ISSUE 003

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JUST MAGAZINE



PARIS

THE CITY OF LIGHT

THE TOWER THAT STAYED, RIVER NIGHTS AND CHRISTMAS MARKETS

THE BIG STORY
THE TOWER THAT STAYED

LIFE
CHRISTMAS IN PARIS

THE LANGUAGE EDIT
10 WORDS FROM THE STORY

003

SABER INGLÉS ES SABER USARLO

The Tower That *Stayed*

In 1889, Paris built the tallest tower in the world as the entrance to a great fair — and planned to take it down twenty years later. More than 130 years have passed, and the tower is still there. This is the story of the most famous temporary building in history.

> *Paris built it for a party — and then refused to let it go.*



The Eiffel Tower and the Pont Alexandre III, the most decorated bridge in Paris.

AN ENTRANCE ARCH

The tower was the entrance arch of the Exposition Universelle of 1889, the world's fair that celebrated one hundred years since the French Revolution. Around 300 workers built it in just over two years. The design came from two engineers in Eiffel's company, Maurice Koechlin and Émile Nouguier.

TWENTY YEARS ONLY

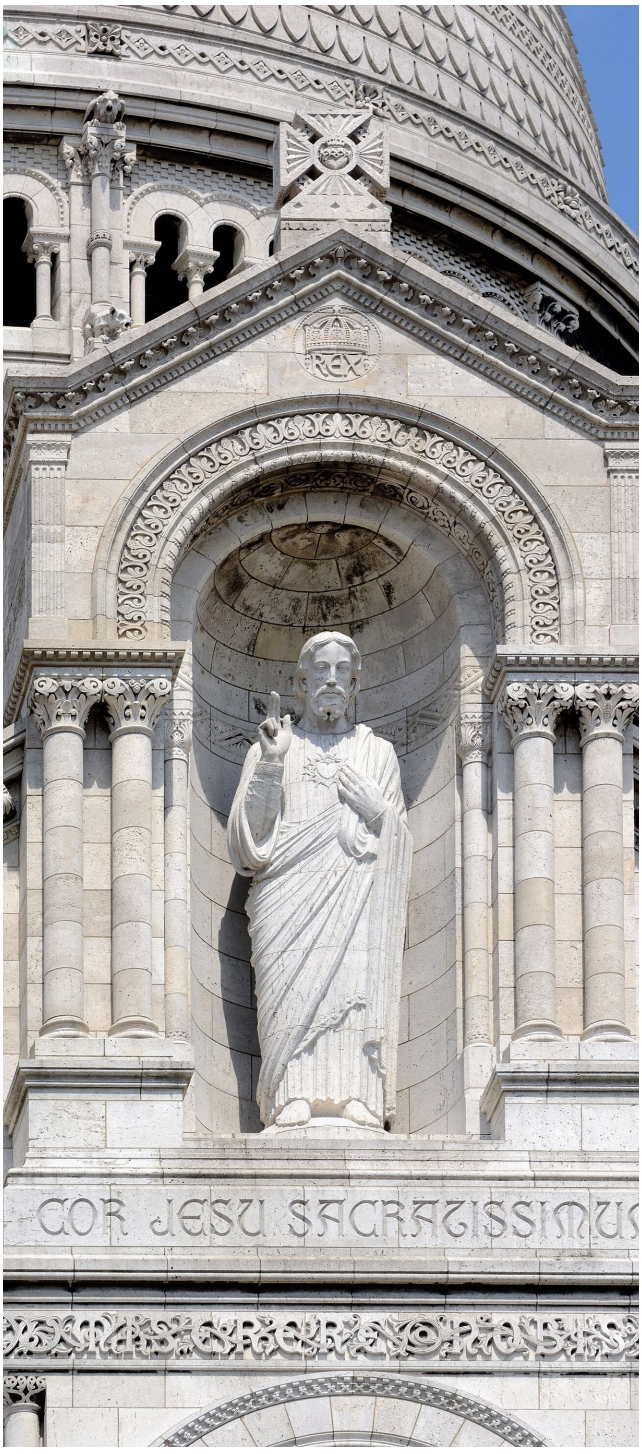
Gustave Eiffel's permission allowed the tower to stand for twenty years. It survived because it was useful: from its top, high above the city, the new radio technology could send signals across great distances. During the First World War, its military station even listened to enemy communications.

THE TALLEST IN THE WORLD

At 330 metres, antennas included, the tower was the tallest human-made structure on Earth for four decades — until New York's Chrysler Building passed it in 1930. Today around seven million people visit it every year, more than any other paid monument in the world.

One Walk, *Five Views*

Paris rewards walkers. This route crosses the river, follows it east, and finishes on a hill — one long, perfect day on foot.



The Sacré-Cœur basilica, on the hill of Montmartre — the end of the walk.

1 THE EIFFEL TOWER

Start below the tower, in the Champ de Mars gardens. Look up: 330 metres of iron, held together by about 2.5 million rivets.

