

Paris

LET'S GET  
**TOGETHER AND**  
**TALK!**



1 ORGANISATION • 7 LANGUAGES • 30 DESTINATIONS • COUNTLESS MEMORIES

## WELCOME TO SPRACHCAFFE

You are obviously committed not just to having a holiday, but at the same time, also learning a new language or improving your skills in a language you already know. This is why we would like to send you our warmest congratulations! It is great when people want to make the world a bit smaller for themselves.

*"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart."* Nelson Mandela

It pleases us even more that you have chosen Sprachcaffe for your *language trip*. Lively teaching methods, a relaxed and stress-free atmosphere, learning through interaction and chatting (which helps you bond with others) - we have become experts with our 30 year experience in language teaching and with our 32 destinations worldwide.

In the enclosed documents you will find everything you need to know for your trip. **Please do not travel without this information sheet.** If you have any additional questions, we are glad to answer them from Monday to Friday 9:00am to 7:00pm on Tel.: 0049 (0) 69 6109 120, or [info@sprachcaffe.com](mailto:info@sprachcaffe.com)

We wish you a great holiday and lots of success

### Your Sprachcaffe Team



## Contents

<b>THE TRIP</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>2</b>
APARTMENTS	2
HOST FAMILIES	2
HOTEL	3
<b>THE SCHOOL</b>	<b>4</b>
THE LESSONS	4
EXAM COURSES	5
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>5</b>
LANGUAGE TEST	5
ENTERTAINMENT	6
WHAT TO SEE	7
<b>FEEDBACK</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>LAGE DER SCHULE</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CHECKLIST BEFORE DEPARTURE</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CHECKLIST FOR RETURNING HOME</b>	<b>12</b>

## The Trip

**Getting to Paris by plane:** There are two airports in Paris, Charles de Gaulle (CDG) and Orly (ORY). Please note that most flights are non-smoking. Important for packing: on regular flights you are only allowed to take two pieces of luggage weighing a total of 20 kg. Please be at the airport about 90 min before departure!

### **Sprachcaffe wishes you a pleasant flight!**

Travelling to the centre of Paris from either airport is very easy. Your first contact address is stated on your voucher. This address will be your host family or your apartment. Your voucher will also tell you which metro station is nearest to your accommodation.

### **Charles de Gaulle airport:**

You can choose between different transport services:

A taxi to the school will cost you about €60 (depending on the time of day or night). It is also possible to go to the school by public transport: The Roissy RER B (train) from Terminal 1 and 2 (there are shuttle buses from each terminal to the RER stop), goes to the metro stations Gare du Nord, Chatelet and St. Michel in the city centre, or the "Roissybus". The bus links Terminal 2 to the Opera house, right in the centre of Paris with connections to different métro lines. Travel time is about 50 min. Daily departures are every 15 minutes from 6am to 7pm and every 20 minutes from 7pm to 11pm. The shuttle ticket costs about **€10** and can be purchased on the bus, from ticket machines or from RATP counters.

If you arrive at **Orly Airport** the taxi to school will cost you about €40. Another possibility is to take the train "Orlyval" or the "Orlybus": If you take the train you will have to take the shuttle train to Antony, then you will have to switch to the RER B. The Orlyval departs daily from 6am to 11pm, the travel time is 40 minutes and the price is about **€9** and can be bought from Orlyval agencies at the terminals.

The bus goes to Denfert-Rochereau RER station. It departs daily every 20 minutes from 6am to 11am and costs about **€8**. Tickets can be bought on the bus or from ticket offices at the airport. Travel time is 30 minutes on average. For further information please take a look at [www.ratp.fr](http://www.ratp.fr)

**To Paris by train: There are 6 stations: Gare de L'Est , Gare du Nord ,Gare de Lyon , Gare Montparnasse , Gare d'austerlitz et Gare de Bercy** from your station, you will have to take the métro to your accommodation.

