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Colleen's Advice

I have a question...



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Travelers with Handicaps

Getting around

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Sightseeing

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Montmartre



Cinequa - Trocadéro



[Access in Paris](#)

"This well established guidebook was originally published in 1974, and was the first guidebook ever to use the title 'Access' referring to access by disabled people. Later editions were published in 1985, 1993 and 2008.

The website includes updated information and is available as a book or can be downloaded in PDF format from the website from June 2008."

Contact [Gordon Couch](#)

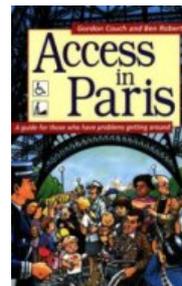
Renting an electric scooter

Thanks to Sally sending me a link, I have found out that it is possible to rent an electric scooter when you come to Paris and Disney.

I received a letter from Mister Dominique Dupuis who wrote that their company, **Access Tourisme Service**, has been active in the field of organizing trips and transportation for the handicap since 1988.

One of their services is to rent medical equipment for use in hotels and at Disney. An example of their rentals are manual and electric wheel chairs, scooters, beds, hoists, etc.

Their transportation help comes with a driver. They provide hotel transfers and city tours, hotel reservations,



B&B reservations, housing, train ticket booking, guides, visits and tours.

Their services are available in Nice, Lyon, Bordeaux, Rennes, Toulouse, Strasbourg, etc.

Access Tourisme provides "à la carte" services for clients, based on their needs.

[Access Tourisme Service website in English](#)

Agence de voyages

8 rue Saint Loup
45130 Charsonville France
Telephone +33(0)2 38 74 28 40
Fax: +33(0)2 38 74 28 50

Renting a wheel chair

MediMad and **R.A.W.** sell and/or rent "*fauteuils roulants*" and other products for those with special needs. Contact them for your needs, including bed lifts to rent from MediMad. They rent by the day, weekend, week, for your vacation ONLY in the Paris region. Ask about any delivery and pick up charges.

Medi-Mad

92, Rue Henri Barbusse
92190 Meudon
Fax/Tél. Country code 33, city code: 1 then dial: 45.07.08.17
Hours: Monday: 2:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday to Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

R.A.W.

For any additionnal information on the rent of a manual wheelchair, an electric wheelchair or an electric scooter.
Telephone: 0033 1 45070817
Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Disneyland to Paris -- Shuttles and Taxis

RER A - 12.50 euros for a day pass called Mobilis (buy zone 1-5).

The Disneyland stop is Marne-la-Vallée-Chessy. It lies in zone 5 (Paris lies in zones 1 and 2).

Use this Mobilis pass for all buses and metros and RER's (midnight to midnight).

This ticket can be purchased in advanced. Once validated in the RER or metro, you only need show it on the bus -- do not revalidate it.

[More on using the RER A below.](#)

Always Shuttle Paris

[Paris-Shuttle.com](#)

GIHP Groupement pour l'Insertion des personnes Handicapées Physiques (helps people fit into society)

PTITCAR

G7 telephone in English 01 47 39 00 91

G7 telephone in English regular taxi 01 47 39 00 91 or 01 47 39 00 91

Paris en fauteuil - Paris in a wheelchair

Fauteuil – Wheelchair

Authors: Lucie Fontaine and Jean-Baptiste Nanta
ISBN : 2840963507
Price: 6 euros
Paperback pocket size, 112 pages
Publisher: Parigramme

I have found a great book published by Parigramme, with access information for restaurants, museums, movie theatres and theatres for plays, buses, metros, RER, etc.

Although it is in French, the names and symbols are universal.

The book "Paris en fauteuil" is dated 2004, and I will inquire as to updates.

If you are able to find this book, it not only gives accessibility information (yes or no) but with symbols will tell you about the toilets:

WC Toilets inaccessible to wheelchairs



WC Toilets accessible to wheelchairs - you can enter and close the door behind you, but there is no handle to grab on to.

WC+ Toilets accessible with a grab handle

 Accessible without help; you might have one small step but otherwise, no obstacles. You can enter alone or with a the helping hand of someone -- either to make the step of a couple of inches or to open a door)

 Accessible with help - several steps or cobblestones.

Contact me for specific names and addresses of restaurants, theatres, etc.

Luxury toilets - POINTWC

This was a treat after having experienced several disappointing public toilets recently.

