

Welcome!

This sheet is designed to answer frequently asked questions about our apartments and neighborhood. **Your address** is 4 rue Dussoubs, 75002 Paris.

Index (most F.A.Q.'s in bold)

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Useful Phone Numbers

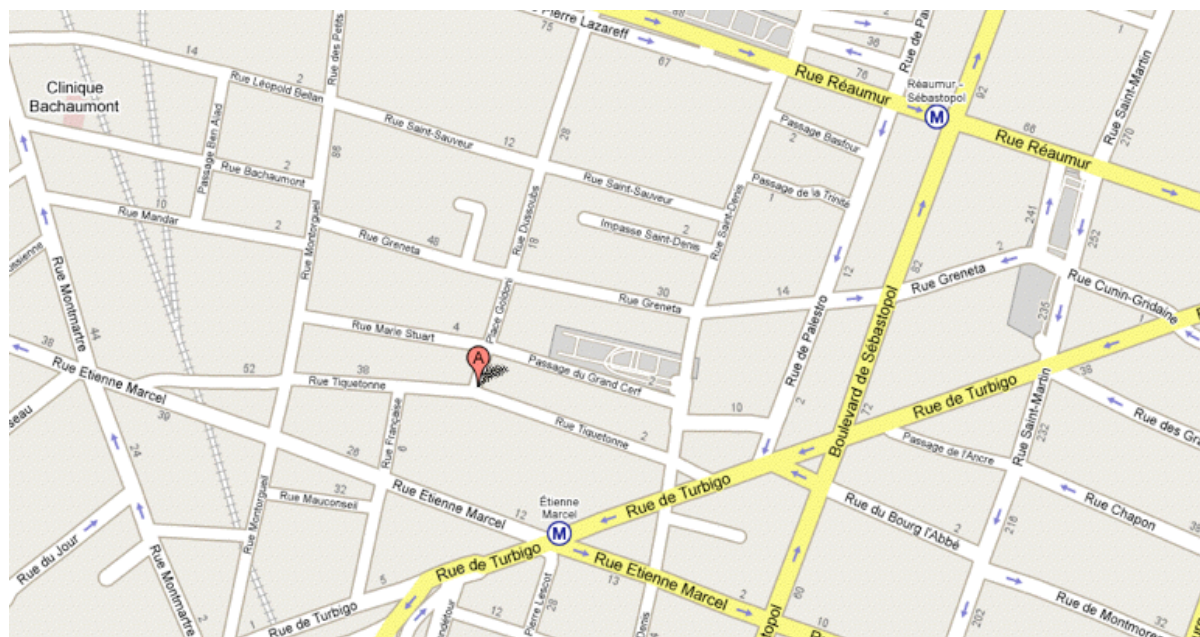
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|--|----------------|
| Blue Marble (downstairs) | 01 42 36 02 34 |
| Doctor Calls, 24 hours a day | 01 53 94 94 94 |
| Medical Emergencies requiring an ambulance | 15 |
| Police Emergency | 17 |
| Fire | 18 |
| SNCF (the railroad) | 3635 |
| Taxi (G7 is the company we favor, for reasons of observed reliability; but there are many companies...) | 01 47 39 47 39 |
| You may book by internet thru another company, Taxis Bleus: www.taxis-bleus.com | |

You may have us either reserve or simply call a taxi for you. There is a 7€ service charge, 12€ if pick-up is in rush hour (M-Fr 7a-10a, 17h-21h). We buzz your apartment when the taxi arrives. Note that Parisian taxis start the meter from the point where they receive the call, not where they pick up the passenger. So, you pay for the taxi's trip to our front door, and any waiting time.

1. Orientation

You are in the 2nd arrondissement. Rue Dussoubs runs North - South. So, turning right out the front door of our building will (in time) get you to Amsterdam (or at least to the Gare du Nord). Turning left takes you in the direction of the Mediterranean. Our building faces west, towards Brittany and North America.

Our cross streets are Tiquetonne to the south, and Marie-Stuart to the north, though both are very small. If you had to tell a Parisian where in the city you were, you might refer to the métro stop, “Etienne-Marcel.” Or to a nearby intersection. Rue Montorgueil and rue Etienne-Marcel cross each other two short blocks away (to the west), and most people know these. Only slightly further away, but bigger still: boulevard de Sebastopol and rue de Turbigo also cross two blocks away, to the east this time.



This document assumes that you can find the following streets, and refers to them without giving further directions:

- **Rue Dussoubs.** That is “our street,” the street in which our building sits.
- **Rue Tiquetonne,** the street at the south end of our block. To get to it, turn left out the front door of our building, walk 10 meters. You would take Tiquetonne to the right towards Montorgueil, or left towards St.-Denis.
- **Rue Marie-Stuart.** The street at the north end of our block. Turn right out of the door to our building. The first left, 15 meters away, is Marie-Stuart. It is only one block long, and takes you to our market street, rue Montorgueil.
- **Rue Montorgueil** (our market street, a block to the west and parallel to Dussoubs — follow Tiquetonne to the right, or Marie-Stuart to its end).
- **Rue St-Denis** (also parallel to Dussoubs, but to the east, behind the back of our building, as it were. Get there via rue Tiquetonne, or by going through the pedestrian arcade, the *Passage du Grand Cerf*, whose entry is opposite Marie-Stuart.

