

GAY AND LESBIAN PARIS. The Marais district right in the historic centre of Paris is now the official window on gay culture in Paris. With the exception of a few more off-centre addresses, it is between République and the Paris City Hall (Hôtel de Ville) that the most trendy and frequented spots of the gay and lesbian community are to be found.

TRENDY SPOTS TO HAVE A DRINK

In Paris, the cafe is an institution, and there are numerous bars for having a relaxing drink after work with friends. Cox is a top meeting spot for a beer, with a hot atmosphere from 7pm onwards. When the majority of places close at 2am in the morning, the Cud welcomes even more night birds and the evening continues on the dance floor.

The Duplex is now considered an historic address: it is one of the oldest gay bars in the capital. It offers a more intimate welcome, conducive to discussion among friends, just like La Petite Vertu, which is also the meeting place for associations. On sunny days, the Au Carrefour cafe presents a much sought after view in the Marais: the constant procession of very fashionable men that look as though they have stepped right out of a window display!

Music lovers get together for a drink at Les Souffleurs, a really friendly bar, where one can quietly enjoy a drink and listen to the DJs eclectic selections. Difficult to close this chapter without mentioning the Café Moustache, with its highly-evocative name. It is situated near to the Gare de l'Est, so therefore away from the Marais; open in 1979, it is the meeting point for a regular clientele.

Girls go to the Unity Bar or to the 3W-Kafé, which also welcomes boys... provided they are accompanied! Equally free and relaxed is the atmosphere at Le Troisième Lieu, also called La Cantine des ginettes armées – a group of girls, who each month organise the famous tea dance “I hate Sundays”. Finally, Les Taulières is an adorable “hetero and gay friendly” spot, run by two very friendly women. This tiny bar perched on the Butte Montmartre proposes assorted soirées, organised by the pride of Parisian nights, and exhibits the work of up-and-coming artists on its walls.

→ CAFÉ MOUSTACHE

138 rue du Faubourg-Saint-Martin, Paris 10th
Tel +33 (0)1 46 07 72 70 // <http://cafe.moustache.free.fr>

→ AU CARREFOUR

8 rue des Archives, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 40 29 90 05

→ COX

15 rue des Archives, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 72 08 00 // www.coxbar.com

→ CUD

12 rue des Haudriettes, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 42 71 56 60 // www.cud-bar.com

→ LA PETITE VERTU

15 rue des Vertus, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 48 04 77 09

→ LES SOUFFLEURS

7 rue de la Verrerie, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 44 78 04 91

- **3W KAFÉ**
8 rue des Écouffes, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 48 87 39 26 // www.3w-kafe.com
- **LES TAULIÈRES**
10 rue de la Fontaine-du-But, Paris 18th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 58 60 64 // <http://lestaulieres.free.fr>
- **LE TROISIÈME LIEU**
62 rue Quincampoix, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 48 04 85 64 // www.letroisiemelieu.com
- **UNITY BAR**
176-178 rue Saint-Martin, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 42 72 70 59

A DINNER IN GOOD COMPANY

A short selection of tasty restaurants, for satisfying one's appetite in a friendly setting. At Le Spaghetti Bar, there are big bowls of pasta to share, or the now traditional weekend brunch. The wall decorations provide a new surprise on every visit. At Marc Mitonne, the cooking seems to be full of bonhomie: terrine of foie gras and rib of beef are on the menu, as well as a warm and welcoming atmosphere! Royal Sushi is a top spot for gay encounters, on rue des Archives; no surprise as regards the menu. Other flavours, other places: tapas aficionados will go to Toro (brunch on Sunday), while fans of classic French cooking will appreciate Le Vagabond, an institution in the old gay quarter of Sainte-Anne. Or, for the friendliness of the proprietors and the freshness of the market produce, go and eat at the Aux trois petits cochons: friendly service guaranteed! Finally, Le Chant des voyelles offers traditional cooking that can be enjoyed on the terrace, in a pedestrianized street – lively day and night.

For cabarets, there are two main institutions in Paris: Chez Michou and Madame Arthur. For over 50 years, Michou has been staging a celebrated transvestite show: all the past and present stars of show business parade on a tiny stage; the high point being Dalida and Sylvie Vartan...

Final recommendations: for meeting girls at French-style dinners, go to Le Sofa; for fans of more home-type cooking (with game, tartare, and chocolate pudding), La Fontaine gourmande is the place to go.

