**A short guide to Paris and the CIGRE Session 2024**

**Introduction**

**What’s New in Paris:** if you haven’t been to Paris for a while, then you will find some changes in how to get around the city, specifically due to the permanent and temporary changes for the 2024 Olympic Games (26th July - 11th August, then Paralympics from 28th August - 8th September). This is specifically true close to the CIGRE conference venue (at the Palais de Congrès). Simply: any travel in Paris now takes more time, especially by taxi. At rush hour, the RER / Metro trains are often much more reliable means of transport.

Paris offers an unforgettable cultural and historical immersion, enriched by the excitement of the 2024 Olympic Games. Through its iconic monuments, picturesque districts and renowned gastronomy, Paris reveals its timeless charm and passion for sport. Let yourself be carried away by the magic of Paris!

**Traveling from the airport (Paris CDG) to the city**

From 27 July to 11 August then from 28 August to 11 September 2024: taxis, VTCs or minibuses are not authorised to circulate within the red perimeter, in the vicinity of the Olympic sites, except to drop off or pick up a customer with a digital pass, Games Pass.

You cannot access the red perimeter - Olympic site or road events. An exemption is possible if you are staying in a hotel located within the red perimeter and with a private car park off the public highway. In this case:

A **Games Pass** is required subject to a validated request on the platform.

* Find out more about [**access arrangements and traffic exemptions for the Olympic and Paralympic venues**](https://anticiperlesjeux.gouv.fr/en/je-minforme/ceremonie-douverture-jeux-olympiques-paris-2024#:~:text=passer%2C%20click%20here.-,P%C3%A9rim%C3%A8tre%20rouge,place%20autour%20des%20sites%20olympiques)

From **15 July** to **15 September 2024**, 185 km of roads around Paris will be reserved for the use of accredited and emergency vehicles (transporting athletes, accredited journalists and official delegations).

These lanes are also accessible to **taxis** and **public transport**.

They are activated daily for the duration of the Games, depending on traffic and the competition schedule, with specific signage.

You cannot use these lanes if you are not one of the **authorised vehicles**.

**Taxis:** follow the airport signs to a taxi rank at your terminal. The flat rate fare should be about €53 (North of Seine river – “Rive Droite”) and €58 (South of Seine river – “Rive Gauche”) the journey should take 35 minutes depending on traffic.

**By Bus:** One shuttle line remains, connecting CDG Airport to Opéra, central Paris: [RoissyBus,](https://transfer.airport-paris.com/roissybus.htm) €11.50

[**By Train**](https://www.sncf-connect.com/outils/application-mobile)**:** The quickest & least expensive way to get to Paris from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle (CDG) Airport is by taking the **RER B suburban city train** leaving from either CDG Terminal 2 or Terminal 3/Roissypôle. However, if you have luggage this may not be the most convenient mode of travel.Also, be aware that the train can be hot and crowded.There will be numerous signs through the terminals pointing towards the Paris RER train.

The RER B train line runs north-south through the center of Paris, stopping at [Gare du Nord, the London to Paris Eurostar station](http://parisbytrain.com/gare-du-nord-photos/), then at Châtelet Les Halles, a station hub with connections to 4 metro lines and 3 RER lines available.

The express RER B train will go directly from Aéroport CDG to [Gare du Nord](http://parisbytrain.com/gare-du-nord-photos/), without stopping at any stations in between. The regular train will make about 9 stops in between CDG Airport and Gare du Nord. You’ll save roughly 12 minutes by taking one of the express trains, but even the non-express RER B will get you to Paris (Gare du Nord) in about 34 minutes.

The train passes through some rough parts of the City and is subject to pickpockets and con artists **so keep a careful watch on your valuables!**

**Arriving by Eurostar:** The Eurostar arrives at the Gare du Nord railway station. From here you can connect to both the Metro and the RER. For a taxi follow the signs to the taxi rank at the side entrance of the railway station.

**Getting Around**

In order to anticipate your travel, click on this link to look at an interactive map:

[**La carte interactive des impacts sur les déplacements en Île-de-France | Anticiper les Jeux**](https://anticiperlesjeux.gouv.fr/carte-interactive-impacts-deplacements-ile-france)

**Taxis in the City**

It is not easy to find a taxi in Paris. You are more likely to find them at taxi stands on large avenues. Licensed taxis have a sign saying “Taxis Parisiens” on them. Taxis don’t have a common color or type; you will recognize them by the taxi sign on top of the car. If it’s lit up, it means that it is available. All taxis apply the same rates, which vary according to the time range and the day of the week. You don’t have to tip taxi drivers. The “G7” taxi app is widely used to call a taxi.

