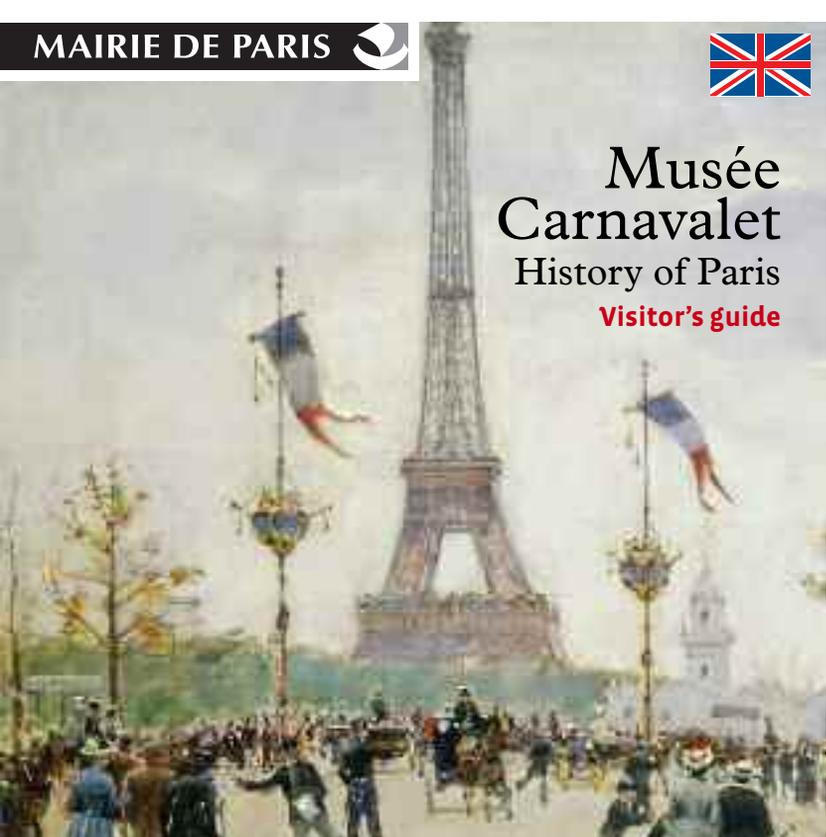




# Musée Carnavalet

History of Paris

Visitor's guide



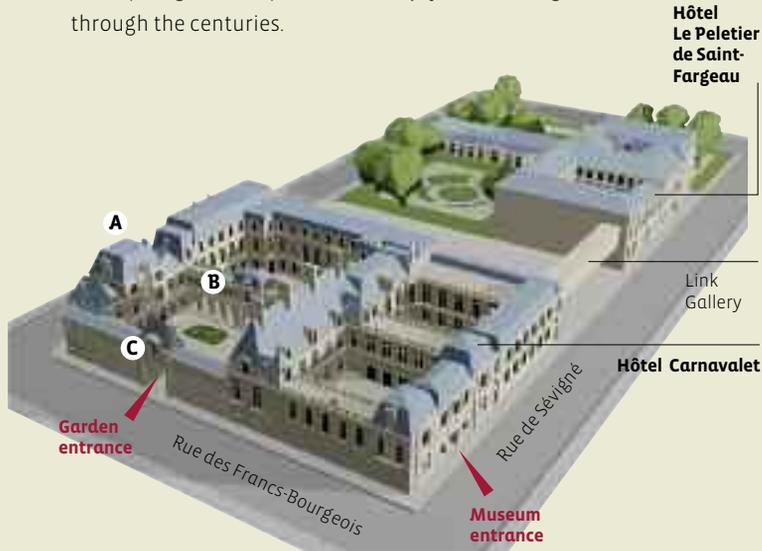
MUSÉES  
DE LA  
VILLE DE  
PARIS



## A history of the museum

The **Musée Carnavalet** is dedicated to the history of Paris and its inhabitants and houses collections tracing the development of the city from prehistoric times to the present day. A huge selection of works of art, mementos and scale models is on display in over 100 galleries, showing how the city looked in different eras and conjuring up its everyday and intellectual life.

