

Hotels, hostels and camp sites

Paris offers a wide range of accommodation, however, much of it is not readily accessible, and the information available about various aspects of accessibility is generally very poor. Several of the places that are quite good (in terms of their accessibility) are not well placed to link in with accessible transport. Also, since the early 1990s when the last guide was published, parking in Paris has become more difficult and more restrictive, as in most big cities. If you are planning to use a car or minibus, then the parking facilities at your hotel become an important consideration, and note that it is difficult to find parking anywhere for a vehicle over 1.9m high..

Choosing where you stay is likely to result from an assessment of the hotels' location, cost and accessibility.

There is a 'trade-off' between spending more money in the centre of the city, and maybe being able to walk or wheel to many of the places you want to visit, or staying further out and travelling in - by whatever means. **Whatever you decide, it will be a compromise.**

It might even be worth considering using two or three different hotels to make it easier, overall, to travel around and visit the places you want to get to. There is disruption and wasted time when you move, set against the freedom of being able to get around without the need for taxis or public transport.

Alternatively you might consider using somewhere close to an accessible bit of the RER and/or to a wheelchair accessible bus route, if it is practical for you to use those facilities.

The situation over the provision of adapted rooms for disabled visitors in hotels in Paris is at best confused. All that appears on the various hotel websites is the information that, sometimes, there are rooms for mobility reduced/disabled guests. Usually the website or brochure only says how many such rooms there are.

What it does NOT say is anything about the nature of the adaptations/provisions. It does not say whether there is enough space in the bedroom for a wheelchair user. It does NOT say whether the bathroom includes a bath with support rails or whether there is a wheel-in shower with a fold-down seat. It does NOT say whether the hotel has obvious mobility aids available such as a bathboard, or a frame to put around the toilet to assist someone with arthritis getting up and down. It does not even say, positively, whether the hotel has step-free access throughout.

Unfortunately the criteria adopted under the '*Tourisme et handicap*' standards adopted by the tourism authorities does not seem to help much in connection with the provision of information about some of these vital details, and in particular whether the hotel has wheel-in showers. Also, most of the accommodation listed here would not qualify for the *Tourisme et handicap* label, and yet would be perfectly useable by many disabled visitors. The label takes no account of location.

Nobody has yet used the opportunities offered by the internet for providing photographs of the facilities provided for disabled guests on their website together with a floor plan of the adapted rooms showing the door widths etc. The best write-ups we have found are those of **Handihomes** (see below), and their descriptive approach provides good guidelines for others to follow.

Once we had worked our way through a great deal of misinformation, we found that there are ‘accessible’ places to stay in reasonably good locations. These were visited, and are described. They include establishments ranging from the cheap and cheerful (but eminently practical) to more prestigious five-star hotels. Our list only provides a preliminary indication of accessibility. If you have specific requirements, for example relating to the height of the bed or for supports around the toilet or shower, then you need to discuss these directly with the management.

We made extensive researches, with the help of the administration of the Accor hotels - to whom we are grateful for assistance. However, what we found is that almost nobody even inside the hotel group could identify places to stay that provided the option of using a wheel-in shower, nor places that offered the choice of having a double bed or twin beds. We had to find this out directly from each establishment.

During our investigations, we came across hotels WITH adapted rooms, who did not include these on their website or published information, “because we only have a few rooms and prefer to handle these bookings directly”. Since most hotels do not have adapted rooms, it’s rather difficult to guess as to which ones do !

The providers have not generally considered the needs of a disabled person travelling with a carer or friend. Many can only offer ‘adapted’ rooms with a double bed. We didn’t come across anyone who could offer the use of a family room with an adapted bathroom - though a few could offer adjoining/interconnected rooms.

We came across a few hotels that only provided single rooms for disabled guests. This, of course, is fine for many people (though not for all), and probably arises because in a smallish room it is possible to accommodate a single bed and a chair-user, with an adapted bathroom whereas if there was a double bed, there would be insufficient space.

Some of the cheaper hotels which have two or three adapted rooms advertised on their information brochures only provide something that is very cramped, which would be impractical for many. Most of these rooms were converted and provided quite a long time ago when the understanding of what is needed was even more limited.

It is quite common in Paris for the less expensive hotels not to have a restaurant, although breakfast is normally provided. There are two new chains, Citadines and Suitehotels which provide self catering facilities.

We found some really good and accessible places inside the Périphérique, with wheel-in showers, and would like to highlight the following:

- FIAP Jean Monnet 75014
- Résidence Internationale de Paris 75020
- the Handihomes apartments
- the ETAP hotel at la Villette 75019
- Ibis Tour Eiffel 75015
- Novotel Tour Eiffel 75015
- Novotel Gare de Lyon 75012
- Ibis Bastille Opéra 75011

Places in good locations but with baths in the bathrooms (and no wheel-in shower) include Novotel les Halles, and the Citadines Apart'hotels. The **Citadines** apartments, which are in some excellent locations with 'adapted' rooms, although they do not have wheel-in showers, and the level of adaptation is limited.

There are a number of 'accessible' hotels in the area around the Tour Eiffel, but only a small number right in the centre near the Ile de France. Note the Hôtel Dieu hotel which is extremely central, and Novotel les Halles.

Just outside the Périphérique with wheel-in showers are:

- several ETAP and Formule 1 hotels
- Ibis Porte de Clichy
- Novotel Porte d'Italie
- Hotel Itinéraires, Nanterre
- Suitehotels at Porte de Montreuil and at Saint Denis Stade (the information about the Saint Denis one comes from the Wheelchair Accessible Europe website, and it has not been visited).

One of the least expensive chain hotels, ETAP, offers adapted bedrooms with a wheel-in shower, but it doesn't even advertise the fact in its brochures nor on its website. We have been told that about 90% of the ETAP hotels have the adapted rooms (which have standard facilities) and normally provide roughly three adapted rooms per 100.

These hotels are basic, and simply provide a bedroom with an ensuite bathroom including a wheel-in shower, and a breakfast room. Nothing else. Each room has a double bed and (an elevated) single bed. Their locations are designed for motorists, and there are a number of ETAP hotels situated near the blvd Phériphérique, and outside the central area, although there is one at la Villette. We used an ETAP hotel near la Défense for part of our stay, and found it to be good value. The wheelchair users in the group managed well with the bathroom, and although it was a little way to the RER, we were able to use the accessible bits of the system to get into the centre.

The smaller ETAP hotels do not always have staff at reception and may operate an automated entry system. The adapted rooms need to have been pre-booked. The larger hotels have a reception desk which is open for most of the day.

The **Formule 1** hotels are run by the same company. They are slightly cheaper than the ETAP ones, but the adapted facilities (in the form of toilets and a wheel-in shower) are situated off a public corridor and they are not attached to the room. Frequently you have to ask for a key to the adapted facilities from reception. In our view, for most disabled travellers, the ETAP hotels offer better facilities and are not much more expensive. Location and availability may in the end be determining factors, and Formule 1 hotels are certainly useable.

The bands used to give a general indication of the price are:

- A** up to €80
- B** €80-130
- C** €130-200
- D** €200-400
- E** €400+

Prices are for two people staying in a double room with breakfast. Some of the expensive hotels may be as much as €500/night, and while a few of these are included, our focus is on finding ones nearer the budget end of the market - with good access.

The **measurements** included in this data are in cm, and define the size of lifts, bathrooms and step heights.

Lifts are described with D doorwidth, W width and L length/depth. Bathrooms have D door width, ST side transfer space for the toilet, and SH is the height of the toilet seat.

GF = ground floor or rez de chaussée.

Step height is indicated by [13cm] where applicable.

Handihomes

We list this facility first, because the company seems to be setting high standards in terms of the provision both of good facilities, and of information.

Handihomes

16 rue Honoré de Balzac, 92330 Sceaux

Tel/fax: 01 49 73 68 40 *mobile:* 06 72 74 52 67

website: www.handihomes.com *e-mail:* alexismulliez@free.fr

Handihomes was created by its French and Danish founders to provide the possibility for disabled people wishing to stay in an environment entirely adapted to their needs, be it for leisure or on business. The company's aim is to provide anyone with mobility difficulties with suitable and accessible accommodation for short or long-term rental contracts. They have got only two apartments at the moment, but the idea is to have more, because they want to be able to offer a choice.

We visited the newest of these apartments, in Montmartre, which was in the final stages of conversion. The specifications in relation to the provisions for disabled users were impressively high, and a lot of thought has gone into the conversions. The information provided on the website is very detailed, including a floor plan - and because the descriptions are so precise, we are confident that all the flats provide good and well defined facilities for a disabled visitor.

As extras Handihomes can provide medical attention, a nurse, meals, and transport including a helper if necessary. The first two flats mentioned here were renovated in 2005, and the third one in early 2007.