**Paris Metro**

Metros start running **every day** – including public holidays – at around 6am and stop at around 12.45am (from Sunday to Thursday) or at 1.45am (on Friday and Saturday).

**Metro Tickets & Passes**

**Metro tickets** From 15 July to 8 September 2024, **the Paris 2024 pass** replaces all transport tickets to give you easier access to all the competition venues in Ile-de-France - the **Paris visite pass** cannot be used during the entire Games period : [Préparez votre séjour à Paris : les forfaits et billets faits pour vous | RATP](https://www.ratp.fr/visiter-paris/preparez-sejour-paris-forfaits-billets)

**Staying connected**

**Free Wi-Fi:** Thanks to the Mairie de Paris and the Région Ile-de-France, you can use your laptop or smartphone to surf the internet in the numerous Parisian museums, city halls, libraries and parks. Look out for a purple oval that says Paris Wi-Fi. The service is available between 7.00am at 11pm. You will go through a few steps to set up a login and password. You will then have 2 hours free access to the Internet. The Palais des Congrès will also have free delegate Wi-Fi.

**Do I, or don’t I?**

**Tipping:** In France, the law demands that the service/cover charge must be included in all prices displayed in bars and restaurants.  However, it does not indicate that tipping is not welcome or expected in return for good service.  If service has been good, you should generally leave a little extra by rounding up the bill.  If you are in a bar, it would be appropriate to round the bill to the next euro and in a restaurant a little more, up to 10% if you're feeling generous - but it always depends what value for money you felt you got and how good the service was.

**Staying safe**

The most prevalent crime by far is petty theft especially during Olympic games. Pickpockets and scams, of which there are many. While not common, purse snatching, and muggings do happen. Violent crime is rare. In general, as in any large city, remember to be aware of pickpocket as they act by trying to distract you. Avoid showing off expensive phones or money in public transport or in open areas. Never leave bags unsecured under tables and chairs. When in rail stations in particular, it is strongly recommended not to wear headphones, which makes you an easy target for bag snatchers whilst your concentration is on other things.

**Shopping**

Regulations dictate that most stores and shops in Paris stay closed on Sunday. But, during Olympic games, shops are allowed to open on Sundays.

**Eating Out**

There are numerous restaurants and cafes in and around the Palais des Congrès to suit all tastes. You can always ask at your hotel reception for a recommendation or speak with ‘seasoned’ CIGRE members who will have their favorites. You’ll have plenty of choices but also crowed places. It would be best to check the comments on internet before and/or ask a colleague before booking a restaurant.

**Museums and Galleries**

Paris has a wealth of world-famous museums and galleries (the author’s favorite is Musée de l'Orangerie).

* **The Louvre**, One of the finest museums in the world of art and culture. Home of the Mona Lisa and innumerable others. Enormous building and collection, plan at least two visits. Métro *Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre*
* **Musée d'Orsay**, Incredible collection housed in a former railway station. Works by the great artists of the 19th century (1848-1914) including Monet's "Blue Water Lilies, Renoir's "Bal du moulin de la Galette", van Gogh's "Bedroom in Arles", Whistler's "The Artists Mother", etc. RER *Musée d'Orsay* or Métro *Solférino*
* **Rodin Museum**, His personal collection and archives, in a charming home with garden. Métro *Varenne*
* **Picasso Museum**, Contains the master's own collection. Visitor should note this museum will be closed until 2012 due to renovations of the building. Métro *Saint-Paul* or *Chemin Vert*
* **Musée Marmottan-Monet**, Over 300 paintings of Claude Monet. Also, the works of Berthe Morisot, Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. "Impression Soleil Levant" by Monet is on display. Métro *La Muette*
* **Musée de l’Orangerie, [**Jardin des Tuileries] Houses "The Water Lilies" (or "Nymphéas") - a 360 degree depiction of Monet's flower garden at Giverny. Also, impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings by Cézanne, Matisse, Modigliani, Picasso, Renoir, Rousseau, Soutine, Sisley and others. Métro *Concorde*
* **Musée Delacroix**, Housed in the home of painter Eugene Delacroix. Métro *Mabillon* or *Saint-Germain-des-Près*
* **Centre Georges Pompidou**, The museum of modern art. The building and adjoining Stravinsky Fountain are attractions in themselves. Métro *Rambuteau*