When you walk in you are greeted and told that it will cost 1 euro. Don't fret about paying; it will be worth it.

These are modern stalls, each with a different theme: chic, high tech, BCBG, Glam Rock, kid, etc.

In one, Kids, you have a toilet for mom and one for the little one.

If you need to change a baby, pull up the changing table and Eric Salles or someone from his team will provide you with a changing mat and large, soft towel.

I wrote [an article](#) about places to change a baby's diaper and other child care information.

If you need to freshen up, ask for the BCBG room and they will bring you a padded stool. Inside the BCBG room is a vanity mirror and sink.

If you need decorating items for your bathroom, they have them for sale.

If you need an hygienic product, diaper, fake nails, etc. the machine can dispense it for you.

Want a cup a coffee? Make your choice.

PointWC is a real oasis in a corner of a shopping gallery and worthy of your visit.

Two of the stalls are designed with not only families in mind for those with limited mobility.

"We have worked with the [Association Française des Paralysé de France](#) to build the. two *cabines* that are larger for a wheel chair.... Our staff has been trained to help disabled people," said Mr. Salles.

"Handrails will be installed very soon", he said.

POINTWC CHAMPS-ELYSEES

26 Champs-Elysées (in the gallery)_

Métro: Franklin Roosevelt (line 1 ou 9)

Telephone : 01 42 56 35 25

Open :seven days a week from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Transportation information

Infomobi.com

The [Infomobi.com](#) website provides travel services using public transportation. The website is in French, contact me and I can help you translate its information.

Their telephone number is 08 10 64 64 64. Their office is open Monday to Friday between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Their offices are closed Sunday and holidays.

If you need bus access, Infomobi.com photos showing how the bus ramp works.

You will find maps and accessibility information, personalized itineraries (you can contact them ahead of time to establish when help will be needed, for example) -- [download the map](#)

An additional maps is available for Ile-de-France (Paris is part of this department).

These maps will help you while searching the internet; hard copies are available in metro stations (accessible only by stairs).

Take the RER

Although the metro is not really set up for wheelchairs, the many RER stations are. The list on the RATP website, however, is incomplete. If you ask questions of anyone not associated with the RER lines specifically, they have no clue. In fact, they do not realize that the maps they give out contain the very information that you are looking for.

For example, ask for Map #1 (Plan des lignes) at any metro station or "le Club" office. Inside you will see a map

of the RER lines in Ile-de-France (Paris is in the Département no. 75)

RER instructions

RER A - Buy a day pass called Mobilis (buy zone 1-5 between Disneyland and downtown Paris).

The Disneyland stop is called Marne-la-Vallée-Chessy. It lies in zone 5 (Paris lies in zones 1 and 2).

Use this Mobilis pass for all buses and metros and RER's (midnight to midnight).

This ticket can be purchased in advanced. Once validated in the RER or metro, you only need show it on the bus -- do not revalidate it.

The RER A travels from Marne-la-Vallée often. The station is accessible to wheelchairs.

When you go to buy your ticket into Paris they will call someone to assist you.

Tell them your end station so it can be determined if you will need assistance at that end.

If your end station is Auber (for the Opera, Galeries Lafayette, Printemps, etc.) you will not need assistance. Just make sure that the elevator is working -- they will check that for you if you ask.

Pick up a map (Plan 1 - plan des lignes) at any RER or metro station.

It will show you which stations have accessibility to elevators.

Transportation options

The [Paris tourist office](#) offers a comprehensive list of transportation options for disabled access. Click on "Maps & transport" and then "Disabled access" to the left.

Mobile en Ville

This website provides the latest news, "rando" information -- get together with roller skaters and other means of non-motorized wheel traveling activities.

They offer the site of the month, guides, maps, promenades, transport information, a list of WC accessibility at restaurants, theatres, churches, etc.

If anyone is interested, I will be trying to translate as much as possible for you soon. Please let me know.
e-mail [Colleen](#)

More transportation

TAXIS G7

22, rue Henri Barbusse
92110CLICHY
Telephone : 01.47.39.00.91
Disabled / Specialist transport - Taxis

Activity :

Taxis accessible for persons with wheelchairs. Since September 2004, new "G7 Horizon" service , with 30 top-of-the-range people carriers, equipped with a pivoting seat or an access ramp. 24-hour booking service, 7 days a week.

