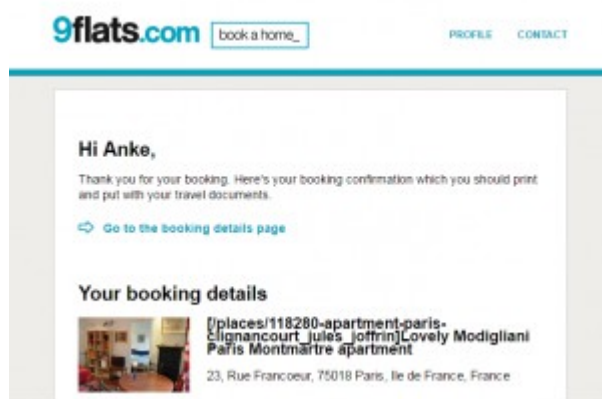


Paris has been one of my dream destinations for a long time. And finally, in August 2015 my children and I visited this beautiful city for three nights and four days before spending the rest of a scorching summer in Berlin and its surroundings.

Paris has so much to offer that you will need at least three days to explore this gorgeous, breathtaking city. You can see historical places in nearly every corner you go. The people are friendly and welcoming, and most of them are speaking English.

We booked a beautiful little apartment in Montmartre with 9flats.com – the alternative to hotels. If you need more information how 9flats.com works, please read more in my ultimate guide to cheap family holiday apartments in France.



As you can see on the images, our accommodation was reasonable, especially during the main holiday season. And we loved this cute place with comfortable beds, a kitchen, and a TV. The supermarket, the best patisserie ever and a few lovely restaurants were just a couple of minutes away. The owner was

fantastic; he arranged for us to check in a few hours earlier than usual because our flight arrived at 5 am. So you can imagine that the four of us were pretty tired.

[

How To Get Around In Paris With Kids

We arrived at the airport Charles de Gaulle. From there you can take a taxi, the bus or the RER (train) to get to the Paris city center. I decided on the public

transport since a cab would have crashed my bank account.



In general, the public transport system is well structured and easy to navigate. There are a few options on ticket prices available. You can buy single tickets or a Paris Travel transport card valid either for one, two, three or five days. This card will give you unlimited access to the bus, Metro, Tramway and the RER network. Children under four years travel free which is fantastic. An Adult ticket

for three days costs Euro 28.50/\$32 and for a child (4 to 11 years) Euro14.20/\$16. You will also get a booklet with reductions on certain tourist attractions.

There is also another pass available that costs more but entitles you to a one-hour boat trip on the river Seine, a 1-day-sightseeing bus tour and many other incentives like access to more than 50 museums. The Paris Passlib costs Euro 129/\$144 for an adult valid for three days.

Please keep a few important things in mind when you use the Metro: the tickets are tiny so be careful not to lose them. It was a bit of a mission navigating my kids through the metro entrance gates. The gates are quite narrow, and it is tricky to get bulky luggage through as well. I always collected the tickets as soon as we passed the gates, put them away and pulled them out again when leaving the Metro station. You also have to do a fair bit of walking when you change metro stations. Even I got tired not to mention my kids who were 5, 9 and ten years old at the time. Also, be prepared to climb lots of stairs. There are not many elevators or escalators around. Once you get your luggage to the apartment or hotel, it gets easier.

5 Cool Things We Did In Paris

#1 Visit The Eiffel Tower

A visit to Paris would be incomplete without seeing the world famous Eiffel Tower. It is THE Symbol for France and Paris. It was built by Gustave Eiffel in 1889 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. It took two years, two months and five days to complete this massive building.

Every year, 7 million people visiting this historic monument, around 75% are foreigners. Pretty impressive, isn't it?

The Eiffel Tower opens every day. From mid-June until September you can climb the stairs or use the elevator from 9 am till midnight. All other months it is open from 9.30 am – 11 pm.

Children under four years can enter for free.

If you take the lift up to the top, fees are Adult: 17 Euro; 12-24 years old pay 14.50 Euro and children 4-11 years: 8 Euro.

Going up the stairs to the 2nd entrance (115m high) costs Adult: 8 Euro; 12-24 years: 5 Euro and children 4-11 years: 3 Euro.

You can get to the Eiffel Tower by Metro: Bir-Hakeim or Trocadero, by Bus or even by Boat.

Tip: Try to be there early in the morning to avoid large crowds and the Summer heat (if you go in July/August) Enjoy the beautiful view from the top or have a little picnic next to the Tower. It is fun to watch the souvenir sellers, people from all around the world and just taking in the busy and friendly atmosphere.

#2 The Louvre

The Louvre is such an impressive complex. It is the largest museum in the world. When we got there, I was in awe of the stunning architecture, how the historical and contemporary styles compliment each other.

If you visit the Louvre with your children, it is best to plan in advance. Otherwise, it will be too overwhelming for you and your family. You could either focus on a few paintings and chat about them with your children or could choose from 28 visitor trails. Some trails are based on a theme, or on a selection of works and differ in length (from one to three hours).

