



HOTELS & APARTMENTS

For many years now, we've been staying in a friend's apartment, so I no longer feel as if I can be a resource for accommodations, with one exception, La Résidence du Roy . We have current feedback on it because many people we have recommended it to have stayed there recently. We stayed there about nine times and found it met all our criteria, excellent location, good transportation options nearby, spaciousness and quiet (if you get a suite facing the courtyard and the garden). This “apartment hotel” is in the 8th arrondissement on rue Francois 1er, about five minutes’ walk to the Grand Palais and ten minutes to the Champs Elysées. It is in a primarily residential neighborhood and transportation is excellent with three Métro lines close by. Another location advantage of La Résidence is that it is only about a fifteen-minute walk to the large number of excellent bistros and restaurants in the 7th and the rue Cler market area and close enough to Laduree on the Champs Elysées that you can pop out to buy your morning croissant and bring it back for breakfast.

The suites consists of a bedroom, living room area with a sofa, a bathroom next to the bedroom, and a water closet off the entry hall, and last, but certainly not least, a small fully equipped kitchen. The bedroom and the living room areas are not separated by a wall, but by a sliding screen so it is more like one very large room. The current rack rate for the suites is 405€. On direct bookings, discounts are available if you ask. A friend recently got a confirmation at 215€ per day for a stay of one week, but he is a particularly adept bargainer; even 250€ for this hotel would be a good deal.

Although the hotel has about 28 suites there are only a few suites of the type that face the courtyard and garden (305, for example). The rest face the street which can be noisy. The hotel has become much more popular than it was when we first stayed there more than ten years ago. I suspect that we have been somewhat responsible for this because everybody that we have recommended it to will not stay anywhere else and they, in turn, have recommended it to others, etc.

Address 8, rue François 1er.
 Telephone 01-42-89-59-59
 Fax 01-40-74-07-92

Moderate and budget priced hotels

I am eliminating this section, as I was relying on second hand information and I have not stayed up to date.

RENTING AN APARTMENT

Because of the high cost of Paris hotels, there is more interest in renting an apartment. It is far less costly for a visit of at least a week and the rates go down significantly if you stay longer. Our reluctance was always fear of renting a place unseen. During previous visits we checked out quite a few rental agencies and did manage to see a few apartments that were not occupied. We found one agency, "Servissimo" from whom we rented a previously seen apartment the following year, but though it was lovely, it was poorly maintained, and the agency was less than satisfactory in responding to our complaints, hence we will no longer recommend them.

By going on the web, using "google.com" and inputting "Paris furnished apartment rentals" you will be able to find a wealth of places. One particularly good website is www.vrbo.com (short for vacation rentals by owner) which seems to primarily include apartments owned by Americans. We have found several very nice apartments on this site that we have actually seen and liked very much. Our personal experience with the Elzevir apartment, owned by Bill and Ineke O'Such was a pleasure. It is modest in size at about 600 square feet, but brilliantly organized so that it seems larger. It is one bedroom and one bath. It books up rapidly with repeat guests, so you need to have some flexibility with dates in order to book it, and you have to do it fairly far in advance. There is a calendar of availability on the website at www.elzevir.net. For a week the price ranges from \$257 to \$342 per day depending on the time of year.

The other apartment we can personally recommend because we stayed there for four weeks and loved it is owned by Jay Berry. It is on rue Suffren, a street that divides the 7th and 15th. Transportation is the best in Paris because it is a few minutes from La Motte Piquet Grenelle which has three important Métro lines. It is large at over 1,500 square feet, and has two bedrooms and two baths. Rent starts at 300€ per day. For more information go to his website at www.parisinstyle.com.