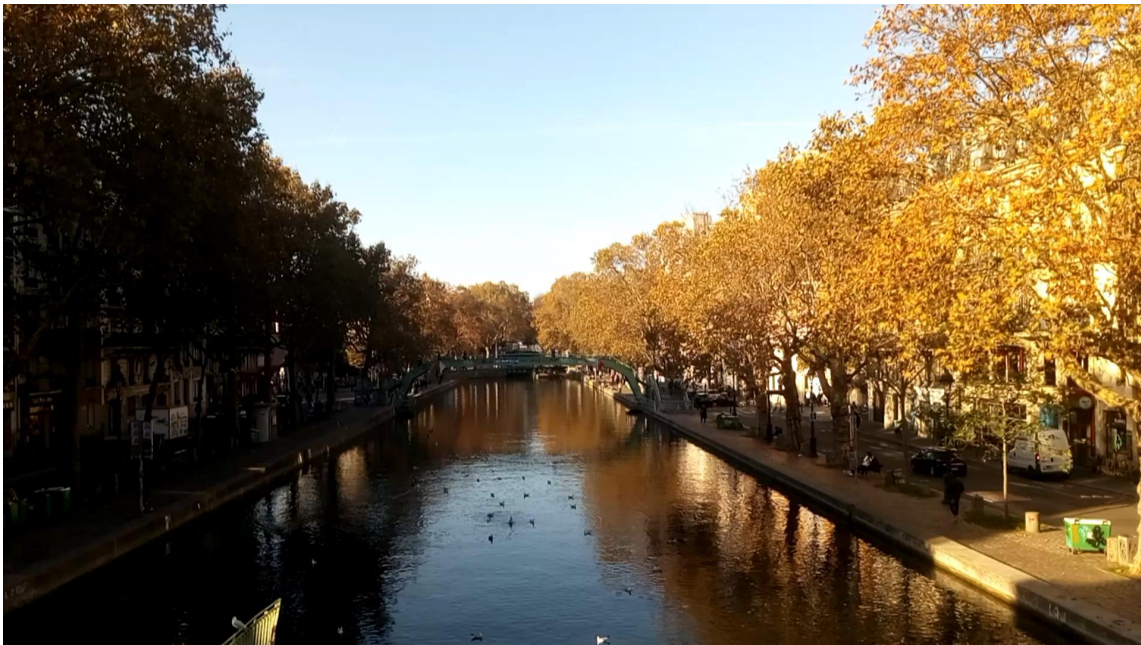




As the terminus for Eurostar, Gare du Nord has more than its fair share of people hanging around waiting for their train to London. But why watch Brits checking their watches and huffing when there's a city outside? Gare du Nord is (almost) next to Gare de l'Est so any suggestions here work for both.

If you want to pop your bags into storage for a few hours while you go for a wander, there is an office on the lower ground floor [here](#).



