

Paris Magic

Paris is well known to be a beautiful and romantic city, full of history, art and good food. These are already excellent reasons for visiting the place but what I went to explore was the magic ? I mean, the conjuring and prestidigitation.
by GeorginaKirk

Paris is well known to be a beautiful and romantic city, full of history, art and good food. These are already excellent reasons for visiting the place but what I went to explore was the magic ? I mean, the conjuring and prestidigitation.

Whether you are a magician or whether you just like watching magic, there's a huge amount for you to enjoy in Paris. For me, seeing some good magic enhances a visit to anywhere but it suits Paris particularly well, I feel. The chic, intelligent elegance of smooth conjuring is very much in keeping with the atmosphere of the city of light.

Top priority for my friend and me was a drink and a show at the magic caf-theatre Le Double Fond. Run by a father-and-daughter magic duo, this little place is a hive of magical activity. The show we saw was billed as a sort of open-mike evening for local close-up magicians and we weren't sure how high the standard would be. But what a fantastic evening! Sleight-of-hand, mentalism and mapcap comedy, all delivered with charm and enthusiasm. We loved it.

Magicians appear in mainstream Paris theatres far more often than I would have expected. When we were there, magic shows or plays with magic in them were running on three different stages. You can also catch a magic show - and have a civilised dinner - while cruising along the Seine. The Museum of Magic is worth a visit and practitioners of the art should definitely check out the magic shops, which are many and excellent.

Besides magic, a myriad other pleasures await you in Paris. Because the city is so compact, you can cover a lot of ground even if you've only got a few days - although it does make sense to concentrate on one or two areas, rather than dashing through as much as you can fit in. The Marais district, for example, offers Victor Hugo's house (now a museum), the Muse Carnavalet exhibiting the history of Paris, the Picasso museum, some very good shops and restaurants and some nice bars (as well as magic venues).

On the list for next time, apart from more magic, are some less well known sights and activities, such as the enormous weekend flea market, the catacombs and the restaurant and Turkish bath at the Paris Mosque. It's hard to be bored in Paris!

If you've got more than a few days, you might like to look around outside Paris. Many years ago, I went to Claude Monet's house at Giverny and it has stayed with me as a glowing memory of peace and beauty. The garden is exactly as he painted it and it feels rather strange to be in it. Also within easy reach of central Paris are the Palace of Versailles and (in a totally different vein) the Disneyland and Asterix theme parks.

There is no doubt that Paris is a magical city, on many levels. I came home feeling satisfied, inspired and raring to go back as soon as possible. I suggest you book your tickets right now and give yourself a well earned treat.

About the Author:

Georgina Kirk's Paris Magic site offers loads of practical info for your holiday, and recommendations about magic in Paris.