**For organisational reasons we kindly ask you to give us your arrival dates at least one week before departure.** The regular arrival day is the Sunday before the course starts, if not otherwise confirmed by us. If you do plan to arrive at another time, you will need to have it reconfirmed by your Sprachcaffe key account person. We will be available for you to agree on this up to three days prior to departure.

**Important! Please understand that we cannot guarantee a smooth check-in on the day of arrival if we are not informed of arrival dates or delays or do not receive confirmation!**

**In case of an emergency please contact the following number: 0033 (0) 6 83 28 82 06.**

## Accommodation

**It is our aim to provide the best service possible. However, if you have any issue during you stay please talk directly to the school staff.**

Your first contact address, which is stated on your voucher, will always be your accommodation address, either the apartment or host family. To find your way to your accommodation you can use the following link: <http://www.ratp.fr/> it can be viewed in different languages. For many accommodations we send you the closest metro station, which you can enter in the link.

### Apartments

#### **Important!**

**Please remember the code of your door or make sure that you write it down and take it with you at all times! The code is your key!**

Having chosen an apartment, you will get to experience a special kind of "shared living" for the duration of your holiday if you book double room. You share the apartment, kitchen and bathroom with another course participant who normally comes from a different country.

This "flat-sharing" or the "Residence sharing" is part of our concept for communicative learning and gives you the possibility of organising excursions, theatre and cinema visits with other course participants at the same time. If you have booked a double room instead of a single room, we will find the "right person" for you to share the room with.

**Please note that all apartments are only available for course participants and not for friends or relatives.**

For extra-stays, which are not free, you need to have our confirmation at school.

**Please note that the apartments are not hotels. All course participants have to take care of the cleaning themselves.**

We recommend that you and your fellow lodgers make a plan so that the work can be shared evenly. Rubbish and empty bottles will have to be thrown away regularly.

We want all our course participants to feel at home and hope that all of you will treat the apartments, rooms and facilities accordingly. Your fellow lodgers would surely appreciate a clean lounge, kitchen and bathroom. You may want to invite your new friends from school to dinner or to a little party. In this case, you should, however, talk to your fellow lodgers first. You should respect the privacy of your fellow lodgers and avoid unnecessary noise, especially late in the evening or at night.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask you to leave the rooms before 10:00pm. Bed sheets are provided one time, you should, however, bring your own towels.

### Host families

**Please remember the code of your door or make sure that you take it with you at all times! The code is your key!**

Living together with a French host family means living their life style! You will be able to practise what you have learned during the course and you will shed your fear while communicating with the family.

The French host families are very open-minded, helpful and welcoming to their guests. Our host families are not always families in the traditional sense. They can also be active single people or elderly couples who will have a lot of time to spend with their guests.

In general, the families will introduce you to their habits on the day of your arrival, such as the handing over of the key, times for meals and use of the washing machine. You should also be prepared to get to know this new culture. Normally, you share the bathroom with other members of the family.

Of course living together naturally means sticking to some rules. Please make sure that you always leave your room and bathroom clean and tidy and that you do not damage the furniture. Please take this into consideration and avoid unnecessary noise, especially late in the evening and at night. We appreciate your understanding when asking you not to use the host family's telephone to call your family at home.

Please inform your host family beforehand if you will not be home for a meal, if you plan to go on a trip for a few days or if you are not staying at home overnight. Otherwise, your family will be worried unnecessarily! In general, families do not mind if you invite new friends from the course home. But you should talk to your host family about it first if you plan to bring home some friends! Bed sheets are available, you should, however, bring your own towels. Please note that there is no possibility wash your clothes in the family.

### **Hotel**

Accommodation in a hotel is the most comfortable and independent way of staying in Paris, where you will be able to enjoy the service of a mid-standard hotel. You are more independent and you will have some quiet time to study or relax. Naturally, all rooms have their own bathroom, and bed sheets and towels are provided. The hotels are mainly close to the school. Please find the detailed address on the enclosed voucher.

## The school

On the first day, **please be at the school by 08:45am**. All course participants have to do a placement test to determine the language level. We kindly ask you to do the test online at home before you departure. On the first day of school you are informed of your group and the lesson will start immediately.