We have not attempted to put this accommodation into a price band since the 'per head' cost depends greatly on how many people are sharing, and the biggest flat can accommodate 8 to 10 people, so our formula based on two people staying doesn't work very well. For groups of people staying, the flats can offer excellent value, alternatively for smaller numbers, they're

very nice places to stay, but maybe a bit pricey !.

Handihomes 1 Bedroom Apartment

10 rue Nicolo, 75016 (for up to 4 guests)

This 5th floor, 60m² apartment is fully 'accessible'. Located not far from the Bois de Boulogne. It is close to RER Line C station Boulaivilliers, which is potentially accessible, although there are two big steps to get on and off the train (see the section on *Getting around*). It is also near the 'accessible' number 63 bus route which runs right past the Eiffel Tower and through the Left Bank area.

There is a parking place - for which there is an extra charge.

There are three step free entrances - from the CP, the street or from the area behind. All lead to a lift (D80). In terms of facilities, there are two rooms, plus a fully equipped kitchen; and all the usual home entertainment appliances, including cable TV and broadband internet.

There is an electric adjustable double bed, which may be made into two singles, as well as a double sofa bed. The bathroom has a lowered basin, and contains a roll-in shower with a shower- chair. Where necessary, the doors are sliding, and all are wider than 80cm.

Handihomes 3 Bedroom Apartment

Tour Totem, 57 quai de Grenelle, 75015 (for up to 8 guests)

Located a short way down the Seine from the Eiffel Tower, the building in which this apartment is situated was the last high-rise tower authorised in Paris and as such offers an exceptional view over the surrounding area. It is on the 22nd floor with an area of 130m². A parking space may be requested at an extra charge.

It is close to RER Line C station Avenue du Président Kennedy, (see section on *Getting around*). The 'accessible' buses nearby are numbers 88 and 62. Route 88 goes past Montparnasse and finishes at Denfert Rocherau - an 'accessible' RER station on line B.

Route 62 follows a long route in the south of the city running generally parallel to the blvd Périphérique, and to get to the centre, you can change on to the number 38.

The entrance is step free and three lifts (D80) allow access to the apartment, which contains a large living room with sofa bed, two bedrooms with electric double beds, another bedroom with a sofa bed, two bathrooms, a separate toilet, and kitchen. There is a roll-in shower, with a shower chair in one bathroom and a bath in the other. Where necessary, the doors are sliding and >80cm in width; the kitchen is fully equipped and the apartment contains home comforts such as cable TV and broadband internet.

Handihomes 3 bedroom apartment

20 rue Feutrier, 75018 (for 8/10 guests)

This is a large first floor apartment with an area of 170m² in a modern building. It is on the hillside in Montmartre with its bohemian ambience and history. It has a GF parking space, and a lift (D80 W110 L120). There are three bedrooms plus sofa beds in the lounge. When we visited it was in the final stages of its adaptation to make it 'accessible'. All the doors were wide (>80cm), and it had two bathrooms, one of which had a wheel-in shower. The flat is well adapted, and the full details will be put on the website when the conversion is finished. It has a big open plan kitchen. There is ramped access to a small outside garden area. The only very minor snag is that there are two doors to deal with en route to the flat with conventional key locks - though with a group of people there will always be several who can handle the locks. The location is really good for Montmartre, though you need to be able to cope with the

hill ! There are shops and restaurants nearby, and we thought that it was excellent.

Hotels

Inside the boulevard Périphérique

1st arrondissement (very central, near the Louvre and Les Halles)

Timhotel le Louvre**

4, rue Croix des Petits Champs, 75001

Tel: 01 42 60 34 86 Fax: 01 42 60 10 39

website: www.h-louvre.com e-mail: info@h-louvre.com

A small but very central hotel with **one GF adapted room**. Near the junction with the rue de St Honoré. Entrance with +1 [10cm] step. The route to the room is then step free, although slightly twisty, and it would not be suitable for someone with a large powered chair. Room 001 seen. Slightly cramped, with two single beds. Good size bathroom with support rails, and a bath with a rail. -2 steps to the breakfast area just outside the room.

Price band B

Louvre Sainte Anne ***

32 rue Saint Anne, 75001

Tel: 01 40 20 02 35 Fax: 01 40 15 91 13

website: www.paris-hotel-louvre.com e-mail: contact@louvre-ste-anne.fr

Situated by the junction with rue Thérèse. Close to ave de l'Opéra accessible line 14 Metro station. Taxi drop-off outside. One BB space at junction of rue du Pyramides with rue d'Argenteuil. UGCP at les Pyramides.

Entrance +1 [9 cm] step. One lift (D70 W90 L87) serving all floors. **One adapted bedroom** on the GF (seen), room 001 with a double bed, D89. Bathroom D89 ST104 SH48. One +4 cm lip to the shower, which has a HR and a folding seat. May be difficult for electric chair user. Breakfast room via -3 steps, but breakfast can be served in the bedroom. No restaurant.

Price band C

Novotel Les Halles ****

8 pl Marguerite de Navarre, 75001

Tel: 01 42 21 31 31 Fax: 01 40 26 05 79

website: www.novotel.com e-mail: h0785@accor.com

Situated at the junction of rue Saint Honoré and rue des Bourdonnais, close to les Halles. Two BB spaces in CP. Taxi drop-off in front of CP. Step-free entrance to hotel. **GF wheelchair toilet (D84 ST78 SH49)** past reception on the left, but protected by a keypad, so you need to ask a staff member. Three lifts (D80 W110 L130). **Six adapted bedrooms**, all doubles with a sofa. Room 148 seen, D87. Bathroom D87 ST122 SH50 with handrails. Split-level (+3 steps) in restaurant gives step-free access to approximately 30% of restaurant, with +3 to the other level. Bar is +6.

Price band D

Meurice *****

228 rue de Rivoli, 75001

Tel: 01 44 58 10 10 Fax: 01 44 58 10 15

website: www.lemeurice.com e-mail: reservations@lemeurice.com

Opposite the Jardin de Tuileries, about 50m from rue Castiglione. Le Meurice is a luxury hotel with considerable style, very centrally located. Taxi drop-off outside. The main entrance has – 3 steps, but there's a step-free alternative 20m to the left. The best lifts (D85 W160 L120) serving all floors, are behind the breakfast area. **Five adapted rooms**, double - or twin bedded. Room 508 seen. Step-free access to shower D80 ST110 but no HR. Two restaurants.
Price band E

Citadines Louvre and **Citadines Les Halles** are both in 75001 and the facilities are described further under *Citadines* at the end of the Central hotels write-ups.

4th arrondissement (on the Ile de la Cité)

Hotel in the Hôtel Dieu Hospitel

1 pl du Parvis Notre Dame, Galerie B2, 6ème étage, 75004

Tel: 01 44 32 01 00 Fax: 01 44 32 01 16

website: www.hotel-hospitel.com e-mail: hospitelhoteldieu@wanadoo.fr

The **Hôtel Dieu** is the oldest hospital in Paris, and has a hotel inside it on the sixth floor. While intended primarily for the families and friends of patients, it can be used by visitors. Its central location and moderate price make it an attractive option for some.

The main hospital entrance is 50m from Notre Dame. To reach the hotel step free, go left from reception/accueil, through the glass doors and then right. Just before the steps, there is a ramp (to the left) W90, to the sous sol/basement. Turn right, following signs to Gallerie B and the cafeteria. Go left towards B2, and by the sign (over the corridor) turn right, and take the second lift (D150 W200 L300) to the 6th floor. The distance from the hospital entrance to the hotel reception is just over 150m. **Two adapted rooms**. Room 1 seen with twin beds and a compact but well adapted bathroom. Wheel-in shower and ST70+. Breakfast is served in your room, but there is no other catering other than the cafeteria in the basement. There are plenty of nearby restaurants.

Price band: B

6th arrondissement (around the blvd Saint-Germain)

Bel-Ami

7-11 rue Saint-Benoit, 75006

Tel: 01 42 61 53 53 Fax: 01 49 27 09 33

website: www.hotel-bel-ami.com e-mail: contact@hotel-bel-ami.com

Situated on the north western corner of the junction with rue Jacob. Described as a minimalist design hotel. Taxi drop-off at entrance. Step-free entrance. Two lifts (D78 W107 L143) serving all floors. **Three adapted bedrooms**. Room 301 seen, D90, with a double bed. Bathroom D80 ST85 no HR. Bar area on GF has step-free access and movable chairs. Breakfast but no restaurant. **Wheelchair toilet (D75 ST105 SH42 no HR) on level minus one – to the right of the lift.**

Price band D

Citadines Saint-Germain-des-Prés ***

53 ter, quai des Grands Augustins, 75006
(see the Citadines write-up later in this Chapter)

Holiday Inn Saint Germain des Prés ***

92 rue de Vaugirard, 75006

Tel: 01 49 54 87 00 Fax: 01 49 54 87 01 Reservations from the UK: 0870 400 9670

website: www.holiday-inn.com e-mail: holidayinn.psg@hotels-residential.com

Situated on the north east corner of the junction with rue de l'Abbé Grégoire. UGCP height restriction 1.9 m, no BB spaces. Taxi drop-off 25 m along rue de l'Abbé Grégoire. The entrance has +1 [5 cm] step. Three lifts (W130 L160), one has D110 and the other two have D80. **Two adapted bedrooms** (not seen), one double and one single. We were told that they both had baths. Step-free access to breakfast area.