**A special view of Paris**

There are many places you can go to see a skyline view of Paris, for example the top of the Tour Eiffel, the Arc de Triomphe or from the Sacre Coeur. However, the Hyatt Regency Paris Etoile has a bar/lounge on its 33rd floor with outstanding views. There are special express lifts/elevators from the lobby of the hotel. Be warned, the drinks are not cheap, and they become even more expensive after midnight!

**Olympic games**

To get more information:

[Guides spectateurs (olympics.com)](https://olympics.com/fr/paris-2024/spectateurs/guides-spectateurs)

**CIGRE Conference Logistics**

The venue for CIGRE is the Palais des Congres situated close to the Paris city ring-road (the Périphérique), to the west of the Arc de Triomphe. The nearest Metro station is Porte Maillot.

At one end of the complex is the Palais des Congrès with shops on multiple levels connecting to the Hyatt Regency Paris Etoile at the other end. Across the road is Le Méridien Etoile hotel.

Once you arrive at the Palais des Congrès follow the signs to the conference registration where you will be given your CIGRE ‘pack’. This will detail the program for the week and the supporting events. Take a few moments to read through the details. Remember to pick-up your ticket for the conference social event on Thursday night.

**Also, remember that there is a CIGRE 2024 App** that provides all the information you need (programme, papers, exhibition, etc.…).

The conference and exhibition is largely self-contained within the venue, including a large theatre for the opening sessions and numerous conference rooms. The exhibition grows bigger every year with an impressive number of international vendors. Take the opportunity to discover what promotions the vendors might be organizing. These range from technical seminars (some off-site) through to social events.

Lunch is being provided during CIGRE as long as you have signed-up and paid for it. Delegates also tend to use the facilities in the shopping area in the complex or one of the local restaurants in the adjacent streets. However, you will note when you arrive that there is a great deal of construction work taking place outside the Palais de Congrès to getting around may be challenging.

**Technical Sessions**

CIGRE technical sessions are different to most conferences you will have attended.

For an overview of what to expect we recommend watching a 38-minute video at the CIGRE UK website: <https://cigre.org.uk/blog/cigre-paris-session-2024-what-to-expect/>

Although papers have been submitted, the authors do not present their paper at the conference. Instead, perhaps a year before the conference, a number of ‘Special Reporters’ (SR) are appointed from each Study Committee for each of the Preferential Subjects which are the themes for the sessions.

The SR is the chairman for the topic. The SR has read all the papers for the topic and prepared perhaps 15 or 20 questions based on the papers. The papers are available to download for registered attendees (see the CIGRE website) so you can study them on your journey to Paris!

At the Sessions, anyone can present a contribution as a response to any of the questions. Contributions are usually required to be submitted as PowerPoint slides a week or more before the conference.

Depending on the topic and degree of popularity of responses, contributions may be limited to just two minutes. Many contributors are surprised when the SR tells them to cut half of their slides out – this is a process usually organized on the day before each Study Committee session so find out who, when and where your contributions need to be sent to as you may need to submit a week before and then meet with the SR the day before the session.

The session itself is therefore consists of prepared contributions. With a maximum of a few minutes each and a couple of slides, they need to be short and snappy. Some are better at this than others, noting that there are cultures from all over the world trying to present technical issues in English, often not their native language.

What it means for you is that to follow the questions and the contributions you generally need to have read or skimmed all the papers for that Session!

So having covered the exhibition and the technical sessions, you will hear of lots of people meeting all over the place. These are generally the Working Groups who take advantage of everyone being in the same place.

Generally, Working Groups welcome observers even if they have not been members or corresponding members so respect the fact that these groups have been meeting a few times throughout the year already and are in widely different stages in their work cycle. The challenge is that for each Study Committee there are several WGs so there is inevitably a multi‐conflict of where you would like to be.

**And finally**

I hope that this short guide is of some use. Enjoy this unique event… and enjoy Paris!

For more information, go to: [http://en.parisinfo.com](http://en.parisinfo.com/)

CIGRE UK National Committee: 2024