**The address of the school is:**      **Sprachcaffe Paris / Institut Rougemont Superieur**  
6, Rue Rougemont / 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
F - 75009 Paris  
Phone: 0033 (0) 142 46 48 04  
**Emergency number: 0033 (0) 6 83 28 82 06**

School director: Jacques Botton  
School opening: Monday to Friday 8:30 – 17:00

The nearest metro station is Grands Boulevards (exit/sortie Rue Rougemont) only three minutes walking distance from school. Rue Rougemont is a small side road off Boulevard Poissonnière with a lot of tiny shops. At the end of the street, you will see a beautiful building - the Banque National de Paris. When you are in front of N°6, walk through the archway right beside the “ Institut Capillaire” and take the entrance to the building on the left-hand side. Walk up the stairs to the first floor. You will find restaurants, snack bars, cinemas and boutiques very close to the school on the Boulevard Poissionnière.

**Opening hours:** 8:45 - 17:00 from Monday to Friday, except public holidays and the Christmas break.

**Languages spoken by the staff at the school:** French, English, Spanish

**Bistro, Snacks and Drinks:** A student lounge with a soft-drinks machine is available.

**Internet room:** 4 computers for students, free internet access and free wireless internet access for students who bring their own laptop.

**Study Room:** A study room where students can do their homework and study is available in the afternoons.

## The Lessons

All teachers are so-called “native speakers”, this means they teach in their mother tongue. The teachers are your advisors: competent and committed.

The topics of the lessons are varied. Our course teachers use materials such as newspaper articles and include socio-political topics, theatre or literature reviews as part of the teaching. We find communication, such as through dialogue, a valuable teaching method. It is, however, also necessary to teach grammar and vocabulary! The students come mainly from German speaking countries as well as the USA, Brazil and Japan.

### We offer three different types of courses:

- Standard course                      4 lessons of 45 minutes each
- Intensive course                      6 lessons of 45 minutes each
- Private lessons                      2, 4 or 6 lessons of 45 minutes per day

We form the course groups according to the language level, which means that the standard and intensive course participants are in different groups.

A student may change into a lower or higher level group after consulting the course teacher or following his/her recommendation. The maximum number of students in one group is 12.

**Lessons are not held on the following public holidays in 2014: 01.01.-03.01., 21.04., 01.05., 08.05., 29.05., 09.06., 14.07., 15.08., 11.11., and 20.12. – 03.01.2015. Please note that lessons lost due to public holidays, late arrival or early departure will not be made up.**

**In general, your timetable will be as follows:**

From Monday to Friday:

- 09:00am – 10:30am
- 10:30am – 11:00am break
- 11:00am – 12:30pm end of standard course
- 12:30pm – 01:30pm break
- 01:30pm – 03:00pm end of intensive course

**Please note!**

Exceptionally for organisational reasons, lessons might be held in the afternoon.

### Exam Courses

The school offers preparation for the D.E.L.F. Test (Diplome d'Étude de Langue Française). Applications need to be made at least four weeks before the beginning of the course.

Our employees and teachers have a lot experience with long-term students and especially with examination preparation courses. However, please also take into consideration that the teachers, despite their years of experience, cannot be held fully responsible for the examination results. Only if you participate actively in the lessons, will you be best prepared for the examination.

**Please note!**

In the unlikely event the school won't be able to create a group course due to lack of enough students at the same time/level, smaller group courses or single lessons for a reduced amount of time will be provided instead: 20 lessons = 12 lessons, 30 lessons = 18 lessons. In the rare circumstances of being forced to cancel, all fees will be refunded. The minimum number of participants for examination preparation courses is 4.

### Language test

Sprachcaffe has introduced a new online placement test. We kindly ask you to do it before you arrive at school. Doing the online exam in advance will allow you to start your lessons straight away.

To access the online test, please go to <http://shop.sprachcaffe.com/onlinetests/>. You can log in using your surname (or email address) and booking number (see our documents for the correct spelling).

