Shortcut like a Parisian

If you know secrets you can avoid the crowds and take the shortcut like a Parisian.

Paris the most visited city in the world. Waiting in some lines will be unavoidable, so come prepared to enjoy your wait. If you know the line is going to be long pick up a Starbucks to savor while you wait, but make sure you finish it before you enter. Redeem the time by challenging your self to take the most artistic photo, or play I Spy with your neighbor. Connect to the museum Wifi, download their app., and begin browsing their collection and listening to the audio guide or a history lesson online.

EIFFEL TOWER *The number one tourist attraction world wide!

- Reserve online. Without a reservation you will wait three hours to take the elevator, stairs are faster.
- Consider taking the stairs to learn random facts about the Eiffel tower on every floor as you walk up, for example how many gallons of paint it takes to paint the Eiffel tower, or how many elephants have walked up the Eiffel tower.
- The second floor has a coffee shop and a cinema. For some of you, the second floor is all you need to do. If you are claustrophobic or afraid of heights choose the elevator to the second floor and get a coffee in a proper enclosed space. You'll appreciate the view without the anxiety.

THE LOUVRE

- By metro: Take the metro line 1 to Louvre Rivoli and follow the Musée du Louvre signs through the underground shopping center called the Carrousel du Louvre. The Musée du Louvre signs will lead you straight to the inverse pyramid and a private entrance with no line. Save some time at the end of your tour to exit through the grand pyramid and take photos of the Louvre Castle and it's famous glass pyramid from the outside to complete your visit.
- On foot or by bus: Follow the crowds to the pyramid and take tons of photos, then head away from the pyramid across the street that crosses the square to one of the two parallel entrances that lead to the Carrousel du Louvre. These stairs will lead you straight to the inverse pyramid and a private entrance with no line.

NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL

- Tourists line up in a single file line and follow the processional around the interior of the cathedral and out the other side.
- Worshipers walk straight to the front of the line with confidence greet the greeter with a solemn "bonjour" and enter to pray, read, light candles, or confess.

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VERSAILLES

- Reserve your tickets in advance on line.
- Buy the skip the line pass. Ticket holders wait in three hour long lines to get through the security checkpoint. There is no way to avoid the bag scan, but they do sell skip the line passes. It costs almost as much as your ticket, but consider you are purchasing an additional three hours of the most luxurious history that France has to offer.
- Shortcut through the golden gate. The Cour d'Honneur is the paved courtyard bordered by a golden fence. The central doorway provides a preliminary metal detector scan before allowing guests to stand in line, but it's grand and central location attract all of the tourists. Play it smart and go around to the right following rue Robert de Cotte to the Chapelle doorway. Voilà, you're practically Parisian.
- Shortcut the serpentine line with your skip the line pass. With both your entrance ticket and your skip the line pass in your hand, walk straight up to the palace door labeled A. Yes, walk past all the people waiting patiently in line for hours, and hand your ticket info to the greeter at the door who will show you right in. Remember you still have to go through security at this point, so be polite and take your turn.
- Shortcut the loo. Immediately after the security check point there are signs indicating that there is a toilet downstairs. This first of many toilets is always over crowed and will cost you a half and hour of your time. Wait for the next one available at the beginning of the tour.
- If you are in town during warm weather we definitely recommend "The Fountains Night Show," a delightful evening of fireworks, dancing illuminated fountains and strolling in magical gardens. There is a separate ticket for that.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

- To Paris — Reserve ahead with SuperShuttle to be picked up from the airport in a large van and dropped off on the doorstep of your hotel in Paris. Other guests going the same direction will be picked up at the same time. Yes, your bags will cost extra, but you won't have to navigate kilometer after kilometer of stairs and cobblestones, just sit back and relax and take in the sights.
- To Versailles area — A nice Italian guy that makes a living taxiing people from CDG airport to our neighborhood. He's way cheaper than an airport taxi and makes you feel like royalty. He may even carry your luggage. Really nice guy! He speaks English, Italian and French... Anyway here is his number 33783147714. Tell him that The Plasters of Paris referred him to you.
- Never accept rides from people who approach you in the airport.