Price band B/C

7th arrondissement (near the Eiffel Tower)

Hotel Prince**

66 ave Bosquet, 75007

Tel: 01 47 05 40 90 Fax: 01 47 53 06 62.

website: www.hotel-paris-prince.com e-mail: paris@hotel-prince.com

50m from place de l'École Militaire. 2cm step at entrance. One adapted room adjacent to reception D80 bathroom D80; ST100 with bath. All other rooms +3 and then up in lift. Breakfast room in basement, but this can be brought to your room.

Price band B

9th arrondissement (near the Grands Magasins and blvd Haussmann)

Accor Scribe*****

1 rue Scribe, 75009

Tel: 01 44 71 24 24 Fax: 01 42 65 39 97

website: www.sofitel.com e-mail: h0663@accor.com

On western corner with blvd des Capucines. Taxi drop-off 10m from entrance. Parking at Edward VIII CP. Step-free entrance. Three lifts (D98 W112 L128) serving all floors. GF **wheelchair toilet (D90 ST85 SH52)**, past reception then right then left. **Six adapted bedrooms**. Room 459 seen, with twin-beds D80+. Bathroom D89 ST145. Two restaurants

Price band D

10th arrondissement (around the gare du Nord and gare de l'Est)

Accor Mercure Terminus Est ***

5 rue de 8 Mai 1945, 75010

Tel: 01 55 26 05 05 Fax: 01 55 26 05 00

website: www.mercure.com e-mail: h3126-re@accor.com

Taxi drop-off outside. Public CP nearby. Entrance +1 [3 cm] step. Three lifts (D80 W135 L140) serving first six floors. **Five adapted bedrooms**, all served by lifts. We were told that they were all twin-bedded and that they all had low-level baths, but we did not see a room.

Wheelchair toilets (D89 ST90 SH49) on the first floor - turn left from lift then 10 m on the right. No restaurant

Price band B/C

Ibis Gare de l'Est **

6 rue Saint Laurent, 75010

Tel: 01 40 38 05 05 Fax: 01 42 05 71 16

website: www.ibishotel.com e-mail: h2023@accor-hotels.com

Two buildings situated either side of rue Saint Laurent . Taxi drop-off outside. Parking at Gare de l'Est UGCP 250m away. Entrance to annex has +1 step. One lift (D78 W100 L130) serving all floors in main building. **Four adapted bedrooms**, double room 21 (on GF of annex) seen D90. Bathroom D87 ST100 SH48. The adapted room on third floor of main building has no ST. Neither of the adapted rooms seen were very spacious. No restaurant.

Price band B

11th arrondissement (around blvd Voltaire and ave République)

Campanile Bastille**

9 rue du Chemin Vert, 75011

Tel: 01 43 38 58 08 Fax: 01 43 38 52 28

website: www.campanile.fr e-mail: paris.bastille@campanile.fr

Situated on north west of the junction with rue Saint Sabin. Taxi drop-off outside. UGCP has 2 BB spaces. Entrance +1 step. Two lifts (D90 W107 L175 serve all floors. **Five adapted rooms**. Room 215 seen, D76. Bathroom D76 SH49 but no ST. Breakfast but no restaurant.

Price band B

Holiday Inn République***

10 place de la République, 75011

Tel: 01 43 14 43 50 Fax: 01 47 00 32 34

website: www.paris-republique.holiday-inn.com e-mail: reservations.pardl@ichotelsgroup.com

Taxi drop-off at entrance. Public CP. Step-free entrance. Four lifts, the largest of which is D80 W100 L135 and the only one serving all floors. **Four adapted bedrooms**, all doubles. Room 377 seen, bathroom D85 ST150 SH52. Restaurant.

Price band B

Ibis Bastille Opéra**

15 rue Bréguet, 75011

Tel: 01 49 29 20 20 Fax: 01 49 29 20 30

website: www.ibishotel.com e-mail: h1399@accor-hotels.com

At the junction of rue Froment. Taxi drop-off outside main entrance. Step-free access from UGCP via ramp at end of level minus one. **Adapted toilet (D76 inward opening ST120 SH51)** on level minus one of UGCP. Three lifts (D82 W117 L130) serving all floors. **Seven adapted rooms** some twins, some doubles. Room 335 has D90 (1 small lip), **adapted toilet (D77 ST154 SH 50 no handrails)** and wheel-in shower with a 2 cm lip. A shower-chair is available. **Step-free access 95%**. Small restaurant.

Price band B

12th arrondissement (Bercy Village and Gare de Lyon)

Ibis Bercy Village **

19 place des Vins de France, 75012

Tel: 01 49 28 06 06 Fax: 01 49 28 06 20 Reservations Tel: 01 49 28 06 30

website: www.ibishotels.com e-mail: h1743@accor.com

Some 250m from the Cour St Emillion Line 14 metro station. Taxi drop-off 10 m. CP. Two lifts (D80 W100 L135) serving all floors. **Five adapted rooms**, all doubles. Room 415 seen, D80. Toilet D80 ST 100 low-level bath but no handrails. GF **wheelchair toilet (D85 ST75 H48 retractable bar)** just to the left of reception.

Price band B

Kyriad Hotel**

19 rue Baron le Roy, 75012

Tel: 01 44 67 75 75 Fax: 01 44 67 76 77

website: www.envergure.fr/kyriaden.html e-mail: reservations@bercykyriad.com

Taxi drop-off outside. One BB space outside. Two lifts (D80 W104 L134) serving all floors. **Six adapted bedrooms**, with doubles or twins. Room 621 seen D90. Bathroom D90 ST66 SH51. Breakfast but no restaurant.

Price band B

Mercure Bercy ***

77 rue de Bercy, 75012

Tel: 01 53 46 50 50 Fax: 01 53 46 50 99

website: www.mercure.com e-mail: h0941@accor-hotels.com

Situated on the edge of the parc de Bercy, near the Cinémathèque Française and the junction with rue Corbineau. Taxi drop-off outside. One BB space shared with neighbouring Novotel. UGCP entrance is +14. Step-free entrance. One lift (D90 W118 L140) gives access to bar and restaurant. Three other lifts (D90 W124 L140) serve all other floors. **Six adapted rooms**, one with a shower, the others with baths. Room 724 seen, D90, has one double and one single bed. Bathroom D70 ST97 SH50.

Price band B/C

Mercure Gare de Lyon ***

2 pl Louis Arman, 75012

Tel: 01 43 44 84 84 Fax: 01 43 47 41 94

website: www.mercure.com e-mail: h2217@accor.com

Situated to the south east to the junction with blvd Diderot and is built against the clock tower outside the Gare de Lyon. It is in a good place for both RER and 'accessible' bus access. Taxi drop-off point outside entrance. Step-free entrance. Three lifts (D80 W125 L140) serving all floors. **Eight adapted bedrooms**. Room 505 seen with a conventional bath and a wall-mounted grab rail. ST 70+.

Price band C

Novotel Bercy ****

85 rue de Bercy, 75012

Tel: 01 43 42 30 00 Fax: 01 43 45 30 60

website: www.novotel.com e-mail: h0935@accor.com

Taxi drop-off outside. One BB space shared with neighbouring Mercure. Steps to UGCP. Step-free entrance. GF Adapted toilet (D87 H48, no ST but 110 in front of WC), past reception, along the corridor on the right. Two lifts (D87 W115 L133) serving all floors. **Five adapted bedrooms**, all doubles. Room 207 seen, D89. Bathroom D89 ST153. Has a restaurant.

Price band C

Novotel Gare de Lyon ****

2 rue Hector Malot, 75012

Tel: 01 44 67 60 00 Fax: 01 44 67 60 60

website: www.novotel.com e-mail: h1735@accor-hotels.com

Situated 100m north-east of Gare de Lyon. Taxi drop-off at entrance. UGCP has 4 BB spaces. Step-free to hotel reception. Three lifts (D88 W103 L240). **Seven adapted rooms**. Room 702 seen, D90. Bathroom D86 ST125 H53. Two rooms (304 and 404) have been recently converted and now have a wheel-in shower with a fold-down seat. These each have a double bed, but there is an interconnecting room next door. There is a restaurant reached step-free, but there are -5 steps to the bar. There is a swimming pool, also reached via -5 steps.

GF **wheelchair toilet (D80 ST70 SH50)** but you need to get the key pad access code from reception.

