

Montmartre, Paris



Report made by

- **Name:** Joan
- **Social media handles:** @joan_pahisa (Twitter, Instagram), @joanp (TabiFolk)
- **Date:** August, 2023.

General information of the attraction

- **Name of the attraction:** Montmartre
- **City and country:** Paris, France
- **Description:** Located at a hill in the north, Montmartre is the historic quarter of artists in Paris. The unmistakable Place du Tertre, a picturesque square brim with painters, is the heart of the area. The Sacré Coeur basilica overlooks the city from its top and offers great views to the hordes of tourists that visit it. As a bonus, if you've got a keen eye, from nearby the front stairs of the church, you may also spot its elusive sinking house.
- **Opening hours:** The quarter is open all year long, but the Sacré Coeur basilica's opening hours are from 6h to 22:30h (note that the accessible entrance only opens from 9:30h to 17:30h). Painters at Place du Tertre are there from early morning to late afternoon.

- **Getting there:** You can get there by metro (not wheelchair accessible) plus funicular (the nearest metro stops are Anvers -line 2- or Abbesses -line 12-) or by bus (wheelchair accessible) plus funicular (also accessible; lines 54 and 85 stop at Boulevard Marguerite de Rochechouart). From said boulevard, take Rue de Steinkerke or Rue de Seveste (both streets are paved with cobblestone and are a bit steep at the end; Rue de Seveste has a bit wider sidewalk, although also crowded and hard to use on wheels) towards the funicular, which is also accessible. In Google Maps, look for “Funiculaire Gare Basse” to know the exact place of the stop. Otherwise, you’ll have to climb hundreds of stairs. Finally, it’s also possible to go there by car, although streets are narrow, pedestrians usually walk on the road and parking is limited (there is a parking spot for disabled people near the accessible back entrance of the basilica -see Map 2-).
- **Discount:** Access is free for everyone, although offerings or purchases can be made at the basilica.
- **Buying the tickets:** No tickets are needed.

Accessibility information (you may check boxes + write small descriptions)

- **ACCESSIBLE ROUTE**
 - **Moving around:** Bus line 40 has some stops within the quarter of Montmartre, but it’s frequency is usually low, so it’s not really convenient. Walking or wheeling is the way to go.
 - Special entrance:** Yes. To enter Sacré Coeur, you have to do it from the back. There is a special entrance at a Religious Guest House located at Rue de Chevalier de la Barre, 35 (see Photo 7). You have to call the bell to access, enter the building on the left and then take the elevator. You will access the church from a back corridor directly at its ground level. It is recommended to call in advance, as the guest house is not always open. Usually opening hours are from 9:30h to 17:30h. The phone number is +33 153 418 900.
 - Inaccessible areas:** The stairs from the bottom of Montmartre to the top are not accessible. There are a couple of streets crossing the stairs from where to get a good view of the city anyway. One just after getting off the funicular. Also, inside the quarter, there are many streets that end up in stairs. Many are also quite steep, plus many have cobblestone, and, in many places, sidewalks are too narrow for wheelchairs to pass.

Specific restrictions: Sacré Coeur's special entrance opening hours: from 9:30h to 17:30h.

• **PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY**

Ramps: There are smooth ramps to access the basilica from the accessible back entrance.

Elevators: Also at the back entrance, there is an elevator inside the Religious Guest House that will take you to the basilica level.

Steep slopes: Many of the streets in Montmartre are steep. From the upper funicular stop to the Sacré Coeur, there is an unavoidable (unless you can climb stairs) steep street paved with uneven cobblestone. Streets going from the bus/metro stops to the lower funicular stop are also uphill and paved with cobblestone.

• **Types of flooring:** Inside the basilica, the pavement is smooth (see Photo 6). On the streets, most pavement is uneven cobblestone. Even many sidewalks are paved with cobblestone (see Photos 1, 3 & 4).

Steps and/or stairs: From the bottom of Montmartre to the top, there are 222 steps. You can bypass them using the funicular. Other streets in Montmartre also end up in steps and some sidewalks curbs are not cut either around Place du Tertre.

Narrow doorways/paths or tight turns: Many sidewalks in Montmartre are too narrow (see Photo 3) or have several elements blocking the way (tourists, restaurant tables, shop products, etc.) to be used by wheelchairs or scooters. Using the road is unavoidable, but there aren't many cars in the area.

Accessible toilet: There is a public accessible toilet in front of the lower funicular stop (see Map 1).

Rental wheelchairs: None.

• **Distance:** Even using the funicular, expect walking/wheeling a minimum of 1km or 2km while going up and down Montmartre.

Places to sit&rest: There are plenty of places to sit both inside and outside the basilica and around Place du Tertre (there are many restaurants and cafés available).

• **VISUAL ACCESSIBILITY**

Tactile paving: Some curb cuts have tactile pavement in the area, but that's about it.

Guiding system: None.

Audioguide: There is an audio guide of the basilica. It is available for download via the mobile app Tupuy.

Braille: None.

• **Contrast and size of signage:** N/A.

• **Contrast of architectural elements:** There is not much contrast between steps in the area as most are completely made of stone.

Touchable 3D models: None.

• **HEARING ACCESSIBILITY**

Sign language: None.

Hearing loop: None.

