

Jardin des Plantes – Eglise St. Sulpice (4.5 km)*

- Start with a visit of the Jardin de Plantes. You may enter from Place Valhubert, Metro Gare Austerlitz (Line 10). You can visit for free the Jardin Alpin, Jardin de Roses et de Roches, for 7 Euro a series of greenhouses (Grandes Serres & Botanique). Exit towards the rue Geoffroy St. Hilaire.
- Vis-à-vis you can enter the nice courtyard leading to an arabian restaurant, hamam and serving green tea and arabic sweets, belonging to the mosque. To see the real mosque you walk up the rue Dauberton, next right into rue Georges Desplas. After 200 m on your right you can visit the nice courtyard of the real mosque.
- Continue along the rue de Quatrefages, at its end vis-à-vis on your left you can enter the Arènes de Lutèce, the oldest building in Paris (1st century). (Free toilet cabins)
- Continue the rue de Navarre towards the rue Monge, cross it and climb up the stairs. (A drinking fountain half way up.) Continue the rue Rollin, turn left – right at the end where you find the Place de Contrescarpe. Cross the rue Mouffetard (quite touristique) and walk up the rue Blainville. Another drinking fountain is on the Place Emmanuel Levinas. Continue straight along the rue de l'Estrapade. Turn the next right, rue Clotilde.
- Walk along the back of the Pantheon. On the Place Ste. Geneviève you have the nice Eglise Saint-Etienne de Mont. Continue straight down the rue de la Montagne Ste. Geneviève. At the lower end you have the original Ecole Polytechnique on your right (founded 1794, declared military academy by Napoleon in 1804). On your left you have the bar "Les Pijos" where occasionally (but very rarely) old French songs are performed by Paris inhabitants.
- Enter the rue de l'Ecole Polytechnique on your left, turn the next left (rue Valette), walk up to the Pantheon. Turn right, then left – right to the upper part of the rue Soufflot. From its opposite (left) side you see the Eiffel Tower behind the Jardin de Luxembourg.
- Walk down the rue Soufflot until the Boulevard St. Michel, turn left, cross the rue Gay Lussac, cross the Boulevard St. Michel, enter the Jardin de Luxembourg. Do not miss the Fontaine Médicis in the north-east part (half right from the entrance; in the underground of the Café on the way you have toilets.) There are beehives in the south-west part of the Jardin (no catastrophe if you miss them). In the Orangerie in the north-west part you have a free exhibition of paintings. Near the Orangerie behind the play ground meet the chess players; you can watch interesting games.
- Exit towards the rue Guynemer along the west side of the Jardin de Luxembourg. Turn right, follow it (or the Allée du Séminaire along it) until the Place St. Sulpice. The Eglise St. Sulpice is one of the nicest ones. Final task: Find the obelisk-like Astronomical Gnomon inside which played a major role in Dan Brown's novel "The Da Vinci Code".

* Warning: You will pass about 100 cafés, bars, bistros and bookshops. If you do not pay attention you will never make it.

