

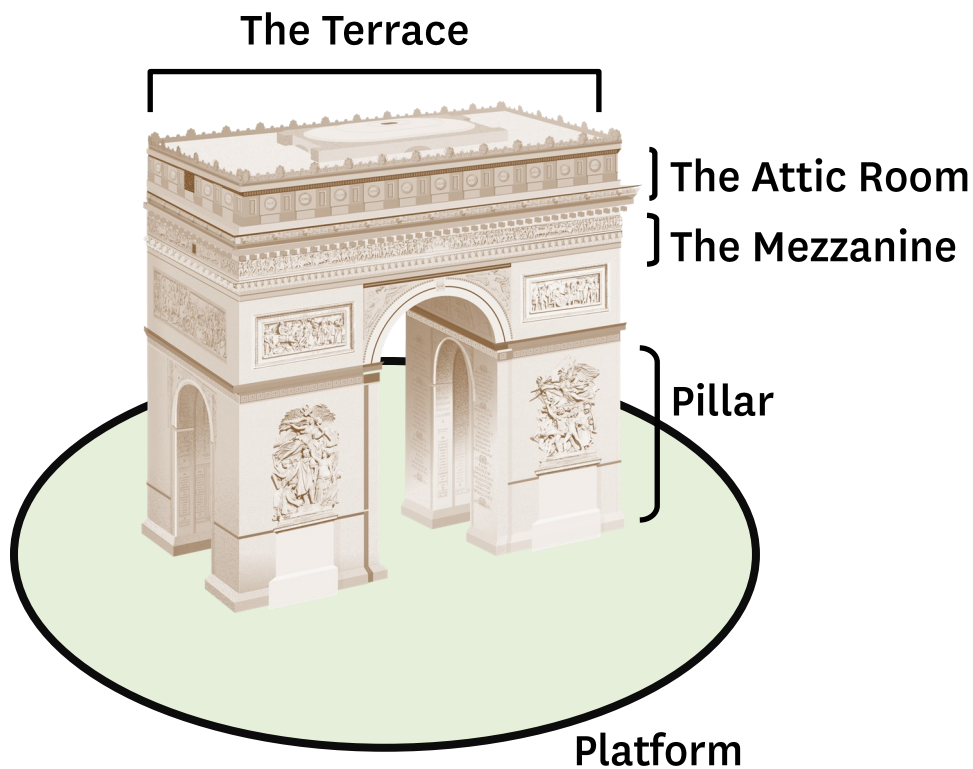


Visit the Arc de Triomphe



Inclusive Booklet—Information for All
Easy-to-Read-and-Understand

Welcome to the Arc de Triomphe!



We are very happy to welcome you!

This booklet is written

in an **Easy-to-Read-and-Understand** way.

It will help you visit the **Arc de Triomphe**.

The **Arc de Triomphe** is a monument.

A monument is a famous building:

- for its **beauty**,
- for its **history**,
- for its **architecture**.

In this booklet, you will find:

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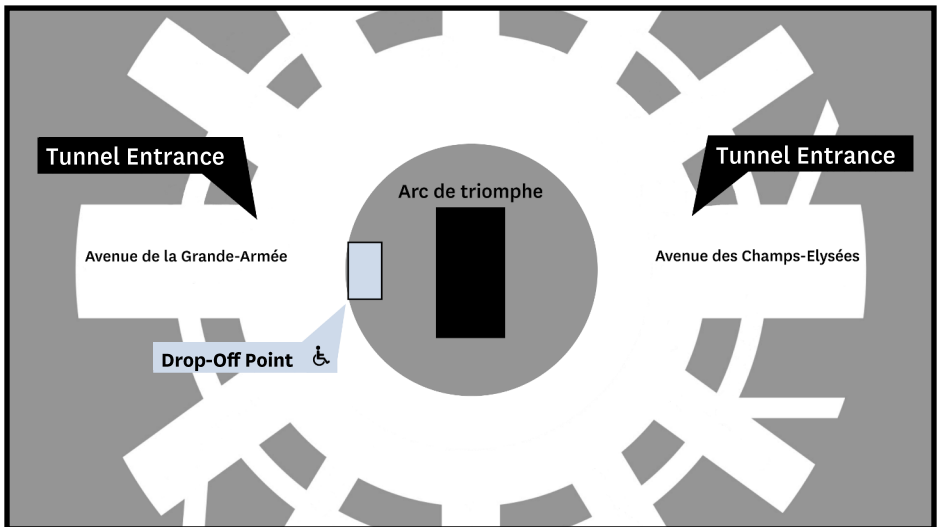
Arriving at the Arc de Triomphe



To reach the **Arc de Triomphe**,
take the **underground pedestrian tunnel**.

There are **two entrances** to the tunnel:

- one at the top of **Avenue des Champs-Élysées**,
- one at the top of **Avenue de la Grande Armée**.



You cannot cross the roundabout on foot.