- **LE CHANT DES VOYELLES**
2 rue des Lombards, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 77 77 07
- **LA FONTAINE GOURMANDE**
11 rue Charlot, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 42 78 72 40
- **MARC MITONNE**
60 rue de l'Arbre-Sec, Paris 1st
Tel +33 (0)1 42 61 53 16
- **ROYAL SUSHI**
15 rue des Archives, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)899 78 21 76
- **LE SOFA**
21 rue Saint-Sabin, Paris 11th
Tel +33 (0)1 43 14 07 46 // <http://sofa.bastille.free.fr>
- **LE SPAGHETTI BAR**
14 rue Saint-Merri, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 72 75 97 // www.curieuxspag.com

→ **TORO**
74 rue Jean-Jacques-Rousseau, Paris 1st
Tel +33 (0)1 44 76 00 03 // www.toroparis.com

→ **AUX TROIS PETITS COCHONS**
31 rue Tiquetonne, Paris 2nd
Tel +33 (0)1 42 33 39 69

→ **LE VAGABOND**
14 rue Thérèse, Paris 1st
Tel +33 (0)1 42 96 27 23

→ **MADAME ARTHUR**
75 bis rue des Martyrs, Paris 18th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 54 15 92 // www.madamearthur.com

→ **MICHOU**
80 rue des Martyrs, Paris 18th
Tel +33 (0)1 46 06 16 04 // www.michou.fr

GAY NIGHTLIFE IN PARIS

Gay nightlife in Paris is reputed for its « no limits » atmosphere, especially at the end of the week. Legendary addresses, like Le Dépôt or Le Next, half-clubs half-saunas, propose rather racy evenings and gay tea dances on Sunday. The Folies, once a cabaret and haunt of the transvestite population of Pigalle, also organises a tea dance on Sunday and quite “hot ethnic” evenings on other days of the week with rai, Latino and garage music. It is also at the Folies Pigalle that the famous “Escualita” evening is held for transsexuals and friends. Incredibly trendy, two hetero clubs also stage gay evenings. At La Scène, the “Progress” takes place every Sunday, presented by Solène and team. As for the La Flèche d’or, its famous “Clitorize” attracts Lesbian night birds. For the nostalgic, Le Tango plays “everything except electro”, and dancers give free reign to the polka, waltz, tango, and even a little musette for starters. Then the music becomes more pop right through to dawn.

→ **LE NEXT**
87 rue Saint-Honoré, Paris 1st
www.lenext.fr

→ **LE DÉPÔT**
10 rue aux Ours, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 44 54 96 96 // www.ledepot.com

→ **LE TANGO**
13 rue au Maire, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 42 72 17 78 // www.boite-a-frissons.fr // www.tangoparis.com

→ **FOLIES PIGALLE**
11 place Pigalle, Paris 9th
Tel +33 (0)1 48 78 63 56

→ **LA SCÈNE**
2 bis rue des Taillandiers, Paris 11th
Tel +33 (0)1 48 06 50 70 // www.la-scene.com

→ **LA FLÈCHE D’OR**
102 bis rue de Bagnolet, Paris 20th
Tel +33 (0)1 44 64 01 02 // www.flechedor.fr

GETTING A HOTEL

It is five in the morning and Paris is waking up... but you want to sleep! Even though the label "gay" does not exist in hotels, several establishments offer a gay-friendly welcome for a pleasant stay in Paris. There is just one rare exception: the Central, the first and only exclusively gay hotel (no listed category), has been open in the Marais since 1980, 5 minutes away from the place des Vosges. The seven rooms are 87 euros per night whether for one or two people, and there is the possibility of accommodating a third person for a supplement of 20 euros). Only the room on the fifth floor has its own bathroom; the others share with the room next to them. New: free Wi-Fi access. At the Louvre Richelieu, a small one-star hotel run by a friendly couple of guys, there are 14 rooms, from 96 euros per night. It is situated on the edge of the traditional gay quarter of rue Sainte-Anne, where one can still find some specialised establishments.

More chic, the Hôtel Beaumarchais offers some thirty modern rooms, with the added advantage of a shady little courtyard in which to have breakfast. Prices vary between 75 and 165 euros. Not far away and even more chic, there is Le Murano ... Prices start at 350 euros for a room and go up to 2 500 euros for a suite. Resolutely urban, rock and contemporary, its bedrooms boast the most recent technology (futuristic hi-fi system, flat screens, Wi-Fi). An unusual detail, your door opens with your finger print.

