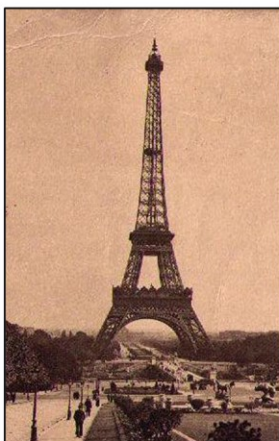
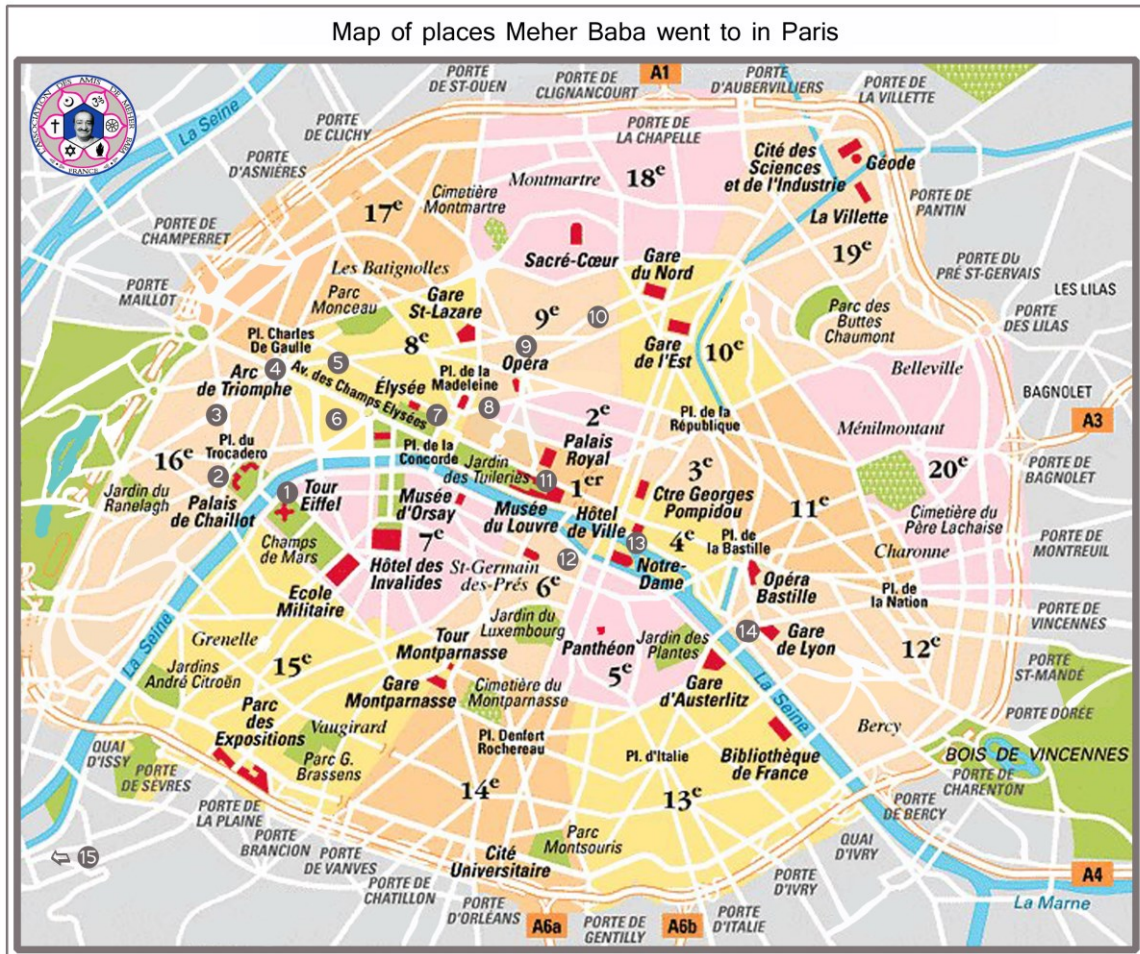


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① The Eiffel Tower

Champ de Mars, 5 Avenue Anatole France, 7th arrondissement.