The tunnel helps you **cross the roundabout safely**
as there are too many cars.

Stairs



- There are **stairs** at the **entrance** of the tunnel.
- If you **cannot take the stairs**, come by car.
- A car or a taxi can **drop you off** at the **accessible drop-off parking spot** on **Avenue de la Grande Armée**.

Ticket Office



- The **ticket office** is just inside the tunnel where you can **buy a ticket**.
- If you have a **disability card**, your ticket is **free** and one for the **person accompanying you**.

No Need to Wait



- You do not need to **wait in line** if you have a **disability card**.
- Show your disability card to an **agent** wearing a **badge**.
- The agent can also help you to **buy a ticket** if needed.

Going Up



- To the **right** of the ticket office there are **stairs** to reach the **platform**.

Elevator, Toilets and Other Facilities

**You can ask at the Ticket Office for
a free printed copy of this booklet,
noise-canceling headphones,
a magnifying glass
or a wheelchair to borrow.**



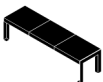
The Elevator

- There is an **elevator** inside the Arc de Triomphe, if you need to use it.



The Toilets

- There are **toilets** inside the Arc de Triomphe on the **first and second floors**.



Benches

- There are **benches** inside the rooms for you to use.
- You can **sit and rest** on the benches.

Visiting Rules

You are allowed to:



Look



Ask questions



Take photos
(but without flash)



Talk quietly



Rest if you need to

You are not allowed to:



Shout



Run



Touch
the artwork



Smoke



Eat or drink inside
the monument

Information About the Visit

This booklet will help you during your visit.

You may find useful information in this booklet.

- This information is written in **green**.
- It will **guide you** from the **start** to the **end** of your visit.

The visit starts at the platform.

- The **platform** is the area **outside**, around the Arc de Triomphe.

During your visit, you will go through:

- **darker areas,**
- **colder areas,**
- **narrow stairs and circular stairs** to climb (they can be a bit **tiring**),
- areas where you can **rest**.

All this information is shown in the booklet with the drawings on the right side of each page.

These drawings may help you during the visit.



This drawing shows the areas that are dark.



This drawing shows the areas with natural light.



This drawing shows the areas where there is wind and it may feel cold.



This drawing shows the areas where you can sit and rest.



This drawing shows the areas where you need to climb stairs.
There are 284 stairs per pillar to climb.
These stairs can be a bit tiring.

Presentation of the Arc de Triomphe

The Arc de Triomphe is a monument.

It is an important **symbol** that **represents France**.



The Arc de Triomphe was built about **200 years ago**.
It took **30 years** to build, from **1806 to 1836**.

The monument was built by a man
named **Napoléon Bonaparte**.

He was a **military leader** and **emperor**.

An **emperor** is a person who **rules a country**.

Napoléon ruled France from **1799 to 1814**.

Events at the Arc de Triomphe

There are often **events** near the Arc de Triomphe.
For example:

- on **14th July**, there is a **military parade** on the **Avenue des Champs-Élysées**,
- the **Avenue des Champs-Élysées** is in front of the Arc de Triomphe.

Many people come to the Arc de Triomphe to **celebrate** other events, like:

- the **World Cup**,
- **New Year's Eve**,
- the arrival of the **Tour de France**.

Things to See During Your Visit

- The **building** and the **relief sculptures**
- The Tomb of the **Unkown Soldier**
- The names of **battles** and **military generals**
- **Audiovisual** and **digital devices**
- A **scale model** for the monument
- A **painting**
- A **view** of Paris

The Platform



The **platform** is the area outside and around the Arc de Triomphe.

On the ground,
you will see **golden plates**.

These plates tell
important dates in French history.



On each pillar of the Arc de Triomphe,
there are **large sculptures**.

These sculptures are called **sculpted groups**.

They show **important events** in French history.

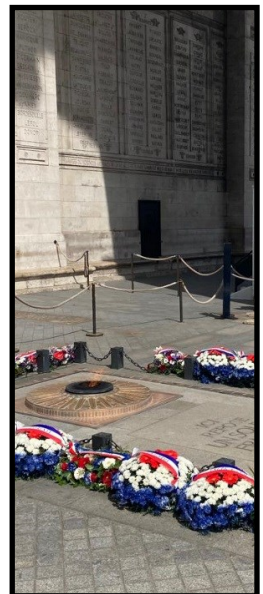
Under the Arc de Triomphe
is the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**.

He is called the **Unknown Soldier**
because we **do not know** his name
and we do not know who he was.

He represents **all the brave French**
soldiers who died for France.

Under the tomb there is a **flame**
called the **Flame of Remembrance**.

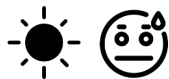
This flame has **been burning**
every day since 1923.





Here is an example of a sculpture.
You can see this sculpture on one of the pillars
of the Arc de Triomphe.

The Stairs



To enter the rooms inside the Arc de Triomphe, you will need to climb the stairs.



