

# Paris's sights.

Disneyland Paris.

Disneyland Paris, originally Euro Disney Resort, is an entertainment resort in Marne-le-Vallee, France, a new town located 32km(20mi) east of the centre of Paris. It encompasses two theme parks, many resort hotels, a shopping, dining, and entertainment complex, and a golf course, in addition to several

additional recreational and entertainment venues. Disneyland Park is the original theme park of the complex, opening with the resort on 12 April 1992.

In 25 years, 320 million people visited Disneyland Paris.

## **History**

Following the success of Disneyland in California and Walt Disney World in Florida, plans to build a similar theme park in Europe emerged in 1972. Under the leadership of E. Cardon Walker, Tokyo Disneyland opened in 1983 in Japan with instant success, forming a catalyst for international expansion. In late 1984 the heads of Disney's theme park division, Dick Nunis and Jim Cora, presented a list of approximately 1200 possible European locations for the park. Britain, France, Italy and Spain were all a suitable expanse of flat land. By March 1985, the number of possible locations for the park had been reduced to four; two in France

and two in Spain. Both nations saw the potential economic advantages of a Disney theme park and offered competing financing deals to Disney.



# Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel Tower is a wrought-iron lattice tower on the *Champ de Mars* in Paris, France. It is named after the engineer *Gustave Eiffel*, whose company designed and built the tower.

The tower is 324 metres tall, about the same height as an 81-storey building, and *the tallest structure in Paris*. The tower has three levels for visitors, with restaurants on the first and second levels. The top level's upper platform is 276m above the ground—the highest *observation deck* accessible to the public in the *European Union*. Tickets can be purchased to ascend by stairs or lift to the climb from the first level to the second. Although there is a staircase to the top level, it is usually accessible only by lift.



Little progress was made until 1886, when Jules Grevy was reelected as president of France and Edouard Lockroy was appointed as minister for trade. A budget for the exposition was passed and, on 1-May, Lockroy announced an alteration to the terms of the open competition being held for a centerpiece to the exposition, which effectively made the selection of Eiffel's design a foregone conclusion, as entries had to include a study for a 300m four-sided metal tower on the *Champ de Mars*. On 12-May, a commission was set up to examine Eiffel's scheme and its rivals, which, month later, decided that all the proposals except Eiffel's were either impractical or lacking in details.