

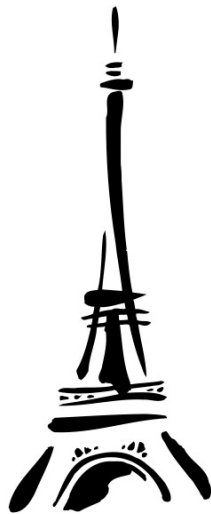
A self-guided walking tour of the top perfumeries in Paris.

The Perfume-Lover's Guide to Paris: A 3-Day Walking
Tour

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The Perfume-Lover's Guide to Paris:
A 3-Day Walking Tour



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<http://perfumeloversguide.com>

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FIRST EDITION: March 2007

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Disclaimer

This book is designed to provide information about taking a walking tour of Paris. Every effort has been made to make this guide as complete and as accurate as possible, but no warranty or fitness is implied.

The information is provided on an as-is basis. The author shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damages arising from the information contained in this guide.

Introduction

In December 2006, I spent three days exploring some of the finest perfumeries in Paris, France, the fragrance capital of the world. I was on a tight schedule, having 7 hours on the first day, 4 hours on the second day, and 2 hours on the final day for my tour. That gave me a total of 13 hours to identify, locate, visit and sample the highlights of the city's fragrant offerings. I traveled by foot and by subway (hereafter referred to as the *métro*). The following schedule is an abbreviated version of my actual tour (minus the wrong turns and mis-steps along the way). It is a somewhat rigorous schedule, but totally doable and eminently enjoyable! Feel free to use the guide as just that: a guide to planning your own specific tour. I encourage you to mix and match the agenda to suit your particular interests and needs.

For maximum comfort and efficiency on this adventure, I suggest the following items:

- sensible walking shoes (sadly, one may have to exchange fashion for practicality on this particular tour; but do not despair, you can change into your elegant, pointed-toe ankle boots as soon as you return to your hotel);
- clothing in layers;
- an umbrella;
- a durable map (I highly recommend the *Streetwise Paris* version (www.streetwisemaps.com) – it is laminated, folds easily, and has an inset map of all the metro stops); conversely, you can download the official -- and **free** -- métro map by visiting <http://ratp.fr.com>. Click on “*Le plan du metro.*”

- a pen and notebook for recording your samples, insights, contacts, and other thoughts and impressions
- Disposable hand-wipes (to have clean skin available for sampling fragrances anew at each perfumery);
- A bottle of water;
- and a digital camera (always ask for permission before photographing indoors).

If you have the time and inclination, I encourage you to walk as much of this tour as possible. Walking is the very best way to get to know a city, and you will undoubtedly discover unexpected delights along the way. Having said that, the public transportation system in Paris is excellent. The métro system is clean, efficient and safe (using common sense, of course). If you plan on using the métro, I suggest purchasing a 1- or 3-day metro pass. They are reasonably priced (e.g., 18.60 euros/3 days which is \$24.75 at today's exchange rate of 1.33 US dollars/euro) and allow unlimited rides on the métro system for that period of time. The RATP website is very helpful for answering your transportation questions <http://www.ratp.fr.com>.

Now, on with the tour!

Day 1: 7 hours

This is the longest day, because you have the most ground to cover and you are at your highest energy level. Today you will thoroughly explore the Left Bank's niche perfumeries, one department store, one make-up/perfume boutique, and finish with a bonus trip to one of Paris' newest, edgiest perfumeries, located on the border of the Marais district.

Left Bank: Your tour begins in the historic St. Germain neighborhood on the Left Bank. From the **Rue du Bac** métro stop, there are four wonderful perfume boutiques within easy walking distance. From the Rue du Bac métro, walk a short distance south to your first stop, located at 80 rue de Grenelle, in the middle of the block:

1) Parfums de Nicolai,

80 rue de Grenelle, 75007 (01 45 44 59 59, <http://www.pnicolai.com/accueil.htm>).

Métro: rue du Bac.



Parfums de Nicolai was created by perfumeur *Patricia de Nicolai* and her husband, *Jean-Louis*, in 1989. As the grand-daughter of Pierre Guerlain, Patricia grew up

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