The test can be done at any time up to 12:00pm (CET) Friday before the programme begins. Thereafter the test will be switched off and you will no longer be able to access it.

Please do not use a dictionary or any other aids when doing this exam as its purpose is to assess your language ability and place you in an appropriate class. It is better not to answer questions that you do not know, as guessing will affect your score and could result in your being placed in a class that is too difficult for you.

You have 45 minutes to do the exam from the moment you enter the site. Thereafter, the test will automatically shut down. If you finish before time runs out, you can click 'submit' at the bottom of the test. The test result will be forwarded automatically to Sprachcaffe. You will find out your teacher's name and classroom number on your first day at school.

Please note that you can only access the **online test** once!

**It is our aim to provide the best service possible. However, if you have any issue during you stay please talk directly to the school staff.**

## General Information

**Airport:** Charles-de-Gaulle: Tel.: 01.48.62.22.80, Orly: Tel.: 01.49.75.15.15

**Taxi:** In Paris there are countless taxi companies. The basic price is 4€. Luggage costs extra.

**Money:** We recommend taking cash with you. You can withdraw money from every cash machine with a eurocheck or credit card. (etc. Visa Card, American Express or Eurocard). You can also use Travellers Cheques which you can change in every bank.

**Making calls:** The international dialing code for France is 0033 plus the number you wish to dial. In Paris every landline number starts with a 1 and mobile number with a 6.

### Climate

Paris lies in the midst of the Ile de France region, which has France's lowest rainfall, however the city is known for its unexpected rain showers which can occur at any time of year. Summer temperatures are mild to warm, with occasional heat waves, while winters are very chilly with temperatures hovering around freezing point.

Rainfall can occur at any time of the year, and Paris is known for its sudden showers. The city sees an average yearly precipitation of 641.6 mm (25.2 inches). Snowfall is a rare occurrence, usually appearing in the coldest months of January or February (but has been recorded as late as April), and almost never accumulates enough to make a covering that will last more than a day.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Max. temperatures</b>	6	8	12	16	19	23	25	24	21	15	10	7
<b>Min. temperatures</b>	1	2	4	6	10	13	15	14	12	8	4	2
<b>Hours of sun</b>	2	3	5	6	7	8	8	7	6	4	2	2
<b>Days with rain</b>	11	10	10	9	11	9	8	7	8	9	10	9

**Documents:** To be well prepared in case you lose your documents we recommend making photocopies of all important documents (passport, ticket, insurance papers, credit card, etc). Do not keep the copies together with the original document.

### Architecture

"Modern" Paris is the result of a vast mid-19th century urban remodelling. For centuries it had been a labyrinth of narrow streets and half-timber houses, but beginning in 1852, the Baron Haussmann's vast urbanisation levelled entire quarters to make way for wide avenues lined with neo-classical stone buildings of *bourgeoise* standing; most of this 'new' Paris is the Paris we see today. These Second Empire plans are in many cases still in effect, as the city of Paris imposes the then-defined "*alignement*" law (imposed position defining a predetermined street width) on many new constructions. The height of a building was also defined according to the width of the street it lines, and Paris' building code has seen few changes since the mid-19th century to allow for higher constructions. It is for this reason that Paris is mainly a "flat" city.

### Entertainment

#### Opera

Opéra Garnier

Paris' largest opera houses are the 19th century Opéra Garnier and modern Opéra Bastille; the former tends towards the more classic ballets and operas, and the latter provides a mixed repertoire of classic and modern.

#### Theatre/Concert halls

Theatre traditionally, has had a large place in Parisian culture. This still holds true today, although, perhaps strangely, many of its most popular actors today are also stars of French television. A few of Paris' major theatres are Bobino, Théâtre Mogador and the Théâtre de la Gaîté-Montparnasse. Some Parisian theatres also doubled as concert halls.

Many of France's greatest musical legends such as Édith Piaf, Maurice Chevalier, Georges Brassens and Charles Aznavour found their fame in Parisian concert halls: legendary yet still-showing examples of these are Le Lido, Bobino, l'Olympia, la Cigale and le Splendid.