Another type of accommodation can be found with the Absolu Living Locations agency, the leader in accommodation for gay and lesbian tourists in France, which rents furnished studios and two-roomed apartments in the centre of Paris. La Garçonnière is the same concept and proposes a variety of apartment rentals from studios to lofts. If you use the services of the travel agency Gay Travel France, it will book your holiday in Paris: hotel, Parisian guide, various options, etc.

Finally, two Internet sites of note: paris-gay.com features a calendar of gay and lesbian meetings as well as a complete accommodation, shopping, and entertainment guide.

parismarais.com is a site devoted to the Marais quarter: history, architecture, lifestyle, recommended addresses, and a whole chapter on the gay world of the Marais, its must-see places and essential outings.

HOTELS

- **HÔTEL BEAUMARCHAIS*****
3 rue Oberkampf, Paris 11th
Tel +33 (0)1 53 36 86 86 // www.hotelbeaumarchais.com
- **HÔTEL CENTRAL MARAIS (no classification)**
2 rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 48 87 56 08
- **LOUVRE RICHELIEU***
51 rue de Richelieu, Paris 1st
Tel +33 (0)1 42 97 46 20 // www.louvre-richelieu.com
- **LE MURANO**
13 boulevard du Temple, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 42 71 20 00 // www.muranoresort.com

RENTALS, AGENCIES AND SITES

- **ABSOLU LIVING LOCATIONS**
236 rue Saint-Martin, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 44 54 97 00 // www.absoluliving.com
- **LA GARÇONNIÈRE**
38 rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 44 54 20 40 // www.lagarconniere.com

→ www.gaytravelfrance.com

→ www.paris-gay.com

→ www.parismarais.com

SHOPPING AND SPECIALIST STORES

Here is how to satisfy all those shopping urges! Once you have been to Ynov, the French male beauty salon, go to Village Yoyo, Men by Men, Factory's, or to the new men's space at BHV for head to toe dressing. Dom, Fiesta Galerie, Homes and Hyperobjets specialise in design and trendy home decoration. Stop off for a between-shopping snack at the Legay bakers; Cretan sandwiches, patisserie, bread with honey and almonds, among other sweet or savoury delights line the windows, on rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie, near the corner of the rue des Archives.

For strolling around at the time of private viewings of exhibitions, there is a big choice: at the gallery Au bonheur du jour, erotic art of the past is on show; Jérôme de Noirmont often shows gay artists, like Pierre and Gilles, while Baumet Sultana exhibits contemporary art, with an installation by Vincent Leroy this month.

The Agora bookshop has all the international press (gay, fashion, architecture, design, music, etc.).

Les Mots à la bouche is a reference for gay and lesbian literature. The store has an endless selection, and it's a delight to find works here that cannot be found elsewhere. For a bit of tranquillity, choose the Bluebook, a friendly place to have a coffee and read a good book, right next door to the Centre Pompidou.

Finally, if you have a love rendezvous, the most varied assortment of flowers can be found at Faubourg-Saint-Martin, a delightful little florist run by two charming tradesmen with indisputable taste.

CLOTHING, HOME DECOR, FLOWERS, BEAUTY, ETC.

→ VILLAGE YOYO

3 rue de la Ferronnerie, Paris 1st
Tel +33 (0)1 40 13 99 10

→ MEN BY MEN

36 passage du Grand-Cerf, Paris 2nd
Tel +33 (0)1 42 21 00 36 // www.menbymen.com

→ BOULANGERIE LEGAY

45 rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 48 87 56 88

→ DOM

21 rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 42 71 08 00

→ BHV HOMME

36 rue de la Verrerie, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 74 90 00 // www.bhv.com

→ FACTORY'S

3 rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 48 87 29 10

→ FIESTA GALERIE

45 rue Vieille-du-Temple, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 71 53 34

→ HOMES

3 rue Nicolas-Flamel, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)6 10 48 36 20 // www.cultsofahomes.com

