

The Back Streets of Paris...

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Whilst planning our trip to the LHSa convention, in Wetzlar, our good friend, Xavier Bille, invited us to visit. Rose had never seen the “*City of Light*” and I had not been in Paris for some 43 years, so it seemed a very good idea.

We spent just four days in Paris and our time there was all too short.



Our host and my co-owner of the LRflex email list, Xavier.

Xavier asked us what we'd like to see, and we told him we'd like to see the “*real*” Paris. Of course, we'd like to see “*la Tour Eiffel*”, as every tourist must, but, for the most part, we wanted to see the bits of Paris that most tourists never see.

Each day, we'd take the Metro into Paris, and spend hours on the back streets, admiring the architecture and getting the ‘feel’ of the city. Along the way we'd stop at small cafés or bistros for wine, or lunch, and simply ‘*people watch*’.



“La Tour Eiffel”, from the Seine – 21/4 SA, R8+DMR.

And the food... what glorious food! Each day, as we explored, we'd find ourselves in a different part of town, filled with restaurants specializing in the cuisine of a different region of France. It was





impossible to decide which we liked best; though our last-night's meal at "**Brasserie Bofingers**" was beyond superb! (Go early. When we left, at 10PM, the "jet setters" were lined up 60 deep, at the door, waiting for tables!)

Xavier proved himself an amazing guide, for after many hours we'd turn a corner and find ourselves at the Louvre, the Moulin Rouge, the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur, or somewhere similar, and it would turn out that we'd been (*unknown to us*) within a few blocks of his intended destination, all day!



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The buildings were glorious and the art was everywhere,



Never trust a skinny Chef!

It was on those back streets of Paris that we discovered the true pulse of the city...and we loved it! If you've never been to Paris, you have to put it on your "must see" list!

We are already planning a return visit, in 2008.... timed to coincide with Photokina, of course!

All photos taken with the R8+DMR. Unless indicated, all with the 80-200/f4 Vario-Elmar.