Captions: Not applicable, as there are no broadcasted messages.

• **COGNITIVE ACCESSIBILITY:**

Easy-to-read: None.

Pictograms: None.

• **SENSORY AND ORGANIC ACCESSIBILITY**

High noise level or loud sounds: Noise levels are low inside the basilica, although streets around it and near Place du Tertre are usually busy with crowds.

Potential issues with lighting: None.

Bright colors: None.

Strong smells: None detected.

Need of interaction with other people: Only to buy the tickets for the funicular right next to the lower funicular stop. If you use the accessible entrance to the basilica, you may need to talk through the intercom once you press the bell.

Silent or sensory room: None, but if you move to side streets or inside the basilica the environment is calm.

Food availability: There are many restaurants, cafés and bars in Montmartre, specially near Place du Tertre.

• **EXTRA FEATURES OR BARRIERS:**

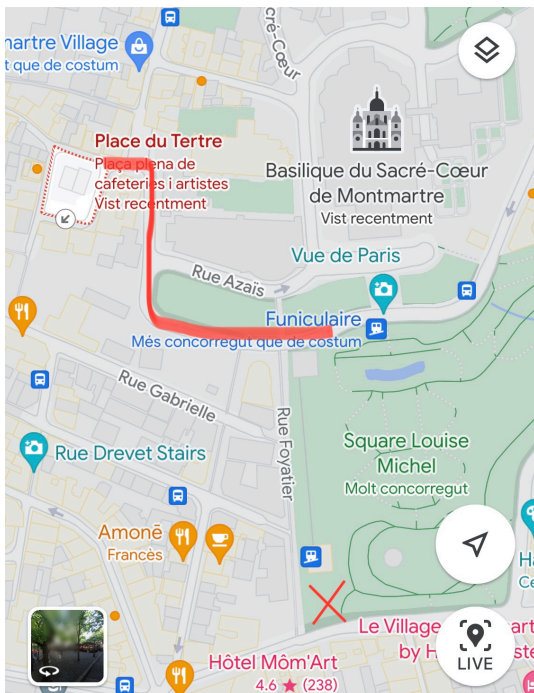
- **Other:** It's better to get there earlier in the morning, as the area gets really crowded.
- **URL to information:** [Sacré Coeur's website with accessibility information in French.](#)

Overall score ★★☆☆☆

• **Score: 1.5 stars.**

• **Summary:** Despite having a wheelchair accessible funicular to overcome the 222 steps that lead to the top of the hill, Montmartre is not friendly for those with mobility impairments. The area is mostly paved with uneven cobblestone, sidewalks are extremely narrow, some curb cuts and tactile pavement is also missing and there are many unavoidable steep streets if you want to get to the best sightseeing spots. Furthermore, the accessible entrance to the basilica is a bit tricky to find and is not open throughout the whole day, so planning in advance is necessary. Nevertheless, if you have an electric mobility device, someone to push, strong arms and/or loads of patience, its views of the city and bohemian atmosphere may be worth a try. Getting there earlier in the morning is recommended to avoid the crowds.

Maps



Map 1. Route from the upper funicular stop to Place du Tertre. Marked with a red cross near the lower funicular stop is the accessible public toilet.



Map 2. Marked with a red pin and a circle is the accessible back entrance of Sacré Coeur. Marked with a red cross is the point from where you can take a picture of the sinking house of Montmartre.

Photos



Photo 1. Lower funicular stop, plus cobblestone pavement.



Photo 2. The Sacré Coeur basilica.



Photo 3. Cobblestone roads and narrow sidewalks.



Photo 4. Cobblestone street leading to the back of the basilica.



Photo 5. View from the top of the stairs near the front of the basilica.



Photo 6. View from the inside of the basilica & smooth interior pavement.



Photo 7. Accessible entrance to the basilica via the Religious Guest House at the back.

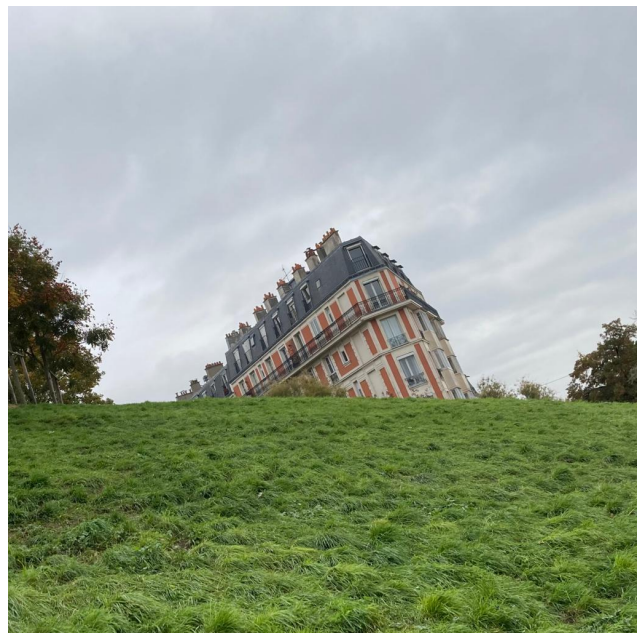


Photo 8. The sinking house of Montmartre as see from the location marked on Map 2. To get the picture right, you need to rotate it a bit so that the grass looks flat.