The magnificent reconstructed historic room interiors provide an inspiring backdrop as visitors enjoy a rewarding stroll through the centuries.



A detailed map of the museum can be found in the centre of the brochure

## A history of the museum

# The buildings and gardens

### One museum in two town houses

The museum buildings date from different eras. The **Hôtel Carnavalet** is one of the most outstanding examples of architecture to be found in the Marais district. Work started on the building in 1548 and a magnificent decorative sculpture representing the Seasons was created for the facade at the end of the courtyard by Jean Goujon's workshop. In 1578, the town house was bought by the widow of François de Kernevenoy, dubbed Carnavalet by Parisians. From 1660 onwards, the architect François Mansart raised the side wings and refurbished the frontage. The building was purchased by the City of Paris in 1866 and extended around its garden to house the municipal collections, which were put on public display in 1880. In 1989, the museum expanded into the **Hôtel Le Peletier Saint-Fargeau**. In addition to its magnificent staircase, it boasts one of the last two remaining orangeries in the Marais district which now houses the archaeological collection.

### A garden-cum-museum

In the late nineteenth century, architectural elements salvaged during demolition work in the old quarters of Paris were used to extend the museum around the gardens: the Pavillon des Marchands Drapiers (Merchant Drapers' house, 1660) **A**, the central block of Hôtel de Choiseul **B**, and the Arc de Nazareth **C**, a Renaissance structure from the Île de la Cité, which provides a doorway into the garden. The Victory statue is the original version of the statue which tops the Châtelet column.

## Hôtel Carnavalet - Ground floor

### The Sign Galleries

A unique collection of signs spanning the period from 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries is housed in two galleries, offering a vivid glimpse of the atmosphere of the capital's streets. Shopkeepers, whose customers were often illiterate, attracted the attention of passing trade by shouting their wares, but also by using pictures, hence the beauty and ingenuity of these signs on which griffons, fauna and black cats can be found side by side.



*The Saint-Gervais Elm, sign for an edge-tool maker/iron monger, late 18<sup>th</sup> century*

© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet



Tailor or cutler's sign

© Carole Rabourdin / Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

### The Chat noir Cabaret sign

This painted sheet metal sign with its evocative image conjures up the creative and bustling life in Montmartre. Located at the foot of the Butte de Montmartre hill, the legendary *Chat noir Cabaret* (Black Cat Cabaret), founded by Rodolphe Salis in 1881, was the haunt of artists and epitomised the bohemian lifestyle of the closing years of the nineteenth century.



*Chat noir Cabaret sign, late 19<sup>th</sup> century*

© Musée Carnavalet / CH Fourin



© Musée Carnavalet / C. Reguill

## Hôtel Carnavalet - Ground floor

Anon.,  
*The Prodigal Son with courtesans or Allegory of the five senses*



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet



Mascaroon  
from the Pont-  
Neuf bridge

© Musée Carnavalet / C. Iregui

## Paris in the 16<sup>th</sup> century

During this period, the capital experienced the tragedy of the Wars of Religion (the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre and Catholic League riots) and the flowering of the Renaissance hailing the construction of new buildings including the Louvre, the Pont-Neuf bridge, and the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall). The collections display the oldest representations of the city, as well as portraits of famous figures (Francis I, Catherine de' Medici, Mary Queen of Scots, ...). The furniture, chests, armchairs and a money-changer's table are complemented by historical paintings depicting the lifestyle of the times.

Joos Van Clève,  
*Francis I,  
king of France*



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

### A portrait of Francis I, king of France (1494-1547)

During his time in Paris between 1530 and 1535, Joos van Cleve painted this portrait of the king responsible for firmly establishing the status of Paris as capital. He is depicted in the manner of the prominent humanists of the era.

