

Travel

Few tourists at this Paris site

By Thelma Dickman
PARIS, France — In medieval times the Marais area was the heart of Paris and, although the beat has been allowed to slow over the centuries, today the district makes for a worthwhile day of strolling, looking, sniffing and enjoying.

have never heard of it. Yet here, Henry II died in a tournament with a lance in his eye, it housed such notables as Mozart, Cardinal Richelieu, Victor Hugo and Madame de Sevigne, and in its narrow, crooked, festering streets it helped give birth to the French Revolution.

Place de la Bastille contains nothing of the grim fortress prison razed to the ground by revolutionaries.

Today it's a terrifying traffic circle with a towering Column of July (a dark 250 steps to the top with only a narrow railing around the small ledge when you get there), and some tracings along the pavement that outline where it used to stand.

Cross the place — no easy matter, the way Parisians drive — walk along the rue St. Antoine a few yards to rue de Birague and turn right. Rubberneck along a block of antique shops and bookstores until you arrive at the Place des Vosges, arguably one of the most beautiful squares in the city. Small and formal, with a fountain splashing quietly, surrounded by severely trimmed plane trees, it's unlike any other city park in the world, and revealing of the character of the French.

The Marais is full of hotels particuliers — private mansions — which were built during the 17th century and largely allowed to go to ruin during the 19th and 20th centuries until after the Second World War.

Surrounded today by food shops and pushcarts (this is a Tunisian quarter, full of unusual sounds and smells, and perfectly safe for walkers), the house was built for Catherine Bellier, the one-eyed maid, masseuse and confidante of Anne of Austria, queen of France.

How to get there: Air Canada flies Toronto-Paris five days a week, Monday through Friday; Air France flies Toronto-Paris four days a week, Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Advanced Booking Charter (30 day notice, 14-60 days, \$369 until April 30; \$399 May 1-May 16; \$429 May 17-June 27; \$489 June 28-Aug. 4; \$429 Aug. 5-Sept. 15).

Well, we've hardly seen the last of the snow and a tour operator suggests we may like to take a new view of it — on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic.

TRAVELCHAT

By Anne Wanstall
Travel Editor

Consolidated Tours Limited has been conducting Arctic tours for the last three years, and have found an increasing interest in an excursion to our baffling northland.

The organizer is Blyth and Company, 93 Bloor St. West, Toronto, telephone 964-2569.

American Airlines' new guide describes 24 different California and Las Vegas tours.

Among them are invitation to San Francisco, a three-day, two-night holiday starting at \$45 per person; Los Angeles pleasures, seven nights from \$230 per person; and Delightful Disneyland, available from \$39.80 per person for two nights.

An invitation to San Diego stay of three days or five days starts at \$46 per person; and Las Vegas Centre Strip is a three-day tour beginning at \$62 per person.

Prices are based on double occupancy and exclude the round trip air fare.

Information about recreational vehicles and rental cars is included in the booklet, available from your travel agent or the airline's offices.

For information and reservations call Consolidated Tours at 593-1448.

A special trip for National Ballet patrons has been arranged for an Aug. 5 departure from Toronto to London, England.

The week-long trip offers seven nights accommodation at either the Grosvenor House (\$860 per person, double occupancy) or Kensington Palace Hotel

(\$650 per person, double occupancy), an evening at Covent Garden, dinner and a performance at Glyndebourne, a lunch cruise along the Regents Canal, a performance at The National Theatre, an Elizabethan dinner at Hatfield House, and a sightseeing tour of Shakespeare country.

Some of these buildings have been completely restored, while others only show their former beauty by the turn of a staircase or a timbered gallery.

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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 1979

Notices with detailed procedures for individual public schools have been sent home with present pupils. Parents or guardians who have not received such notices are requested to contact the school serving their area or the appropriate Board office.

Area 1 - East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket
895-5155, 476-3722

Area 2 - Aurora, King, Whitchurch-Stouffville (and Lake Wilcox and Oak Ridges Public Schools in Richmond Hill and Dickson Hill Public School in Markham)
727-3135, 887-5115

Area 3 - Richmond Hill, Vaughan
884-4477, 832-1131

Area 4 - Markham (and Thornhill Public School in Vaughan)
884-2096, 887-5451

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Parents or guardians must be public school supporters.
2. To be eligible for admission in September 1979 children must have been born on or before 1974 12 31. Verification of birthdate and record of immunization are required. Application forms for birth certificates are available in the schools.
3. If a school receives more registrations than it can accommodate, all registrations received before May 1st will be treated equally as far as date of registration is concerned. Registrations received on or after May 1st will be sequenced and the date of registrations will be the criteria used to determine which pupils may be required to attend another school unless there are sufficient volunteers to do so.

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