

This beautiful city of lights will remain in our thoughts...

Editors Note: John and Christie Niehaus recently completed a 25-day European vacation with a finale in Paris, France. Just returning home a few days before the horrific events in Paris, the Niehauses wanted to share some images, thoughts and memories from Paris.

When we were in Paris, there was more than the normal amount of armed police in the city, with very serious-looking weapons, mounted across their chest, and with the expression “don’t mess with me.” We had remarked that, “the police were strategically positioned in the pedestrian crosswalks and intersections at dusk.” We also saw an increased amount of security and police at all the monuments and historical sites.

When in the La Marais neighborhood, the oldest Jewish area in Paris, we did notice heavy security at a Jewish Synagogue, all to be expected. While



A view along the River Seine in Paris, France

strolling in Saint Germain, the Latin Quarter is to the east, and the Eiffel Tower is to the west, everything was “business as usual.” The city did look to be

on “alert” to a degree, but most large cities have police and security strategically visible — we never felt unsettled at any point during our stay in the city.

The city was sparkling with the beginning of the holiday season; the Galeries Lafayette and Printemps department stores were full of holiday magic for shoppers and tourists alike.

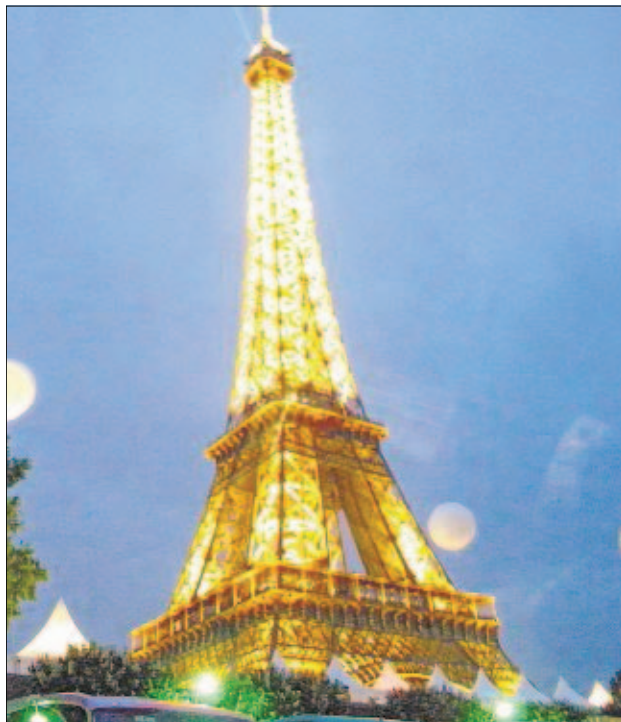
For those who have been to Paris, when heading southwest from CDG airport toward the city center, the sports stadium, Stade de France, is on the left, halfway between the airport and city center. All the cab drivers point out this stadium to tourists and out-of-town passengers. We did use the Gare du Nord train station in

the 10th arrondissement, and the music venue, Bataclan Hall, is nearby. We were all over Paris on foot, on numerous metro connections and took the regional train out of the city one day to Auvers-sur-Oise, where Vincent van Gogh is buried.

This was a revisit to Paris and we enjoyed our time in Paris and never once felt uncomfortable at any point. We have posted on www.scribblesandsmiles.net some wonderful photos, memories and reflections of Paris.

We are looking forward to returning to Paris, again. This beautiful city of lights will remain in our thoughts during this tragic turn of events.

John and Christie Niehaus live on the West Side of Evansville.



The Eiffel Tower at night.

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