The concept of “city blocks” is a fluid one in Paris (“Does that alleyway signal the start of a new block? Do I count on the left, or the right?”), but we nonetheless use it. In our minds, a “block” is the distance you travel to the next cross street. That is, a street that cuts your path, not one that originates in your street, and goes off only to the left or the right.

2. Walking Instructions to Some Local Sights

Louvre

- Follow Tiquetonne to the right until it merges into Etienne-Marcel, about 2 blocks.
- Continue forward along rue Etienne-Marcel for two more blocks (a very short and a normal) to the rue du Louvre.
- Turn left on rue du Louvre (immediately passing the main post office, on your left), and walk to the river (4 blocks or so). The last building on the right before you get there is the Louvre. Pass through the courtyards to get to the museum entrance.

Notre Dame Cathedral

- Follow rue Tiquetonne to the right.
- Make the 2nd left, onto Montorgueil. Take this to the end, about 2 blocks.
- Jog to your right here, to continue forward in the same direction. (You must jog to your right — that is, turn right and then immediately left — to avoid a staircase that appears directly in front of you). This will take you across a park, the *Jardin des Halles*.
- On the far side of the park, continue straight forward, now on the Rue des Prouvaires. In three blocks, you will come to the river.
- Cross the first arm of the river via the Pont Neuf, onto the island. Do not cross the second arm of the river. Instead, turn left on the far side of the island, and walk along the river (on your right hand) until you come to the cathedral (4 blocks).

Pompidou Center (a.k.a. *le Centre Beaubourg*)

- Follow Tiquetonne to the right.
- Make the 2nd left, onto Montorgueil. Take this to the end, about 2 blocks.
- Walk up the stairs opposite the end of the rue Montorgueil, and turn left at the top. You are now on the pedestrian rue de Rambuteau. 5 - 7 blocks on this, depending on how you count, will bring you to the Pompidou Center (on your right).

Picasso Museum

- Follow Tiquetonne to the left, one block.
- Turn right on rue St.-Denis. Two very short blocks.
- Turn left on rue Etienne-Marcel.

You now follow Etienne-Marcel for 8 blocks, give or take. It will go through several transformations / name changes on the way. The most notable: after 3 blocks (counting on the left), your fairly wide, 2-way street (now called rue Grenier Saint-Lazare) gives way to a narrow street with traffic flowing only one way (towards you): rue Michel le Compte. Still continue straight. When your street turns into the rue de la Perle, and then tries to bend sharply to the right, STOP. Turn left here, onto Rue de THORIGNY (the *Musée Picasso* is signed from this intersection). Your destination is ahead on your left, in the first block.

3. Public Transportation

3.0 How to Pay Your Fare

For travel within the city, you may buy tickets, singly, or in packs of 10 called *carnets* (pronounced car-nay'). Or you may buy day passes, called *Mobilis*. *Carnets* provide an effective discount of 35% over single-ride tickets. *Mobilis* day passes cost the equivalent of 3.5 tickets.

Tickets and *Mobilis* day passes are valid for travel on buses and métro trains, indifferently.

Single tickets may be purchased from bus drivers. Tickets, *carnets* and *Mobilis* day passes may be bought from machines in métro stations, or in tobacco shops at a slight additional cost. We also offer tickets and passes downstairs in our office (see 3.4, "Convenience Tickets Available in Our Office," below).

3.1 Using the Métro

The closest métro stop is Etienne-Marcel, on a north-south line, number 4 (Porte d'Orléans - Porte de Clignancourt). It is just around the block. To get there...

- ...turn left out our front door, and immediately right onto rue Tiquetonne, thus heading west.
- First left onto the tiny rue Française
- Left again a short block away, onto rue Etienne-Marcel (you are now heading east).

The métro is a block away, on the other side of the street.

A much bigger station (8 lines, including direct lines to both airports, and to 6 of Paris' 7 main line rail stations) is Châtelet - Les Halles, four blocks away.

- Take rue Tiquetonne to the west, 2 blocks to the rue Montorgueil.
- Turn left there, and walk to the end of rue Montorgueil (two or three blocks, depending on how you count).

You will be at the edge of a park, a large church (the *Eglise Ste-Eustache*) on your right. A wrought iron fence surrounds a staircase leading down underground, in the park opposite the church. At the bottom of the series of staircases, you will find yourself in a shopping center. Look to your left, and you will see the entrance to the métro, across the hall.

3.2 Accessing Châtelet / Les Halles station (and the **airport trains) without stairs.**

If you have heavy luggage, and prefer not to face stairs, follow the trajectory of rue Montorgueil out into the park. This requires that you "jog" to your right, to get around a staircase.

In the precise center of the park is a metallic structure, the headhouse for a pair of elevator shafts. Take either elevator down to level -3 (Place Carré). In the métro station, at the first set of turnstiles, ask the ticket seller to open the handicapped access door for you (you can mime this). S/he may ask you to pass your ticket through a turnstiles (in order to validate it) before agreeing to do so. You should do this even if the request is not made: your ticket is otherwise invalid.

