bring your own washcloths.**

Many hotels do not offer washcloths. Grab a cheap pack on Amazon and throw them away. Still trying to figure out this way of life for Parisians. How do they do it?!

**Carry your passport if you plan to shop.**

If you make purchases over \$100 you should let the cashier know you have a U.S. passport and would like a VAT receipt. This way you can get your taxes back at the airport on your way home, Diva!

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17	<p><b>Ask luxury shops if they have Paris exclusives.</b></p> <p>Browsing at Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Chanel &amp; others? Sometimes these brands carry items exclusive to Paris. They often become timepieces and hold value a lot longer. Just ask!</p>	<p><b>Purchase a “Skip the Line” pass for the Eiffel Tower.</b></p> <p>The lines are so long, you can waste half a day waiting to be admitted if you don’t get one of these passes. exchange outlets on various corners, too.</p>	21
18	<p><b>You can shop at the airport - no VAT receipt required.</b></p> <p>Depending on which terminal you are departing from, you can shop at Fendi, Chanel, Gucci, Ferragamo, Tiffany’s and more. You just need your boarding pass and you can automatically bypass paying taxes.</p>	<p><b>Bring coins to use public restrooms.</b></p> <p>Public restrooms in Paris are not free. My advice? If you’re eating at a restaurant, use the restroom even if you don’t have to go. These toilettes don’t require you to pay like the public ones.</p>	22
19	<p><b>Buy teas, chocolates, macarons, scarves and fine French cognac as gifts.</b></p> <p>These make great souvenirs.</p>	<p><b>Rock red lipstick in Paris.</b></p> <p>A tube of red lipstick will change your life in Paris. Just do it. Put on red lipstick, take a picture with the Eiffel Tower and watch yourself look like a model in Vogue.</p>	23
20	<p><b>If you buy macarons as souvenirs, only buy them at the airport.</b></p> <p>Macarons have a short shelf life and taste best fresh.</p>	<p><b>Always select euros when shopping.</b></p> <p>Sometimes the clerk will ask you to select U.S. dollars or euros when using a credit card. If you choose U.S. dollars, you’ll incur an extra transaction fee vendors won’t tell you about.</p>	24

Now, I don’t know about you, but I’m ready to pack my bags and jet set to Paris so I can sprinkle my Black girl magic all over this city!

**You can come with us and do exactly that right here:**

**[thetraveldivas.com/trips](http://thetraveldivas.com/trips)**

**Stay magical, girlfriend!**