Price band C

Sofitel Bercy *****

1 rue de Libourne, 75012

Tel: 01 44 67 34 00 Fax: 01 44 67 34 01

website: www.sofitel.com e-mail: h2192@accor-hotels.com

Situated on the south eastern corner of ave des Terroirs de France. Ten parking spaces that can be reserved. Two entrances – a rotating door on rue de Libourne or -3 steps on avenue des Terroirs de France. GF **wheelchair toilet (D80 ST115 SH52)** at the south eastern corner. Four lifts (D89 W155 L129). **Nine adapted bedrooms**, all twin-bedded. Room 235 seen, D87. Bathroom D88 ST160 SH49. Has one restaurant.

Price band D

13th arrondissement (Place d'Italie, Parc de Choisy)

Ibis Avenue d'Italie**

15 ave d'Italie, 75013

Tel: 01 53 79 60 00 Fax: 01 45 70 73 06

website: www.ibishotels.com e-mail: h5543@accor.com

On east on ave d'Italie, just south of pl d'Italie. Taxi drop-off and 1 BB space outside. Step free entrance, but +3 to reception. One lift (D79 W91 L136). **Four adapted bedrooms**, including two on GF. Double room seen. Bathroom D88 SH49. No ST due to fixed handrail. Breakfast but no restaurant.

Price band B

Touring Hotel Magendie

6 rue Corvisart 75013

Tel: 01 43 36 13 61 Fax: 01 43 36 47 48

website: www.touring-hotel.com e-mail: magendie@vfv-vacanes.fr

Located on the corner with rue Magendie. It is about 300m from the Gobelins metro station. UGCP with lift access (D90 W 110 L130). Height restriction 200cm, and a small [3cm] lip to get to the lift. There is also on-street controlled parking (free throughout August).

Entrance +5 steps with ramp bypass to left. Four adapted GF bedrooms all with a shower. All have double beds. We saw room 20, where the gap between the bed and the wall was only 69cm on each side. It would be possible to create more space on one side by moving the bed. Bathroom D79 with ST 140 to the toilet (H50), and a shower with a fold-down seat, but with a 15cm step/lip to get in. Restaurant and bar on the GF with step-free access. There are also accessible meeting rooms which can be hired. Two lifts provide access to the upper floors. The hotel is in a new building and is run by VVF Vacances. It offers good value.

Price band A

14th arrondissement (Cimetière du Montparnasse)

FIAP "Jean Monnet"

30 rue Cabanis, 75014

Tel: 01 43.13.17.00 Fax: 01.45.81.63.91

website: www.fiap.asso.fr e-mail: fiap@asso.fr

The hostel has been rebuilt and has an attractive entrance foyer with step free access via a shallow ramp. There are -3 steps to the café/bar bypassed by an open lift on the right. There is a GF lounge area and a restaurant. Three lifts (D75 W130 L135) go to the bedrooms and the first floor restaurant and meeting rooms. **The main part of the hostel has eleven adapted bedrooms, each with four beds and about the most spacious wheelchair toilet (D70+ ST70+) and wheel-in shower en suite we've come across.** The basement rooms are all accessible either by lift or by platform stair lifts. A lot of care has been taken to make the place accessible. **The facilities for both chair users and disabled walkers are excellent** and the only problems are car parking and booking. At busy times it can be booked more than six months in advance. Note that there's a large annexe which is only accessible via 20+ steps, so make sure that your booking is in the main part if that's a problem.

A wheelchair toilet (D70+ ST70+ SH50 with bars on both sides. The ST side is retractable) is sited to the left of reception.

Price band A

Ibis Alesia Montparnasse **

49 rue des Plantes, 75014

Tel: 01 53 90 40 00 Fax: 01 53 90 40 15

website: www.ibishotels.com e-mail: h0959@accor.com

On corner of rue Antoine Chantin. Close to number 62 accessible bus route. Taxi drop-off outside. UGCP 50m from main entrance has lift. Minibuses etc can be parked just outside UGCP. Step-free entrance to hotel. Three lifts (D90 W100 L135). GF **wheelchair toilet (D80 ST85 SH52)** 10m past reception on the right. **Four adapted bedrooms**, all doubles. Room 252 seen D90. Bathroom D90 ST140 SH50. Breakfast but no restaurant.

Price band A

Mercure Montparnasse ***

20 rue de la Gaité, 75014

Tel: 01 43 35 28 28 Fax: 01 43 35 78 00

website: www.mercure.com e-mail: h0905@accord-hotels.com

On NW side of rue de la Gaité between rue de Maine and rue Vandamme. Taxi drop-off outside. UGCP. One small lip at entrance. GF **wheelchair toilet (D90 ST125 SH51)** 20m past reception on your right. Two lifts (D100 W130 L120) serve all floors, including UGCP. **Five adapted rooms**, 4 singles and 1 double. Double room seen D85. Bathroom D90 ST73 SH54. There is a restaurant.

Price band B/C

Sofitel Forum Rive Gauche****

17, blvd Saint-Jacques, 75014

Tel: 01 40 78 79 80 Fax: 01 45 88 43 93

website: www.sofitel.com e-mail: h1297@accor-hotels.com

Situated between rue Dareau and rue Ferrus. Taxi drop-off outside. Valet parking available. Step-free entrance. One lift (D109 W186 L145) serving all floors. **Fourteen adapted bedrooms**, in a variety of layouts. Room 1032 seen, D76. Bathroom D81 ST144 (at a slight angle) SH45. Two restaurants.

Price band D - 250

15th arrondissement (with several hotels near the 7th with the Eiffel Tower)

Ibis Tour Eiffel Cambronne**

2 rue Cambronne, 75015

Tel: 01 40 61 22 22 Fax: 01 40 61 22 21

website: www.ibishotel.com e-mail: H1400@accor-hotels.com

At the end of the road very near pl Cambronne. About 800m from the Eiffel Tower. UGCP with lift access. Height restriction 1.9m. Step free to reception, restaurant and bar (via an outside ramp). Four lifts, three near reception (D110 W125 L195) and one (D90 W100 L150) away to the left, nearer the adapted rooms. **Eight adapted rooms**. Room 118 seen D80+, folding bathroom D80+, ST80+ with a wheel-in shower, folding seat and a shower curtain. Generally an excellent design. We were told that the adapted rooms all had double beds, and there is space for a folding bed. The option of twin beds and/or of a family room would be welcome.

Particularly good value if you're looking for a wheel-in shower and parking.

Price band A/B

Mercure Tour Eiffel ****

64 blvd de Grenelle, 75015

Tel: 01 45 78 90 90 Fax: 01 45 78 95 55

website: www.mercure.com e-mail: hotel@mercuretooureiffel.com

Situated to the south west of the junction with rue Lourmel. Taxi drop-off outside. UGCP with 2 BB spaces accessed by lift. Revolving door at the entrance. Alternative way in to the left with a 3cm lip, but the door can only be opened by staff from the inside. One lift (D80 W100 L120). **Three adapted bedrooms**. Room 201 seen, D85. Bathroom D80 ST80 SH50. No Restaurant.

Price band C

Tour Eiffel Suffren ****

20 rue Jean Rey, 75015

Tel: 01 45 78 50 00 Fax: 01 45 78 91 42

website: www.mercure.com e-mail: h2175@accor-hotels.com

Private UGCP nearby. At the entrance, a ramp bypasses +3+4 steps, but with a 9cm lip. Three lifts (D107 W122 L130). **Nine adapted bedrooms**. Room 201 seen, with twin beds, D87.

Bathroom D87 ST0 SH45). Bar is step-free. Restaurant.

Price band C/D

Novotel Tour Eiffel****

61 quai de Grenelle, 75015

Tel: 01 40 58 20 00 Fax: 01 40 58 24 44

website: www.novotel.com e-mail: H3546@accor.com

Located near the riverside about 800m from the Eiffel Tower.

A huge conference hotel with more than 750 rooms. UGCP with lift access. Height restriction 1.85m. Taxi drop-off outside.

The main hotel entrance is via a revolving - with a conventional door on either side. A ramp to the left bypasses the +1 step. Inside, the main route is via escalators to the reception area.

These are bypassed by going to the right, through the (automatic) blue doors and across part of the route to the UGCP. A staff member will take you up to reception in a service lift (D130 W200 L150).

Inside there are six lifts serving all thirty floors, but the GF exit level can only be accessed by a staff member with a key (presumably this is a security measure).

There are **seventeen adapted rooms**, all with double beds, but some have a connecting room.

We saw room 1317. There was a ridge/lip at the doorway (D85) which our surveyors thought might be difficult for a power chair user. There was ample room (W175) alongside the bed.

The bathroom had a toilet with ST120 SH50, and a wheel-in shower. The shower had two outward-opening doors and a movable stool. The shower doors, however, are an inflexible arrangement, and a movable curtain would have been much better.

Apart from the hassle at the entrance, the hotel facilities including lounge, restaurant/s and bar are all accessible step-free.

