

Paris Landmark Descriptions

L'Arc de Triomphe

The construction of this landmark was ordered by Napoleon Bonaparte to celebrate the accomplishments of his army. The names of 128 battles and the generals who led French soldiers in the battles are listed on the arc. The monument took thirty years to complete. The arc was part of a larger project to make the capital the most beautiful city in the world.

Basilique du Sacré Coeur

The basilica was built after the French defeat in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. French leaders believed a lack of spirituality had contributed to the defeat, so the basilica was built to develop the spirituality of the French people. The landmark was built at the top of a hill; the name of this place of worship is a reference to Jesus' divine love for humanity.

La Tour Eiffel

This landmark was built in 1889 for the Paris Exposition but was not intended to be a permanent landmark. It was supposed to be demolished in 1909, but was instead used as a giant radio antenna. The tower has been nicknamed "*La Dame de Fer*" or "the Iron Lady" because it was constructed using iron. The Eiffel Tower was the tallest human-constructed structure until the Chrysler Building was built in New York in 1930.

Le Louvre

The Louvre is the largest museum in the world containing over 35,000 pieces of artwork from prehistory to the 21st century. The museum is housed in a palace originally built as a fortress in the late 12th century. The museum was opened in 1793 and continues to welcome millions of visitors every year to view famous artwork such as Leonardo da Vinci's 'Mona Lisa.'

Stade Roland Garros

Roland Garros Stadium is the most famous tennis complex in France. It is home to the French Open, one of four Grand Slam events held every year (the other three are the Australian Open, the U.S. Open, and Wimbledon). The stadium was named after Roland Garros, a pioneer aviator, engineer, and World War I hero.

Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris

Notre-Dame is a medieval Catholic cathedral located on a natural island in the Seine River, which runs through Paris. The cathedral is considered to be one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture and is one of the most well known church buildings in the world. Notre Dame was also made famous by the popular fictional character, the Hunchback of Notre Dame.

