Press releases

# In the footsteps of General de Gaulle in Paris Region

at 23 February 2020

Valérie Pécresse, President of the Paris region, together with the Paris Region Tourst Board, invites visitors to discover a tourist trail in the footsteps of General de Gaulle, through places of remembrance throughout Paris region.
This journey in 13 stages is part of the various celebrations dedicated to him on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the fighting in the French campaign, the Appeal of 18 June, the creation of Free France, as well as the anniversaries of his birth and death (1890-1970).

## Description

### The journey of a historical giant

This new journey begins at the **Historial Charles de Gaulle**, for a meeting with the great freedom fighter but also the politician, president of a France on the move, in a turbulent 20th century. It is in this interactive and immersive memorial, built like an invisible monument in the basement of the **musée de l'Armée**, that the thread of Charles de Gaulle's story unfolds.

### Tribute to the Companions of the Libération

It is in the prestigious setting of the Hôtel national des Invalides that the Museum of the Order of Liberation tells the story of the **Comp**

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## The memory of the Liberation of Paris

The **Liberation of Paris, General Leclerc Museum,** rich in priceless collections, tells the story of the Parisian Resistance, that of Jean Moulin and all those anonymous people who fought for their freedom. And that of General de Gaulle who inspired their fight.

## Recollection in front of The Mémorial de la France combattante (Memorial to Fighting France)

**Mont-Valérien** is a place of emotionally charged memory, sadly associated with the history of Paris during the Second World War and dedicated to the dead of the 1939-1945 war.

The **Memorial of Fighting France** was inaugurated on 18 June 1960 by General de Gaulle.

## Victory celebration on the Avenue des Champs-Elysées

Intended by Napoleon Ist to glorify his soldiers and his victorious campaigns, the **Arc de Triomphe**, beyond the historical dimension, remains one of the most emblematic monuments of Paris and the privileged witness of the great events which made and still make the **History of France**. Welcomed in victory by Parisians who had just been freed from the yoke of the occupying forces, General de Gaulle took refuge on 26 August 1944 in front of the **tomb of the unknown soldier**, this brave among the brave, who died during the First World War.

After solemnly rekindling the flame, he walked down the **Avenue des Champs-Elysées** to the cheers of the crowd.

To celebrate this event, a statue of General de Gaulle, created by Jean Cardot, was erected on the initiative of the Association des Français Libres near the Grand Palais.

## 3 palaces of the Republic to visit

- The magnificent **Château de Rambouillet**, presidential residence since 1896, to visit it is to take a trip back in time and in the intimacy of the great figures of French History. General de Gaulle, under the 5th Republic, gave many parties and receptions there like his predecessors.
- The **Château de Champs-sur-Marne**, a true jewel of classical architecture and an ode to the French art of living in the 18th century, has welcomed within its walls the greatest names in French history, including the Marquise de Pompadour, mistress of King Louis XV. This yachting residence became the presidential residence in 1935. In 1959, under the General's wishes, the château became the first "palace of the Republic" and a showcase for the quality of French hospitality.
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- at **Marly-le-Roi**, near Versailles, where General de Gaulle stayed from 21 January to 26 May 1946, after having renounced his position as head of the provisional government. He took advantage of these few months to draft the first part of his "Mémoires de Guerre", a work published in 1954,
- It was in **Clamart**, south-west of Paris, that Charles de Gaulle nearly lost his life on 22 August 1962 in a sting that history will remember as the attack on the Petit-Clamart.
- the **Pantheon**, a place of memory where the name of the De Gaulle family will cross the threshold in the person of Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz, the General's niece in 2015.

## Number of pages

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