

Go Wild at the Zoo

Paris has two zoos, and both will captivate small children and teens alike. Meet the world-famous primates at the Ménagerie in the Jardin des Plantes (p268), Europe's second oldest zoo with enclosures dating back to the time of Napoleon. At the modern zoo in the Parc de Vincennes (p294), visitors are immersed in animal habitats such as the grassy African savannah, where lanky giraffes and lazy lions await.



→ Exotic birdlife at the Parc Zoologique de Paris in the Parc de Vincennes

Be a Chef for the Day

The kitchen is the heart of any family, so learn to cook together with a class at La Cuisine Paris (p96). This well-appointed cooking school in the Marais offers English-language lessons in making a variety of traditional French dishes. Discover how to make buttery croissants or roll out your own baguettes before tasting the fruits, or rather pastries, of your labour. It's a sure-fire way to keep the whole family busy and smiling for a few hours, even if you'll end up covered in flour.



← Learning the basics of French baking at a cooking school

TOP 5 RAINY DAY MUSEUMS

Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle
Home to thousands of impressive animal specimens (p266).

Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature
A collection of hunting trophies (p96).

Aquarium de Paris - Cinéaqua
An underwater wonderland situated across from the Eiffel Tower (p223).

Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie
A huge science museum, packed with interactive exhibits (p144).

Palais de la Découverte
Science for kids just off the Avenue des Champs-Élysées (p228).

PARIS FOR FAMILIES

Paris is a playground for kids, with engaging parks and family-friendly events throughout the year. Children - and adults - will delight in riding the carousel in the Jardin des Plantes, watching a puppet show at the Jardin du Luxembourg or enjoying the beaches of the Paris Plages.

Take a Boat Trip

Boat cruises along the Seine or canal are a family favourite. Parents have the chance to relax while kids watch the city pass them by. Options along the Seine include Bateaux Mouches, Vedettes du Pont Neuf and Bateaux Parisiens, while the main company for the canal at La Villette is Canauxrama. The 19th century locks of the canal are especially curious, as is the cavernous tunnel that the tour takes you through.



↑ A boat tour cruising along the Seine, past the Eiffel Tower

INSIDER TIP Eating Out

Parisians don't typically take their children to higher end restaurants, so choose somewhere more family oriented, such as the chain Hippopotamus or the budget-friendly Chez Gladines (p255), where the food is still good but the atmosphere more relaxed.

Search for Hidden Treasure

Paris's museums are huge, but a treasure hunt provides an exciting new way of exploring them. A little rivalry, a bit of learning and a whole lot of fun await anyone who embarks on a hunt with THATMuse at the Louvre (p184) or Musée d'Orsay (p238).



→ Posing for a photograph as part of a treasure hunt at the Louvre