An escalator brings you down one level to a second set of turnstiles / access doors: an automated handicapped access option exists here, at the right end of the bank of turnstiles.

3.3 Using the Buses

General notes on Parisian Buses.

They are easier to use than the buses in most cities. They accept the same tickets as the métro. You validate your ticket (identical to those sold for the métro), in a little machine by the driver's cab. If you board without a ticket, you may buy one from the driver (±2€).

Bus-to-bus transfers are free for a one-hour period (you re-validate the same ticket in the same way when you board any subsequent bus). Transfers are not free if you buy your ticket on the bus, nor if

you connect between bus and métro. Nor can the same ticket be used for travel twice on the same line (as, for instance, in making a round-trip).

But the biggest reason that the buses are easy to use is that the stops all have names. A map aboard the bus lists (by name) all the stops served by that bus. So, you can follow your progress through your trip by reading the names on the passing stops to see how many are left before yours.

Bus Routes Near Our Office

Our closest line, travelling the rue Etienne-Marcel, is route 29. It runs east through the **Marais**, past the **Bastille**, to the **Gare de Lyon** (TGV's to Burgundy, the Alps, and Provence; commuter trains to Fontainebleau), and beyond. West, it runs past **Palais Royal**, the **Opéra**, the **Grands Magasins** (Paris' biggest department stores), and to the **Gare St.-Lazare** (trains every 15 minutes to Versailles).

To get to the stops, follow Tiquetonne to the first left, rue Française for one short block to Etienne-Marcel, and turn left onto Etienne-Marcel. The stops are a short block ahead.

Other lines run on the rue du Louvre. To get to their stop: follow Tiquetonne to the right until it merges into Etienne-Marcel (2 blocks). Continue two more blocks (one tiny, one long) on rue Etienne-Marcel. This will bring you to rue du Louvre. Turn right on rue du Louvre for the northbound bus stop; cross the street and turn left for the southbound bus stop.

Northbound towards **Montmartre**. Bus 85 runs around Montmartre on its right side (get off at the "Rochechouart-Clignancourt" stop and walk uphill to your left). Bus 67 terminates at the base of the hill (Place Pigalle). Bus 74 runs around the left side of the hill (get off at the "Blanche" stop and walk uphill). Coming back in the other direction, only the 74 and 85 work: the 67 returns via the rue Druot, a bit of a walk from our places.

Southbound towards **Notre Dame Cathedral**, the **Latin Quarter**, and the **Luxembourg Gardens**. Line 85. Returning from these points to our neighborhood, either line 85 or line 38 will work. Both travel on the Boulevard St.-Michel on the left bank, and across the Ile de la Cité. 38 then continues to our neighborhood on the Boulevard de Sebastopol (to the east of us), while the 85 comes up the rue du Louvre (to the west).

Northbound buses on the Boulevard de Sebastopol (take rue Tiquetonne to the left, merge into rue de Turbigo a block away, the big avenue that now cuts across your path is Bd. de Sebastopol, the bus stop is across both Turbigo and Sebastopol), lines 38 & 47, both go to the **Gare de l'Est**. Line 38 continues 2 stops further, to **Gare du Nord**.

3.4 Convenience Tickets Available in our Office

We offer "convenience tickets" in our office downstairs. Cost is what you would pay to buy them individually at a transit system ticket office, rounded up to the nearest whole Euro (+1€ for suburban tickets). Available tickets and prices are these:

- **Day Pass** (good for unlimited rides for a day on métro and bus): 8€ (children 4 - 11: 5€).
- **Single ticket for bus or métro**: 2€ (children 4 - 11: 1€).
- **Pack of 10 bus / métro tickets**: 15€ (children 4 - 11: 10€).
- **Airport train to Charles de Gaulle**: 12€ (children 4 - 11: 8€).
- **Airport train to Orly Airport**: 12€ (no child fare offered).
- **Train from anywhere in the city to Disneyland**: 10€ (children 4 - 11: 6€)
- **Train from anywhere in the city to Versailles** (Rive-Droite station): 6€ (children 4 - 11: 4€).

Tickets are also available to Versailles Rive-Gauche, at the same price.

4. Bicycle Rental

4.1 Vélib Swipe Cards

Paris offers an extensive system of rental bikes, more-or-less on every third street corner, called *Vélib*. You pay a fixed cost (per day), and then as little as zero additional for each ride you take.

We keep four *Vélib* swipe cards for guest use. Details are on this page of our web site:
<http://www.bluemarble.org/ParisVelib.html>

Costs per card (each card can only be used for one bike at a time) are 5€ for the first two days, 1€ / each additional day.

Bike Rental costs, per rental, are then as follows:

- **Free** for the first 30 minutes,
- 1€ for the next 30 minutes,
- 2€ for the next 30 minutes (after the first hour),
- 4€ per additional 30-minute increment (after 90 minutes).

This rate structure encourages you to swap bikes, rather than to hold on to a single bike all day long. You may have as many rentals as you please in a day, and each starts with a free 30-minute period.

Cards must be returned to us during our opening hours, and any paid rentals are settled at that time.

4.2 Renting Our Bikes

Blue Marble's "day job" is actually Cycle Trip Outfitter. As such, we have a several-hundred strong fleet of road touring cycles, designed for distance travel on paved roads.