Mentioned below the Élysées-Montmartre, much reduced from its original size, is a concert hall today. The New Morning is one of few Parisian clubs still holding jazz concerts, but it also specialises in 'indie' music. More recently, the Zenith hall in Paris' La Villette quarter and a "parc-omnisports" stadium in Bercy serve as large-scale rock concert halls.

### Dancehalls/Discotheques

*Guinguettes* and *Bals-concerts* were the backbone of Parisian entertainment before the mid-20th century. Early to mid-19th century examples were the *Moulin de la Galette* guinguette and the *Élysées-Montmartre* and *Chateau-Rouge* dancehalls-gardens. Popular orchestral fare gave way to the Parisian accordionists of lore whose music moved the *Apollo* and *le Java* faubourg du Temple and Belleville dance-hall crowds. Out of the clubs remaining from this era grew the modern *discothèque*: Le Palace, although closed today, is Paris' most legendary example. Today, much of the clubbing in Paris happens in clubs like Le Queen, L'Etoile, Le Cab which are highly selective. Electronic music oriented clubs such as Le Rex, the Batofar (a boat converted into a club) or The Pulp are quite popular and some of the world's best DJs play there.

### Cafes, Restaurants

Les Deux Magots

Cafés quickly became an integral part of French culture from their appearance, namely from the opening of the left bank Café Procope in 1689 and the *café Régence* at the Palais Royal one year earlier. The cafés in the gardens of the latter became quite popular through the 18th century, and can be considered Paris' first "terrace cafés"; these would not become widespread until sidewalks and boulevards began to appear from the mid-19th century. Cafés are an almost obligatory stop on the way to or from work for many Parisians, and especially during lunchtime.

### What to see

**Champs-Élysées** is a seventeenth century garden-promenade turned avenue connecting the Concorde and Arc de Triomphe. It is one of the many tourist attractions and a major shopping street of Paris. This avenue has been called "la plus belle avenue du monde" ("the most beautiful avenue in the world").

**Place de la Concorde** is at the foot of the Champs-Élysées, built as the "Place Louis XV", site of the infamous guillotine. The Egyptian obelisk is Paris' "oldest monument". On this square, on the two sides of the *Rue Royale*, there are two identical stone buildings: the eastern houses the French Naval Ministry, the western the luxurious Hôtel de Crillon.

**L'Opéra** is the area around the Opéra Garnier; it is home to the capital's densest concentration of both department stores and offices. A few examples are the Printemps and Galeries Lafayette *grands magasins* (department stores), and the Paris headquarters of financial giants such as Crédit Lyonnais and American Express.

**Montmartre** is a historic area on the Butte, home to the Basilica of the Sacré Coeur. Montmartre has always had a history with artists and has many studios and cafés of many great artists in that area.

**Quartier Latin** is a twelfth century scholastic centre formerly stretching between the Left Bank's Place Maubert and the Sorbonne campus. It is known for its lively atmosphere and many bistros. With various higher education establishments, such as the École Normale Supérieure, ParisTech and the Jussieu university campus, a major educational centre in Paris, it has a special atmosphere.

**Montparnasse** is a historic Left Bank area famous for artists studios, music halls, and café life. The large Montparnasse - Bienvenue *métro* station and the lone Tour Montparnasse skyscraper are located there.

### **Gardens**

Two of Paris' oldest and most famous gardens are the Tuileries Garden, created in the 16th century for a palace on the banks of the Seine near the Louvre, and the Left bank Luxembourg Garden, another formerly private garden belonging to a château built for the Marie de' Medici in 1612. The Jardin des Plantes, created by Louis XIII's doctor Guy de La Brosse for the cultivation of medicinal plants, was Paris' first public garden.

**La Défense** (straddling the communes of Courbevoie, Puteaux, and Nanterre, 2.5 km/1.5 miles west of the City of Paris) is a key suburb of Paris and is one of the largest business centres in the world. Built at the western end of a westward extension of Paris' historical axis from the Champs-Élysées, La Défense consists mainly of business highrises. Initiated by the French government in 1958, the district hosts 3.5 million m<sup>2</sup> of offices, making of it the largest district in Europe specifically developed for business. The Grande Arche (Great Arch) of La Défense, which houses a part of the French Transport Ministry's headquarters, ends the central Esplanade around which the district is organised.