Price band C/D

17th arrondissement

Mercure Square des Batignolles ***

165 rue de Rome, 75017

Tel: 01 56 79 29 29 Fax: 01 56 79 29 20

website: www.mercure.com e-mail: H3381@accor.com

Near junction with rue Cardinet and the Square des Batignolles, about 1km west of the Montmartre Cemetery.

Taxi drop-off outside. No CP. One lift (D76 W93 L130) serving all floors. **Two adapted GF rooms**, both doubles, D87. Toilet SH52. Wheel-in shower with 5 cm lip. **Step-free access 100%**. No restaurant.

Price band C

18th arrondissement (Montmartre)

Ibis Montmartre**

5 rue de Caulaincourt, 75018

Tel: 01 55 30 18 18 Fax: 01 55 30 19 18 Reservations Tel: 01 55 30 18 00

website: www.ibishotels.com e-mail: h0697@accor.com

Just north of junction with rue Forést de Clichy. Taxi drop-off opposite entrance. UGCP shared with the Mercure next door. Step-free entrance. Three lifts (D70+ W110 L130) serve all floors. **Eight adapted bedrooms.** Room 427 seen, D75. Bathroom D80 ST150. Has a restaurant.

Price band B

Mercure Montmartre ***

3 rue Coulaincourt, 75018

Tel: 01 44 69 70 70 Fax: 01 44 69 70 71

website: www.mercure.com e-mail: h0373@accor.com

Just north of junction with rue Forést de Clichy. Taxi drop-off opposite entrance. UGCP shared with IBIS next door. Step-free entrance. Three lifts (D80 W110 L130) serve all floors. **Seven adapted bedrooms.** Double room 525 seen D85. Bathroom D85 ST150 SH 53. No restaurant.

Price band C

19th arrondissement (around la Vilette)

ETAP La Vilette

57-63 ave Jean Jaurès, 75019

Tel: 08 92 68 08 91 Fax: 01 42 03 44 43

website: www.etaphotel.com e-mail: h4982@accor.com

Near place Stalingrad at the end of the Bassin de la Vilette and about 1km from the Gare du Nord. The nearest metro station is Laumière. The no 26 wheelchair accessible bus passes quite nearby along the blvd de la Vilette, and goes to Gare St Lazare which is on line 14. UGCP with a BB space next to the exit door. Height restriction 2m. Three lifts (D80 W80 L130). **Six adapted bedrooms.** Bathroom D90 ST90 SH50 with wheel-in shower with a fold-down seat. No restaurant, although breakfast is provided. **Wheelchair cubicles D90 ST130 SH50** in both mens and womens toilets on the GF, either side of reception. See earlier comments on the Etap hotels.

Price band A

20th arrondissement (to the east)

Résidence Internationale de Paris

44 rue Louis Lumière, 75020

Tel: 01 40 31 45 45 Fax: 01 40 31 45 67

website: www.residence-inter-paris.com e-mail: residence.inter@libertysurf.fr

A hotel/hostel to the east of the city, near Porte Bagnolet and the blvd Périphérique. It was built for disabled people who participate in various competitive sports. It is adjacent to the Handisports centre with a wide range of sports facilities. There is parking for about ten

vehicles, with additional BB spaces just outside. **It has been designed to cater for disabled visitors, and offers all the basic facilities giving extremely good value.** Step free entrance leading to reception and a bar. This has a counter at wheelchair height. There are **wheelchair toilets** on the GF (D70+ ST70+). Lifts (D150 W150 L300) to all floors. Self-service restaurant in the basement which can be slightly cramped if there are a lot of chair users. **There are a hundred rooms, ALL of which are wheelchair accessible**, with D85, bathroom D77, ST 70+, and **all with a wheel-in shower**. Rooms are for two, three or four people. In the four-bed rooms the shower and toilet are separate.

The facilities for both chair users and disabled walkers are excellent. Advanced booking is strongly advised, as it is sometimes booked out by people pursuing and playing various sports. We have stayed there several times, and have been well looked after.

Price band A

Citadines Apart'Hotels

Citadines are a chain of apartment hotels which provide self-catering facilities. They provide breakfast, but do not have a restaurant for other meals. All have adapted facilities for disabled guests, although none have wheel-in showers and the level of adaptation is limited. Most have parking, and several are in excellent locations, including two in 75001, one in the blvd St Germain, two near the Eiffel Tower and one in Montmartre.

See further details at www.citadines.com

Contact details: *Tel:* 0800 376-3898 (free in the UK) Central reservation +33 1 41 05 79 08.
e-mail: enquiry@the-ascott.com, and it is possible to e-mail each hotel directly.

Note that (as with most other hotels) it does not seem to be possible to reserve the adapted rooms by using the website on-line reservation service.

We found it quite difficult to get information about Citadines, and when we contacted their office to ask for more data they told us “we do not wish to participate in your programme” - which was at best slightly unfriendly !

However, survey teams subsequently stayed in two of the hotels - the ones in Montmartre, and near the Tour Eiffel - and we visited and surveyed two others. In the ones we used, we were well looked after, although the ‘adaptations’ had not been particularly well thought through .

Most of the hotels have apartments for those with reduced mobility, suitable for three to four people as described below, although some have ‘studios’ which are smaller and only have one fold-down sofa-bed. The studios have an area of about 25m² while the apartments have an area of some 38m².

The main central Apart'hotels are at:

Citadines **Louvre**, 6 rue de Richelieu, 75001. Two apartments, one studio. No CP. Very central.

Citadines **Les Halles**, 4 rue des Innocents, 75001. Six apartments. CP nearby. Very central.

Citadines **Opéra**, 18 rue Favart, 75002. Seven apartments. CP. Very central.

Citadines **St-Germain-des-Prés**, 75006. 53 ter quai des Grands Augustins. Thirteen apartments. CP. Ideal for the Left Bank.

Citadines **Opéra Vendôme**, 2 rue Edouard VII, 75009. Four studios. CP. Ideal for the shops.
Citadines **Tour Eiffel**, 132 blvd de Grenelle, 75015. Seven apartments. CP. Some 800m from the Tower.

Citadines **Trocadéro**, 29 bis rue Saint-Didier, 75116. Six apartments. CP. Just 300m from the Palais de Chaillot.

Citadines **Montmartre**. 16 ave Rachel, 75018. Four apartments. CP. A lively spot at the bottom of the hill.

There are several other Citadines, including ones at Austerlitz, Place d'Italie, Montparnasse, République and between Bastille and Nation.

We include a detailed description of two that we stayed in (Montmartre and Tour Eiffel), together with two other summaries:

Citadines Montmartre

16 ave Rachel, 75018

Tel: 01 44 70 45 50 *Fax:* 01 45 22 59 10

e-mail: montmartre@citadines.com

Located at the end of ave Rachel, which is a dead end (rue sans issue) off the blvd Clichy and near the Cimetière de Montmartre. It is well situated for the restaurants and night life at the bottom of the Montmartre hill, but is about 1km from the funicular which goes near to the Sacré-Cœur. Flat entrance. The GF includes the reception (with friendly English-speaking staff), breakfast area, toilets, phones, lifts, and some of the apartments together with a TV area (+1 step, on the right past reception), and internet area reached via +4.

The lifts (both D80 W100 L130) serve the UGCP, on three levels, and floors 0 to 8.

The GF is level 0. There are two BB spaces in the CP: space 141 on level minus one and space 180 on level minus two. Also on level minus one are some token-operated washing machines.

The GF apartment we stayed in (Room 5) had two rooms separated by sliding doors. One included a double bed, and the other was a dining/sitting room with a single sofa-bed. This had a TV and a table with 2/3 moveable chairs (one was stored in the cupboard by the entrance, which also housed a safe and ironing board). There was a small, well-equipped kitchen area although it was not adapted in any way for a chair user. The bathroom - which had limited side transfer space alongside the toilet, had a conventional bath without supporting handrails. All the doors were 80cm wide or greater. Our chair user was able to move around everywhere reasonably easily.

The GF toilets (D90, very heavy) are located down a corridor to the left of the main entrance and have one unadapted cubicle and one unisex **wheelchair/adapted cubicle (D90 inward opening, ST100 SH52)**. The breakfast area is step free, with moveable chairs and tables and a serving bar of H90.

Citadines Tour Eiffel

132 blvd de Grenelle, 75015

Tel: 01 53 95 60 00 *Fax:* 01 53 95 60 95

e-mail: eiffel@citadines.com

Situated just east of the ave du Commerce, next to a McDonalds. It is about 800m from the Eiffel Tower. Parking is available.

Step free entrance, leading to reception, a small lounge area with TV and sofas, and the two lifts (D83 W102 L132). We stayed in no 202 on the second floor. An entrance door (D92) led into the hallway, which we found to be a little small for wheelchair manoeuvring, although we managed. All the doors were >75cm wide.

