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# TRAVEL

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

## Paris a la carte

By Ed Gray

PARIS  
I haven't caught up on Paris. We were making through the Parc du Champ de Mars, which includes a lazy cat from the foot of the Eiffel Tower, on our way to a gourmet lunch at the Jules Verne restaurant.

The meal broke the quiet of an unseasonably cool June morning. We were seated at a table tucked behind a bar and headed up the stairs that rise alongside the photography center. We could see the cat as it stretched to a halt. These teenagers threw open the two doors, unspooled themselves and ran to a thick and busy tree.

They craned their necks and looked up. We were a little way from the scene but were gaining ground. From what we could make out, we thought some terrible drama must be unfolding in the shadow of the tower, a child-sized funkie threatening to hang himself from the tree, or maybe a tourist who dropped the branches in search of his perfect picture only to have his camera strap catch.

We quickened our pace. As we approached, we noticed a few other people sitting up at the bench. One woman looked more anxious and excited than the others. In her right hand she gripped a small cage. One of the firefighters tossed stones toward the branches. We positioned ourselves just so, tilted our heads and looked skyward.

Then we saw it. Sitting contentedly on a lower branch, practically hidden among the foliage, was a large, good-looking, emerald-green parrot. The parrot did not seem spooked or disturbed. It watched the world from its cabined seat, likely finding perches handy in the Champs-Élysées attempt to rescue it. The firefighters tossing stones gave up.

Another firefighter began moving the bird as only a Frenchman could. Obviously unfazed by romance, the bird played possum. Finally, the third firefighter went to the tiny red car, reached in and gave the zebra a quick blast. Nothing. Talk about your French heroes. My partner and I watched the little drama for another...

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Escape from the package tour and climate-controlled bus and sample the more intimate flavors of an eccentric city.

Photo by Ed Gray

A boat cruises along the Seine under the Pont Alexandre III bridge, which was completed in 1900 and dedicated to the alliance between Russia and France. The distinctive Eiffel Tower dominates the view on the Parc du Champ de Mars.

### Island resort minutes from Key West

By LISA MASHKEWITZ of The Tampa Tribune

KEY WEST — Gilligan's Island it's not. But if it's Caribbean charm you're looking for, Sunset Key Guest Cottages have all the trappings of a secluded island getaway.

Impoverished Bahamian white sand, coconut palm trees and azure water that stretches into the horizon are just a few of the luxuries at this 27-acre haven 540 yards off Key West. Modeled after Miami Beach's Fisher Island and Sander's Victorian enclave in the Florida Panhandle, Sunset Key appears a world away from the sequestered stands and cypress-toting tourists that clutter Key West's historical Duval Street. Of course, it's really only seven minutes away, accessible by one of Sunset Key's two launches that leave from the Fifth Pier in Old Town.

The island, owned by Key West Hilton Resort and Marina, has come a long way from its primitive days as a fuel tank depot for U.S. Navy submarines. Formerly known as Tank Island, Sunset Key was the result of a busy dredging project that leveled the property to its current acreage and average height of 9 feet above sea level.

For many years, boaters near shore saw only tall Australian pine trees and the Navy's government's original intention was to connect the island to nearby Winteria Island and fill the fuel tanks, but a change in plans...

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Big porches with Adirondack chairs invite lazy-day relaxation at Sunset Key, 540 yards off Key West.

### compass



### Web flying deals

To encourage customers to buy airline tickets online.

American West Airlines, [www.americanwest.com](http://www.americanwest.com)  
America Air Lines, [www.aal.com](http://www.aal.com)  
Delta Air Lines, [www.deltaair.com](http://www.deltaair.com)  
Northwest Airlines, [www.nwa.com](http://www.nwa.com)  
US Airways, [www.usair.com](http://www.usair.com); offer participants in their frequent-flyer programs up to 1,000 extra miles for tickets purchased on their Web sites until the end of this year.

### Grand Canyon author

Mark Heersman, author of "On the Rim: Looking for the Grand Canyon," will discuss and sign his book at 7 p.m. Nov. 4 at Riverwood Books, 216 S. Armenia Ave., Tampa. Heersman is an associate professor in the University of South Florida's department of communications. His book is a look at the canyon through autobiography, photography, history and ethnography. For more details, call the bookstore at (813) 253-2638.

### Drive carefully in these states

Beaten of speeding, tailgating, running red lights and even showing road rage in every state. But the following have the worst record for road deaths per 100,000 people attributed to aggressive driving, according to the American Institute for Traffic Safety:

1. South Carolina: 15.1 deaths
2. Wyoming: 13.9
3. Alabama and Kansas: both 13.7
5. Oklahoma: 13.6
6. New Mexico: 12.9
7. North Carolina and Arkansas: both 12.4
8. Idaho: 11.8
10. Florida: 11.7

### GEO QUIZ

What was the Louvre when it was built about 1200?

See [www.abc.com](http://www.abc.com)

### Generous cruisers

When the Grand Princess sailed into Istanbul a few months ago, it carried \$85,629 for Turkey's earthquake victims. The Princess Cruises has donated \$20,000. The passengers and crew give the rest.

### Free rides on the Paris metro

Travelers in Paris over the millennium weekend will ride free on the Paris metro and can also charge on the train.

All over Europe's top tourist destinations, the City of Lights is expecting an unprecedented number of visitors to celebrate the year 2000. The subway will run all night in Paris and the suburbs to help ease traffic jams expected to occur around the capital.

Regional cities also will offer inexpensive public transit over the holiday weekend.



### Times Square updates

Times Square's Web site — [www.timesquare.com](http://www.timesquare.com) — offers all kinds of details about the New York City landmark, with its 50 hotels, 60 theaters, 600 retailers, 268 restaurants and 50 "napper signs."

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