WALK 8 | Montmartre

Start – Metro Station, Château Rouge, Line 4
Approximate Length: 2.3 km

Start this walk at the Wallace Fountain located in Place du Château Rouge. This fountain is near a busy intersection and is close to the Metro entrance on Rue Custine.

Option: Before leaving the Château Rouge area, you may wish to explore a lively African Market a short distance to the east, just off rue Poulet on rue Dejean. There you will come upon all kinds of exotic, colorful produce and fabrics.

Continue by strolling south on boulevard Barbès where little French is spoken among people on the street. This area is populated by residents from Africa, Arab countries and Eastern Europe.

When you get to rue de la Goutte D’or turn left. Where the street intersects with rue de Chartres, a Wallace Fountain stands on a small, elevated plaza.

A few blocks from the teeming boulevard Barbès and the hectic boulevard Rochechouart is a quiet residential area. In this neighborhood is a little public place on a hill, and it is the location of a Wallace Fountain.

From here, return along rue de la Goutte d’Or to rue Islettes and turn left walking along this street until you come to boulevard de la Chapelle. Turn right and soon, straight ahead, this roadway will turn into boulevard Rochechouart. Continue along the boulevard. Past rue de Clignancourt and the large intersection, a Wallace Fountain can be found in the median of boulevard Rochechouart.

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This fountain was cast by Val d’Osne and is one of the earliest. The fountain’s caryatids are meant to remind users to practice the virtues of simplicity, kindness, charity and sobriety. Originally, communal drinking cups were attached to the fountains. The tin cups were removed for hygienic reasons in 1952. Today, it is not unusual to see a plastic cup wedged in the arms of a caryatid or sitting under the stream of water, or to witness a person stop at a fountain, drink from a disposable cup and leave it for others to use.

Continue along boulevard Rochechouart, then take a right on the angled street, rue Seveste. Follow it to Place Saint Pierre and take a left. You will be at the base of the terraced garden leading up to the basilica Sacré Coeur. Here you can climb the hill or take the funicular to the top.

Once at the top, enjoy the marvelous view and take in the interior beauty of the basilica if you wish. Then, below the steps and facing the front of the basilica, go left. Pass the funicular and continue walking on the curved street along the edge of a small park. You will soon find the next Wallace Fountain.

Fountain

Rue Saint Eleuthère & Rue Azaïs, 18th Arr.

This fountain is near the Sacré Coeur and at the end of a small green park in front of a water storage facility. A unique water tower built in 1927 is behind the Sacré Coeur and often is mistaken for part of the basilica because it is built with the same white stone as the church.

Now, take rue Saint Eleuthère to Place du Tertre where local artists have been drawing pastel or charcoal portraits of tourists for years.
This is a fun spot to take a coffee and watch the tourists.

In the southwest corner of the square, a passageway leads to a set of stairs. Descend the stairs and you will be on rue Gabrielle. Turn right on rue Gabrielle. Proceed while staying to your left. The street will curve into rue Ravignan which ends at the charming Place Emile Goudeau and another Wallace Fountain.

**Fountain**
Place Emile Goudeau, 18th Arr.

The hilly nature of the Butte Montmartre makes this rest stop particularly attractive. The fountain adds a source of refreshment and charm to the little square. In addition, it is near the famous Le Bateau Lavoir, studios once occupied by notable artists who made the area vibrant and where, in 1907, Picasso painted his famous masterpiece 'Les Demoiselles d’Avignon'.

From Place Emile Goudeau take rue Berthe a short distance to rue Androuet. Turn right and follow the short street to its end where you will see a set of stairs, Passage des Abbesses. Take the passageway and descend the stairs. At the bottom of the stairs, you will be at Place des Abbesses where you will find the last Wallace Fountain on this walk.

**Fountain**
Place des Abbesses, 18th Arr.

This fountain is in a place with more than one interesting attraction. Place des Abbesses has a small park with the "I Love You Wall" along one side. The Hector Guimard designed
Art Nouveau Metro entrance is a work of art and one of only two surviving originals.

Directly across the street from the fountain is the church Saint-Jean-de-Montmartre. It is the first Paris church built from concrete and covered with red brick and mosaic to hide the plain concrete. The interior is rather stark, but the wall paintings and mosaic work give it a decidedly artistic flare. The stained glass windows are also interesting. The structure set off a shock wave at the time it was built. Now, because it is so different, it has its own appeal. Visit the church or end the walk at the Metro station.

End – Metro Station, Abbesses, Line 12

Post a comment about Walk 8 and share a discovery or selfie on your social media.

Take the Challenge to find all the fountains and automatically become a Friend of the Fountains. Document the time and date you found each fountain on the Chart available to download from the website.

In addition to dispensing water, these fountains continue to remind humans to be kind and generous to one another and to cooperate with others for the common good. That is what Sir Richard Wallace intended, and that is what we should do to thank him.