



Paris, 5 June 2014

Press release

Safety of tourists in Paris
Presentation of the Préfecture de Police's action plan for 2014
Thursday, 5 June 2014

Every year, Paris welcomes more than 30 million visitors, which makes it the world's leading tourist destination. Keen to reinforce the safety of tourists, the Préfecture de Police introduced a 26-point plan in spring 2013.

This plan outlined 4 priority measures:

- increased police presence at 7 main tourist sectors in the capital¹, in and on public transport but also around hotels in Paris and in Greater Paris;
- a marketing campaign in association with tourism professionals and public transport providers;
- a stronger partnership with the embassies of the countries from which most foreign tourists visiting Paris come from;
- improved reception of foreigners who are victims of crime.

A few basic figures illustrate the resolute measures undertaken as part of this action plan since it was launched:

- 3,100 police officers and gendarmes have been involved in patrol missions every month at main tourist sites, with local police officers having been reinforced on an almost daily-basis by mobile back-up forces;
- 4,300 patrols have been carried out around the main hotels in Paris and Greater Paris;
- 151,000 copies of the guide entitled '*Paris en toute sécurité*' [*Guide to Staying Safe in Paris*] have been distributed since the plan was launched;
- 2,045 people received information and advice last summer from police officers at the mobile reception point at Trocadéro, installed for the first time at this location.

¹ Butte Montmartre, Champs-Élysées, Champ de Mars, Trocadéro, Musée du Louvre-Palais Royal, Notre-Dame and Opéra

At a meeting held on 19 March 2014 to review the effects of the plan with the City of Paris, all of the partners of the Préfecture de Police expressed their delight at the results of the security plan for tourist sectors. The results obtained in the vicinity of the Louvre Museum, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre-Dame and the Eiffel Tower, and the stronger cooperation between the security services at these sites were particularly applauded by professionals.

The number of pickpocketing incidents, the main evaluation indicator of the plan, dropped by more than 10% in tourist sectors in the capital in the second half of 2013. The most notable drops concerned the sector of the Louvre Museum (-44%) and that of the Champs-Élysées (-19%). This variation is all the more striking as it was observed at a period when there was a higher number of foreign tourists visiting Paris, up by more than 8% in 2013, and as much as 38% for tourists coming from Asia.

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In liaison with tourism trade professionals, the Préfet de police [chief of police] decided to repeat the security plan for tourist sectors starting from Monday 14 April 2014.

In order to take into account the lessons learned last season, the action plan was completed and developed around 4 main lines of action.

1- Increased police resources in 2014, piloted by the Direction de la sécurité de proximité de la de l'agglomération parisienne (DSPAP) Paris Region Community Safety Department

It was decided that there be:

- stronger police presence at leading tourist sites, through greater involvement of all of the Préfecture de Police departments, and in particular, specialist departments, with the aim of increasing the police presence by 20%;
- an increase in the number of hotels covered by the security plan, after a survey by prefects of the *départements* of the Inner Suburbs;
- increased account taken of the Gare du Nord and its surroundings: the local police in the sector, being reinforced by the recent creation of a brigade of 25 police officers specializing in operations in the field;
- the upcoming creation of a brigade specializing in operations in the field (BST) on the Champs-Élysées and an initiative to increase security around night spot venues in the vicinity;
- a map tracking points of criminal acts and the continual adaptation of security measures to be taken;
- a systematic search, in connection with the Public Prosecutor, in order to dismantle criminal networks, the year 2013 having led to unrivalled results in the matter.

2- New geographical sectors covered

Now integrated into the tourist security plan:

- the sector covering the boulevard Saint-Germain, the Latin Quarter and Place du Châtelet;
- the main embarkation and disembarkment points for tourist sightseeing cruises on the Seine with the involvement of the river police in the 2014 plan;
- liaisons between Roissy and the centre of the capital, thanks to strengthened and coordinated action by police officers of the regional sub-direction of transport police, SNCF officers (SUGE and mediators) and staff in charge of the reception at Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport.

3- Improved welcome and information facilities for the public

Notable features of the second edition of the tourist security plan include:

- a second mobile reception point for the public during the summer;
- distribution of the guide entitled '*Paris en toute sécurité*' [*Guide to Staying Safe in Paris*], in two new languages: Arabic and Russian; after the creation in 2013 of versions in Korean, Chinese and Japanese, this guide is now available in 8 languages;
- an online version in English and Chinese on the website of the Préfecture de police.

4- The search for new international partners

In addition to Romanian police officers who will reinforce Parisian police departments this summer, the Préfecture de police can now count on the support of Bulgarian and Bosnian liaison officers.

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The introduction of this plan and the results generated will be regularly evaluated throughout the tourist season, in conjunction with the partners of the Préfecture de police.