- **HYPEROBJETS**
15 rue des Blancs-Manteaux, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 40 27 09 24
- **ROGANEL**
23 rue des Archives, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 40 29 02 20 // www.roganel.com
- **FAUBOURG-SAINT-MARTIN FLEURS**
82 rue du Faubourg-Saint-Martin, Paris 10th
Tel +33 (0)1 40 18 54 62
- **YNOV INSTITUT**
3 rue Rosenwald, Paris 15th
Tel +33 (0)1 56 08 51 00 // www.ynov.fr

GALLERIES

- **AU BONHEUR DU JOUR**
11 rue Chabanais, Paris 1st
Tel +33 (0)1 42 96 58 64
- **BAUMET SULTANA**
20 rue Saint-Claude, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 44 54 08 90 // www.galeriebaumetsultana.com
- **GALERIE JÉRÔME DE NOIRMONT**
36-38 avenue Matignon, Paris 8th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 89 89 00 // www.denoirmont.com

PRESS, BOOKSHOPS

- **AGORA PRESSE**
19 rue des Archives, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 74 47 24
- **BLUEBOOK**
61 rue Quincampoix, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 48 87 03 04 // www.bluebookparis.com
- **LES MOTS À LA BOUCHE**
6 rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie, Paris 4th
Tel +33 (0)1 42 78 88 30 // www.motsbouche.com

MEDIA, EVENTS, WHAT'S NEW?

It was in Paris that the first edition of the Salon international gay, lesbien et friendly (le Sigl), was held from 2 to 4 November at the Carrousel du Louvre.

This event brings together a community around the exhibitors offering cultural, sporting and leisure ideas. The general public was able to discover numerous associations whose actions are orientated towards gay and lesbians.

On the media front, the monthly magazine "Tête" reveals the latest happenings on the gay scene (culture, fashion, drinking, trends...). More gay than lesbian, it nevertheless has a rubric "Têtue", 100 % filles (100 % girls). On the small screen, Pink TV, the channel, daringly launched in September 2004, opens a window on gay culture; its programmes include discussions, series, top cultural programmes, presented by the fine flower of gay-friendly intelligentsia of the capital. For cinema buffs, the Le Rex cinema on the Grands Boulevards, is hosting the Paris gay and lesbian film festival, from 13 to 20 November.

Finally, the traditional "Marche des Fiertés lesbiennes, gaies, bi et trans" takes place every year in June and brings together half a million people in a huge parade through the city.

→ **SALON INTERNATIONAL GAY, LESBIEN ET FRIENDLY (SIGL)**

Carrousel du Louvre, Paris 1st
2 to 4 November
www.sigl.fr

→ **TÊTU MAGAZINE**

www.tetu.com
Monthly publication

→ **PINK TV**

www.pinktv.fr

→ **FESTIVAL DE FILMS GAYS ET LESBIENS DE PARIS**

Cinéma Le Rex
1 boulevard Poissonnière, Paris 2nd
www.ffglp.net

→ **MARCHE DES FIERTÉS LESBIENNES, GAIES, BI ET TRANS (LGBT)**

<http://marche.inter-lgbt.org>
28 June 2008

LAST CHAPTER, THE ASSOCIATIONS

The Centre gay et lesbien de Paris provides a welcome and activities for all. It gives information on homosexuality and health. As for the Syndicat national des entreprises gaies, its object is to bring together on the one hand, people with businesses whose activity and services are aimed at a homosexual clientele; and on the other, businesses run by a homosexual (man or woman). The association touristique Paris Gay Village offers its expertise to ensure you have a good holiday in Paris – good ideas and advice for accommodation, guided visits, gay history of Paris and more. Despite the progress made in recent years for living better together, thanks to all these associations, there still unfortunately remain some discriminations and attacks by homophobes. SOS Homophobie has created a line especially for this with the triple objective of providing support, advice and orientation, for all victims of homophobic racism.

→ **CENTRE GAY ET LESBIEN DE PARIS**

3 rue Keller, Paris 11th
Tel +33 (0)1 43 57 21 47 // www.cglparis.org

→ **SYNDICAT NATIONAL DES ENTREPRISES GAIES (SNEG)**

59 rue Beaubourg, Paris 3rd
Tel +33 (0)1 44 59 81 01 // www.sneg.org

→ **PARIS GAY VILLAGE**

www.parisgayvillage.com

→ **SOS HOMOPHOBIE**

Tel +33 (0)810 108 135 // www.sos-homophobie.org

