



## Tour #1



From the conference venue (marked by a red pin), take first the subway line #10 from *Odéon* to *Jussieu* (green pin) and follow the black dots on the map; the walk will end at the RER station *Luxembourg* (line B).

You will pass historical landmarks from Lutetia and the Gallo-Roman city (the *Arènes de Lutèce*), Paris under the Capetian dynasty (the wall of Philip Augustus), the Merovingian city (*Tour Clovis* and *Saint Etienne du Mont*) and arrive at the doors of learning (the *Panthéon*).

More details in the following pages.

After the walk, try some sweets (especially the raspberry macarons) at *Dalloyau*, 2 place *Edmond Rostand*.

You may then rest on the *Luxembourg* garden. If you regain strength, continue to walk to *Saint Sulpice*.

# Lutetia & the Gallo-Roman city

## Arènes de Lutèce



Dating back to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, this amphitheater is considered as the longest of its kind (an elliptic sunken arena with a 135 foot-long scene) constructed by the Romans. It could once seat 15000 people and was used as a theater, circus (cubbyholes assumed to be wild animal cages can still be seen) and sporting arena. Less bloody *pétanque* games are now organized in summer.

Entrance *rue de Navarre* (through the old vomitory)

A commemorative plaque on the wall on this last entrance is saying: “It was here in the second century A.D. that the municipal life of Paris was born. Ten thousand men could keep comfortable in the arenas of Lutetia where jousting and gladiator combat was followed by wild animal fights, presentations of ancient comedies and dramas. When passing before this first monument of Paris, consider that the city of the past is also the city of the future and that of your hopes.”



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## Paris under the Capetian dynasty

The **Wall of Philip Augustus** is the oldest city wall of Paris whose plan is accurately known. Built in the early 12<sup>th</sup> by Philip the 2<sup>nd</sup> to protect the capital, it enclosed an area of 253 hectares and was between 6 and 8 m high. Four huge bastion towers - one of them being the “famous” **Tour de Nesles** destroyed in 1665 - stood at the points where it met the river Seine.

A 15<sup>th</sup> century legend, known as the *Tour de Nesle* Affair, (*Affaire de la tour de Nesle*) is centered around actual events that took place in 1314 where the daughters-in-law of Philip the 4<sup>th</sup>, the Fair, were accused of adultery (much of this illicit activity being alleged to have occurred in the tower) and their alleged lovers tortured, flayed and executed. The affair badly damaged the reputation of women in senior French circles, contributing to the implementation of the Salic Law over the succession to the



throne and to the Hundred Years War. The story inspired the French dramatist Alexandre Dumas for his play "*La Tour de Nesle*" in 1832. "*Le Roi de fer*", the first novel of Maurice Druon's seven-volume series "*Les Rois maudits*" (1955-1977), also describes the affair.

It is still possible to see traces of the wall, for instance *1-5 rue Clovis*. A plaque on the northern wall of the *Institut de France* (see tour #4) shows the ancient location of the *Tour de Nesle*.

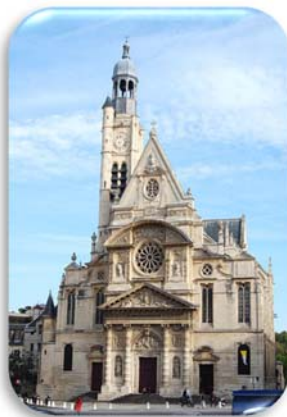
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## The Merovingian city

### **Sainte Geneviève and the Huns' invasion**

During the Huns' attack on Paris, in 451, Geneviève, then 28 years old, persuaded the panic-stricken people of the city not to leave their homes and to pray; the intercession of Geneviève's prayers is supposed to cause Attila's army to move away. Later on, when Childeric the 1<sup>st</sup>, king of the Salian Franks, besieged the city in 464 – then under governance of a Roman official - and conquered it, she passed through the siege lines to collect food and acted as an intermediary between the city and its conqueror, convincing him - and his son Clovis - to release war prisoners. Clovis founded an abbey for her, where she was later buried. The abbey was demolished at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Its bell tower (called the **Tour Clovis**) is the only remaining part that be seen today inside *lycée Henri IV (23 rue de Clovis)*.



Geneviève's tomb is now in the church **Saint Etienne du Mont**. The current church was built from 1494 to 1651. It also contains the tombs of Blaise Pascal and Jean Racine. Its organ case is the oldest in Paris (1631).

*rue de la Montage Sainte Geneviève*  
open daily (except Monday)  
8:45-12:00am / 2:00- 7:45pm  
free admission

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## At the doors of learning

### **Panthéon**

Originally built at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a church dedicated to Geneviève and to house her reliquary, the *Panthéon* now functions, after many changes, as a secular mausoleum



containing the remains of distinguished French citizens (among which Voltaire, Rousseau, Victor Hugo, Emile Zola and Marie Curie). On May 27, 2015, were welcomed 4 notorious Resistance heroes: Pierre Brossolette, Geneviève de Gaulle Anthonioz, Germaine Tillion and Jean Zay.

*place du Panthéon*  
open daily 10:00am – 6:30pm  
admission: 7.50€



The inscription above the entrance reads “To the great men, the grateful homeland”. It is an early example of neoclassicism, with a façade modeled on the Pantheon in Rome, surmounted by a dome that owes some of its character to Bramante's "Tempietto". In 1851, Léon Foucault demonstrated there the rotation of the Earth, by constructing a 67 meter pendulum beneath the central dome.

This dome is currently under renovation. A contemporary works from JR, gathering hundred's of portraits reflecting the world's diversity, is temporarily displayed.

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## Luxembourg



The Luxembourg is the second largest public park in Paris (224,500 m<sup>2</sup>) built first by order of Marie de' Médici and then remade during the French Directory. It contains just over a hundred statues, monuments, and fountains, scattered throughout the grounds, including about twenty figures of historical French queens and female saints around the central basin.

The Luxembourg palace was initially the royal residence of Marie de' Médici. During the German occupation of Paris (1940–1944), Hermann Göring took over the palace as the headquarters of the Luftwaffe in France. Since 1958, it is the seat of the French Senate.

## *Saint Sulpice*

It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest church in the city, constructed during the 13<sup>th</sup> century and dedicated to Sulpitius the Pious. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, an elaborate gnomon was constructed there to help fixing the Easter time. References to the church can be found in many books. One of them is the Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code*.

Note that the meridian line on the floor of the church is not a part of the Paris meridian (precisely calculated by Arago in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century) which passes about 100 m east of it.