Paris Tourist Office handicap access link with information about the SNCF and RATP -- what is provided and who to call for information.

- Associations are available that offer transportation assistance to the handicapped.

In Paris and Paris region:

GIHP

10 Rue G. de Portoriche 75 014
Tel : 01 43 95 66 36 - Fax : 01 45 40 40 26

Public association for adapted transportation - GIHP can be found within the country of France. They have 335 minibuses.

They offer a service that can be adapted to your needs: door to door.

PTITCAR

27-29, rue Raffet75016
Metro : Michel-Ange Auteuil
telephone number : 01 42 24 70 73
fax : 01 43 33 53 66

Activity :

Combining quality and reliability, and knowledge of the travel needs of persons with limited mobility, PTITCAR offers top-of-the-range air-conditioned vehicles, with leather interiors, for one person in a wheelchair and up to 4 non-disabled passengers. Wheelchair access at the back by foldaway ramp; enabling passenger to remain seated in the wheelchair, which will be attached by an approved restraint system (as well as the wheelchair safety belt). Bilingual chauffeur (English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese).

A variety of possible destinations (by quotation): Paris, provinces, Europe. Transfers from 60 euros and above. Vehicle hire (by the hour) from 45 euros.

Range of services from simple transfer to chauffeur-driven vehicle hire for shopping, tours, des excursions, longer trips (by quotation)... Advance booking recommended.

Travelers with limited mobility -- advice from Madeleine Burnel

While working on one of my museum articles I met a wonderful and energetic individual.

Madeleine Burnel lives in the Alsace region and travels around France. Her limited mobility due to Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is not going to handicap her!

She spent a week in Paris, and the following is a list of places that have some assistance for the handicapped. She was able to visit them and pass on her advice:

Classic places to visit and off the beaten path

Visit the Eiffel Tower - 1st and 2nd levels!

Bâteaux - Mouches

Madeleine recommends embarking at Pont de l'Alma and the Aihrop car can take you directly to the boat. There is an incline on the boarding platform and then a five steps to descend on to the boat. The personnel will help you.

Hôtel Salé - Musée Picasso -5 rue de Thorigny, Paris 3rd

Beautiful 18th century *hôtel particulier* housing the Picasso museum. They have an elevator for the handicapped and a ramp in the basement section.

Two cautions: the entry courtyard is cobblestone and the gift shop and library are not wheelchair accessible.

Centre Georges Pompidou (also known as Beaubourg), rue Beaubourg, Paris 3rd

Number of exhibitions that are accessible with the elevator.

Musée de la Poupée - across the street from 22 rue Beaubourg - Impasse Berthaud)

For Madeleine this was a whole new universe: small courtyard, small interior and the cobblestones!!!

Important collection of dolls from 1850 to today presented in lively vignette scenes representing each period.

It is accessible, three steps to walk up leaving the last room of the permanent display and entering the temporary exhibition room. (This is where we met and the personnel were extremely helpful in helping Madeleine up those steps.)

Rue Rambuteau has its ambiance, its close by, with lots of shops and cafés. The sidewalks, however, are difficult and cumbersome.

Musée de la Vie Romantique, 16 rue Chaptal, Paris 75009

The interior courtyard is full of cobblestones. The interior is accessible with either cane or crutches, no elevator. Stairs have a ramp.

This the house of Ary Scheffer, a royal painter during the reign of Louis Philippe. Great names of the period could be found visiting this home: Georges Sand, Liszt, Chopin - a whole floor of the museum is devoted to them).

Temporary exhibits of romantic painters. Beautiful winter garden and park.

Rue de Rivoli

You can stroll along the rue de Rivoli with its souvenir shops and stores and affluent buildings. Store entrances are at ground level and most sidewalks ramp to the street.

Musée de la Mode et du Textile - 107 rue de Rivoli

Accessible with elevator to visit the Musée de la Mode et du Textile, Musée de la Publicité and Musée des Arts Décoratifs (one entry price). Their website is available in English.

Jardin des Tuileries, rue de Rivoli

One entry around the middle is accessible for the handicapped; otherwise there are steps involved.

At this entrance there is a ramp used for baby carriages and wheelchairs. This is a favorite park for mothers with children for its fountains and paths.

Musée Jacquemart-André - 158 Boulevard Haussmann - Paris 8th

Lots of stairs, no elevators, but the personnel really made an effort and helped her to the maximum. She suggests visiting the tea salon before your departure from this beautiful home from the Napoleon III era.