Light switches in the three rooms had been lowered to H90.

The kitchen/lounge room had a sofa bed, chair, coffee table (H46), and large table (H77) with two chairs, and a TV and hifi system with many choices of channel. There were many electrical points around the room. The kitchen area was not very convenient for a chair user. The surface(H91) included a hob and sink. Above the hob was the microwave oven (H150), and the dishwasher was underneath. The fridge was at floor level.

The bedroom had a double bed, with a 160cm gap one side, and 50cm the other.

The bathroom had an outward opening door (D77). The bath was unadapted except for a handrail each side. The basin in the middle was a little wobbly and did not inspire much confidence for use as a support. The toilet had plenty of side transfer space.

Citadines Bastille Marais***

37 blvd Richard Lenoir, 75011

Tel: 01 53 36 90 00 Fax: 01 53 36 90 22

e-mail: bastillemarais@citadines.com

By the junction with rue de Chemin Vert. UGCP. Step free entrance. GF with breakfast area and TV/internet. **Four adapted apartments/studios.** Room 118 seen. D76, and bathroom D74. Bath with no extra grab rails.

GF **adapted toilet (D85 ST150 SH51 with inward opening door)** down the corridor to the left of reception, 10m on the left. **Step-free access 95%.** No restaurant.

B/C

Citadines Saint-Germain-des-Prés ***

53 ter, quai des Grands Augustins, 75006

Tel: 01 44 07 70 00 Fax: 01 44 07 29 50

e-mail: stgermain@citadines.com

Near junction with rue des Grands-Augustin. Taxi drop-off 5 m from main entrance. UGCP height restriction 1.9 m; 2 BB spaces and lift (D80 W100 L140). One 3 cm step at the hotel entrance D97. Three lifts (D80 W100 L140) serving all floors. GF **unisex wheelchair toilet** (D88 ST140 SH 49). **Thirteen adapted apartments**, D85. Bathroom D78; toilet ST135 SH48. Breakfast area is step-free. No restaurant.

Hotels just outside the boulevard Périphérique

Hotel Formule 1 (F1) Porte de Saint Ouen

29 rue du Dr Babinski, 75018

Tel: 01 49 21 90 70

website: www.hotelformule1.com e-mail: h2097@accor.com

Situated by the blvd Périphérique just outside Porte de Saint Ouen. This is a large hotel with 386 rooms, and therefore staffed most of the day - unlike some of the smaller Formule 1 hotels (see separate write-up). UGCP nearby with height limit 2.2m. Step free access via reception

to 3 lifts (D90 W120 L180). **Twelve adapted rooms.** One seen. The gap by the door between the door and the bed is quite tight at 70cm. Otherwise it's fine, with a double bed and an elevated single bed. Adapted toilets and with a wheel-in shower D80+ ST80+ are available near the adapted rooms, but are kept locked, with the key available from reception.

Exceptionally good value if you can accept basic facilities. Breakfast room with movable chairs. There's a Courtpaille restaurant/grill next door with step free access and a **wheelchair cubicle (D70 ST70)** in both mens and womens.

Price band A

Hotel ETAP Porte de Saint Ouen

45 rue du Dr Babinski, 75018

Tel: 01.49.21.90.90 Fax: 01.49.21.90.99

website: www.etaphotel.com e-mail: H2181@accor-hotels.com

Situated by the blvd Périphérique just outside Porte de Saint Ouen and past the Formule1.

This is a large hotel with 464 rooms and therefore staffed most of the day - unlike some of the smaller ETAP hotels. UGCP with height limit 2.2m. Step free access via reception to three lifts (D90 W120 L180). **Eleven adapted rooms** with D70+ and plenty of room with a double bed and an elevated single bed. One seen. **En suite adapted bathroom** with toilet and wheel-in shower with a small fold-down seat, D80+ ST80+. Exceptionally good value, and well adapted - about €10 more expensive than the Formule 1. Breakfast room with movable chairs. There's a Courtpaille restaurant/grill next door with step free access and a **wheelchair cubicle (D70 ST70)** in both mens and womens toilets.

Price band A

Comfort Hotel Median Paris Congrès

6-8 blvd de Douaumont, 75017

Tel: 01 47 56 04 00 Fax: 01 47 56 14 77

website: www.jjwhotels.com e-mail: comfortmedianparis@jjwhotels.com

Just outside the Périphérique at the junction with rue de Paris and place des Nations Unies. It is near the Stade de France. It is a Median hotel in the JJWhotels chain. UGCP with BB spaces on level minus one. Lifts (D80 W100 L135) to all floors, including the UGCP. **Wheelchair cubicles (D70 ST 92)** in both toilets on level minus one.

Main entrance from street is step free to reception, restaurant and bar. On the GF, 30% of restaurant is +1 step, 10% of bar is -2. Terrace outside is -1, but the smallest step to it [2cm] is through the bar.

One adapted room on each floor (8 in total): room 101 seen: a 4-person room, bathroom D72 ST62, with a bath. We were told that other rooms were similar.

Price Band B

Ibis Porte de Clichy**

15 blvd Victor Hugo, pl des Nation Unies, 92110 Clichy

Tel: 01 41 40 18 90 Fax: 01 41 40 18 91

website: www.ibishotels.com e-mail: h3298@accor-hotels.com

On the corner of rue Bonnet. Taxi drop off on rue Bonnet 10 m from the entrance. UGCP off rue Bonnet with 2 BB spaces, lift (D80 W100 L140). Press the button to get reception to open the lift door. Step-free main entrance. Two lifts (D80 W100 L140) serving all floors. **Five**

adapted rooms, all doubles. Room 416 seen, D85. Bathroom with sliding D100+ ST150+ and a wheel-in shower with a fold-down seat. Has a restaurant. **Two unisex wheelchair toilets (D85 ST80+ SH46)** on the GF.

Price band A/B

ETAP Porte de Vincennes*

2 ave Léon Gaumont 75020

Tel: 08 92 683 2 57 *Fax:* 01 56 93 30 01

website: www.etaphotel.com *e-mail:* h3086@accor.com

On the corner of rue de Lagny, just outside the Périphérique in the town of St Mandé, despite the slightly misleading Paris postcode. UGCP with lift access. Entrance with +1 [13cm] step. There is flat access via a side entrance to the left, behind the barriers for the UGCP: ask the staff to open this if necessary. **Wheelchair toilet (D75 ST92)** on the far left hand side of the lobby. Breakfast room step free on GF. Six adapted rooms reached by lift (D80 W100 L125), as is the UGCP. Room 819 seen: D80 Bathroom D85; toilet ST90 with a wheel-in shower: spacious triple room (there is a bunk over the double bed).

Price band A

IBIS Porte de Montreuil 2**

2 ave du Professeur André Lemierre, 75020

Tel: 01 43 63 16 16 *Fax:* 01 43 63 31 32

website: www.ibishotels.com *e-mail:* h2012@accor-hotels.com

Situated on corner of rue de Paris just outside the blvd Périphérique. CP has 8 BB spaces. Entrance to hotel has -4 steps, but a step-free alternative is available through the neighbouring ETAP hotel. Three lifts (D110 W145 L140) serving all floors. **Eight adapted bedrooms**, all with double beds. Room 907 seen, D85. Bathroom D88 but no ST space. There is a restaurant. (Note that the Etap hotel next door will have rooms with a wheel-in shower).

Price band A

Suitehotel Porte de Montreuil***

22 ave du Professeur André Lemierre, 75020

Tel: 01 49 93 88 88 *Fax:* 01 49 93 88 99

website: www.suite-hotel.com *e-mail:* h3239@accor.com

Situated just south of the junction with rue Eugène Varlin. On the east side of Paris. Taxi drop-off 25m. The UGCP is clearly signed, but is accessed using a card collected from reception. Height restriction 1.85m. The hotel entrance is step-free. Three lifts (D80 W100 L150) serving all floors. **Five adapted bedrooms**, each with a double and a single bed. Room 613 seen, D85. Bathroom D80; toilet ST135 SH49, and a wheel-in shower (with a small lip). No restaurant but self-caring facilities in the room. Unisex GF **wheelchair toilet (D90 ST250 SH46)** to the right of reception.

Price band B/C

Suitehotel Saint Denis Stade***

31 ave Jules Rimet, St Denis la Plaine, 93210 Saint Denis

Tel: 01 49 46 54 54 *Fax:* 01 49 46 54 55

website: www.suite-hotel.com *e-mail:* h3325@accor.com

This hotel is described on the Wheelchair Accessible Europe website as having four rooms with a wheel-in shower (and their description of the Suitehotel Porte de Montreuil was accurate).