2 TROCADÉRO

Cross the river for the classic photograph. From the square above, the tower stands perfectly over the fountains and the Seine.

3 ALONG THE SEINE

Walk east beside the river and count the bridges as you go — inside Paris, 37 bridges cross the Seine.

4 NOTRE-DAME

On the island in the river stands the great cathedral. It opened its doors again in December 2024, five years after the fire.

5 MONTMARTRE

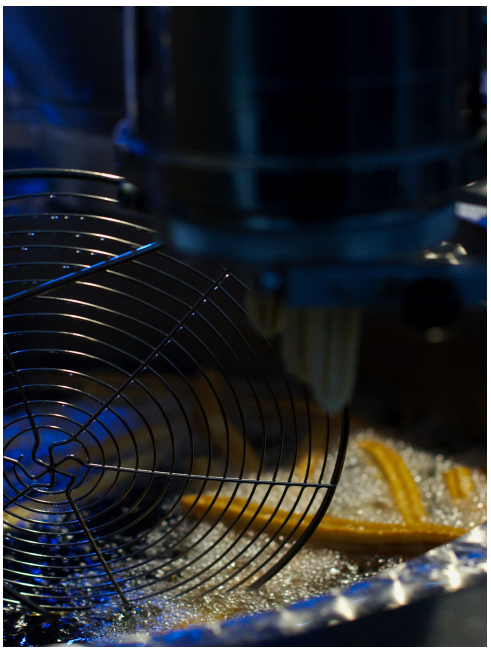
Finish on the northern hill, at the white basilica of Sacré-Cœur — and watch the whole city slowly turn to gold.

Christmas *in Paris*

December is when Paris works hardest at being Paris. The avenues shine, the markets fill with hot drinks and sweet bread, and every evening the tower performs its most famous trick — five minutes of pure sparkle, on the hour, every hour.



The Champs-Élysées dressed in red for the season.



Hot churros at a Christmas market.

20,000
lights make the tower sparkle after dark

1,665
steps climb from the ground to the top

60 tonnes
of paint protect the iron, every 7 years

MARKETS AND MIDNIGHT

The great Christmas market in the Tuileries Garden fills the park between the Louvre and the Place de la Concorde with wooden chalets, a big wheel and the smell of cinnamon. Smaller markets open beside Notre-Dame and in Saint-Germain — roasted chestnuts, gingerbread and hot chocolate. Parisians do their December evenings properly: slowly, outside, and together.

WHY ‘THE CITY OF LIGHT’?

The name is older than the tower's bulbs. Paris was a centre of ideas in the Age of Enlightenment, and one of the first great cities to light its streets at night. The idea was simple: light means knowledge. The nickname stuck — and every December, the city proves it again.

The Language Edit

Real words from a real city. Here are some key words from the story, with simple meanings and examples.

tower *(noun)*
a tall, narrow building or structure
The tower is 330 metres high.



bridge *(noun)*
a structure that carries a road or path over water
Thirty-seven bridges cross the Seine in Paris.



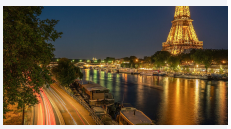
river *(noun)*
a large natural flow of water
Notre-Dame stands on an island in the river.



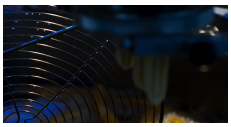
stairs *(noun (plural))*
steps that take you up or down inside a building
There are 674 stairs to the second floor.



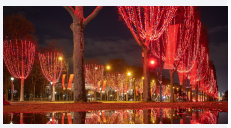
climb *(verb)*
to go up something high
Would you climb to the top of the tower?



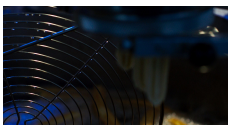
neighbourhood *(noun)*
an area of a town or city
Montmartre is an artists' neighbourhood.



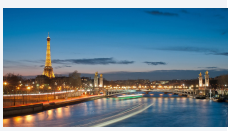
avenue *(noun)*
a wide street, often with trees on both sides
The Champs-Élysées is Paris's most famous avenue.



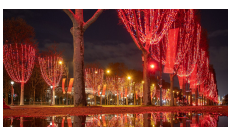
market *(noun)*
a place where people buy and sell things outside
We bought hot churros at the Christmas market.



view *(noun)*
what you can see from a place
The view from Sacré-Cœur covers the whole city.



sparkle *(verb)*
to shine with small, bright flashes of light
At night, the tower sparkles for five minutes.