One of the best parts is that admission is free for everyone under 18 years of age. Everyone else pays 15 Euro. The museum is **not open on Tuesdays!** All other days you can visit from 9 am – 6 pm. Wednesday and Friday you can admire the most beautiful artwork until 9.45. Getting there is easy by Metro: Palais-Royal Musee du Louvre, by bus or boat.

Tips: 1) Due to extra security checks it is not recommended to bring suitcases and luggage to the museum. **2)** Enjoy Free Admission to the permanent collections on the first Sunday of each month from October to March.

#3 Jardin du Luxembourg or Luxembourg Gardens



Now it's time to have some play time for the kids, and you as parents can relax and lean back after a busy day of sightseeing. There is no better place to go to than the Luxembourg gardens with plenty of chairs under big trees. Take a glance at the Luxembourg Palace or watch your kids putting boats into the pool.

Take a stroll to the Marionette theater and watch a puppet show; at 2.30pm, 3.30pm or 4.30pm. Or your children can enjoy a pony ride. There is even a gorgeous vintage carousel. My kids couldn't get enough of it.

You will also find a big playground next to the carousel. It is fenced off, and you will have to pay a small fee for your children to enter. If your kids are independent, they can go by themselves, and you can wait outside by the fence. Otherwise, you need to pay as well.

The Park is open daily from 7 am to 1 hour before sunset. Metro: Odeon or by bus.

Extra Tips: 1) Most attractions have a small fee. 2) Victor Hugo featured the Luxembourg Gardens in his famous novel Les Miserables. History wherever you

go. 😊

#4 Notre Dame De Paris

Notre Dame De Paris means "Our Lady of Paris" and is probably one of the most well-known church buildings in the world. Who hasn't seen the movie "The hunchback of Notre Dame" with Anthony Quinn and Gina Lollobrigida based on the novel by Victor Hugo? If you didn't, now is a good time.

Notre Dame is one of the first gothic cathedrals. You will find it on the Ile de la Cite. The construction started eight centuries ago in 1160 and finished in 1345.

The cathedral is open for free from 7 am – 9 pm in Summer and 7.30am -7.30 pm in Winter.

Even though the queues were quite long, we only had to wait a few minutes to get inside this impressive cathedral. To see the French Gothic architecture, the famous gargoyles, and beautiful glass stained windows took me back in time. In within the cathedral is a treasury. For a small fee, you can admire some of Catholicisms most important relics like ornaments of the fourteenth century, artwork, furniture and other valuable items.

From Notre Dame Cathedral it is just a short stroll to the oldest standing bridge across the river Seine called "Pont Neuf" (New Bridge) The bridge opened to traffic in 1604, and was eventually completed in 1606.

And while you are on the Ile de Cite, the Island in the middle of the river Seine, you might find it interesting to know that the Island is the birthplace of Paris, 250-225 BC.

Did I mention there is history wherever you go in Paris?

#5 Galeries Lafayette Hausmann

And now it is time to do some shopping. The best and most beautiful place is the upmarket French department store "Galeries Lafayette" You can shop till you drop Monday to Saturday from 9.30 am – 8 pm and on Thursdays till 9 pm. All the famous designer stores like Yves Saint Laurent, Karl Lagerfeld, Dior and much more are under one roof.

The children's department is on the 5th floor. Check out the shoe corner, toys, and children's designer clothes. On the same floor, you will also find Baby changing facilities with changing tables, a sink, microwave and feeding chairs.

Tip: Grab something to eat from one of the delicious takeaway food areas and head with your family to the rooftop on the seventh floor. Enjoy your lunch and a spectacular view of Paris.

Here is an extra special tip: the Galeries Lafayette offers a free child minding service. It is somewhere hidden on the fifth floor, and I only found it by coincidence. I was able to leave my three kids there for over an hour to do some shopping for myself. It was marvellous, no cranky kids who don't enjoy walking through a huge store. Pure bliss. My munchkins had so much fun coloring and making masks. They even wanted to go back the next day!

Take the Metro to Chaussee d'Autin.

Summing It All Up

There is so much more to do in Paris with Kids. My post covers a range of activities you can do in three days without being too stressful for the children. I have tried to keep the balance between sightseeing, relax and play time for my kids.

We indulged in beautiful yummy pastry, baguettes, cheese, salami, fresh fruit and expensive ice cream.

One thing is for sure; Paris is not a cheap city. But we managed to keep the costs down by staying in an apartment we booked with [9flats.com](https://www.9flats.com) – the alternative to hotels. I always carried a water bottle and some snacks to keep the kids happy. I have found that you can buy yummy baguettes with cheese or salami for a reasonable price as well.

I would strongly recommend avoiding the main season July/August. Paris is crowded with tourists and it is usually very hot.

I also noticed only a few playgrounds. I wished more options in this regard for families. I guess I am a bit spoiled because we spent a lot of time in Berlin which I find more child-friendly.