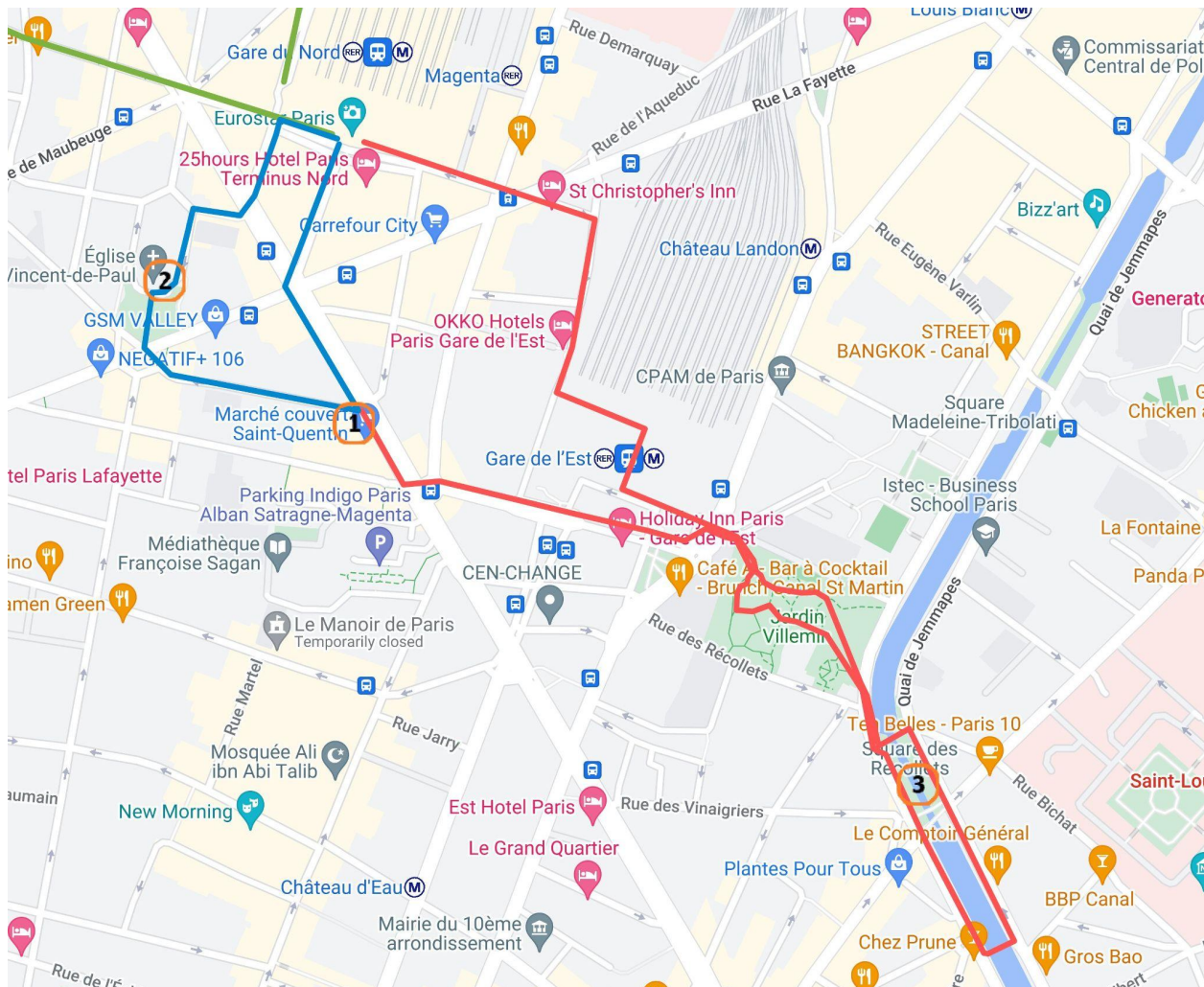
Strolls

- [Nourish the body and soul \(1km blue\)](#)
- [Canal Saint-Martin \(3km red\)](#)
- [Montmartre \(3.3km green\)](#)
- [Picasso detour \(1km orange\)](#)

Interactive Map

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

Nourish the body and soul (1km blue)



If you can't travel far, why not grab some grub and maybe get some artistic/spiritual nourishment?

Let's sort out the tummy first. Head out of the front of the station straight down Boulevard de Denain. This meets the busy Boulevard de Magenta - watch out for cyclists on the green cycle lanes. Cross the road and then follow the Boulevard down to the left. After around 150 metres, you'll see a green building on your right, the Marché Couvert Saint-Quentin (1), where you can say au revoir to the artichokes and take your last deep lungful of ripe cheese.



There's also a fishmonger with a few tables to the side that will cook up anything you like from the stall, however, the most popular thing he sells are oysters . Here are another couple of places you may also like to check out.

- <https://www.labahianaise.net/>
- <https://www.restaurant-pardi.fr/>

If you fancy a picnic, why not grab some goodies here and head to the Canal St Martin (see red route below)

If you're in this area because you're waiting for a train back to St. Pancras, why not go and visit the church twinning with Old St Pancras Church - the church of Saint-Vincent de Paul, named after the larger than life [Saint-Vincent de Paul](#) (2)?

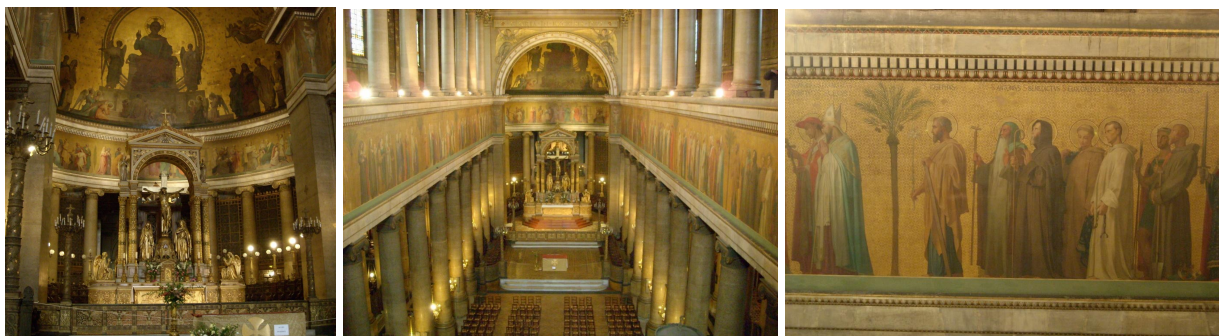
Head back out onto the Boulevard Magenta by the entrance with Rue des Petits Hôtels which you should go down. Follow the road all the way round as it bends to the right where it opens out and you'll see the imposing facade and mighty steps which usually seem to be filled with Paris College of Art students loafing around. A word about the little park in front of the steps - each time I've been there, there's been a 'varied' group of people hanging around - whilst I've never felt unsafe, I've never felt like having a picnic here.



