



Originally constructed in 1860,
Passage des Princes was rebuilt
in 1985 with original elements
incorporated into the new design

王子拱廊街始建於1860年，在1985
年進行重建時，在新設計中加入了
原有的元素

拱廊漫步

Under cover

by BILL HARBY

Just off Paris' busy pavements, alleyways protected by glass roofs reveal charming boutiques, cafés and stores that offer a glimpse of a bygone era

巴黎繁忙的街道旁有一些玻璃天幕拱廊，漫步其中，可以找到迷人的精品店、咖啡室及商店，讓人感受到往昔的氛圍



IT WOULD be *une petite catastrophe* to pass by Passage des Panoramas in the second arrondissement. Contrary to its name, Panoramas does not have wide, spacious views; it is named for two 19th-century circular buildings that were once nearby. Instead, the passage is narrow – 3.2 metres across its flagstone floor – and often teeming with office workers, strollers, shoppers and tourists. And yet, the eye is naturally drawn up to the pitched glass and iron roof. It's bright natural light from glass roofs such as these that make the hidden, historic *passages couverts*, or covered passages, of Paris so inviting – especially on a rainy or snowy day.

Lining both sides of the Passage des Panoramas walkway are small storefronts offering items ranging from crêpes to handmade picture frames. Stamp collectors will love the musty aisles of Labre Philatélie. The Théâtre des Variétés presents comedies and tragedies performed by leading French actors.

Also intriguing: the shuttered shop that no one can enter. In 1834, a master printer and engraver named Stern founded his business here. Stern's clients included Charles de Gaulle and other French heads of state, says Veronika Turpin, a knowledgeable local guide who offers tours of the passages in French, German and English. Now closed for five years, Stern Graveur has been designated a national heritage site of France. Peering through the windows at the cabinets and countless little drawers of dark wood, you can see that the shop remains frozen in time.

The cafés and restaurants in Passage des Panoramas offer everything from traditional French fare to Japanese dumplings, gourmet bagels, gluten-free food and spicy ethnic dishes from the edges of the former empire. L'Arbre à Cannelle – The Cinnamon Tree – serves traditional French comfort food in a warm bistro atmosphere. One side of the restaurant is open to the passage and customers can watch people stroll by, as if sitting beside a street pavement.

Panoramas is one of about 20 remaining covered passages in Paris. Over the years, about 150 were built, mostly from the late 18th century to the mid-19th century. In that era, Paris streets could



be unpleasant, often befouled with mud, trash and worse. Horse carriages created their own clatter and filth. So when properties that included alleyways became available, certain savvy real-estate developers covered the narrow alleys with glass roofs framed in iron and created storefronts below. Turpin reminds us that “this was the dawn of the industrial age, when iron and glass could be used in new ways”.

Parisians flocked to these off-street havens, where they could eat, drink, shop and use public toilets without dirtying their long dresses and trousers. Turpin says they could even get their shoes cleaned by industrious urchins always ready with a brush.

The covered arcades, so utilitarian for many busy Parisians dodging the weather – some, like Passage Jouffroy, even had central heating – were a perfect stage for a particular type of character so well known

Photos: Passage de Panoramas shops: Getty Images; Galerie Vivienne and Passage des Princes (previous page): Sylvain Sonnet – Hemis/IC



The glass- and iron-framed roofs of Passage de Panoramas (far left) and Galerie Vivienne (left) are a typical feature of the city's remaining *passages couverts*

Panoramas拱廊街（最左圖）及Vivienne拱廊街（左圖）的鋼框嵌玻璃廊頂，是這些「有蓋小巷」的典型特徵

in Paris, the *flâneur*: a well-dressed gentleman or lady who turned casual strolling into an art form. In the passages, says Turpin, “you saw and you were seen, and you saw yourself in the windows’ reflections.” The *flâneurs* didn’t just walk offstage into history, they can still be seen sauntering through the arcades – here, an elegant madame dressed in garments from the Jean Paul Gaultier boutique in Galerie Vivienne; there, a fine young dandy swinging a beautiful walking cane.

The brothers Gilbert and Miguel Segas have seen a *flâneur* or two in the 38 years they have run their antique cane shop, Galerie Segas, in Passage Jouffroy. Gilbert Segas says the passage is like “une petite village”, and the atmosphere “très romantique”. And yet, the Segas brothers don’t meet many of their customers, who are mostly collectors who buy online.

Some nights, after working late, Segas sleeps

upstairs – although his home is elsewhere. Other shopkeepers live in apartments above their businesses. Passage Verdeau is the only arcade with windows behind the shops, thanks to private courtyards there. Passage du Grand-Cerf has a third floor with terraces outside the apartments. One artisan who lives above her atelier – who prefers to remain anonymous – says the arcade has a different magic in the evening after the public has mostly gone. That’s when the few restaurants that remain open fill up with her fellow vendors and neighbourhood regulars. She echoes Segas: “It’s a little village with many little stories.”

Since their golden age in the 19th century, most of these narrow pathways have been pulverised by the wrecking ball of progress. However, the future for most of the remaining passages looks bright, thanks to city government and historical associations.