At the entrance of the stairs, agents will check your bag. If you have a disability card, you do not need to wait in line.



There are almost 200 steps to reach the first floor!

After climbing the stairs you will arrive at the mezzanine level.



If you cannot use the stairs, please do not worry.

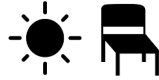
A museum agent can show you how to take the elevator.

The elevator will arrive at the attic level, which is just above the mezzanine level.



**The spiral staircase will take you
to the top of the Arc de Triomphe.**

The Mezzanine Level



**You are now on the first floor,
in a room called the mezzanine level.**

On this level you will see a **sculpture**
here on the right.

This sculpture is a **cast**
or a **copy** of a sculpture called
the **Genius of the Fatherland**.

It is a **copy** of only a **part**
of the **larger sculpture**
on one of the **pillars**
of the **Arc de Triomphe**.

Do you see the face of the **woman**
with an **open mouth** shouting loudly?



There are **two other sculptures**
here on the mezzanine:

- a **lion's head**
- and a **foot**.



In 2010, the Arc de Triomphe was **renovated**.

Some parts of the sculptures were **damaged**
and replaced with the **new pieces**.

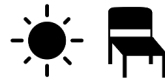
The old broken parts were kept
such as **this lion's head and foot**.

They were originally on the Arc de Triomphe.



This is a replica of the original sculpture the Genius of the Fatherland.

The Attic Level



To reach the attic level,
you must go up the stairs
from the mezzanine.

While you are climbing the stairs,
watch out for a **bust**.

A **bust** is a sculpture,
the upper part of a body that shows:

- the head,
- neck,
- shoulders and chest of a person.

This bust shows **Louis-Philippe**.

Louis-Philippe was the **King of France**
when the Arc de Triomphe was finished in **1836**.

Opposite the bust of Louis-Philippe,
there is the **bust of Napoléon Bonaparte**.

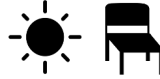
Napoléon Bonaparte was the person
who **ordered the construction**
of the Arc de Triomphe.

Napoléon Bonaparte was a **military leader**
and **emperor** who ruled France.



This is the bust of Louis Philippe.

The Attic Level



**At the top of the stairs
you arrive in the attic level.**

There are **more artworks** in this room!

You will see a sculpture called **Le Poilu**.
This sculpture **shows** a French soldier
known in the **First World War as a *Poilu***.
You will see he is wearing a military uniform.
Soldiers during the **First World War**
were called ***Poilus*** because they were brave.

Behind the *Poilu* the wall is covered with palm leaves.



These palm leaves are made of **bronze**.

They are a **symbol of victory**.

There are also **oak and laurel wreaths** on the wall.
These are also symbols of honor and strength.

Further in the room, you can see a **small model**
of the **Arc de Triomphe** made of **plaster and wood**.
It shows the Arc de Triomphe in **miniature form**.



**After visiting this room,
you can climb up to the terrace level.**



Here is the sculpture of the *Poilu*.
You can see the palm leaves behind him.

The Terrace Level



On the **terrace level**,
you can enjoy a panoramic view of **Paris**!

If you walk around, you can see for example:

- the **Eiffel Tower**
- the financial district called **La Défense**
- the **Sacré-Cœur** church



The Arc de Triomphe is located
on roundabout called the **Place Charles-de-Gaulle**.

Before 1970, this square was called **Place de l'Étoile**,
which means star in French.

Some people still use the **old name**.

In fact, there are **12 avenues** around the monument.

All these avenues lead to the Arc the Triomphe.

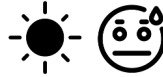
So, when you look from above,
you can see that it **looks like a star**.





**This is the view from the terrace level.
From here you can see all over Paris,
including the famous Eiffel Tower!**

End of the Visit



**As you leave the terrace level,
you will come to the attic level.**

There is a gift shop on this level.

You can buy a souvenir here if you would like.

This concludes your visit.

We hope you have enjoyed your time here.



**To exit, you will need to go back
to the mezzanine level.**

**Find the stairs to take you down.
Please ask a museum agent, if needed.
They will help you.**



**If you prefer to use the elevator,
please ask a museum agent.
They will help you.**



Thank you for your visit!
We hope you enjoyed your time
at the Arc de Triomphe.
We hope you will visit again!

Contact Us



If you have any questions or comments,
you can contact the Cultural and Educational Department
of the Arc de Triomphe:
service.educatifarc@monuments-nationaux.fr

Review of the Booklet

This booklet is based on a **French Easy-to-Read booklet (FALC)**.
The **French version was reviewed and approved**
by the **Falc d'Avenir Apei workshop** in Carrières-sur-Seine in 2023.
It was **translated into English** by Viviana Gobbato in 2025,
in accordance with European standards
for making information **easier to read and understand**:
www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-standards-guidelines

Copywriting and Graphic Design

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To Go Further

For more information about the Arc de Triomphe,
please visit: www.paris-arc-de-triomphe.fr/en



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