These cycles have nothing to do with the city bike you would need for moving about Paris. While we do not refuse to rent them for that (nor, indeed, for any) purpose, we do not recommend their rental for travel within the city. They are "too good" (think: target for thieves, not to mention too expensive for the purpose), and also too delicate (not suited for bouncing over curbs).

But, if you are thinking of going out to the country for a couple of days, this is what you need. A good cycle will make all the difference in your enjoyment of your trip, and that is what we have.

Details are on this page: <http://www.bluemarble.org/BikeRentBuy.html>

Cost, per bike, per rental, is

- 20€ for the first day, all or part.
- 10€ for each additional day, 2 through 7.
- 5€ for each additional day, 8 through 14.
- 3€ for each additional day, 15 and more.

You may stable the cycles in our office at night, but are thus dependent on our opening hours to put away and retrieve.

5. Paris Tours, Excursions

5.1 Versailles

We offer a “Versailles Package,” including the métro or bus to the train station, connecting train to Versailles, entry to the château, and instructions for making the trip. Prices:

- 32€ for the first adult (château audioguide included).
- 27€ for each additional adult 18 and older (audioguide included).
- Discount prices for youth and children, for train and route guide only, for chateau entry only, prices for Palace + Trianon... See our web page for details: <http://www.blumarble.org/ParisVersailles.html>

Why use our package?

- The lines for ticket purchase at the château can be an hour or more. This lets you skip that part of the experience. You also get to skip the ticket purchase lines for the métro and the train.
- The route to Versailles that almost all guide books suggest takes 20 minutes longer than our route, spends much of its time underground, and closes for track work for 6 weeks of every year. Our route is prettier, faster, works year round, and offers a better view of the town of Versailles upon arrival.
- We give you step-by-step instructions for making the trip, limiting the risk of wrong turns, and saving the hour you otherwise spend figuring out the trip.

5.2 Normandy Beaches

A day trip to Normandy, by train to Caen, and then by minibus to the beaches and important sites of the D-Day landings. From the artificial “Port Winston” at Arromanches, to the Pointe du Hoc, passing by Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery, and countless other D-Day sites. Also on the menu: a visit to the famous WWII Memorial museum at Caen. Train tickets and lunch are included, price starts from 160€ / person, depending on train tickets available at time of booking

Ask us for details, or consult our web site.

5.3 Disneyland Paris

We offer a discount package to visit Paris’ Disneyland: train, park admission, and detailed route guide to get you there, at a reduced cost. Prices as of January, 2014 (subject to change), are 75€ for adults, 59€ for children under 12.

Ask us for details, or consult our web site, <http://www.blumarble.org/ParisDisney.html>

6. Shopping

To ease your arrival, we equip our studios with a “starter stock” of necessary supplies, designed to get you through the first 48 hours of your stay. Paper towels, toilet tissue, trash bags, soap, plastic wrap... and coffee! If your stay is very short, you may be able to survive on just what we provide, but this is not a dare: the system depends on your replacing approximately what you use, in value if not in kind. See the end of this section for our “emergency wine list” :-)

Introduction

For groceries, dry goods, and other things of daily necessity, our nearest shopping street is the rue Montorgueil, parallel to our street, one block to the west. Otherwise, there are many specialty shops in the neighborhood, and France’s biggest shopping mall is only a few blocks away.

Food

French tradition, though gradually fading, is to shop for every meal, and purchase more-or-less just what is needed for that meal. The **rue Montorgueil** offers the small, high-quality shops that cater to this: butchers, bakers, a fish monger, two fruit and vegetable stores....

The biggest of the **butchers**, Roger, to the right on Montorgueil if you arrive via Marie-Stuart, and one door up (sign is poor) also has an extensive *charcuterie* section (patés, cured meats, prepared foods). So does the Alsatian *traiteur* Stroher (but Stroher is expensive). The best is to the left, between Marie-Stuart and Tiquetonne: Triboulet. See recommendations, below.

There is also an **open market** on the rue Montmartre, between the rue Etienne Marcel and *les Halles* park, on Thursday afternoons (from 1p) and Sunday mornings (until 1p). The fishmongers there are particularly good, though the merchant on rue Montorgueil is fine, too. We also like the pork butcher on the right, as you walk towards the park. And, on Sundays only, there is a wonderful goat cheese merchant from the Loire Valley. But the *Palais du Fruit* (in the rue Montorgueil) generally has better-quality produce than the market, and at equivalent prices.

Finally (regarding food), there is an **organic (“bio”) fruit and vegetable** shop on the rue St.-Denis, between rue Greneta and rue St.-Sauveur, on the left as you walk north (to the there, turn right out of the building, right again to follow the enclosed arcade, “Passage du Grand Cerf,” and left at the far end, onto St.-Denis. And an **organic general market** (“Naturalia”) on Montorgueil, between Etienne-Marcel and the *Halles*).

Wine

We offer a selection (see the last section of this chapter), but there are also three wine shops on rue Montorgueil, and supermarkets also sell wine. Avoid the supermarkets for fancy wines, at least: storage conditions and handling are sub-optimal, and the apparent bargain can be overpriced vinegar. Not a big deal if you only paid 3 euros for the bottle, more of an issue if you paid 30.

