

The French Academy

Thriving in French & English

LE JOURNAL

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Day in France is celebrated on July 14th, for Bastille Day. In French, this event is called “Le 14 juillet” or “La fête nationale”. It represents the unity of the French people and symbolizes peace.

On the 14th of July 1789, the bad economic and political situation led to a massive popular uprising of Frenchmen who invaded the Bastille prison, symbol of the monarchy's abuse of power and royal authority. Bastille Day became the National Holiday on July 6th, 1790, originally called “Fête de la Fédération”.



France's National Day celebrates the first anniversary of the storming of the Bastille and the first step in the French Revolution which led France to abolish Monarchy and become a Republic, with its fundamental Declaration of Human Rights of Man, and its famous motto of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Nowadays, every town in France celebrates and commemorates Bastille Day with excitement and pride, with gatherings on the streets. The French Anthem “La Marseillaise” is sung by people sporting the French national colours and they share a convivial moment with dances, traditional French food, and fireworks.

In Paris, on the Champs-Élysées, the military parade takes place. The parade, which is broadcasted on TV, goes down the Champs-Élysées, from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde where the President of the French Republic, his government and foreign ambassadors to France stand.

DID YOU KNOW?

Military parade in figures

- 64 jets
- 4,290 soldiers
- 30 helicopters
- 220 vehicles
- 270 cavaliers



FEW DAYS IN PARIS: WHAT TO DO?



Eiffel Tower

It is a symbol of France throughout the world and one of the most visited paid monuments, with 7 million visitors per year.

Built in 1899, it measures 324 meters.

Total of steps: 1665



Champs Elysées

From the Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe, the avenue is 1.9 km long and 7 meters wide. It is known for its shops, restaurants and for the annual Bastille Day military parade.

Most beautiful avenue



Louvre museum

The most visited museum in the world opened in 1793. It gathers works of art from the occidental world such as La Joconde. It used to be the main residence of French Kings.

35,000 works of art



Notre-Dame

“Our lady of Paris” is located on the *Ile de la Cité* and was built between 1163 and 1245. It is one of the oldest gothic cathedral in the world and it welcomes around 20 million visitors /year.

Damaged by fire (April)



Montmartre

This district full of authentic charm is famous for its Sacré-Coeur basilica and its magnificent views of Paris, sloping small streets, artistic past, and vibrant nightlife.

View: 30 km around

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COMMENT DIT-ON?

La fête nationale

Fête de la Fédération

Hymne national

Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité

Feu d'artifice

Défilé

The National Celebration / Day

Festival of the Federation

National anthem

Liberty, Equality, Fraternity

Fireworks

Parade



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