TRAVEL+ LEISURE

How to Spend 3 Perfect Days in Paris — Luxury Hotels, Natural Wine Spots, and Under-the-radar Museums Included

From picturesque walks to souvenir shopping, a longtime Francophile shares her ideal three-day Paris itinerary.

On a recent layover in Paris, I spent 15 minutes weeping outside a boulangerie, hands clutching my croissant like a stress ball as I spiraled into decision-paralysis mode. *How do I make the most of 24 hours here?* I asked myself, my mind racing over how to fit a week's worth of explorations into one day. The answer ended up being: Stop stressing. Walk around. Eat the crushed croissant, and drink a glass of wine with lunch.

Paris provides endless temptations: art and architecture, Michelin-star restaurants, unrivaled vintage shopping, four-euro wine. There's no way to do it all, so allowing yourself some grace to wander aimlessly — the French call it *flânerie* — is key to making the most of your trip. To that end, I suggest basing yourself around the incredibly walkable Marais, which marries classic Parisian architecture with hip restaurants and shops. I'd spring for the new cool-kid hideaway, Le Grand Mazarin, a maximalist hotel that boasts an indoor pool and hammam to revive you after a long day.