Hardware

Light bulbs, fuses, outlet converters, but also cleaning supplies, kitchenware, and other specialized odds and ends, can be bought at the *quincaillerie*, on the left as you walk up the rue Montorgueil (against traffic).

Kitchenware

Either of two restaurant supply stores, at the intersection where the rue Tiquetonne melds into the rue Etienne-Marcel. One of the two, “La Bovida,” is directly across the street here, on Etienne-Marcel. But we prefer “Alain Simon.” Continue forward on Etienne-Marcel for a few meters, then take the first right turn, onto rue Montmartre. The shop is on the right, a few doors up. This is not a good place to replace broken glasses, in that you cannot purchase a single glass: you have to buy at least 6. But the variety is endless. To replace a broken glass, try La Bovida, or *Monoprix* (see next

section). If you are replacing a wine glass or a champagne flute, you may buy them from us: we keep in stock the three patterns in common apartment use (2€ / glass).

Other

A large **general merchandise store and supermarket**, part of the *Monoprix* chain, is at the crossroads of rue Réaumur and the Boulevard de Sebastopol.

For other things (**books, clothes, furniture, electronics, photo supplies...**), we are 3 blocks from **France's biggest shopping centre**, in Les Halles.

- Follow Tiquetonne to Montorgueil, and turn left on Montorgueil.
- When Montorgueil ends, two blocks away, look diagonally to your right. In front of the large church that you see there (the Eglise Ste-Eustache), a wrought iron grill surrounds a staircase leading down. This leads to the Les Halles shopping center. Try FNAC (that is the name of a store) for electronics, photo supplies, books, music, film....

When

Most rue Montorgueil shops are closed on Sunday afternoons and on Mondays. A couple of bakeries open on Sunday afternoons, and bakeries, one butcher and one supermarket open on Monday. Opening hours are generally 9a - 7:30p, though the butcher shops shut for lunch, from 1p to 4p or so. The *fromagerie* (cheese merchant), bakeries, and supermarkets stay open later (8 - 8:30p for the *fromagerie* and the bakeries, 9p for the supermarkets).

Rue St-Denis has a grocer open on Sunday afternoons, and later into the evening on other days: at the intersection with rue Greneta (north on Dussoubs, first right that is a street, not the arcade).

The Les Halles shopping center is generally open until 8p, closed on Sundays except for the immediately pre-Christmas period, and many stores are closed on Monday mornings.

Particularities Regarding French Shopping

These are things that may seem odd to non-Europeans. It is perfectly permissible to order just a slice or two of ham, or whatever quantity you please of whatever it is that you want, no matter how small. Many French still shop for every, single, meal, and we have very small refrigerators (often with no freezer). If you live alone, you probably don't need a kilo of ham....

You do not touch the fruits and vegetables out in front of the *Palais du Fruit*. If you want to feel your fruit, you may do so (gently) inside, where the same things are sold for higher prices. Outside, you order by weight or quantity, and the *maraicher* selects your produce and bags it (you nonetheless pay inside, at the cash register). If you speak French, you can ask for "mûr" (ripe) produce, and will be honestly told if what is on offer is ready or not.

Still concerning the *Palais du Fruit*, which occupies two storefronts: the store on the right sells mostly fruit, and the one on the left sells mostly vegetables. Either side's cash registers can ring up your entire purchase, so you are allowed to pass freely between them without checking out. However, you are supposed to carry a store basket between the two, so that the store employees can tell you are not walking out with the things in your arms.

Recommendations

Fruits and Vegetables: *Palais du Fruit*, rue Montorgueil. For organic products, the “bio” store on rue St-Denis, at the corner of St-Sauveur.

Fresh Fish: the Thursday / Sunday market, the fishmonger on the left as you walk towards the park (the *Jardin des Halles*).

Cheese, *crème fraîche*, fresh tub butter: *La Fermette*, the closest of the three cheese shops on rue Montorgueil. Or the Sunday market for goat cheese fresh from a farm.

Meats: *Triboulet* is best for beef or lamb (rue Montorgueil between Tiquetonne and Marie Stuart). The butcher on the Th / Su open market is best for pork. *Roger* (on Montorgueil just north of Marie Stuart) is less expensive than *Triboulet* (which serves many of Paris’ great restaurants), and fine for everything.

Bakers (all on rue Montorgueil): *Stroher* has the prettiest shop, and the best croissant. Everything other than the croissant is expensive, but the *kugelopf* (Alsatian brioche), lemon tarts, *pasteis de Belem* (a Portuguese custard tart), and the *guimauve* (fruit-flavored marshmallow for children) are worth the price. *Colette* (closed on the weekends) has the best *baguette tradition*, *galettes des rois* (January only), and *sablés* (almond cookies sandwiching raspberry jam). *Paul* has a very good *pain aux céréales*, and the best macarons. *Kayser*, at the top of the street, is reputed for some of his whole grain breads (the sourdough *miche* is particularly good). But all the bakers on the street are good, and there are many of them!

