

Travel Journal Entry 10: Paris, France

Well, after a long flight, here I am in Paris! Bonjour, mes amies! Paris is known as the city of lights. My first stop was at one of the city's most famous symbols: the Eiffel Tower. It is 300 meters tall, so you can pretty much see it from all over the city.

The Eiffel Tower was unveiled in 1889 for the World Exhibition. That was a long time ago! A man named Gustave Eiffel designed the tower in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the French Revolution. Did you know that the tower is made up of about 12,000 iron pieces designed separately? All of the pieces are held together with 7 million nails.

The Eiffel Tower is great to visit, but there sure are a lot of stairs to climb!

My next stop was the Arc de Triomphe. This is a monument that commemorates the many battles that French soldiers fought. Napoleon, who was a famous French General, had the idea to build the Arc de Triomphe. Construction started in 1806 but it was not actually completed until 1836. It is a very famous landmark, and stands in the center of the Place de l'Étoile, which is formed by the intersection of 12 streets. There sure is a lot of traffic! The Arc is at the end of the Champs-Élysées, which is a great place to shop. I climbed to the top and had a great view of the city.

After visiting the Arc de Triomphe, I decided it was time to shop!

Paris is known for its high fashion or "haute couture", and many designer stores are on the Champs-Élysées. I bought some fun souvenirs!

After shopping, it was time to rest at a café and have some lunch. I practiced my French and ordered "un lait" (milk) and "un sandwich au jambon" (a ham sandwich).

After lunch, I decided to go to the Louvre, which is one of the largest museums in the world. There are 300,000 works of art there. I didn't see them all, but I did see the Mona Lisa, which is the famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci. The Louvre is a wonderful building, which mixes old architecture with new architecture. Some parts of this wonderful museum were built as early as 1546.

Next, it was off to Notre Dame, which is probably the most famous of all cathedrals. This building is even older than the Louvre. It was completed in 1345. There are famous gargoyles (carved creatures) on the cathedral walls.

On the way back to the hotel, I walked along the Seine River and crossed over the Point Alexandre III Bridge, which is a very beautifully decorated bridge.

It was a wonderful and exciting day in Paris!

"Bon nuit" (Goodnight) Zoë