### **Landmarks**

Three of the most famous Parisian landmarks are the twelfth century cathedral Notre Dame de Paris on the Île de la Cité, the nineteenth century Eiffel Tower, and the Napoleonic Arc de Triomphe. The Eiffel Tower was a "temporary" construction by Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 Universal Exposition but the tower was never dismantled and is now an enduring symbol of Paris. It is visible from many parts of the city as are the Tour Montparnasse skyscraper and the Basilica of the Sacré Cœur on the Montmartre hill.

## Feedback

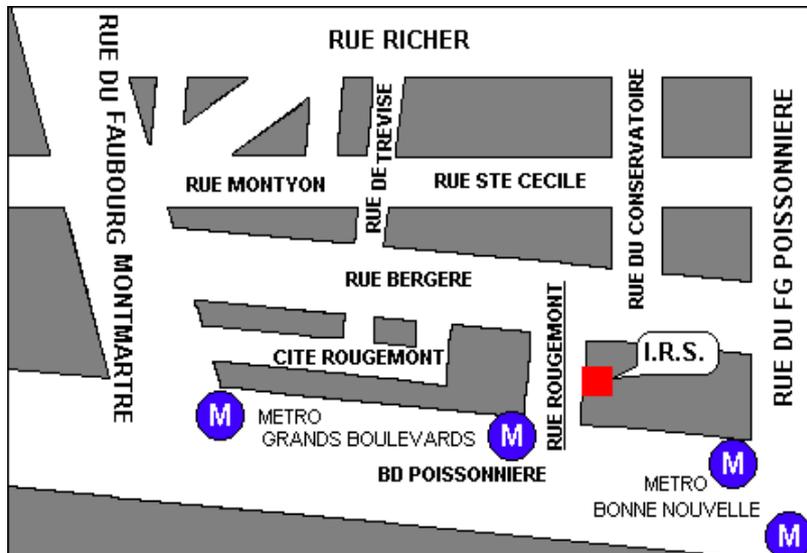
Before the everyday routine back at home sets in completely we would be very pleased if you could give us your feedback. As a participant you can tell us about your experiences. Just fill out the online form at <http://www.sprachcaffe.com/english/feedback.htm> We always welcome ideas, tips and constructive criticism!

Address: **Sprachcaffe Languages PLUS**  
Headquartes Gartenstrasse 6  
D – 60594 Frankfurt/Main  
Tel.: 069 (0) 6109 120  
Fax: 069 (0) 603 1395  
Email: [info@sprachcaffe.com](mailto:info@sprachcaffe.com)  
[www.sprachcaffe.com](http://www.sprachcaffe.com)