Wine (on rue Montorgueil): *Nicolas*. Nice men run it, one of whom speaks pretty capable English. No pomposity, excellent value for money at all price ranges (even their cheapest wines are carefully selected and stored).

House Wines Available for Purchase

Several of the Blue Marble crew are wine enthusiasts. We buy for our own cellars directly from independent winemakers, and keep a supply of reasonably-priced, authentic *terroir* expressions on hand in the office, in case we get thirsty. If you would enjoy a bottle from our selection, feel free to stop by and pick one up. A sample of what is currently available is on our web site:

<http://www.bluemarble.org/ITASummary.html#WineList> ...

7 Communication

7.1 Post Office

Paris' main post office, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (!), is 3 blocks away. This is not literally true: it closes for 90 minutes every morning (we think from 6a to 7:30a but are never up then to verify), for cleaning.

To get there: follow the rue Tiquetonne to the right, until it merges into the rue Etienne-Marcel, 100 m or so. The post office is the massive building directly in front of you, across all the streets you can see. You must walk around to the front to get in: follow Etienne-Marcel for a long block to rue du Louvre, and turn left on rue du Louvre. The entrance is here.

If you like pretty stamps, go to the *philatelie* windows. Your choices are displayed in cases opposite the windows (note the number of the stamp you want if you have a communication issue). Current (**February '14**) postage to non-European countries is 95 Euro cents, whether for a letter (up to 20 grams) or a post card....

We can weigh, stamp and post mail for you downstairs, if you wish: we apply a 2€ service charge, regardless of the number of pieces. Mail goes out same day. But the trip to the post office is a cultural experience...

7.2 Internet Access, Printing of .pdf or Other Downloadable Pages

The studios can connect to Blue Marble's Wifi network (a booster network in Petit Nuage is called "Freebox Nuage"). The password is **xxxxxxxx**. Most computers / devices will automatically figure out the encryption, but if yours asks you for it, it is WEP128/40 - hex.

If you do not have your own device, there is a full-service internet café at 31, boulevard de Sebastopol ("Milk"). Turn left out of the apartment door, left onto rue Tiquetonne, and (after 2 blocks) right onto Sebastopol. Walk several blocks to number 31. Open 24 hours, supposedly.

Emergency internet access from the office. We are not equipped for this: the office computers are configured for our business use. Carefully clearing them of sensitive information (like other people's credit card numbers), running anti-virus software after your use (we do not use any web-based e.mail programs)... all takes (salaried) time. So... this is not a service we are trying to sell.

However, we understand the value of simplicity (and an English keyboard), and will help if you need us to. You may use an office machine for a fixed cost of 5€, + 2€ per quarter hour, +0.50€ per printed page. Needless to say, the same service at an internet café would cost a euro... minus the English keyboard.

Printing, Photocopying, Scanning. We print out .pdf or other downloadable documents e.mailed to paris@bluemarble.org). We can also photocopy. Finally, we can scan your paper documents and e.mail them to you. Price for any service is a fixed charge of 2€, + 0.50€ per page treated. Details are on this page of our web site: <http://www.bluemarble.org/ParisServices.html>

Retrieving boarding passes and / or e.ticket confirmations. We charge a fixed 10€ per record locator number, plus printing costs as above.

7.3 Telephone

We rent **cell phones**, and apartment guests qualify for a 50% discount on our normal rates. You may also rent only the phone chip, if your phone uses GSM (SIM chip) technology. Full (and up-to-date) information on prices can be consulted on our web site:

<http://www.bluemarble.org/ITAPhoneRental.html>

The **telephone booth** / cabin on the square to the left of the front door of our building requires a phone card. These may be purchased from a post office, a tobacco shop, most newsstands, or a France Telecom store. They are sold at slightly degressive prices for a certain number of “units,” each unit corresponding to a 3-minute local call. Values are 50 and 120 units.

This is generally the least expensive way to call abroad, unless you use some sort of VOIP service.

Phone center. If you would like to make a long call using VOIP technology, you will find a phone center on the rue St. Denis. Walk out our building to the right, and turn right immediately to go through the Passage du Grand Cerf. Turn left at the far end, onto rue St.-Denis. The phone center is on your left, before you come to rue Réaumur (the first big car street).

Emergency Single Calls from the office. We understand that if you have a single call to make in a hurry, none of the above options are really satisfactory. You may thus make emergency single calls from our office downstairs. Cost is a 2€ connection charge, plus 0.20€ / minute after the first to Europe or North America, 0.50€ / minute after the first to other continents.

If you wish to **have us place a call for you** (there is a language issue, for instance), the cost is 5€ for the connection, plus 0.50€ / minute after the first, regardless of call destination.

7.4 Fax Reception / Transmission

Faxes should be sent to +33 (0 — dialed only within France) 142-369-281. They should be clearly labeled “[your name], care of Blue Marble Travel.” We take no responsibility for legibility.

You may also send a fax.

The price to send or receive a fax is 2€ fixed charge, plus 0.50€ per page, including communication costs. Sender must be present at time of sending / printing. If a fax is received, we will inform you via a note on our office door.

See “Internet,” above, for the printing of downloadable pages.

8. Trash / Rubbish

Pick-up is daily in Paris, including Sundays. At 6p, large bins, solid green in color, will start to appear in the street. Insert rubbish. The trucks come by between 7p and 9p, and the green bins quickly disappear.