Madeleine also has tips on visiting other French cities. Contact me for further information e-mail Colleen.

Paris Tourism

Awareness of the importance of modifying structures and sensitivity awareness in the arena of Paris tourism is relatively new and improving constantly.

Buses have been constructed to increase the ease of using public transportation.

The lower steps and mid-doors allow easier accessibility for wheel chairs, baby carriages and those who use support apparatus to move around.

New construction built after 1978 is required to have accessibility for those with limited mobility.

The whole idea of awareness in the tourist industry only dates from 1997.

The labeling in place dates from 2001 and is geared toward four specific handicaps: motor, mental, visual and auditory.

Numerous venues are now accessible and the transportation system (buses and RER) are improving all the time.

Versailles

Versailles has electric vehicles for persons with limited mobility.

This makes it possible for you to wander along five itineraries, departure point South Terrace (discovery of the Gardens, Trianon and the Queen's Hamlet, tour of the Grand Canal, complete visit of the Estate) – For more information, telephone: 01 39 66 97 66 .

Apparently, there is also an elevator that will bring you to the garden level if you do not wish to use the electrical vehicles.



The Victor Hugo museum has now received the "Tourisme et Handicap" label.

The museum has an elevator that permits access to all floors as well as toilets (reception area) that meet the "Tourisme et Handicap" standards. Two parking spots are available in front of the museum.

The apartment is situated on the 2nd floor of the Hôtel de Rohan Guéméné, Place des Vosges that Hugo rented for 16 years (1832-1848). The other is Hauteville House, the only house that he owned where he lived for 15 years (1856 to 1870).

The museum located in the Place des Vosges was opened in 1902, celebrating the 100 year anniversary of his birth. It was the inspiration of Paul Meurice (1818-1905), a long-time friend and ardent defender of Hugo and his work.

This was the first museum dedicated to his works and letters according to the Paris mayor's office.

The Victor Hugo Museum

Hôtel de Rohan-Guéméné

6, place des Vosges 75004

Telephone: 01 42 72 10 16

Métro Bastille, Saint-Paul, or Chemin Vert

Open every day 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Monday and holiday

The **Petit Palais** is accessible as well as their dining facility; however, the handicap stall in the toilet opens inward and not outward -- there is no bar.

The Petit Palais has a nice café with a view over the interior gardens. The food is good and the staff is very helpful. A typical lunch of quiche with salad and dessert runs about 10 euros.

The **Grand Palais** is accessible along 3, avenue du Général-Eisenhower, with an exterior lift to the left of the stairs. They have a cafeteria inside.

Centre Georges Pompidou

Musée du Louvre

Musée Grévin

[Musée d'Orsay](#)

Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle - Grande Galerie de l'Evolution

Bercy Village

Basilique of Saint-Denis

1, rue de la Légion d'Honneur

93200 Saint-Denis

Reservations for a guided visit: 01 48 09 83 54

Admission: Free for the handicapped individual and companion, guided visit included in the admission ticket.

Audio guide

Toilets are adapted and available for those visitors with "motor" disabilities (close to the information booth, after the ticket window)

Promenade Plantée

This is a walk along an ancient railway line that has been turned into a park above ground. It stretches 4.5 km between la Bastille and the Bois de Vincennes, was created in 1993 and covers a surface of 65,000 m². Below your feet is le Viaduc des Arts, art and design stores installed in the vaults of the old train line. Access to the promenade is on the avenue Daumesnil at the Bois de Vincennes as well as by stairs and elevators along the way. The Promenade Plantée is located in the 12th arrondissement. One of the closest metro is Bastille.

Open: 8 a.m. during the week and 9 a.m. the weekends the closing times vary according to the season:
 Closing time: January: 5:30 p.m.
 February: 6 p.m.
 March: 7 p.m.
 April 15 to May 15: 9 p.m.
 May 15 to August 31: 9:30 p.m.
 September: 8:30 p.m.
 October: 8 p.m.
 End of October to November 15: 6 p.m.
 November 15 to December 31: 5:30 p.m.

What is up there?

Children's play area: with a sandbox, ping pong tables, lawns, dogs are allowed on a leash, a doggie park is between the Reuilly tunnel (le tunnel de Reuilly) and the Bois de Vincennes.

The Promenade Plantée is handicap accessible.