Near la Défense (on the west side of Paris)

Hotel Itinéraires***

Paris La Défense Parc, 19 rue Salvador Allende, BP 631, 92006 Nanterre

Tel: 01 47 25 91 34 Fax: 01 47 21 84 21

website: www.h-iti.com e-mail: bienvenue@h-iti.com

Next to pl des Trois Fontanot. On-street controlled parking with four BB spaces outside. There is also a UGCP *Parking de la Brèche* under the hotel (though not operated or controlled by it) which is entered from rue des Trois Fontanot at the back of the hotel. Nanterre-Préfecture RER station is about 200m away and has step-free access to the platform.

The entrance to the hotel is on an elevated walkway reached by stairs or an escalator at the right hand end of the walkway. About 70m to the left of the escalator is a marked bell button which alerts staff to open the doors at ground level which leads to a lift to bring you up to the hotel. This is well signposted from the bottom of the escalator.

There are also public (though less than salubrious) lifts at either end of the walkway, which also lead to street level and the UGCP: the one at the right hand end was out of order, and looked as if it had been for some considerable time.

The hotel entrance has - 3 steps to reception, with a portable ramp. Lift (D78 W102 L132) to all floors, including **three adjacent adapted rooms** on the first floor: all D70+, bathroom D70+; ST 70+ with wheel-in showers.

Price band B

ETAP Courbevoie (Stars Unknown)

37 quai du Président Paul Doumer, 92400 Courbevoie

Tel: 08 92 68 32 51 Fax: 01 41 88 06 13

website: www.etaphotel.com Hotel code 3583

Seven BB spaces at rear of hotel with step-free access through the breakfast room. Two lifts (D80 W90 L150) serving all floors. **Five adapted bedrooms**, with one double bed and one bunk bed. Room 102 seen, D80. Wheel-in shower D90 ST90 toilet SH49. All the adapted bedrooms have the same facilities - with a wheel-in shower. Breakfast provided but no restaurant although there's a restaurant in the adjacent Ibis hotel, and others nearby. Excellent value, but with basic facilities.

Price band A

Novotel Porte d'Italie ***

22 rue Voltaire, 94270 Le Kremlin-Bicêtre

Tel: 01 45 21 19 09 Fax: 01 45 21 12 60

website: www.novotel.com e-mail: H5586@accor.com

Located just outside the Périphérique, the hotel has an UGCP with six BB spaces (three on each of the two floors). Height restriction 2m. Lift (D80 W95 L135) to the lobby where there are two more lifts going to all floors.

At the main entrance there is a revolving door, which can be bypassed through a conventional

door (D100) to the right. To get this unlocked, use the intercom (H155) by the door. Inside, the – 5 steps which lead to reception are bypassed by a ramp. There is a café, bar and restaurant on the GF, all with step-free access.

Seven adapted bedrooms, two of which have a double bed and a sofa bed. We saw room 731 with bathroom D80, toilet with ST160 and SH50, and a wheel-in shower. There's a **wheelchair cubicle (D80 ST80 SH42)** in both the mens and womens toilets on the GF, located 10m down the corridor to the left of the reception desk.

Price band C

Versailles

Ibis Château Versailles**

4 ave du Charles de Gaulle, 78000 Versailles

Tel: 01 39 53 03 30 Fax: 01 39 50 06 31

website: www.ibishotels.com e-mail: h1409@accor.com

Situated on the western side of ave du Charles de Gaulle, about 500m from the château. Taxi drop-off about 30m away. UGCP is to the left, and probably serves both the Ibis and Sofitel hotels. From the CP there is a lift (D80 W105 L140) to the surface where you turn left and go past a café to the hotel. Step-free entrance. Lift (D80 W93 L150) serves all floors. **Three adapted bedrooms** all doubles. Room 102 seen, D78. Bathroom D75 and ST80 only possible at an angle. The shower had a slightly sunken tray with a – 3cm lip. There's a **wheelchair toilet (D85 ST110 SH51)** on level minus one, accessed via the lift near reception.

Price band B

Mercure Château Versailles **

19 rue Philippe Dangeau, 78000 Versailles

Tel: 01 39 50 44 10 Fax: 01 39 50 65 11

website: www.mercure.com e-mail: hotel@mercure-versailles.com

Situated to the north west of the junction with rue Montbauron, about 1km from the château. Taxi drop-off outside. UGCP but with D76. Main entrance +1+3 steps, but there's a step-free alternative to the right. One lift (D80 W110 L140) serving all floors. **Three adapted bedrooms**, all doubles and all on the ground floor. Room 001 seen, D78. Bathroom D80 with bath; toilet ST115 SH40. No restaurant.

Price band B

Le Versailles

7 rue Saint-Anne, 78000 Versailles

Tel: 01 39 50 64 65 Fax: 01 39 02 37 85

website: www.hotel-le-versailles.com e-mail: info@hotel-le-versailles.fr

Situated around 250m from the château. Spaces can be reserved in the UGCP in advance. The main entrance to the hotel has –11–4 steps, but a step-free route is available either through the courtyard and around the back of the hotel on rue Madame, or via the UGCP. One lift (D70 W110 L70). **One adapted room**, a double, with D80. Wheel-in shower room D78 ST250 SH46. Step-free access to breakfast room. **Adapted toilet (D79 ST40 SH40)** on the GF to the left of the reception.

Price band B/C

Sofitel Château de Versailles****

2 bis, ave de Paris, 78000 Versailles

Tel: 01 39 07 46 46 Fax: 01 39 07 46 47

website: www.sofitel.com e-mail: H1300@accor.com

Situated in a service road, parallel to ave de Paris, at the junction with ave de Général de Gaulle, approx 500m from château.

Taxi drop-off outside. CP (H230) to the left of the step-free entrance. Two lifts (D80 L194 L140) serve all floors. **Four adapted rooms** (each with connecting rooms), but only two are available during the summer season. Room 214 seen, with twin beds. Bathroom D77 and a conventional bath; toilet ST170 SH52.

Price band D

Near Charles de Gaulle airport

Ibis Charles de Gaulle Paris Nord 2**

335 rue de la Belle Etoile, BP 60183, Roissy-en-France

Tel: 01 48 17 56 56 Fax: 01 48 17 56 51

website: www.ibishotels.com e-mail: h3299@accor.com

Taxi drop-off outside. CP 20m from entrance. Step-free entrance. **Four adapted bedrooms**, all on the GF. The one we saw has D90, and a double bed. Bathroom D90; toilet ST95 SH50 and a wheel-in shower. There is a restaurant.

Price band A

Novotel Roissy Aeroport

Route de l'Epinette, Roissypole Gare RER, Tremblay en France

95705 Roissy Charles de Gaulle

BP10302 – 95705

Tel: 01 49 19 27 27 Fax: 01 49 19 27 99

website: www.novotel.com e-mail: H1014@accor.com

Situated next to the station at the Charles de Gaulle airport (RER and SNCF). Around 400m from Terminal three. CP 20m from entrance with 2 BB spaces.

+3 cm lip at entrance. Two lifts. **Six adapted bedrooms**. Room 615 seen, with double bed and sofa. Bathroom D84; toilet ST125 SH54. Step-free access to breakfast room, restaurant and café, but +3 steps to bar.

Price band B/C

Suitehotel Nord 2****

335 rue de la Belle Etoile, BP 60182 – 95974, Roissy

Tel: 01 48 63 88 88 Fax: 01 48 63 86 87

website: www.suite-hotel.com e-mail: H3324@accor.com

Taxi drop-off and parking outside. Step-free access to entrance. **Wheelchair toilet (D90 ST90 SH54)** on the GF. **Five adapted bedrooms**, all on the GF. The double room we saw had D85 and a wheel-in shower (D80; toilet ST130 SH50). Step-free access to the bar and breakfast room.

Price band B

Fontainebleau

Novotel Ury Fontainebleau****

Route Nationale 152, 77760 Ury

Tel: 01 60 71 24 24 Fax: 01 60 71 24 00

website: www.novotel.com e-mail: h0384@accor.com

Situated on the western side of the N152, just north of Ury. Taxi drop-off outside. The CP has a gravel surface and two BB spaces. Entrance +5 steps bypassed by ramp. **Two adapted bedrooms**, both on GF. Both seen, both doubles, D90. Bathroom D74; toilet ST135 SH55. Step-free access to bar and restaurant. GF **wheelchair toilet (D90 ST130 SH47)** between reception and the breakfast area.

Price band B/C

Disneyland Paris hotels

The Disneyland hotels we saw only had rooms with a double bed (some had a single bed as well), and none had a wheel-in shower. They are, of course, very conveniently located for making visits to the Disneyland parks. The hotels are themselves physically big, with the possibility of quite long distances from reception to your room, and then to the various facilities.

The price indications here are based on two-night packages and most of these include entry tickets. Prices vary quite a lot, depending on the time of year. They tend to increase during the school holidays, and possibly when schools have half-terms.

