

# PARIS

POPULATION: 2.34 million in the city; 10.5 million in the Île de France (the suburban area around Paris)

AREA: 105km<sup>2</sup>

PARIS IS THE CAPITAL CITY OF FRANCE, THE LARGEST COUNTRY OF WESTERN EUROPE.

## WHERE DID THE NAME COME FROM?

Contrary to what some may think, the city was not named after Paris, the King of Troy's son who fell in love with Helen, and carted her home. Instead, it got its name from the Parisii, a tribe of Gauls who settled on the Ile de la Cité between 250 and 200 B.C. What are Gauls? France has its origins from the Gauls. They were a warlike tribe that came into conflict with the Romans as they expanded into Europe.

## THE CITY OF LIGHTS

No, Paris is not called the City of Lights due to the wattage put out from the Eiffel Tower every evening. The 'Lights' of Paris actually referred to the clever people who live in Paris making it a world-renowned centre for artists, writers, sculptors and many more.



## THE EIFFEL TOWER

The Eiffel Tower is probably one of the most famous symbols of France and was built for the International Exhibition of Paris in 1889. It took 2 years to complete and it was the world's tallest building up until 1930. You may be surprised to learn that the Eiffel Tower, which is now 126 years old, was only meant to stand for 20 years. As the 20 years drew closer, designer Gustave Eiffel suggested to the military that it would make an excellent long-range radio tower. Contact was made with bases around Paris in 1903, and the installation of a permanent base in the tower in 1906 ensured its survival. The Eiffel Tower has over 2.5 million rivets, 15,000 iron pieces, over 40 tonnes of paint and there are 1652 steps to the top.

## A HUGE TOURIST DESTINATION

Paris is a huge tourist destination and every year 13 million tourists visit Disneyland Paris, 5.5 million visit the Eiffel Tower, about 5 million visit the Louvre museum and about 3.25 million visit Versailles Palace.

## ART

Paris has over 70 Museums, monuments and cultural tourist stops. Some of the best art in the world is housed in Parisien Museums.



## THE FIRST HUMAN TO TAKE FLIGHT

The first human beings to take flight did so in Paris on November 21, 1783. Marquis d'Arlandes rose into the sky in a hot air balloon and managed to stay there for 20 minutes. Two years later, in 1785, Jean-Pierre Blanchard attached a small basket to a parachute and dropped it from a hot air balloon, with a dog as the unwilling pilot. The dog survived. But it wasn't until October 22, 1797, that André-Jacques Garnerin climbed out of a hot air balloon and into a similar parachute and basket (parachuting), and descended on Paris. (Pictured Left)



## DID YOU KNOW?

The most visited tourist attraction in France is not the Eiffel tower, or the Louvre, but Disneyland Paris

