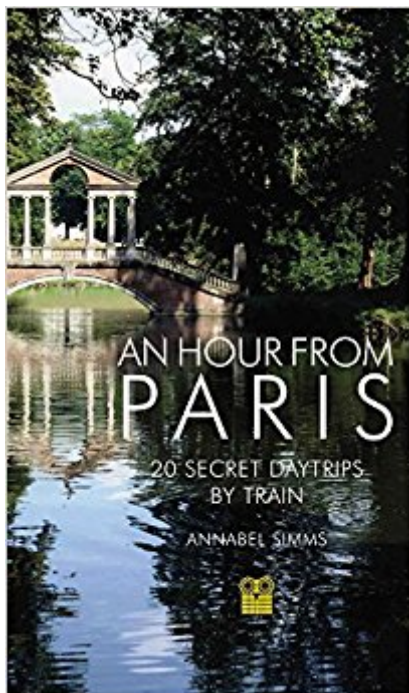


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# An Hour From Paris: 20 Secret Day Trips By Train



## Synopsis

Discover half-hidden châteaux and artists' country houses; walk, boat or dance by the river; explore old towns and country footpaths; and eat in family-run restaurants with 1950s decor and prices to match. Based on over 20 years' experience of exploring the Paris countryside by train, each visit includes the essential historical context and practical information to help you discover places unknown to many Parisians. Written with humor and a flair for the unusual and authentic, the text is illustrated with original photos and local maps. It includes a unique guide to using the excellent local train network.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Pallas Athene; 3 edition (October 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1843681315

ISBN-13: 978-1843681311

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.6 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #542,751 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #170 in Books > Travel > Europe > France > Paris #805 in Books > Travel > Europe > France > General

## Customer Reviews

"Fantastic." — Bill Bryson "The most exciting travel guide I've read in years."  
— Huffington Post

The Ile de France — the countryside around Paris — is perhaps the most interesting and least known of French regions. Its old towns hold the key to the history of France but have been so eclipsed by Paris that they now offer the paradox of being easily reached yet hardly touched by tourism. Annabel Simms, who has spent ten years discovering the region, now offers this splendid guide to a score of destinations within an hour of Paris. A suggested itinerary might include a château, a market, a riverside restaurant, a boat trip, a country walk. Better known destinations include the châteaux of Chantilly, Ecouen, and Rambouillet, but the reader will also discover the Roman town of Senlis; the medieval town of Crecy-la-Chapelle, with its moats and canals; and the water mills of

Moret, Auxerre, and Laing, which inspired the Impressionists. Each destination is described in detail, with particular emphasis on the historical, literary, and artistic connections, and maps and color illustrations complete this refreshingly unique guide. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Is it possible to make Paris richer and more satisfying? Welcome to the Ile de France, the region surrounding Paris. This wonderful book offers countryside and small town destinations that are easily reached by fast, comfortable, and frequent trains. On our last trip, we made four of the trips, and we found them consistently satisfying. Based only on our own experience, we would suggest Sceaux and Rambouillet as pleasant and worthwhile destinations, both offering gardens as well as sweet towns. When we left Paris, we gave our copy of the book to friends who live there. We eagerly await the new edition.

For most short-term visitors to Paris, the idea of leaving the city just doesn't occur. There is a weeks' worth of sightseeing in the historic center at least; much more within the city's numbered arrondissements. Possible exceptions might be Versailles, Giverny, Chatou, etc. But what if you're in Paris for an extended period of time and want explore the immediate hinterland i.e. the Ile de France? This is where Paris resident Annabel Simms' little guidebook, "An Hour from Paris" becomes interesting and highly valuable. Simms has about 20 suggestions for very cool places to visit that are accessible via the regional train system (RER and SNCF). These are small towns, villages or chateaus of historic and cultural interest. Most are beautiful/quaint and offer a welcome break from urban life in Paris. Everyone will have their own favorites. I personally loved jaunts to Senlis and Sceaux--both visits easily done in a day. "An Hour from Paris" is not a guide to buy if you're going to be in Paris for a limited time, but for the lucky soul who has a few weeks, months, etc. there, it's a great addition to the library of info about everyone's favorite city to visit.

This is a book for a visitor who has been to Paris a number of times and is looking for a different experience. There is so much to do and see in the city itself that there is more than enough to occupy first and second visits. On subsequent visits one starts to look for something different. The beauty of the book is the wide range of interesting places that it discusses within easy range of Paris that are so different from the city itself. One of the great pleasures of France is the French countryside. Many of the places described in this book give a taste of it that can be enjoyed in a comparatively short time. Directions are clear and specific, both as to how to get there and what to

do. The detailed guide to the French public transport system is particularly useful. The places chosen are varied and interesting. For example, we spent a wonderful day at Chantilly as a result of this book and I am looking forward to many more interesting days like that on my coming visit. An attraction is the guide to interesting walks and good places to eat where the food quality is often superior to and the prices much less than is the case in Paris. The book is written in an entertaining fashion by a person who obviously knows her subject well and I can thoroughly recommend it.

Travel guides are often compendia of useful information that make for rather dull reading. This one, however, while filled with detailed information about fascinating places not readily available elsewhere, is such good reading that it almost makes trips to the actual places unnecessary. Almost, but not quite. The trips I've taken so far to a few of the places mentioned (places I would not likely have found on my own) have been memorable high spots of many trips to Paris -- a guinguette on the Marne; the Musée D partemental Maurice Denis in Saint-Germain-en-Laye; quite walks along the Seine almost in the center of Paris. It's so nice to take a break for a day from wonderful but sometimes hectic city, while still coming back each night to a favorite hotel and a favorite bistro. I only wish I'd had this book 30 years ago. I no longer even think of going to Paris without it.

I am a Paris Lover and own many many books about the city, its architecture and its history. This is a fantastic book and I am thrilled to have found it. Beautifully written with clear instructions on how to take some wonderful day trips from Paris by public transportation. Also included are places to eat and points of interest. The Ile de France has remained undisturbed in parts and is still there to be explored. Some friends took one of these trips a few years ago and it became a memorable part of their Paris experience. Annabel Sims did a terrific job! I highly recommend this book if you are interested in getting some non-touristic experiences during your Parisian stay.

This small, softback book selects special places accessible by train in an hour or less, though three take a but more but are worth it. For each visit, every detail you could want is included: how to get there by train or car and how long it takes; when to go both by day of the week and season; how long a recommended visit will take once there; useful information on sites and tourist offices and a few cafes in the area. The excellent maps with walking routes (and minor detours down interesting streets) might mention a market square with stalls where you can buy picnic supplies. Well researched and informative - a real treasure.

this little book has great write ups of the smaller towns outside of Paris-very helpful in planning excursions from Paris. What to see, what to do and what are the geographical areas known for. What recommend to anyone travelling to Paris and interested in side trips.

This book is ideal for people living in Paris who like to explore the less well-known and touristy parts of this wonderful city, or just like to get away from the crowds and city living every so often. The book is well organised, with a great summary map at the front with a diagram of all the trips, which direction they are in, which metro to leave from, how long the train takes to get there, and which page the details are on. It is a great size (not too big and heavy so you can take it with you to read on the train on your way).

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