

Paris holidays

10 of the best cafes and restaurants near Paris's major attractions

Lunch near Paris's big draws doesn't have to be expensive or touristy. A short walk from the Eiffel Tower or the Louvre will reveal a classic bistro, stylish brasserie or locals' favourite



Love the Louvre ... and a good lunch. Take a short walk from the big sights and food gems can be discovered. Photograph: Alamy



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John Brunton

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Everyone visiting Paris is likely to end up among the crowds at its most famous sights; the problem that arises, then, is that there is rarely anywhere reasonable to stop for lunch - either price- or quality-wise. To miss out on the chance of a great meal in somewhere such as France is shame, especially as there is invariably a hidden gem just round the corner. So, here is a selection of classic-but-affordable bistros and brasseries, plus surprising health food and vegetarian options, and the chance to sample Asian and North African cooking too.

All places cited are children-friendly, and ready to prepare a small-portion special dish, say pasta or chicken

NOTRE DAME Le Trumilou



POMPIDOU CENTRE
L'Ambassade d'Auvergne



Photograph: Alamy



The Pompidou Centre celebrates its 40th birthday this year, so crowds are likely to be even bigger than usual; but just two minutes' walk away is a peaceful spot for a delicious lunch of the distinctive cuisine of France's Auvergne region. From the outside, the "Embassy of Auvergne" looks austere, but push open the door and a rustic wooden-beamed auberge is revealed. Auvergne cooking is seriously hearty, so be prepared for big portions, especially the succulent Sarlan sausage served with the speciality *aligot*, creamy mashed potato blended with Cantal cheese. There is an excellent wine list, including a surprising selection of 35 different wines from the Auvergne itself. For vegetarians there is a main course of seasonal vegetables along with soups such as chestnut *veloute*.

● Two-course lunch menu €22.50, main dish from €17. 22 Rue du Grenier Saint-Lazare, 3rd arr, +33 1 42 72 31 22, ambassade-auvergne.com