## Hôtel Carnavalet - 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Claude Lefebvre,  
*Marie de Rabutin-Chantal, marquise de Sévigné*



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

Nicolas Mignard,  
*Molière in Corneille's "Death of Pompey"*



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

## Paris in the 17<sup>th</sup> century: the era of Madame de Sévigné

The numerous civil and religious construction sites depicted in these galleries (the Louvre, the Invalides, the former place Royale, now place des Vosges, ...), first fashioned the image of Paris as a modern city. Madame de Sévigné (1626-1696) made her mark on the Hôtel Carnavalet, where she lived from 1677 to 1696. A gallery is dedicated to her memory with objects belonging to her and portraits of prominent figures of the period such as Molière and Jean de la Fontaine.

Charles Le Brun,  
corner moulding  
from the gilded study  
of the Hôtel La Rivière



© Musée Carnavalet / Ch. Fourn

### The main study from the Hôtel La Rivière

In 1878, Carnavalet became the first museum to reassemble a room interior using elements from the Abbot La Rivière's town house on the place Royale. The room was renowned in its day for its wealth of gilt work and paintings by Charles Le Brun (the central Apollo-themed ceiling panel, 1653).

## Hôtel Carnavalet - Ground floor and 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Detail from Nicolas-Jean-Baptiste Raugenet's, *Pont-Neuf and the Samaritaine pump house seen from the quai de la Mégisserie, 1777*



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

### Paris in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

The age of Enlightenment was characterised by a surge in interest in private architecture. Whether it be in the rocaille style (curves and organic forms) or the neoclassical style (antique columns and straight lines) it was conducive to creating a feeling of intimacy and gave rise to an expansion of the joinery trade. The prestigious collections of furniture and objets d'art showcase the skill of Parisian craftsmen. 1750 marked a revival in bold public building projects, such as the refurbishment of place Louis XV (place de la Concorde) and the construction of Sainte-Geneviève church (the Panthéon).



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, reception room from the Hôtel d'Uzès, late 18<sup>th</sup> century



© Françoise Abdourahim / Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

### Reception room from the Hôtel d'Uzès

Carved in 1767 by Joseph Métivier and Jean-Baptiste Boiston under the supervision of the architect Claude-Nicolas Ledoux for the town house of the duc d'Uzès on the rue Montmartre, this wood panelling is an early and original example of the neoclassical style.

## To the Hôtel Le Peletier - 1<sup>st</sup> floor

### To the Hôtel Le Peletier: link gallery

This gallery on the first floor connects the two town houses which make up the museum. Many of the paintings on permanent display form part of the Seligmann donation (2000), depicting Parisian society of the Belle Epoque in about 1900. Free temporary exhibitions including photographs, drawings and engravings are organised here on a very regular basis, alongside the permanent exhibits.

The rooms in the Hôtel Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau, located at the end of the Link Gallery, are dedicated to the French Revolution (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), the prehistoric and Gallo-Roman period, the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Ground floor), the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the 20th century (1<sup>st</sup> floor).



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

Henri Gervex, *An soirée at the Pré-Catelan, 1909*



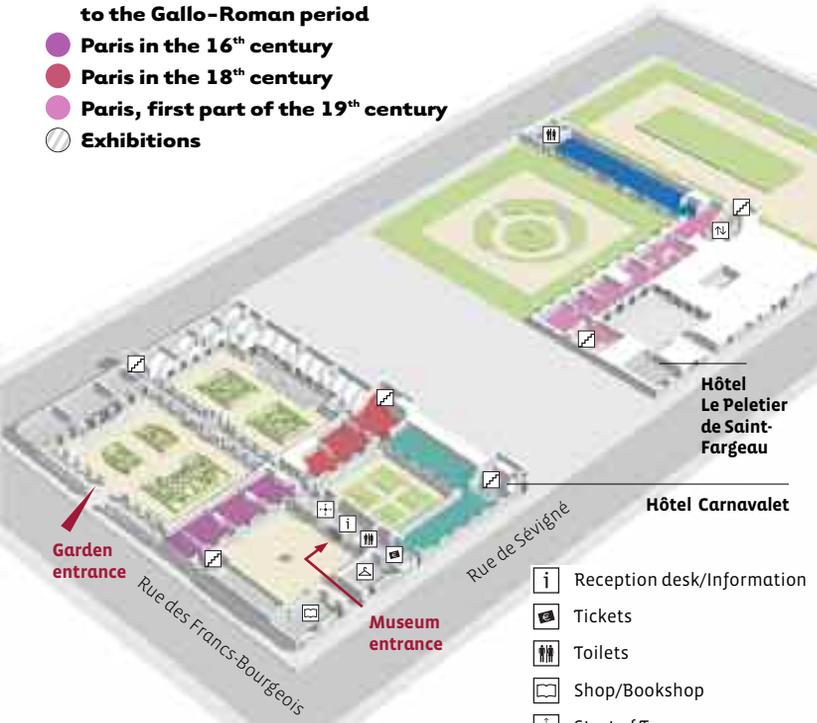
© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