Recycling (paper of all sorts, plastic or metal containers, plastic bags, cardboard... but not glass) takes place on Mondays and on Thursdays. On those days, additional bins with yellow tops will be set out for recyclables.

Glass recycling takes place on Thursday afternoons. White-topped bins appear around noon, (though some are usually set out in the morning), and the truck comes during the middle of the afternoon. Less constraining: there is also a glass collection point a block away. Follow rue Tiquetonne to the west, in the direction of traffic. Where Tiquetonne merges into Etienne-Marcel, you will find a big green mushroom cap with holes, on the left side of the street.

9. Laundry

Soleil and *Petit Nuage* are equipped with washing machines. Instructions for the use of *Soleil's* are on the pages which discuss the specificities of the apartment. The manual for *Petit Nuage's* is in the apartment. *Soleil* has a drying rack that usually resides in the closet.

Citron does not have a washing machine. The nearest laundromats are both a block away. One is on rue Marie Stuart (the street that leads west just to the north of our front door). An equidistant alternate, objectively better but less well-placed from the point of view of neighboring cafés, is at number 30, rue Etienne-Marcel, between rue Française and rue Montorgueil, on the north side of the street.

Check-out Linen Washing

In the interest of moderating our rental prices, we **do not include the washing of your linens** at the end of your stay (though you may have us do it at additional cost — see below). You are thus asked to wash the linens and towels you have used, prior to your departure. Specifically: sheets, towels, and dish towels, and also bath mat if you have stayed for at least a week. As a courtesy to your neighbors, please do not run the washing machine after 10p, or prior to 8a.

You do not need to dry the things you wash, only to hang them in the apartment to air dry (using doors, chairs, the drying racks...). So long as they can be folded and put away when the apartment is cleaned, you have fulfilled your obligation to us. It is not, however, sufficient to leave them wet in the washing machine. If you do this, the linen washing charge will apply (see below).

If an early departure schedule does not permit you to wash your linens (or you simply don't want to spend the time staring at pillow cases spinning around while Paris awaits), we offer a **linen laundering service**. The cost of the service is 25€ (including the first load), plus 10€ for each additional machine load. One set of sheets and towels = one machine load, so if you used two beds in the apartment you occupied, or changed the sheets once during your stay without laundering the first set, the cost of this service would be 35€.

If you did not request the service at the time you made your reservation, you may do so at any time during your stay.

10. **Restaurant Recommendations**

In general: “nicer” (and more expensive) restaurants lie to our east. Cheaper, more rough-and-tumble places are to our west. In particular, rue St.-Denis (one block west, and one of Paris’ oldest streets), is home to many practitioners of the world’s oldest profession, but also to inexpensive restaurants of every type. Those that we recommend are signaled here with a *.

“Classic French”

Le Grapillon* (supper only, though now open at lunch as a burger joint!). 2 doors away on Tiquetonne, on the right as you walk towards Montorgueil. Southwestern (French) cuisine. 3-course *prix fixe* in the 30€ range, monthly wine selection that is well-chosen and reasonable. Good English menu translation. Open very late on Friday and Saturday nights.

L’Apibo. On Tiquetonne, between rue Française and rue Montorgueil, on the left. Reservations a good idea. 3-course *prix fixe* in the 35€ range. *Nouvelle cuisine*, lots of interesting ideas, most of which work well. Seasonal menu, changed monthly. Good English menu translation. 01.55.34.94.50.

Grill Montorgueil. At the corner of Montorgueil and Tiquetonne. A good Parisian bistro. You can order a single dish and a glass of wine without complex.

Rue St-Denis* (any of several at lunch, a couple of choices at dinner). Turn right out to the apartment, and right again, to go through the Passage du Grand Cerf. Examples:

As you come out of the gallery onto rue St-Denis, the little French place immediately opposite (**Les Pieds Nickelés**) offers a 2-course menu of freshly cooked food (appetizer + main, or main + dessert) for 13€. 50 cl of house wine is 8€. And lots of local color in the clientele: the local carpenters, prostitutes, merchants and tradespeople of all stamps — including us!

We also like the **Sans Souci** (lunch only), north / left on the rue St.-Denis, on the left, on the far corner of rue St-Sauveur. 2-plate lunch for 12.50€, good and freshly-prepared. A few outside tables, and an upstairs dining room if it looks full downstairs

Finally, the **Relais du Vin**, south / right on rue St.-Denis, 5 blocks away, on the near right-hand corner with the rue des Prêcheurs. A traditional bistro from the days when Les Halles was Paris’ wholesale market. Interesting bistro food at reasonable prices, carefully selected wines, open M - Fr lunch and dinner. You know a place is good when it can close Saturday night! Don’t order stuff with a foreign connotation, or chicken.

Chartier. On rue Montmartre, on the left, in the first block north of the *Grands Boulevards*. A traditional *soupe*, the last authentic one operating in Paris. The *soupes*, also known as *bouillons*, were the world’s first restaurants, prized not for their gastronomy, but for their ability to provide economical and especially hygienic food in a very unhygienic time. The title word made reference to the fact that the water was always boiled, ensuring a relative lack of pestilence. The restaurant is huge, but the wait is nonetheless often long. No reservations, not expensive, a beautiful old room. Check out the napkin holders for the regulars. Full meal probably 25€, but it is possible to order just 2 courses, and the wines are economical.