The group was photographed there on 13th December 1931; it is assumed that Meher Baba is wearing the coat he had just bought in the Galeries Lafayette. During a trip to Europe in 1932, Meher Baba spent a few hours in Paris on 27th April. He insisted on seeing the Eiffel Tower again before taking the train to Lugano in Switzerland which took Him through part of France. On the evening of 21st September 1937, the whole group went to the top of the Eiffel Tower. Meher Baba said that on that day His spiritual work was as intense as in Fallentfluh, Switzerland, and in Assisi, Italy.

After this visit, the effort had visibly taken a toll on His body - He looked exhausted. When questioned, Meher Baba replied that He was not tired

but that He had difficulty coming back down to our level after such work.

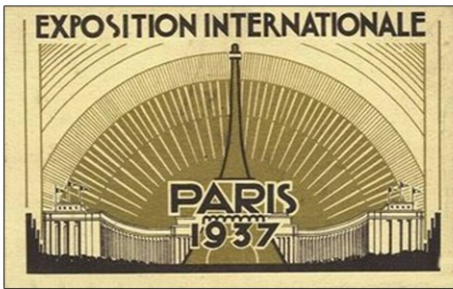


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② Le Trocadéro

19 Place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre, 16th arrondissement.

On 21st September 1937, after a trip on the Seine in a "Bateau-Mouche" (open excursion boat), the group visited the International Exhibition

"Art and Technology in Modern Life", which was held in Paris that year from 25th May to 25th November. This was the first exhibition held in France in accordance with the rules of the "Paris Convention" of 1928 on International Exhibitions. It was also the last event of its kind to take place in Paris. At that time, a group of Indian women, moreover accompanied by Meher Baba, surely did not go unnoticed and inevitably attracted the attention of visitors to the exhibition. However, Meher Baba had ordered the women of the group (Mehera, Mani, Korshed and Naja) to look down in the presence of men and had forbidden them from even merely seeing or touching a man inadvertently, and one can imagine how difficult it must have been for them to walk among such a crowd... Rano Gayley was reportedly in charge of seeing to it that Meher Baba's will was obeyed. She had to be particularly vigilant with Mani, who was then a passionate and lively girl of nineteen.



③ Hôtel Metropolitan

10 Place de Mexico, 16th arrondissement.

Meher Baba stayed in this hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th June 1934. There he met some people through Ruano Bogislav and Norina Matchabelli, including the very distinguished Duke of Richelieu, a descendant of the Cardinal Richelieu, Louis XIII's prime minister), and playwright and screenwriter Karl Vollmoeller (Norina's first husband), who was very impressed by Meher Baba. They talked about reincarnation, spiritual planes and God-realization. Vollmoeller began writing the screenplay of a film on Meher Baba (Baba's new spiritual picture). In July, their collaboration continued in Zurich with the participation of Gabriel Pascal, a film producer and director of Hungarian origin who settled in the United States, and Meher Baba explained in more detail the spiritual theme that would allow them to complete the scenario.



④ The Arc de Triomphe

Place Charles de Gaulle, 8th arrondissement.

Meher Baba and the small group stopped there on 13th December 1931.

⑤ The Champs-Élysées

Avenue des Champs-Élysées, 8th arrondissement.

Meher Baba and the small group drove down the Champs-Élysées in a car on 13th December 1931.



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⑥ L'hôtel Powers

52 Rue François 1er, 8th arrondissement.

Meher Baba stayed in this hotel on 11th December 1931. On the evening of 15th December, coming back from Versailles, Baba played Nepalese billiards and marbles with Ali and the children, John and Zilla. It was in Paris and at that time that Meher Baba spoke for the first time about reincarnation, evolution and involution, to the English party who was there. We can assume that most of the discussions took place in this hotel. All those who were with Him remembered this trip as a moment of love, relaxation, and games with Meher Baba. He stayed in this hotel again on 7th May 1932.



