



Parisian Facts

Paris is one of the most famous cities in the world. Known as the City of Love, Paris attracts tourists from all over the world. You may have heard of it, or even visited, but did you know some of these amazing Parisian facts?

Origin

A Celtic tribe called the Parisii settled on the banks of the River Seine in 259 BCE. This was the beginning of the city of Paris (although it wasn't called that yet). It was conquered by the Romans in 52 BCE and named Lutetia. It took the name of Paris in the 4th century. During this time, it was threatened by Atilla the Hun. Apparently, Saint Genevieve intervened and scared him away. Saint Genevieve is now the patron saint of Paris.

Hidden Art

Paris has a long tradition with art, but some of its history is quite strange. A flat was left locked and abandoned for 70 years, but the rent was always paid. When the owner died, police entered the flat and found a Boldini painting worth more than \$2million.

Long Lost Sisters

In the middle of the River Seine, there is a replica of the Statue of Liberty. It has been placed to point towards her sister in New York.

I Can't See You!

The French army was the first to use camouflage. The word comes from the French for "make up for a stage". It was used for the first time in the First World War.

A Tourism Hot Spot

Nearly 18 million people visit and stay in Paris every year. The most popular destination that they flock to is the Notre-Dame Cathedral. Over 13 million people a year visit the cathedral. The Basilica of the Sacred Heart is the second most visited. The Eiffel Tower is fourth.



Big Art

The Louvre is the world's biggest art museum. It contains over 38,000 pieces of art, including the Mona Lisa. 10.8 million people visited in 2018. That makes it the most visited gallery in the world!

Underground

Paris has one of the most efficient underground systems in the world. It is the second most used subway in Europe with about 5 million people per day using it. Can you guess where the most used system is? It's not London, but Moscow!

Pigeons Away!

During the First and Second World Wars, carrier pigeons were a trusted and effective way of sending messages. Once the wars ended, most armies got rid of their pigeon units. France is the only army in Europe that still has carrier pigeons in its ranks. They are kept close to Paris in a place called the Mont Valérien. They are well trained and ready to be used in case of a major catastrophe.

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What is one of Paris's nicknames?
2. What was the name of the first tribe to settle where Paris now stands?
3. Which river is the city of Paris built next to?
4. Who painted the hidden artwork?
5. The statue in the middle of the Seine is a replica of which statue?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

What does the phrase "attracts tourists" mean?

V

What is a "destination"?

I

Why is the section called "I Can't See You?"

E

Is the use of sub-titles effective in the text? Why?

S

What happened after Atilla the Hun threatened Paris?