Louise Abbema, *An elegant lady, place de la Concorde, circa 1894*

# Permanent collections

## GROUND FLOOR

- Sign Galleries
- Before Paris: from prehistoric times to the Gallo-Roman period
- Paris in the 16<sup>th</sup> century
- Paris in the 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Paris, first part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Exhibitions



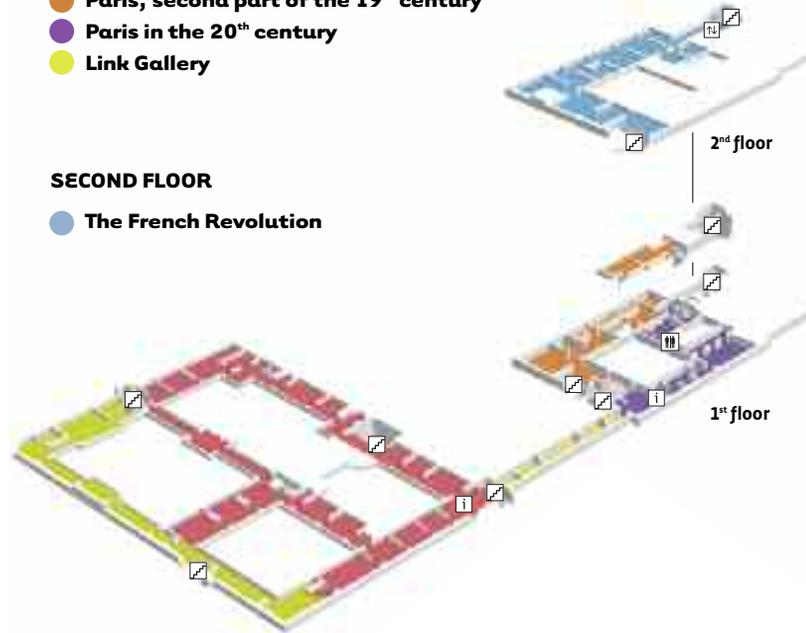
- i Reception desk/Information
- 📄 Tickets
- ♿ Toilets
- 📖 Shop/Bookshop
- ➕ Start of Tours
- ⬆️ Lift
- 🏠 Stairs
- 👕 Cloakrooms

## FIRST FLOOR

- Paris in the 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Paris in the 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Paris, second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Paris in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Link Gallery

## SECOND FLOOR

- The French Revolution



The tour itinerary does not follow strict chronological order. The collections have been divided up as the museum expanded in old buildings whose architecture had to be preserved.



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

## Hôtel Le Peletier - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Anon.,  
Maximilien de  
Robespierre



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet



Jean-Baptiste Lesueur,  
*Family en route to the guinguette*  
(open-air café)

## The French Revolution

Objets d'art and mementos illustrate the different phases of this period in history: the Serment du Jeu de Paume (Tennis Court Oath), the storming of the Bastille, the Declaration of the Rights of Man, the Fête de la Fédération celebrations (14<sup>th</sup> July 1790), the imprisonment of the Royal Family, etc. The museum houses the most comprehensive and vivid collection of documentation on this crucial period in which Paris was the main theatre of events. This unique collection comprises a wide variety of nearly 500 exhibits: paintings, sculptures, engravings, furniture, objets d'art and scale models.