⑦ L'hôtel Vouillement (now replaced by the Sofitel hotel)

15 Rue Boissy d'Anglas, 8th arrondissement.

Meher Baba went from Italy to London via Paris. In the afternoon of Sunday, 8th October 1932, He was greeted at the train station by Ruano Bogislav, Norina Matchabelli and Quentin Tod. They settled into the hotel and then went to Ruano's home - Ruano lived in Paris at the time - where Meher Baba met around fifty people. A laudatory article with a photo of Meher Baba had been published in a Paris newspaper and several French persons were eager to meet him. Despite the interest He had generated, Meher Baba left for London the next morning.



⑧ The cinema « Le Madeleine »

14 Boulevard de la Madeleine, 8th arrondissement.

At the corner of Boulevard de la Madeleine and Rue Vignon, a cinema which is no longer there, attracted viewers in this district, which is near the Opera. This cinema seated more than 700 people. In the evening of 14th December 1931, Meher Baba and the group went to see the film "Trader Horn" directed by WS Van Dyke in 1931. The script tells the adventures of Trader Horn and Peru who made a safari in an unexplored area of Africa. They find Edith Trent, a missionary who was killed by natives. They set out to look for Nina, her missing daughter. They discover that she has become the queen of a very primitive tribe and try to bring her back to civilization...



⑨ Les Galeries Lafayette

40 Boulevard Haussmann, 9th arrondissement.

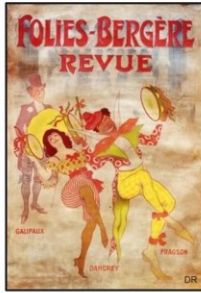
The winter of 1931 was cold, with temperatures below freezing. Presumably Meher Baba did not have enough warm clothing. On the morning of 13th December, He went to Galeries Lafayette and bought a new coat.

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⑩ Les Folies Bergère

32 Rue Richer, 9th arrondissement.

After spending eight days in Lugano in Switzerland, the group returned to Paris on 7th May 1932. They lived on the 5th floor of the hotel Powers. We know that Kim and Minta were jealous and made a scene in their room, which led Minta to want to commit suicide. Meher Baba had to calm her down and, to comfort her, drove her on a big tour through Paris by taxi. In the evening, Meher Baba and the Western members of the group went to the Folies Bergère.



⑪ Le Louvre

99 Rue de Rivoli, 1th arrondissement.

On 13th December 1931, Meher Baba visited the Louvre, a former royal palace located on the right hand side of the Seine between the Tuileries Gardens and the Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois church. The Louvre is the biggest museum in Europe.



⑫ Rue Git-le-Cœur, 6th arrondissement.

Meher Baba, Chanji and Kaka were welcomed in Paris on 8th November 1936 by Ruano Bogislav. They were invited to stay outside the city in the home of Polish singer Gana Walska, a very wealthy friend of Norina Matchabelli's who had a passion for designing gardens. The house was large and luxurious and the garden was magnificent in late autumn. After an opulent meal Meher Baba returned to his room. However, the room was not heated, so he could not sleep. The next day he complained about it to Norina and decided to go and see Alfredo and Consuelo Sides, who were living in Paris at 1 rue Git-le-Cœur. The latter invited Meher Baba to stay with them. They became important contacts for Him in Paris. He returned to their flat on 20th and 21st September 1937. This street was also the setting, from 1972, of the first regular meetings held in France by Don E. Stevens to study Meher Baba's books. These meetings were held in the premises of a small ballet school.



Etching by Roger Vieillard



⑬ Notre-Dame cathedral

Place Jean-Paul II, 4th arrondissement.

Meher Baba and the group admired it for the first time on 13th December 1931. Then, still with downcast eyes on Meher Baba's orders, Mehera, Mani, Korshed and Naja visited it on 21st September 1937. One woman remarked that it was more a sight-seeing of the sidewalks than a visit of Paris monuments...

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⑭ La gare de Lyon

Place Louis Armand, 12th arrondissement.