The big bell towers were built by the same person that designed Gare du Nord and if you're thinking this whole building looks nice and sturdy, you'd be right.

It took a hefty pounding from artillery (fired from Père Lachaise Cemetery) during the Paris Commune of 1871 - the bell towers alone took seven shells, but the whole thing just isn't going anywhere.

While the pictures on the front of the church are 'brightly coloured' on the inside, there's more of a warm glow from all the gilding.



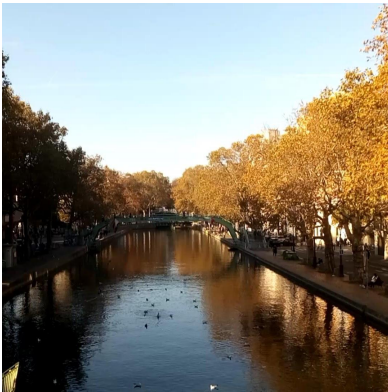
By Benchaum, Guilhem Vellut & Hippolyte Flandrin

After a wander around the church and its gilded friezes, head back to the station by turning left out of the church and following the building around (Rue Bossuet) and then turning right onto Rue de Belzunce which brings you back to Boulevard Magenta Cross the road and head straight down Rue de Compiègne from which you can see edge of Gare du Nord.

Canal Saint-Martin (3km red)

Initially created to provide clean water to Parisians who were sick of the cholera-friendly Seine, the Canal Saint-Martin (3) has become a place for strolling, or *flânerie*, and is backdrop to a heap of films.

From the Marché Couvert Saint-Quentin (see blue route above) head back out onto the bustling Boulevard de Magenta and go down to the next crossing where you can cross over and onto the Rue du 8 Mai 1945 (past McDonalds) which leads to Gare de l'Est on your left. At the end of the road is a big building (the Récollets - accommodation for sponsored artists and researchers apparently). Go around the left hand side of the building and stroll through Jardin Villemin. At the far end you come out onto the Quai de Valmy and the Canal Saint Martin.

