



Just across the river from the Gare de Lyon is the Gare d'Austerlitz from which trains run to the south and west of France. There's plenty to explore from here including the serene Jardin des Plantes, museums, mosques and a Roman arena for good measure.

Details of Gare d'Austerlitz lockers are [here](#)



Strolls

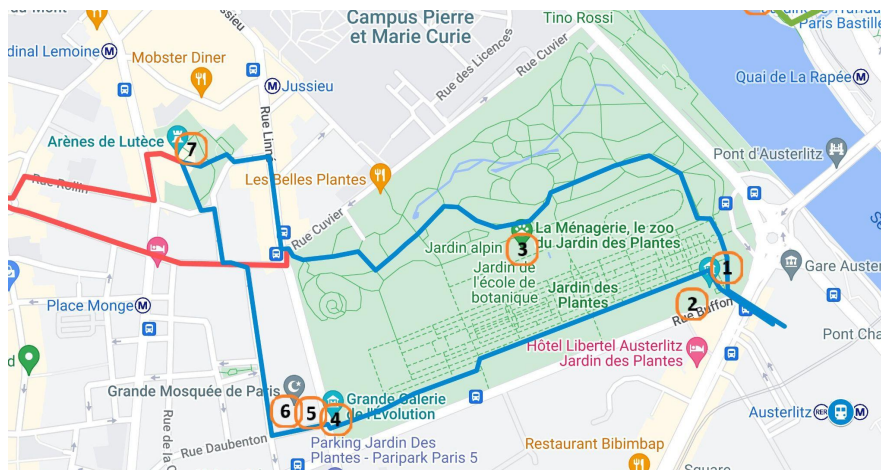
- [Wander around Gare d'Austerlitz \(3km blue\)](#)
- [Extension to the Pantheon and Luxembourg Gardens \(4km red\)](#)

Interactive Map

Here is a [link to a map](#) that can help you find your bearings.

Wander around Gare d'Austerlitz (3km blue)

On this walk, we'll go and explore the Jardin des Plantes before going on to the Grand Mosque and the remains of a Roman arena.



- 1 Jardin des Plantes
- 2 Museum of Natural History
- 3 La Ménagerie
- 4 Grande Galerie de l'Évolution
- 5 Grande Mosquée Restaurant
- 6 Grande Mosquée de Paris
- 7 Arènes de Lutèce
- 8 Panthéon
- 9 Luxembourg Gardens
- 10 Curie Museum

From the station cross the Boulevard de l'Hôpital - i.e. the big road running past the station and enter the [Jardin des Plantes](#) (1) through the entrance to the right. This is a nice place for a wander and also contains the National Museum of Natural History (2) and the Menagerie (3), the second oldest public zoo in the world.

Walk to the top of the park which is dominated by the Grande Galerie de l'Évolution (4). As you leave by the exit to the left of the Galerie, you'll see a white building (or series of buildings) with an Arabic feel. It's the [Grand Mosque](#) (6) and the bit closest to you is the [restaurant](#) (5) if you're feeling peckish.



Jardin des Plantes



Grand Mosque

If not, walk along Rue Daubenton with the mosque on your right and take the first right onto Rue George Desplas past the entrance to the mosque. At the end of the road, turn left onto Rue Lacépède and then first right onto Rue de Navarre which takes you up to the Roman amphitheatre - Arènes de Lutèce (7).



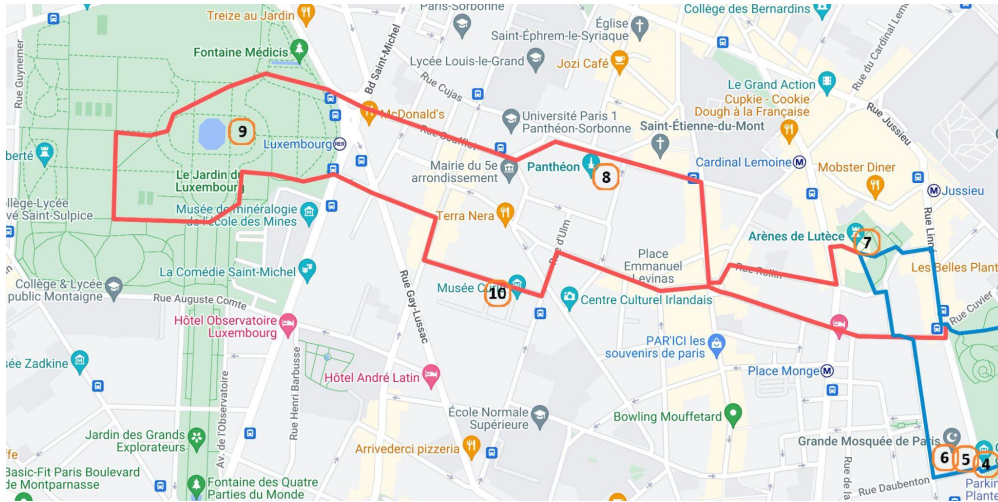
Arènes de Lutèce

It's a pleasant spot to sit and nibble a sandwich, but if you are looking for Roman arenas, it probably isn't worth cancelling your trip to [Nîmes](#) or [Arles](#). From the arena you can extend your walk and take in the [Pantheon](#) and the [Luxembourg gardens](#), which house the Senate, a mini-statue of liberty and a curious [puppet theatre](#) (see below).

Otherwise, go back to the Rue des Arènes and at the end turn right down Rue Linné. This takes you back to the Jardins des Plantes. Walk back through the park to the far corner where you'll find the exit leading to Gare d'Austerlitz.

Extension to the Pantheon and Luxembourg Gardens (4km red)

On this extension we can head out to the Jardin du Luxembourg, home of the senate and curious little theatre all while taking in the Parthenon on the way.



From the Arènes de Lutèce you can go through a passageway on the far side that leads under adjoining apartments and onto Rue Monge. This is where this side of Paris starts to get a little bit hilly.

Turn left and in about 60 metres on your right, there's a staircase which leads you along Rue Rollin. Turn left at the end to the little roundabout of Place de la Contrescarpe. Take the first right down Rue Mouffetard and continue onto the Rue Descartes as far as Rue Clovis. Turn left past the Saint-Étienne-du-Mont, containing the relics of Saint Genevieve, the patron saint of Paris, and on to the Pantheon (8).



Pantheon

Look down the hill from the front of the Pantheon and you'll see a very familiar looking tower. Walk towards it along the Rue Soufflot.

This leads all the way to the Luxembourg Gardens (9) which is now home to the Senate, the [Luxembourg Museum](#), Orangery, a replica Statue of Liberty and a [puppet theatre](#).



Jardin de Luxembourg

When you're ready to make your way back, go down Rue Royer-Collard (opposite the Porte Royer-Collard exit from the gardens) and at the end turn right onto Rue Saints-Jacques. Then turn left onto Rue Pierre et Marie Curie which takes you past the [Curie Museum](#) (10).

Turn left at the end onto Rue d'Ulm, then right along Rue de l'Estrapade before taking the left fork onto Rue Blainville which takes you back to Place de la Contrescarpe. From here take a slight right to go onto Rue Lacépède and follow that road all the way back to the Jardins des Plantes. Walk back through the park and at the far end is the exit leading to the Gare d'Austerlitz.