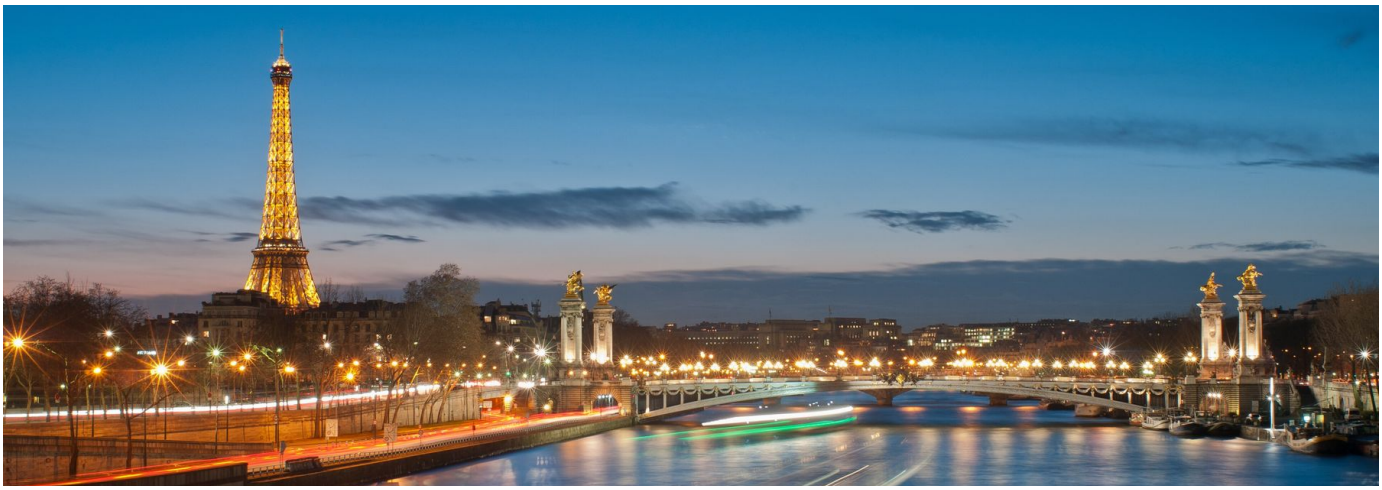


LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT

in the end • on the hour • in the middle of • all over the city — patterns from this issue's story.

Five Things *You Didn't Know*

The tower keeps secrets in its iron. Here are five things most visitors never hear about the Iron Lady of Paris.



The Seine at night — the river is the oldest ‘street’ in Paris.

1 It was saved by science

The twenty-year permit ended in 1909, and the tower should have come down. It stayed because it was useful: its great height made it perfect for the new science of radio, and later for television signals.

2 It is taller in summer

Iron grows in the heat. On hot summer days, the metal expands and the tower can be about 15 centimetres taller than in the cold of winter — a giant that breathes with the seasons.

3 A private apartment in the sky

Near the top, Gustave Eiffel kept a small private apartment, furnished with wooden furniture and a piano. There he received famous guests — among them the inventor Thomas Edison.

4 Painted by hand, again and again

To protect the iron from rust, painters repaint the whole tower roughly every seven years — by hand, with about 60 tonnes of paint in the tower's own colour, ‘Eiffel Tower brown’.

5 The sparkle is younger than you think

The famous sparkling lights arrived only in the year 2000, for the millennium celebrations. The city loved them so much that they stayed: 20,000 bulbs, five minutes, every hour after dark.

THINK ABOUT IT

Paris almost destroyed its most famous symbol. When is it right to keep something that was only meant for a moment?

Your Perspective

Now it's your turn. Read, think, speak and write about Paris.

READ & THINK

1. Why was the Eiffel Tower built, and for how long was it meant to stay?
2. Why did the tower survive after 1909?
3. How does the tower change with the seasons?
4. Which stops does this issue's walk include?
5. Which fact surprised you most?

SPEAK

Discuss with a partner:
• Would you climb 674 stairs to the second floor? Why?
• What makes a city romantic? Is it the buildings, the light, or the people?
• Describe the most beautiful night view in your city.

SPEAKING CHALLENGE (60–90 seconds): speak as a guide under the Eiffel Tower at night — Point – Reason – Example – Point.

WRITE

Write a short paragraph (100–120 words):
Imagine you are standing under the Eiffel Tower at night when it begins to sparkle. Describe the moment and what you feel.
Start with: “The clock showed nine, and then it happened…”

Word bank: tower • bridge • river • stairs • climb • avenue • view • sparkle • suddenly • in the end



Notre-Dame — more than eight centuries old, and open to the city again.

REFLECT

Which place in your city deserves to be famous around the world — and why isn't it?
What would you show a visitor first, and what would you say about it in English?

EDITORIAL SOURCES

The Eiffel Tower — official site: toureiffel.paris • Paris je t'aime — Office de Tourisme: parisjetaime.com

UNESCO World Heritage Centre — Paris, Banks of the Seine: whc.unesco.org/en/list/600 • Notre-Dame de Paris: notredamedeparis.fr

Photographs: Wikimedia Commons contributors (Eiffel Tower at night, Pont Alexandre III, Sacré-Cœur, Notre-Dame, Champs-Élysées illuminations, Christmas market).

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