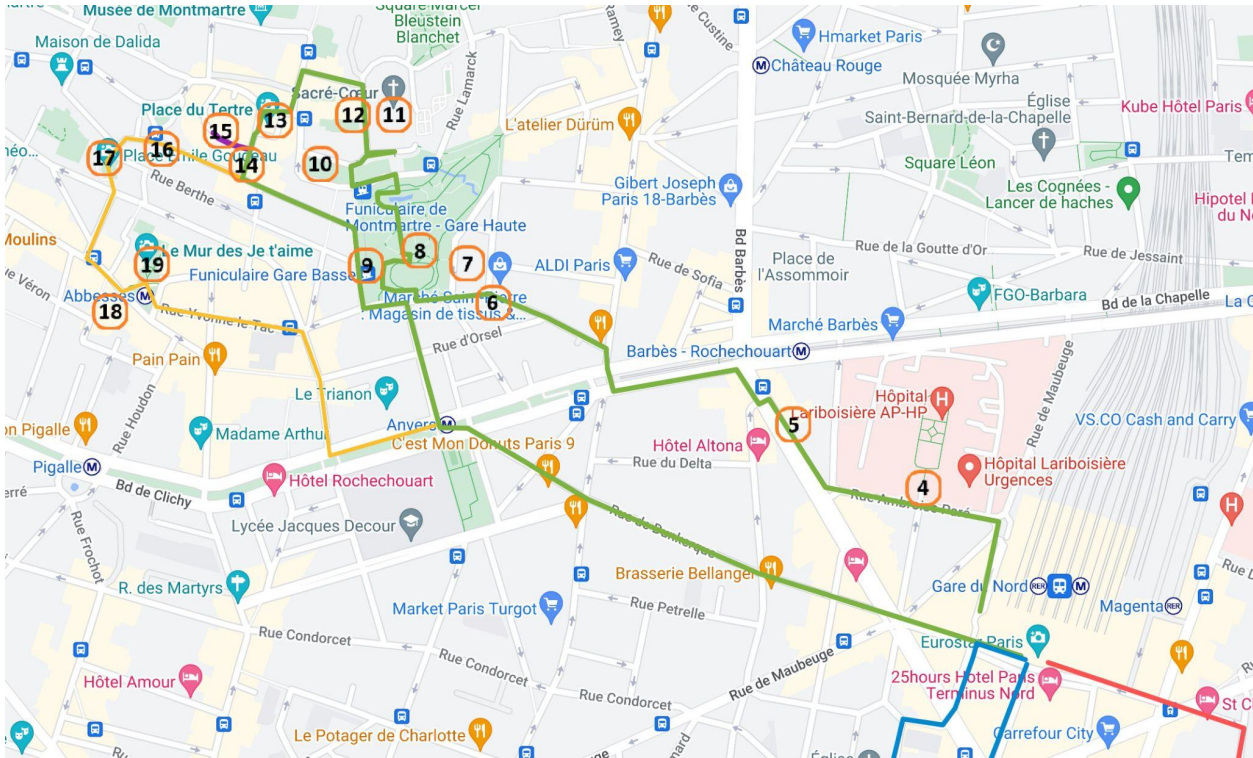


Turn right and stroll along the canal until you come to the Passerelle Richerand, which is probably a sensible place to turn around - but you could go further if you have time. Ultimately, it leads to the River Seine near to Gare de Lyon.

Cross the canal and go left to take you to the Passerelle Bichat and back to the Jardin Villemin. On the way back to Gare du Nord, you can take a sight detour past the Gare de L'Est and up Rue d'Alsace to use the split staircase.

Montmartre (3.3km green)

Artist (and now tourist) mecca, Montmartre is just 1 km away and walking there is a chance to see a surprising side of Paris fashion. Note: other walking routes are available - you may also like to look at these routes as well <https://montmartre footsteps.com/>



Leave the station by the exit to Rue de Maubeuge - in other words, with your back to the Eurostar trains, take the exit to your right.

Turn right and then left to skirt around the [Hôpital Lariboisière](#) (4) which was built in response to the failures of the existing hospitals to deal with yet another cholera outbreak in 1832. The architects looked to the UK for inspiration and modelled it on the state-of-the-art [Royal Naval Hospital](#) in Plymouth.



At the end of the street, turn right on to Boulevard de Magenta and follow the busy boulevard all the way to the overhead railway. It has an array of shops selling snazzy wedding suits, shoes

and all that's needed for the special day. It might not be haute couture, but it's every bit as Parisian as Chanel or Dior (5).



As you come to an overhead railway line, you reach the entrances and exits to Barbès - Rochechouart metro station. This is a busy place where people have reported getting pickpocketed, so bearing that in mind, you could avoid the busy area by crossing the road earlier (marked on the map) and then head down Boulevard Marguerite de Rochechouart.

As you walk along here, the metro line to your right slopes down into the ground and at the next roundabout you should see the top of the dome of Sacre Coeur peaking above buildings on the far side of the boulevard.



Cross the road, which marks the boundary between the 10th to the 18th arrondissements. On this side, the streets are filled with shops selling coupons (6). These are haberdashers and the coupon being cut out is cloth for Parisians who want to take charge of their own couture.



Walk up Rue de Clignancourt and then go immediately left along Rue d'Orsel. Continue straight on which has a fancy looking shed at the end. This is the Halle Saint-Pierre (7) and is a museum/art gallery with a nice coffee shop.

To get the iconic view of Sacre Coeur, walk to the left of Halle Saint-Pierre and along the street to the gates at the front of the park - Square Louise Michel (8), which is evocative - even on a soggy day.



There are lots of paths through the park and there's a [funicular railway](#) on the far side for a ride to the top (9). The icing on the cake is the basilica of Sacre Coeur, but anyone interested in learning more about the tension France's complex and strained relationship with religion might want to make a detour to the statue of [François-Jean de la Barre](#) (10) who was murdered for not saluting a catholic procession. The statue was erected on land taken back from the Church while Sacre Coeur was being built.



