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FREE GUIDE · PARIS

Louvre Museum

Leonardo, Veronese, Delacroix, David... — the 7 must-see works of the world's most visited museum, explained one by one



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Your visit at a glance

The Louvre is the most visited museum in the world and, before it was, it was for centuries the palace of the kings of France. Seeing it all is impossible: its more than 35,000 works on display are spread over 15 kilometres of rooms, so the trick isn't to see everything but to go straight for the essentials. This tour brings together the museum's seven must-see stops—from the Mona Lisa to the Winged Victory of Samothrace—, with the context to understand why they're brilliant and 1, 2 and 3-hour routes so you can choose according to the time you have. You go in through Ieoh Ming Pei's glass pyramid, the glazed heart of the Cour Napoléon that revolutionised the museum in 1989 and is today as iconic as the very works it protects.

At a glance

PRICE

~€22 EU · €32 rest (online)

HOURS

9am-6pm · Wed & Fri until 9:45pm

WORKS HERE

The 7 must-sees

FREE ENTRY

1st Friday of month 6-9:45pm

TIME

2-3 h (the 7 essentials)

METRO

Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre (1 & 7)



Part of Tickets Visit

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With this free guide you already do a great visit: the essentials, with a route. If you want to make the most of it, at the end I'll show you the complete version.

Before you go in: book your skip-the-line ticket

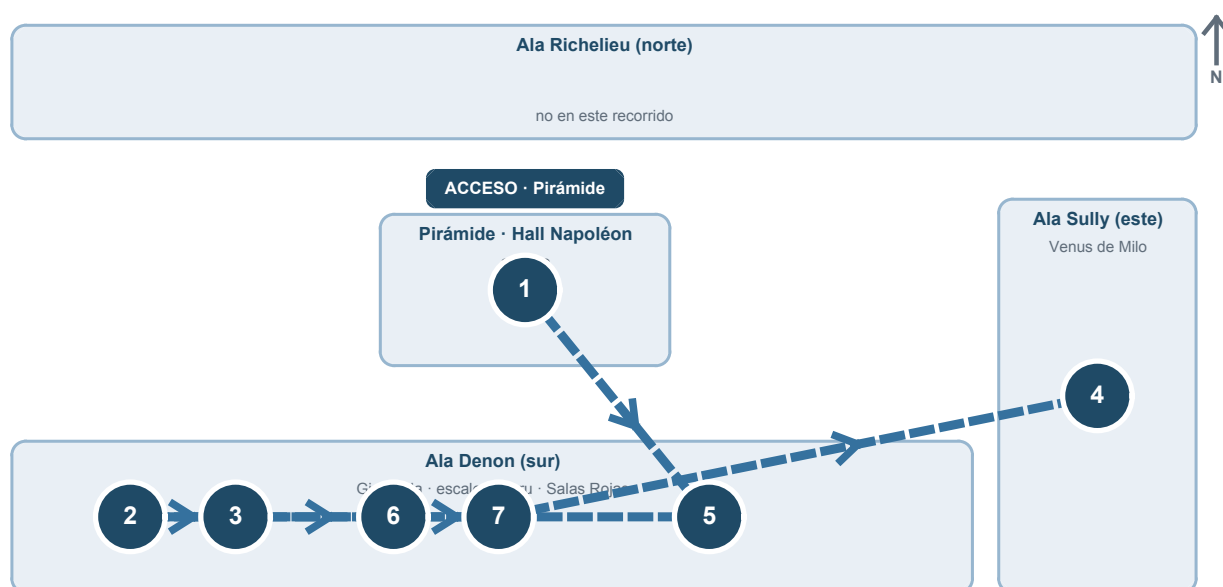
On Civitatis, with free cancellation. Skip the ticket-office queue.

» **Buy your ticket**

The map and the route

Go in through the Pyramid and head down to the Napoleon lobby, the great concourse beneath the glass dome. From here the three wings begin: DENON (to the south, the most visited: Italian painting, the Mona Lisa, the Winged Victory of Samothrace and the great French painting), SULLY (to the east, around the moat of the medieval Louvre: Egyptian and Greek antiquities, the Venus de Milo) and RICHELIEU (to the north: French sculpture, the Napoleon III Apartments and Oriental antiquities). Follow the numbers of the stops: they start strong in Denon, climbing towards the winged Victory and the Mona Lisa, and cross to Sully for the Venus de Milo. Don't try to follow a perfect order: in the Louvre you get lost, and that's part of the experience.

MUSEO DEL LOUVRE · LAS TRES ALAS EN U (ESQUEMA, NO A ESCALA)



● Stop ➡ Suggested route □ Room/area

Se entra bajo la Pirámide (Cour Napoléon). Casi todo el recorrido va por el ala Denon (sur): la Gioconda en la Salle des États, la Victoria de Samotracia en la escalera Daru y las Salas Rojas; la Venus de Milo, en el ala Sully (este). No a escala.

Visiting order: 1 The Pyramid and the palace › 5 Winged Victory of Samothrace (Daru staircase) › 2 The Mona Lisa › 3 The Wedding at Cana › 6 Liberty Leading the People › 7 The Coronation of Napoleon › 4 The Venus de Milo (Sully wing)

Schematic layout by area; the number shows the visiting order. Not to scale: follow the museum's own floor plans and signs on the day.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

2

The Mona Lisa (La Gioconda)

Denon wing, 1st floor, Salle des États (room 711) · 15-20 min

Portrait by Leonardo da Vinci (c. 1503-1519), most likely of Lisa Gherardini. Famous for its smile and its sfumato. It's small and sits behind glass; its fame took off with the 1911 theft.



The Mona Lisa, by Leonardo da Vinci. Denon wing, Salle des États.