© Marie-Laure Berthier / Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

Model of the Bastille

### Scale model of the Bastille

In the wake of the storming of the Bastille, people wanted to preserve a memento of the place and event. The building contractor Palloy, who was entrusted with the task of dismantling the famous prison, commissioned a number of scale models made using stones from the building. They were sent out to all 83 administrative districts, all over the country, to be put on display during the celebrations for France's national day.

< Attributed to Jean-Jacques François Le Barbier the Elder, *Declaration of the rights of man and of the citizen*

## Hôtel Le Peletier - Ground floor

### Paris in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: from the French Directory to the Second Republic

Despite its unstable political history (collapse of the Empire, July Revolution, ...) Paris was a crucible of artistic and literary creativity. The collections offer an opportunity to learn about famous figures (Napoleon, Juliette Récamier, Franz Liszt, ...) and discover views of the capital and mementos of historic events.

© Eric Enno / Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet



Furniture from the bedroom of the duc de Gaète, Empire and Restoration periods.



© Musée Carnavalet / Ch. Fouin

Jean-Pierre Dantan, known as Dantan the Younger, *Caricature of the King of the French, Louis-Philippe I*, 1830

### Portrait of Juliette Récamier (1777-1844)

She was hailed as the queen of Paris on account of her beauty and charm during the French Directory and Consulate period preceding the birth of the Empire. As one of the first people to adopt Etruscan-style furniture and wear Greek fashions, she was instrumental in promoting the vogue for the ancient world.

François Gérard,  
*Juliette Récamier*,  
1805



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

## Hôtel Le Peletier - 1<sup>st</sup> floor

### Paris in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: from the Second Empire to the Third Republic

The Second Empire ushered in profound upheavals in city planning which shaped the capital as we now know it, doubling its size and dividing it into twenty arrondissements (districts). The war of 1870 and the French Commune brought the reign of Napoleon III to a close on the eve of the Third Republic. Paintings by Jean Béraud and Henri Pille record the ferment of activity in high society, as well as the atmosphere of the working-class districts of the capital.

Guillaume Grohé, Emile Froment-Meurice from a design by Victor Baltard, the Prince Imperial's cradle



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

Jean Béraud,  
*A Parisian woman, place de la Concorde*

Gustave Courbet,  
*Jules Vallès, writer*

© Marc Dubreccq / Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet



### The Prince Imperial's cradle

The architect Victor Baltard designed this cradle presented by the City of Paris to Napoleon III and the Empress Eugénie on the occasion of the birth of the Prince Imperial. It was completed in under three months by some of the most skilled craftsmen of the era.

Charles  
Carolus-Duran  
Portrait of  
Marguerite and  
Robert de  
Broglie, 1890



© Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

## Hôtel Le Peletier - 1<sup>st</sup> floor



© Musée Carnavalet / C. Iregui

Alphonse Mucha,  
the Fouquet  
jewellery shop, 1900



© Musée Carnavalet / C. Iregui

José Maria Sert y Badia,  
interior of the ballroom at  
the Hôtel de Wendel, 1925

## Paris in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

At the dawn of the century, Paris was a seething crucible of artistic activity and this is reflected in the museum by many portraits of writers, Art Nouveau period rooms (the Fouquet jewellery shop by Alphonse Mucha), the 1925 grand interior of the Hôtel de Wendel ballroom by José-Maria Sert, and recreations of the bedrooms of three writers - Marcel Proust, Anna de Noailles and Paul Léautaud.

Furniture in  
Marcel Proust's  
bedroom



© L. Degrâces et Ph. Joffre /  
Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

### Marcel Proust's bedroom

It was in this simple brass bed that Marcel Proust (1871-1922), who was accustomed to writing lying down at night, wrote most of *A la recherche du temps perdu* (In Search of Lost Time). The furniture assembled here comes from the three apartments in which he lived after the death of his parents.