By David Monniaux

Sacre Coeur (11) is an impressive bit of late 19th Century architecture for which we have to thank Felix Fournier, the Bishop of Nantes who, after some soul searching, came to the conclusion that France's humiliating defeat in 1870 to Prussia was due to moral decline and what it needed was a new basilica dedicated to Jesus' sacred heart. These days, its prime purpose seems to be as a tourist selfie backdrop. It's also a great place to get a first rate view of Paris.



By Google

Make your way around the side of Sacré Cœur and past the rather overshadowed 12th Century church of Saint-Pierre (12), which in turn has overshadowed who-knows-what was built on this site before. The only clues are the bits and pieces of older buildings such as the 2nd Century Roman columns.

To go and look inside or just continue wandering for a nice little stroll around the cobbled streets of Montmartre, take the first left down Rue du Chevalier de la Barre then left again along Rue du Mont-Cenis.

At the end bear right and then take a tour around the tree, cafe and tourist-lined Place du Tertre (13) before continuing through the Place and towards the graffiti-friendly Escaliers du Calvaire (14).



By Google

But before making a grand descent, you could take a detour down Place du Calvaire to the right and head for the [Dalí Paris](#) museum (15) (see purple route on the map).

Anyone who wanted to be an artist in the 19th or 20th Century chose to eke out a living in Montmartre (except for the ones who settled around Montparnasse) including Salvador Dali.

Then go down the Escaliers du Calvaire. At the bottom, you could turn left to see some more of Montmartre and the artists who put it on the map (see orange route below).

Alternatively, turn left and follow the Rue Gabrielle all the way back to the park in front of the Square Louise Michel and go down the steps running parallel to the park and turn left to go back to the front of the park (Place Saint-Pierre). To get back to the station, you could go back the way you came, but instead, why not browse the wonderfully tacky souvenir shops on Rue de Steinkerque?

Cross Boulevard Marguerite de Rochechouart and take the diagonal Rue de Dunkerque all the way back to the station.

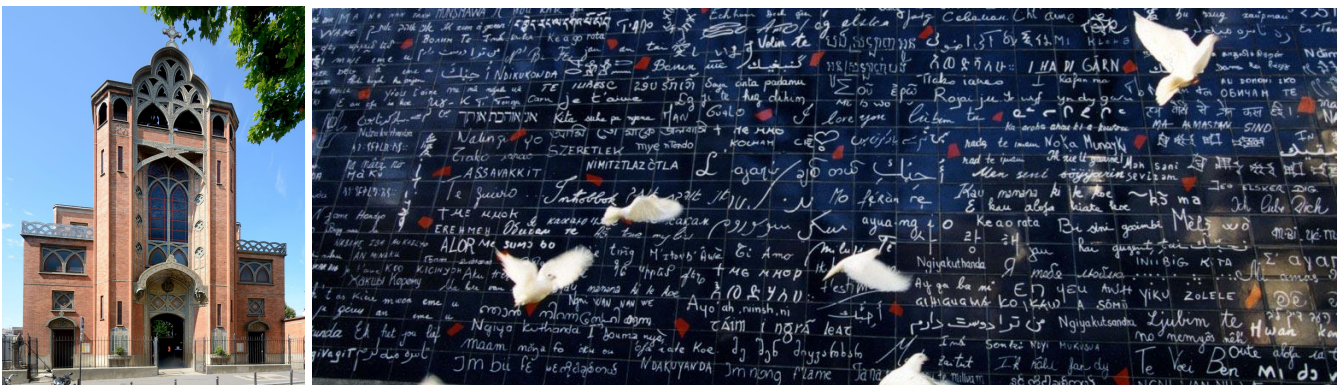
Picasso detour (1km orange)

Picking up from the green route, at the bottom of the Calvaire steps, turn left down Rue Gabrielle then you will come to a fork in the road and on your left is where Picasso had his first studio(16).

Take the left hand fork onto Rue Ravignan which leads down to Place Émile Goudeau and the Bateau-Lavoir (17) where Picasso invented modern art, or at least painted [Les Demoiselles d'Avignon](#) in 1907.



Continue down through the square and on to Rue Ravignan. At the end turn left onto Rue des Abbesses which will take you past the Art Deco church of Saint-Jean de Montmartre(18) and on to the Metro station.



By Peter Haas

To the north is Square Jehan Rictus containing the heart-stopping/gag-inducing, (depending on your point of view) [Mur des Je t'aime](#) Wall of Love (19)

Continue past the Metro station and onto Rue Yvonne le Tac which follows on to Rue Tardieu will take you back to Square Saint-Jean where you can rejoin the green route.