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THE TRICK

The ambiguous smile and the sfumato (contours blurred like smoke); come up from one side to dodge the crowd.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

The full story of this stop (twice the text), its «ONE FACT» box and all 7 stops of the route, one by one.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

4

The Venus de Milo

Sully wing, ground floor, rooms of Classical and Hellenistic Greece · 10-15 min

Hellenistic statue of Aphrodite (c. 130-100 BC), found on the island of Milos in 1820. Attributed to Alexandros of Antioch. Famous for its lost arms, which have never been found.



The Venus de Milo, a Hellenistic Aphrodite. Sully wing.

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WALK AROUND IT

The gentle twist of the body and the drapery slipping over the hips; and the enigma of the lost arms.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

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THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

5

The Winged Victory of Samothrace

Denon wing, at the top of the Daru staircase · 10 min

Nike, the Winged Victory (c. 190 BC), found on Samothrace in 1863. She rises on a marble prow at the top of the Daru staircase. Without head or arms, she conveys an overwhelming sense of movement.



The Winged Victory of Samothrace at the top of the Daru staircase.

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LOOK UP AT HER

The drapery pressed to the body by the 'wind' and the spread of the wings; look at her from below, at the top of the Daru staircase.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

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THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

6

Liberty Leading the People (Delacroix)

Denon wing, 1st floor, large-format French painting rooms · 10 min

An icon of Romanticism by Eugène Delacroix (1830), on the July revolution that overthrew Charles X. Liberty, with the tricolour flag, leads a people of every social class.



Liberty Leading the People, by Delacroix. Denon wing.
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**WHERE TO LOOK**

Liberty with the tricolour flag and the musket; the boy with pistols and the mix of social classes around her.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

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Practical tips

Best times

Go first thing (9:00 opening) or take advantage of the Wednesday and Friday late openings until 21:45, with far fewer people. Avoid midday, the worst stretch. Book your time slot online: you'll enter through the priority queue.

Buy your ticket in advance

The Louvre is the most visited museum in the world and booking a time slot is, in practice, compulsory. Get your ticket online and book your time: you'll go in through the priority queue at the Pyramid rather than the general one. Arrive a few minutes before your slot and have your ticket ready on your phone.

Getting in free

Free on the first Friday evening of the month (18:00-21:45), except July and August. Always free for under-18s (any nationality) and for EU/EEA residents aged 18 to 25, with proof. Even when it's free, you need to book a time slot at ticket.louvre.fr.

With children

The museum is enormous for little legs: better a short visit with a mission. Turn the star works into a 'treasure hunt' (find the goddess with no arms, the boy with the pistols, the biggest painting). Bring water and snacks, use the pushchair with care in the busy rooms and take breaks in the Tuileries garden.

Accessibility and services

The museum is wheelchair accessible (free loan in the lobby) and there's free entry for people with disabilities and one companion. Beneath the Pyramid you'll find a cloakroom, toilets, a bookshop-store and several cafés: a good place to leave your coat and take a break halfway round. There are lifts between floors; ask for the accessible map at the information point.

Combine it

The Louvre leads straight into the Tuileries garden, ideal for a stroll on your way out. Nearby you have the Musée d'Orsay (Impressionists, across the Seine), the Île de la Cité with Notre-Dame and the Sainte-Chapelle, and a lovely stretch of the banks of the Seine. A great cultural axis in a single day.

Practical info

Metro: Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre (lines 1 and 7), with direct access from the Carrousel du Louvre shopping centre. Guide price: around €22 for EU/EEA residents and €32 for everyone else, buying online (rates from 14 January 2026). Booking a time slot is strongly recommended and in practice necessary, even with a free ticket. Usual hours: 9:00-18:00, with late opening on Wednesdays and Fridays until 21:45. Closed on Tuesdays, and on 1 January, 1 May and 25 December. Always confirm prices and hours on the official website.

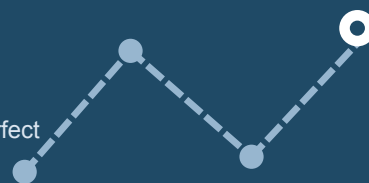
Official website: www.louvre.fr

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» **Open it at planner.tickets-visit.com**



Before you go in: book your skip-the-line ticket

On Civitatis, with free cancellation. Skip the ticket-office queue.

» **Buy your ticket**

THE COMPLETE VERSION

Take the complete visit

With this free guide you already cover the essentials. The PREMIUM is your complete visit to Louvre Museum: every work with its story, a 3-step looking guide for every painting, the cheat-sheet for your phone and the tips to skip the queues. For less than the price of a coffee.

In the free guide you miss out on:

- 1 The Pyramid and the Louvre Palace**
Cour Napoléon (exterior) and the lobby beneath the Pyramid · 15-20 min
- 3 The Wedding at Cana (Veronese)**
Denon wing, 1st floor, Salle des États (directly opposite the Mona Lisa) · 10 min
- 7 The Coronation of Napoleon (David)**
Denon wing, 1st floor, large-format French painting rooms (near Delacroix) · 10 min

PREMIUM Guide · Louvre Museum

€4.99

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- ✓ All 7 works (the free guide has only 4), each with its story.
- ✓ «What it represents» and «How to look at it» in 3 steps: a looking guide for every painting.
- ✓ The «Route on one page» cheat-sheet for your phone, plus 1-, 2- and 3-hour routes.
- ✓ The timeline, the keys, the artist bios and a glossary to understand it all.
- ✓ As a PDF and offline: use it inside the museum without spending data.

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RISK-FREE GUARANTEE

If the guide doesn't help on your visit, write to us and we'll refund the €4.99. No questions asked.

For comparison: a guided tour costs €30-60 per person. This guide walks you through with the same detail, everyone travelling with you can use it, and it's yours forever.

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» **Check availability and prices**

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