RER B Elevator access

An elevator is under construction at the Saint-Michel Notre-Dame RER station (rue Xavier Privas). an RATP agent will be available to help you access the platform (*quai*). The scheduled opening is 2008. At this time, the transportation agency is not providing the names of other stations accessible. This is a great start!

This is good news if the airport stations (CDG/Roissy and ORY) will also be included. I will keep checking.

Remember the buses are accessible to wheel chairs and baby strollers so enjoy Paris above ground!

For more information about RER elevator accessibility, pick up a map No. 1 at any RER or metro station.

At top of the page with the RER map, you will see the stations and those designated with the  symbol. The red asterisk means that assistance is needed. Just ask at the ticket counter or push the red button at the elevator.

[The Eurostar](#) - Travelers in wheel chairs.

Once you decide on a country to use: UK/USA/France, you can select the link "Wheelchair user?" on the "Book Online".

Why use the UK website? It provides more hotel + train combinations whether you are doing round trip London/Paris or Paris/London or one-way travel.

Passengers in wheel chairs can reserve a specifically-designated space in either Leisure Select class or Business Premier class. One person may travel with you at a reduced rate.

Seat type (description, seat width and leg room)
 Space for wheel chair - 665 mm (509 mm if the armrest is lowered)
 Seat reserved for traveling companion - 665 mm (509 mm if the armrest is lowered).

Legroom: 925 mm

Are you in a motorized wheel chair?

Passengers wishing to take their motorized chair for the voyage are allowed to keep them with you on board the Eurostar with any additional cost in the Eurostar's special baggage compartment.

Access to the trains and the platform are by ramp and lifts.

The wheel chair should have a width less than 100 cm (1 meter).

In order to assure that a special seat is available for your voyage, including connections during peak periods and peak times (weekend, holidays, school holidays), you are advised to notify Eurostar before your arrival by calling:

Eurodespatch at 0044 (0)8705 850850 daily between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Important information from the UK Eurostar website:

"Do you use a mobility scooter?"

Travellers who require mobility scooters to be taken with them during their journeys may carry them on board Eurostar without additional charge in the special luggage hold on our trains.

In order for the scooter to be able to access our platforms and trains via the lifts and ramps, it should not exceed 100cm (1 metre) in width.

To make sure that space is made available on busier services and during peak travel times such as Weekends, Bank Holidays and School Holidays, you should advise Eurostar in advance of your arrival by calling Eurodespatch (08705 850850 from 07:00 to 21:00 daily).

Please note:

If you arrive unannounced at Eurostar terminals we cannot guarantee the required space on your intended service.

Scooters that use combustible fuel cannot be carried on any Eurostar service only battery-powered mobility scooters are allowed."

Seat map from UK website - The Eurostar website says that their trains are larger than jumbo jets; they have counted the seats!

Travel Deals with Eurostar

You will find travel deals (train + hotel) on the the UK website that are not available on the USA website.

Their website provides suggestions and a rate calendar (some days being less expensive to stay at a particular hotel than other days).

Guided tours

Centre des Monuments Nationaux (CMN)

Guided tours accessible to visitors with limited mobility. Their website is available in English. Contact them for more information. –

The CMN website provides a lot of information in French. It does not say anything about the dates of conferences.

The Paris/Ile-de-France tour department of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux (CMN) offers a range of specially-adapted tours accessible to people in wheelchairs (independent or accompanied).

Contact them for tours of the Saint-Denis basilica, Bourse de Commerce and Les Halles and the Manufacture des Gobelins.

Information and reservations (compulsory) at the CMN on 01 44 54 19 33 or visit -- from the **Paris tourist office website**.

This section of national monuments website is in French, but the list of accessible locations is universal, although incomplete.

[Center for National Monuments for people with special needs](#)

French Links Tours for the Disabled

These tours offered since 1996 are geared to those persons with impaired mobility.

Not only does French Links Tours arrange for special access to the Louvre, the Orsay Museum, and the Eiffel Tower, as well as such sights as Fontainebleau, Giverny and Versailles.

They also make hotel recommendations for the physically disabled and arrange for wheelchair hire and special minivans that accommodate special disabilities.

Babysitting

Fondation Claude-Pompidou 42 rue du Louvre, 01 40 13 75 00 (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) Babysitting for handicapped children. 



[Official Tourism and Handicap logo - look for it when reserving hotels and visiting public places](#)