On 12th September 1931, during his first trip to the West, Meher Baba arrived in the morning at the Gare de Lyon, from Marseilles, for a quick stopover. He was welcomed by Enid Corfe, an American lady who worked in Paris. Then he continued his journey to London via Boulogne. We know that Meher Baba and the group went to the Gare de Lyon on 13th December 1931, presumably to buy train tickets for Marseilles, as they were leaving Paris a few days later (on the 16th) because Meher Baba was sailing back to India on 18th December. One can also imagine that they stopped to have tea at the "Le Train Bleu" restaurant, known at the time to be the most beautiful train station buffet in Paris and the magnificent decoration of which would certainly have interested visitors such as Meher Baba and his group...



⑮ The Palace of Versailles

Place d'armes, 78000 Versailles.

How to get there: the palace of King Louis XIV is half an hour from Paris by RER C from the "Saint-Michel - Notre-Dame" station. Then get off at the "Versailles Château - Rive Gauche" station, and the château is 500 metres from the station.

Meher Baba and the small group went to Versailles aboard a Rolls-Royce on 15th December 1931. They visited the Hall of Mirrors, where the Treaty ending the First World War was signed, and then the rest of the palace, including the apartments of Marie-Antoinette. We know that they all danced, holding hands in the gardens of the palace, and then had tea in a café.

The people who accompany Meher Baba during his stays in Paris are :

In 1931 : Meredith et Margaret Starr, Margaret Craske, Delia De Leon, Kim Tolhurst, John Cousin (12 years), Kitty Davy and her niece, Zillah Cluse, Chanji and Agha Ali.

In 1932 : Adi Junior, Bheram, Chanji, Ghani, Kaka Baria, Adi Senior, Minta Toledano, Kim Tolhurst and Delia De Leon, Ruano Bogislav, Norina Matchabelli and Quentin Tod.

In 1934 : Chanji, Kaka Baria, Adi jr., Rano Gayley, Nonny Gayley, Ruano Bogislav and Norina Matchabelli.

In 1936 : Chanji, Kaka Baria, Ruano Bogislav.

In 1937 : Mehera Irani, Mani Irani, Naja, Korshed, Soonamasi, Valu, Chanji, Kaka Baria, Nilu, Nonny Gayley, Rano Gayley, Malcolm Schloss, Gabriel Pascal, his wife, Elizabeth Patterson, Norina Matchabelli, Anita de Caro, Roger Vieillard, Jean Adriel, Tom and Falu as well as the two dogs Kippy and Canute.

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Recapitulation of Meher Baba's stays in Paris

In 1931:

Short stop on the morning of 12 September.

11-16 December: Stayed at the Powers Hotel. Visits the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, the Louvre, Notre-Dame, goes to the Galeries Lafayette, the cinema "Le Madeleine" and the Gare de Lyon.

In 1932: (2 short trips)

7-9 May: On return from Lugano and en route to London. Stayed at the Powers Hotel. Taxi ride through the city, then Les Folies Bergères.

8 October: From Italy to London. Stayed at the Hotel Vouillement. Spent evening at Ruano Bogislav's. Left on the morning of the 9th.

In 1933:

22nd October. Just over two hours in Paris in transit: Baba arrives from London (via Calais) at 6pm and takes the train to Spain (via Orléans) at 8.40pm. No doubt, arrival at Gare du Nord and departure at Gare d'Austerlitz.

In 1934:

23-26 June: From Marseille and on the way to London. Meher Baba stays at the Metropolitan Hotel. He meets many people, friends of Ruano and Norina.

In 1936:

November 8-10: From Zurich where he had just spent two days. Meher Baba's first stay with the Sides, rue Git le Cœur. Departure for Marseille on the morning of the 10th, to leave for India on the 12th.

In 1937:

From 20 to 22 September: A round trip from Cannes by car accompanied by the Mandali women, in response to an invitation from the Sides. After a stopover in Lyon and a picnic on the way, they arrived on the 20th, living in rue Git-le-Cœur. Meher Baba takes the Mandali women to the Trocadero, the Universal Exhibition, the Bateau-Mouche, Notre-Dame and the Eiffel Tower on the 21st at 9pm.

They leave for Cannes on the 22nd in the morning, stopping off at Roanne.
