

Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours

Navigating CDG Airport Like a Master

Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport is an immense airport that ranks number three in Europe in terms of traffic volume. For the infrequent traveler, navigating CDG airport can feel like a daunting task. We hope this article will help you navigate CDG airport like a master.

A significant number of Knee Deep Into History's WW1 and WW2 battlefield tours start and end in Paris, and we are writing this guide to help our clients feel more comfortable navigating CDG.

Three Terminals, One Airport

The first step to understanding CDG's layout is to know that CDG has three terminals: One, Two and Three.

Terminal Two is the largest terminal; and it is further divided into sub-terminals 2A and 2B, 2C and 2D, 2E and 2F, and 2G. Most Air France flights utilize Terminal 2.

Terminal 3 primarily handles charter and budget airlines. I have never flown into Terminal 3 from the USA.



Know which terminal / sub-terminal your airline / flight is using before your flight. As I write this, the list below shows the major US airlines and the terminals they use. Of course, this could change in the future, so it is best to confirm the terminal prior to your departure.

AerLingus, Terminal 1
American Airlines, Terminal 2A
Delta Airlines, Terminal 2E
United Airlines, Terminal 1

Moving from One Terminal to Another

The easiest (and cost-free) method of moving from one terminal to another terminal is to use the CDGVAL shuttle. It stops once at each Terminal. Just look for the CDGVAL sign and follow it.



There are five stops on the CDGVAL, in this order:

- 1) Terminal 1
- 2) Parking Pr, with access to certain airport hotels
- 3) Terminal 3 Roissypole, with access to the bus station, RER station and certain airport hotels
- 4) Parking Px
- 5) Terminal 2 between sub-terminals 2C/2D and 2E/2F, near the SCNF and RER stations and the Sheraton hotel



Moving from CDG to Paris Using Regional Public Transportation

The easiest and cheapest way to get into Paris from the airport is to take the RER B line train. (RER = Réseau Express Régional, the regional rail network serving Paris and suburbs.) Travelers can catch the RER B line in Terminal 2 or Terminal 3. The RER B line also goes to Paris' Gare du Nord station.

Faster Connection to Paris Coming in 2027 via the CDG Express!

There are plenty of signs in the airport for the CDG Express, which is supposed to enter service sometime in 2027. It promises to get travelers to the center of Paris in just 20 minutes!



Taking Trains from CDG to Long Distance Destinations

Terminal 2 also has an SNCF station for certain “grandes lignes” trains--mainline train services.

In Terminal 2 the RER and SNCF stations are situated between sub-terminals 2C/2D and 2E/2F.



Catching the Bus for Local or Long-distance Destinations

There is the Gare routière Bus Terminal, with an information and ticketing desk, situated just outside Terminal 3. Passengers can catch both local and long-distance buses (Flixbus, Bla Bla Car, etc.) there.

When I used the information desk recently, the staff was very helpful.



Selecting a Hotel

Travelers basically have three options when selecting a hotel: A Parisian hotel, an airport hotel or a near-airport hotel. The selection process is largely dependent on budget constraints, travel style and length and purpose of stay.

Because my stays in Paris are generally just before or after battlefield tours, I tend to select an airport hotel. These are generally cheaper and easier for connections than a hotel in Paris. At the same time, I have the option of taking the RER B into Paris easily, if I want to spend some time in Paris.

While airport hotels cost €40-60 Euros more per night than near-airport hotels, they provide easy access to the CDGVAL and, therefore, to the terminals and train stations. Also, getting to and from the near-airport hotels is generally dependent on taxis or shuttle schedules and there can be a small fee of €6-8 Euros for shuttles, negating a portion of the cost savings.

If you are using a near-airport hotel, be sure to know where you need to catch the shuttle or be prepared to take a taxi.

The list below provides some information on CDG's airport hotels that can help you make your decision.