The hotels are sited close to the Park. The one nearest to the entrance is the big Disneyland Hotel, the next nearest is the New York, which is described as being a ten minute walk away, and then the others are a fifteen to twenty minute walk. All the hotels can be found via the main website: www.disneylandparis.com

Cheyenne**

BP115-77777 Marne la Vallée Cedex 4

Tel: 01 60 45 62 00 Fax: 01 60 45 62 33

Taxi drop-off outside. Parking 50m from entrance. Access to the reception area is step-free.

GF **wheelchair toilet (D75 ST100 SH50)** in the reception area, on the left of the main corridor just before the restaurant. Twenty **adapted bedrooms**, all with double beds. Room 1804 seen. Access to this room was via +2 steps from reception which can be bypassed by a ramp at the other end of the block 100m away! Bathroom D75; toilet ST85 SH51.

Price band B

Disneyland Hotel****

BP111- Marne la Vallée Cedex 4

Tel: 01 60 45 65 00 Fax: 01 60 45 65 33

Taxi drop-off outside and valet parking available. Parking 50m from entrance with 22 BB spaces. Entrance to the reception is step-free. GF **wheelchair toilet (D90 ST120+ SH50)** to the right of the reception. Three lifts (D110 W170+ L150) serving all floors. **Eight adapted bedrooms**, all on the GF. Room 1051 seen. Bathroom D75; toilet ST120+ SH50

Price band C/D

Newport Bay Club***

F-77777 Marne la Vallée Cedex 4

Taxi drop-off outside. Parking 50m from entrance. A ramp bypasses +3 steps to the entrance.

Five lifts (D100+ W150+ L150+) serving all floors. Two **wheelchair toilets** on level one.

(D80 ST90 SH54) next to the entrance to the Cape Cod restaurant, and **(D80 ST100 SH54)** to the left of the lift reserved for disabled guests. **Twenty-one adapted bedrooms**, in a variety of layouts. Room 5197 seen, with a double bed. Bathroom D75; toilet ST120+ SH52.

Price band B/C

New York****

BP112-77777 Marne la Vallée Cedex 4

Tel: 01 60 45 73 00 *Fax:* 01 60 45 73 33

Taxi drop-off outside. CP has 5 BB spaces. Entrance is step-free. GF **wheelchair toilet (D75**

ST120 SH48) down the corridor to the right of the reception desk. Three lifts serving all

floors. **Thirteen adapted bedrooms**, in a variety of layouts and all on the GF. Room 176 seen.

Bathroom D75; toilet ST200+.

Price band B/C

Santa Fe**

BP116-77777 Marne la Vallée Cedex 4

Tel: 01 60 45 78 00 *Fax:* 01 60 45 78 33

Taxi drop-off and parking outside. Entrance to the hotel is step-free. **Twenty adapted**

bedrooms, all on the GF and all with double beds. Room 50011 seen. Bathroom D75; toilet

ST95 SH52.

Price band A/B

Sequoia Lodge***

BP114-77777 Marne la Vallée Cedex 4

Tel: 01 60 45 51 00 *Fax:* 01 60 45 51 33

Situated 700 m from the park gates. Taxi drop-off outside reception. Reserved BB parking

20m from hotel entrance. Step-free to reception. Lift D80 W102 L135. There is a **wheelchair**

toilet (D90 ST88 SH57) underneath the staircase on level one. **Twenty-one adapted**

bedrooms, all with a king-size bed and all on the GF. Room 2278 seen. Bathroom D85 ST135

H42 with HR. We were told that some of the hotel's suites were also adapted.

Price band B

Youth hostels

If you want a really cheap place to stay, then it's worth considering an Auberge de Jeunesse.

Although most of them do not have accessible rooms we found two that do.

Auberge de Jeunesse D'Artagnan

80 rue Vitruve 75020

Tel: 01 40 32 34 56 *Fax:* 01 40 32 34 55

website: www.hihostels.com *e-mail:* artainfos@hotels-in.com

40m from junction with rue de Balkans. Hilly area. Staff may allow parking in delivery bay

outside; otherwise parking is on-street only, and really difficult as the surrounding streets are narrow. There is a BB space about 130m uphill towards blvd Davout, but at the time of our survey this was blocked by a locked barrier.

Entrance +11 steps, but there is a ramped alternative to the left of the main entrance that will be opened on request. It is quite a steep climb. There are two lifts, one (D68 W100 L1200 and the other (D75 W110 L150) which goes to the basement where the bar and meeting room are. Step free access to the restaurant on the GF: the bar is –15 if the lift still isn't fixed. The rooms are hostel-style with from two to nine beds. On the first floor opposite the lifts, there is a wheelchair toilet (D70 ST100 SH50). There's a shower in the same room with a small slightly sunken shower tray [2cm down] and a fold-down seat. They are planning to provide a second wheelchair toilet in a new block on the GF.

Price band A

Cité des Sciences

24, rue des Sept Arpents/1, rue Jean-Baptiste Clement, 93310 Le Pré St-Gervais.

Tel: 01 48 43 24 11 *Fax:* 01 48 43 26 82

e-mail: paris.cite-des-sciences@fuaj.org.

On the corner of the two roads. The hostel is about 200m outside the Périphérique (Porte de Pantin) and La Villette is close by. No CP but free on-street parking close by. The area is flat. Entrance on rue Jean-Baptiste Clement has +3 steps, with a temporary ramp to the reception and guest kitchen. One adapted three-bed ground floor room with a single bed and bunk beds. Access is through a separate entrance from the street about 30m to the right of the main entrance, which bypasses +5–4 steps within the building. The room has D80; bathroom D80 ST 200+ SH50 with a wheel-in shower. The breakfast room is adjacent. The hostel has a policy of not taking unaccompanied disabled guests: and as there is only one adapted room, you are advised to book well in advance.

Rate: €19.50 per person per night.

Price band A

Camp sites

While camping certainly isn't everyone's cup of tea, given reasonable weather it can provide really inexpensive accommodation, and a great deal of freedom.

Camping du Bois de Boulogne ****

2 allée du Bord de l'Eau, 75016

Tel: 01 45 24 30 00 *Fax:* 01 42 24 42 95

websites: www.campingparis.fr www.hotelparispleinair.com

e-mail: paris@campingparis.fr

The campsite is located on the edge of the Bois de Boulogne, alongside the Seine. It is just north of the pont de Suresnes. The site is around 200m across, and stretches for nearly a kilometre along the riverside. It provides 435 pitches, as well as 75 mobile homes (each with +3 steps and no handrails to get to the door. None of these appeared to be adapted for easier access). The pitches have variable levels of 'confort' with the most expensive having a power supply, drinking water and a usable drain for waste.

The website has quite good information, but if you're thinking of going there, ask them to send

you the *Informations* booklet which has good site plans and other data not on the website.

The reception is on the right immediately inside the entrance, +3 steps from the road, bypassed by a ramp that starts 15m to the left. Maps of the site can be picked up from here.

To the left of reception is a restaurant, with step-free access from the road, which has moveable tables and chairs outside. It was closed at the time of our visit.

There is a mini-supermarket immediately opposite the reception building, +1 step to a gravel pavement and then +3 from the front, bypassed by a ramp that leads from the back of the right-hand side of the building.

The roads and paths in the campsite are a mixture of smooth tarmac and rough, gravelly earth, with bevelled 6cm kerbs at some junctions. There is on-site parking available for campers.

Two identical shower blocks are marked on the map. There is a +6cm bevelled step from the path, then a ramp bypasses +2 steps to mens and womens washrooms either side of some outdoor washbasins. Both have D140 with a 3cm lip at the entrance and in each there is an adapted washroom D78 with a **wheelchair toilet (D70+ ST82 SH52)** and a wheel-in shower with a fold-down seat 49cm high.

If you're wanting to use public transport, bus no 244 (from stop "Les Moulins - Camping" should have a ramp, and the tram line T2 goes to la Défense from stop "Suresnes-Longchamp". Both are listed by Infomobi as being wheelchair accessible.

Camping Paris-Est

blvd des Alliés, 94507 Champigny sur Marne

Tel: 01 43 97 43 97 Fax: 01 43 89 07 94

website: www.campinginparis.fr e-mail: champigny@campingparis.fr

This site is run by the same people as the one in the Bois de Boulogne, and may well have adapted toilet and shower. We tried e-mailing to check, but have received no reply as yet.

Camping les Prés

Chemin des Prés, 77880, Grez sur Loing

Tel/fax: 01 64 45 72 75 e-mail: camping-grez@wanadoo.fr

While it's a long way out of Paris (it's about 10km due south of Fontainebleau, just off the A6), the campsite provide accessible facilities and a rather different ambience from, for example, the Bois de Boulogne. If you're not sure exactly where they are, write off and they'll send you a map and leaflet.

Some uneven surfaces, but most of the paths are tarmac or concrete. There's a 4cm lip into the shop. Two plots are reserved for disabled campers. The shower/toilet block has adapted facilities with a **wheelchair toilet (D90 ST100+ SH50)** and a wheel-in shower with a fold-down seat. The key for these is kept at reception.