

# Paris in the Belle Époque

## Why are these places important?

1. **THE OPERA HOUSE:** The Palais Garnier has been called "probably the most famous opera house in the world, a symbol of Paris like Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, or the Sacré Cœur Basilica

2. **THE EIFFEL TOWER:** The Eiffel Tower is the most-visited paid monument in the world; 6.91 million people ascended it in 2015.

3. **THE SACRÉ CŒUR:** The basilica stands at the summit of the butte Montmartre, the highest point in the city.

4. **NOTRE DAME:** The cathedral was consecrated to the Virgin Mary and considered to be one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture.

5. **THE PANTHEON:** It was the original burial site of Saint Genevieve, who had led the resistance to the Huns when they threatened Paris in 451.

6. **ARC DE TRIOMPHE:** It was commissioned in 1806, after the victory at Austerlitz by Emperor Napoleon at the peak of his fortunes.

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8. **MUSÉE DE CLUNY:** The museum houses a vast collection of objects and art from the Middle Ages. Among the principal holdings of the museum are the six tapestries of The Lady and the Unicorn (La Dame à la licorne).

9. **PLACE RÉPUBLIQUE:** The monument was chosen as part of an art competition announced in early 1879 by the Paris City Council, which sought to create a "Monument to the French Republic" in honor of the 90th anniversary of the French Revolution.

10. **CEMETERY PÈRE LACHAISE:** It is the most visited necropolis in the world.

## Paris in the Belle Époque

Paris in the Belle Époque was a period in the history of the city between the years 1871 to 1914, from the beginning of the Third French Republic until the First World War.

It saw the construction of the Eiffel Tower, the Paris Métro, the completion of the Paris Opera, and the beginning of the Basilica of Sacré-Cœur on Montmartre.

Three "universal expositions" in 1878, 1889 and 1900 brought millions of visitors to Paris to sample the latest innovations in commerce, art and technology.

Paris was the scene of the first public projection of a motion picture, and the birthplace of the Ballets Russes, Impressionism and Modern Art.

The expression Belle Époque ("beautiful era") came into use after the First World War; it was a nostalgic term for what seemed a simpler time of optimism, elegance, and progress.