

Naturism in Paris

In June 2022 Ray Ward and John Paine revisited Paris for NAG, to update on how our naturist colleagues in ANP (Association des Naturistes de Paris) have successfully received approval from Paris local government. This includes use of local authority leisure centres and outdoor public spaces for naturism. In addition, ANP has developed a whole range of naturist visits to non-naturist facilities, theatres, restaurants, art galleries.

John and Ray made sure that NAG did not fund this update exploration, which followed similar NAG visits in 2018 and 2019. For the 2022 visit each paid £236 for the Eurostar return and hotel B+B, together with their full costs on this visit.



ANP development

Prior to the introduction of Covid Lockdown restrictions ANP had 400 members and a very busy range of regular activities. Laurent Luft heads up a very capable elected voluntary management team. Those people who had the opportunity to move out of Paris, to be at a more amenable living situation in other locations during Lockdown, did so. This resulted in ANP membership dropping from its previous 400. ANP continued without the public activities during Covid restrictions. Online events expanded and it survived financially. Most ANP members who sold their expensive Parisian flats, and left, are not moving back to Paris. In 2022 ANP is attracting new members

ANP Membership year starts in September, when official numbers can be counted again. Laurent is confident that with the range of activities, many of a social nature, which ANP has introduced at locations around Paris in the past seven years, the online events, and group visits to naturist venues in France, and beyond, the ANP membership will increase again.

Records in Paris show that ANP was officially a group in 1953, although it most likely started some time before then. Using the 1953 date ANP will be celebrating 70 years in 2023 and planning for that has started. ANP was one of the earliest members of FFN.

Working with Paris authorities

The ANP timeline includes use of Piscine Roger Le Gall from 1993. Here swimming, yoga, and gym-based naked activities are run by ANP. In 2017, after long negotiations with city politicians, helped by their good record of using Piscine Roger Le Gall, ANP won approval for an 'experimental' summer use of a marked *Espace Naturiste*. This is located at the large city-run Bois de Vincenne in the 12th Arrondissement, east Paris. By naturists being there with public acceptance, the previous unwanted anti-social activity in Bois de Vincenne is very much decreased.



The *Espace Naturiste* is now established, officially operating April to October. It is open to all members of the public. ANP runs gym and yoga activities there every Sunday, and a picnic to which naturists bring their own food and drink. The last day of the 2017 season saw 700 naturists at this *Espace Naturiste*.



In 2021 Paris City politicians at La Marie (city Hall) agreed that ANP could also use the Piscine Georges Riga. This is forward planning, as the ageing Piscine Roger Le Gall leisure centre will need to close for a major upgrade after the planned summer 2024 Paris Olympics. ANP needs continuation of swims and fitness activities during that closure. After the refurbishment ANP will also have naturist use again at Roger Le Gall. It has proved popular to have the Paris naturist swim activities on four nights a week.

Another 'official' outdoor naturist space

For at least four years ANP has been in discussions with La Marie politicians at the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall) about the designation of a second naturist area. To save the long trek east this second site would be on the western side of Paris, at the Bois de Boulogne, in the 16th



Arrondissement. In February 2021 a woman naturist suggested to ANP management team five possible locations in those woods. These sites have been checked out by the Paris city leisure management of the Bois de Boulogne and narrowed down to two. One has a lake, which it is thought may present difficulties. The remaining option, with a more open location - but where the trees are much more densely packed than at Bois de Vincenne - is now actively part of the ongoing discussion between ANP and the City of Paris management.

Future NAG visits to Paris?

We look forward to the possibility of another Eurostar trip, to join our Paris naturist comrades at the *Espace Naturiste* at Bois de Boulogne, if it all works out!

Details of the very full programme of planned ANP activities are published in their monthly *Nudesletter* which can be found at <https://naturistes-paris.fr>

How to get to the *Espace Naturiste* at Bois de Vincennes

The nearest Metro station is Chateau de Vincennes at the eastern terminus of Line 1. Exit the station to face the large Chateau, then cross the road. area. Facing the Chateau you start a 700m walk to the naturist area, walk left and turn right. Continue alongside the high Chateau wall, straight ahead and over road junctions.

An unpaved path continues past the large concrete letters PARC FLORAL DE PARIS, which will be on your left. Keep straight on, you also pass an equestrian centre on the right. For some of the time you walk alongside a chain metal fence. Then you come to an official Paris city signboard, on the left, indicating the pathway to the *Espace Naturiste* area clearing.

John Paine 11 August 2022