**We wish you a wonderful stay and a successful language course!**

**Your  
Sprachcaffe Team**

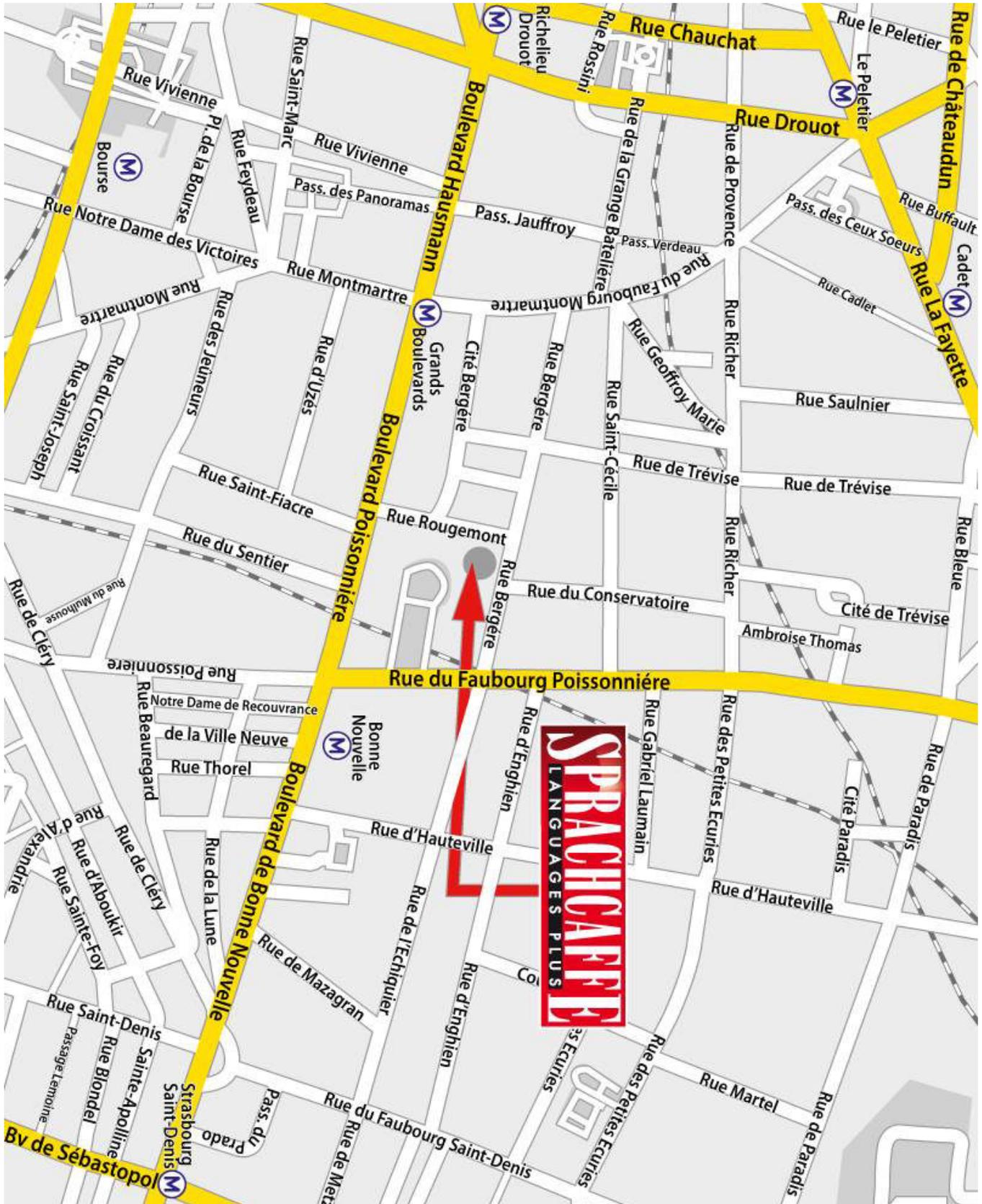
Access map



***Métro : Grands Boulevards***



## Lage der Schule



## Checklist before departure

Things you might want to think of when packing your luggage

### Important travel items

- Travel guide
- Reading material
- Dictionary
- Cash, credit card
- Phone number of your credit card company, in case you have to block the card
- Vaccination card
- Inform Sprachcaffe about arrival time
- Alarm clock
- Sunglasses

### First-aid kit

- Sunscreen
- Any medicine required
- Insect spray
- Medicine for stomach trouble
- Plasters
- After-sun lotion
- Tweezers

### Travel documents

- Identity card
- Flight or train ticket
- Student ID
- Sprachcaffe travel documents

### Sport/Hobby

- Camera
- Extra film, extra memory card
- Music / radio
- Batteries
- Sports equipment

### Insurances

- Travel health insurance
- Luggage insurance
- Insurance card from your car insurance
- Phone number of your car insurance

## Checklist for returning home

- Buy souvenirs for friends and relatives at home
- Exchange addresses with people in the course, teachers and host family
- Pick up course participation certificate
- Tidy and clean up the room
- Pack and check the rooms for anything left behind