La Fresque. On rue Rambuteau, between Montorgueil and Pierre-Lescot, opposite the “Forum des Halles” shopping center. Prides itself on always having a vegetarian option. *Currently closed for renovation.*

North African

Au Clair de la Lune, on rue Tiquetonne, between Dussoubs and Montorgueil (on the left, on the far corner of the intersection with the tiny rue Française). Great couscous and tagines. House rosé is cheap and cheerful.

Palmiers du Sinaï. The best North African restaurant in the neighborhood, and with a twist: it is Egyptian, rather than of the usual Magreb origin. Belly dancer on Fridays and Saturdays, reservations recommended: 01 40 26 99 23

Italian

Tre, rue Montorgueil between St.-Sauveur and Réaumur, on the left. Good, and good value, “gourmet Italian.” The all-Italian wine list is overpriced, but the food is not, and this is what Italian restaurants should be. We wish there were more of them in Italy!

Pizza Rustica*, rue Montorgueil between Etienne-Marcel and the park at Les Halles (take Tiquetonne to Montorgueil and turn left). Good and varied pizza by the slice, also fresh pasta dishes, and antipasto salads, a salad bar, fresh soups.... Cafeteria style, but good and cheap (for Paris), with a large outside terrace, and continuous service, including late at night.

Vietnamese / Chinese (cheap, no atmosphere, but interesting and good)

New Hong Kong Fast Food*, on St.-Denis, between Tiquetonne and the Passage du Grand Cerf, on the right as you walk north. Order by number from the short-order cook in the rear, not from the dishes displayed in the front. Drinks are then purchased at the front, and the payment made for the ensemble. Rosé wine, best with Asian food, can be had by the pitcher or the bottle.

Other non-French

Kurdish*, at the far end of rue Mandar. Turn right on Montorgueil, Mandar is the 1st left, restaurant is on the left, at the far end of the block.

Thai on the rue Tiquetonne, within a block of the apartments as you walk towards Montorgueil. *Aux 3 Eléphants*. Good food, no charge for the show (if you have to ask, you probably won't even notice). There is a fancier place, **Silk and Spice**, on rue Bachaumont (turn right on Montorgueil, Bachaumont is the 2nd left, restaurant is on the right).

Asian of several types*, on the rue St.-Denis, left out of the Passage du Grand Cerf. Korean, Japanese, Chinese...

American. “Twinkie.” No, we aren't making this up. Overpriced brunch on the rue St.-Denis, served all day, every day. To the left when you come out of the Passage du Grand Cerf, on the left side of the street a block away.

11. Radio Station Selection

TSF Jazz — 89.9

FIP (commercial-free, 24-hour eclectic musical variety — our tax dollars at work!) — 105.1

France Info - (24-hour “news,” in French, also commercial-free) — 105.5

RTL2 (anglo and French pop) — 105.9

12. Check-Out

Apart from **washing your sheets and towels** (see “Check-Out Linen Washing” in section 8, above — not necessary if you have paid for our **check-out linen service**), we ask you to...

- ... check out by noon on the day of your departure. By prior arrangement, and if the apartment is not receiving new guests the same day, an afternoon check-out is possible. There is no extra charge for this, when available.
- Tell us about any damage to the apartment or its contents (by e.mail if you don't see us in person), and either replace or pay for the articles in question (see the section on shopping, above, for stores where you can easily replace). Warning us of damage will produce a more sympathetic calculation of its cost than if we hear about it from a grouchy next renter. Just ask the lady who took *Soleil's* cute coffee cups how it worked out for her.
- Throw away any perishable goods, including (especially) those in the refrigerator.
- Carefully wash and put away any pots, pans, cutlery, dishes... please. Even if you are a boy.
- Empty all trash receptacles, and take the trash / rubbish downstairs. Paris trash pick-up is in the evening, so the bulk should be taken down the night before, between 4p and 6p. But your final night's trash can be placed in the public container diagonally to the right, opposite the building's front door, on the opposite side of the street (behind the bike parking rack).
- If you are subscribing to our **check-out linen service** (see section 8, above), please leave all articles that need washing in a pile on the floor of your apartment. If not, we rely on you to wash, and set out to dry, all linens and towels, including the kitchen dishtowel, the WC hand towel, and the bath mat.

If you are unable to do the above, please tell us so, and we will send someone to do them for you on your departure day. In this case, a **supplementary cleaning charge of 25€ will apply**.

If you do not tell us, but we find a biology experiment in the fridge a week later, we will assess the fee. We hope for your understanding in this case: soliciting your help in this domain is the cost of keeping our rents low!

If you depart at an hour of the day when you cannot drop off the keys at the office, please put them through the office mail slot, which you will find in the wooden door to the right of the office entrance. **Please do not leave the keys in the apartment, nor put them in any mailbox in the entryway of your building.** Our mailbox is the mail slot in the wooden door at number 2, to the right of the office as you stand in the street and face the office door.