CDG HOTEL COMPARISON						
Sorted by Ratings on Booking.com						
Name	Chain	Stars	Booking Ratings	Distance per Booking	Price*	CDGVAL Stop
INNSIDE by Melia Paris Charles de Gaulle	Melia	4	8.7	0.9 mi.	€ 137	Pr
Citizen M Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport	Marriott	4	8.6	0.5 mi.	€ 147	T3
Moxy Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport	Marriott	3	8.5	1.0 mi.	€ 136	Pr
Holiday Inn Express Paris CDG Airport by IHG	IHG	3	8.4	1.0 mi.	€ 135	Pr
Courtyard by Marriott Paris Charles de Gaulle Central Airport	Marriott	4	8.3	0.9 mi.	€ 143	Pr
Residence Inn by Marriott Paris Charles de Gaulle Central Airport	Marriott	4	8.3	0.9 mi.	€ 163	Pr
Sheraton Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport Hotel	Marriott	4	8.2	Terminal 2	€ 277	T2
Radisson Blu CDG Airport Terminal Hotel Paris	Radisson	4	8.1	0.4 mi.	€ 160	T3
Mercure Paris CDG Airport & Convention	Accor	4	8.0	0.8 mi.	€ 124	Pr
Novotel Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport	Accor	4	7.9	0.4 mi.	€ 143	T3
Ibis Styles Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport	Accor	3	7.9	0.4 mi.	€ 159	T3
Hilton Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport	IHG	4	7.9	0.6 mi.	€ 266	T3
Ibis Paris CDG Airport	Accor	3	7.7	0.4 mi.	€ 142	T3
* Used the rate on Booking.com for Friday 18 September 2026 without looking into details. More than likely, this is the pre-paid rate excluding breakfast for a single traveler. Rates fluctuate heavily based on anticipated bookings, so these prices are not necessarily indicative of your travel time.						
Summary						
1) Regardless of CDGVAL stop, the CDGVAL makes it easy to get to and from the Terminals and train stations.						
2) Travelers can easily take the RER B Line into Paris from Terminal 2 or Terminal 3.						
3) All of the airport hotels are owned by major chains.						
4) Marriott has consistently higher ratings at its hotels. Is this because it caters better to American tourists?						
5) Travelers can find significantly cheaper near-airport hotels, but one then needs to arrange a shuttle or taxi ride to and from the airport.						
6) In my experience, the shuttle often costs 6-8 Euros per trip, negating a portion of the cost savings.						

Picking Up Your Rental Car

All of the major car rental companies have locations in Terminal 1 AND Terminal 2. MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHICH TERMINAL YOUR RENTAL AGREEMENT IS WITH. On my recent tour, I flew United Airlines, landing at Terminal 1, but I picked up my rental car in Terminal 2D. Follow the signs for “location de voitures” in the correct terminal.

Need Healthcare?

There are pharmacies situated in Terminals 1 and 2. The pharmacy in Terminal 1 is situated on Niveau (Level) 3. There are pharmacies in Terminal 2 situated in sub-terminals 2F and 2A/C.



Unlike in the U.S., French (European) pharmacists can prescribe certain medications, so if you're not feeling well, visiting a pharmacy is a good place to start.

There is also the **Centre Médical** on the arrivals floor of Terminal 2F, if you need to see a doctor. It is almost at the end of the terminal on the arrival levels, but at least they have one. On a recent trip, the pharmacist referred me to the doctor on duty to get a prescription of Zithromax refilled, because I did not have a U.S. prescription on my possession. The visit cost €100 and the prescription €30 but was ultimately worth it because I recovered quickly.



Each terminal also has an Assistance Mobilité office for those individuals needing mobility assistance. Airport personnel can direct you to the office in your terminal.



Still Have a Question?

We tried to cover a broad range of questions, but feel free to consult the airport's official website for questions that we haven't answered: <https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en>.

Bon Voyage!

<https://kneedeepintohistory.com>