## Hôtel Le Peletier - Ground floor

### Before Paris: from prehistoric times to the Gallo-Roman period

© Marc Paturange / DAC/DHAP

Male head, Gallo-Roman painted mural



The majority of archaeological collections come from excavations carried out in Paris from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A mammoth's molar and Neolithic dugout canoes (4800-1800 BC) conjure up activity in the prehistoric era. A surgeon's instrument case from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC or a painted fragment depicting a stylised male head shed light on the life of the inhabitants of Lutetia, an ordinary provincial town in the Roman Empire.

Neolithic dugout canoe, 2800-2500 BC



### Neolithic dugout canoes (4800-1800 BC)

These canoes were found to the east of Paris during building work at Bercy in 1991. This is one of the oldest preserved collections of prehistoric craft in the world. They were used by Neolithic fishermen who had settled on the right bank of the Seine. Their terracotta cooking vessels are also displayed in the museum.



Gallo-Roman statuette of the god Mercury

© Philippe Ladeit / Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

© Philippe Loffre / Musée Carnavalet / Roger-Viollet

## Services and information

### Bag store and cloakroom

Large bags and rucksacks must be left in the free cloakroom. Suitcases are not accepted.

### Bookshop and gift shop

Free admission during museum opening hours.  
Information:  
Tel.: +33 (0)1 42 74 08 00  
Fax: +33 (0)1 44 78 04 71

### Partnerships and corporate functions

Information:  
Tel.: +33 (0)1 44 59 58 35  
Fax: +33 (0)1 44 59 58 10

### Educational and Cultural Office Tours, lectures and workshops (individual visitors, groups and disabled visitors)

Information and bookings:  
Tel.: +33 (0)1 44 59 58 31/32  
Fax: +33 (0)1 44 59 58 07

### Plays, concerts, signings

Information and bookings:  
Tel.: +33 (0)1 44 59 58 33  
Fax: +33 (0)1 44 59 58 10

### Association of Friends of the Museum

23, rue de Sévigné  
75003 Paris  
Tel.: +33 (0)1 42 72 22 62  
amisdumuseecarnavalet@wanadoo.fr  
www.amisdecarnavalet.com

### The museum garden

The Musée Carnavalet opens its garden to visitors from April to October. The monumental gate, which is normally closed, will be open for people walking along the rue des Francs-Bourgeois. Discover a little haven of peace and quiet in the lively Marais district, sit down and take a break, and enjoy the first warm days of the season.

# Musée Carnavalet History of Paris

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Fax : +33 (0)1 44 59 58 10

[www.carnavalet.paris.fr](http://www.carnavalet.paris.fr)

 Get all the latest news on the Musée Carnavalet on Facebook

## Getting there

Metro stations: Saint-Paul, Rambuteau or Chemin Vert

Bus lines: 29, 69, 76, 96

 Vélib' (self-service cycle hire) stations: 36, rue de Sévigné; Saint-Paul metro station; 26, rue Saint-Gilles

## Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 6pm, except public holidays, Easter Sunday and Whit Sunday. Ticket office closes at 5.15pm. Some galleries are open in alternation. A schedule is available daily at the museum reception desk.

## Admission charges

Permanent collections and themed exhibitions: free admission. Temporary exhibitions: variable admission charges. Information: +33 (0)1 44 59 58 58.

## Disabled access

Information:  
+33 (0)1 44 59 58 58

## Photography

Non-flash photography without a tripod for strictly private use is permitted in the permanent collections.

## Print Collection (engravings, drawings and photographs)

29, rue de Sévigné, 75003 Paris  
Open Tuesday to Friday  
from 2pm to 5pm.  
By appointment only on:  
+33 (0)1 44 59 58 67

## Numismatic Collection

Open Tuesday to Friday by appointment only.  
Contact : [thierry.sarmant@paris.fr](mailto:thierry.sarmant@paris.fr)  
+33 (0)1 44 59 58 73

*The Musée Carnavalet also includes the Archaeological Crypt of the parvis Notre-Dame and the Paris Catacombs, three sites dedicated to the history and memory of Paris.*



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sur [PARIS.FR](http://PARIS.FR)

\* Prix d'un appel local à partir d'un poste fixe sans tarif propre à votre opérateur