FLIGHTS
航程

CATHAY PACIFIC
Paris: 2 x Daily

國泰航空

巴黎：
每日有兩班航機



Passage highlights

PASSAGE DU CAIRE

- Egyptian façade and spiderweb skylight designs

PASSAGE CHOISEUL

- Art Aborigène (indigenous Australian art)

GALERIE COLBERT

- Statue of Eurydice in the centre of rotunda

PASSAGE DU GRAND-CERF:

- Le Labo (eclectic functional art)
- Le Pas Sage (café)

PASSAGE JOUFFROY

- Galerie Segas (antique canes)
- Hotel Chopin (historic hotel)
- L'Arbre à Cannelle (bistro)
- Galerie Verdeau (photography for collectors)

PASSAGE DES PANORAMAS

- Théâtre des Variétés (theatre)
- Slice Bagel Gourmand (bagels)
- Noglu (gluten-free food)
- M. et C. Labre (old postage stamps)

PASSAGE VERDEAU

- Le Cabinet des Curieux (curiosities)
- Antiquité Photo-Verdeau (old photographs)

GALERIE VÉRO-DODAT

- Ornate storefronts
- F. Charle (string instruments)

GALERIE VIVIENNE

- Intricate mosaic tile floors
- Legrand Filles et Fils (wine bar)
- Librairie Ancienne et Moderne Jousseume (antiquarian bookstore)



Fashion, food and wine await at Galerie Vivienne (above far right); Passage des Panoramas teems with people (middle) visiting shops and eateries such L'Arbre à Cannelle (left)

Galerie Vivienne 既有時尚精品店，也可在此品嚐美酒佳餚（上·最右圖）；Panoramas 拱廊街吸引眾多遊人（右上圖）到此閒逛購物，或光顧 L'Arbre à Cannelle（左上圖）等食肆

Dating back to the 1820s, Passage Choiseul is one of the liveliest and most interesting of the passages and recently underwent renovations to its glass and iron roof, which were paid for mostly by the Paris city government. Jean-Claude Gaillard, the owner of a jewellery and watch boutique in the passage since 1968 and the president of the association of merchants and owners in the passage, applauds the government's support, but, like a frustrated mayor, he shakes his head at the lack of collective spirit among owners, vendors and residents.

Within just a couple of blocks of the bustling upper-middle class, Passage Choiseul houses two very different arcades: Galerie Colbert and Galerie Vivienne – the word “Galerie” signalling a more polished, sophisticated passage. Colbert feels like the entry hall to royal chambers – elegant with its rows of glass globe lamps and so formal you feel as if you should whisper. Vivienne is also elegant but full of life and commerce, another snapshot of Paris itself – as is every passage in its own way; colourful arcades, rich in history and even richer in life today. ■



【拱廊漫步】

到訪巴黎，若錯過第二區的Panoramas拱廊街，就會是法語說的「une petite catastrophe」（意思是一場小災難）。那裡其實沒有廣闊的街景，街名來自兩座曾坐落附近的19世紀圓形建築。拱廊街全為狹窄小巷，石板路面僅闊3.2米，上班族、閒逛的人、顧客和遊客卻絡繹不絕。不過，你的目光會流向鋼筋結構的玻璃拱頂。燦爛的陽光穿透玻璃天幕，令巴黎這些古老隱密的「passages couverts」走廊（或稱有蓋小巷）充滿魅力，尤其是在雨天或下雪的日子。

Panoramas拱廊街兩旁排列著小店，出售法式薄餅以至手製相框等各式物品，更有一間集郵店及一家劇院。有趣的是，當中有一家著名小店卻誰也不能內進。據當地導遊Veronika Turpin介紹，那是印刷及雕刻大師Stern在1834年開設的店舖，客戶包括前法國總統戴高樂及其他政要。Turpin非常熟悉拱廊街，以法語、德語和英語為遊客提供拱廊街的導賞服務。Stern Graveur店已關閉了五年，被列為法國歷史古蹟。從櫥窗瞥看店內的陳列櫃及無數深色木製小抽屜，會讓人感到時光倒流。

Panoramas拱廊街內的咖啡室和餐廳提供的美食包羅萬有，包括傳統法國餐、日式餃子、美味的bagel包、無麩質菜式，以至前法國殖民地的民族風味辛辣菜式等。當中的L'Arbre à Cannelle（肉桂樹）餐廳環境隨意輕鬆，提供法國傳統家常菜，餐廳的一側向走廊開放，客人可以安坐其中，觀賞過路的遊人，就像坐在露天街旁。

過去，巴黎曾一度擁有近150條拱廊街，現在僅存約20條有蓋拱廊街。大部分拱廊街在18世紀末至19世紀中建成。回顧當時，巴黎的街道並非是讓人戀棧的地方，常有泥塵、垃圾，更糟糕的是馬車帶來的噪音和馬糞。因此，當一些建有小走道的建築出現後，個別精明的地產發展商以鋼鐵框鑲嵌的玻璃天花覆蓋窄巷，在拱頂之下開設商店。Turpin指出：「當時是工業時代的開始，鋼鐵和玻璃都有嶄新的用途。」

巴黎居民蜂擁而至，到這些鄰近大街的有蓋小巷吃、喝、購物、散步，甚至使用公共廁所，都不怕弄髒長裙及褲子。Turpin表示，他們甚至可以順道清潔鞋履，因為勤快的孩童手裡拿著一個鞋刷。

有蓋走廊為繁忙的巴黎人提供方便，且不受天氣影響，Jouffroy拱廊街甚至提供中央暖氣。因此，它們成為巴黎人熟悉的「flâneur」（閒逛者）的完美舞台。這些衣冠楚楚的紳士淑女把散步化成一種藝術。他們並沒有「逛」出歷史舞台，今天，依然可在拱廊之間找到他們漫步的身影。

Gilbert和Miguel Segas兄弟在Jouffroy拱廊街經營古董手杖店Galerie Segas已有38年。他們就曾看到一、兩位「閒逛者」。Gilbert說拱廊街就像一座小城鎮，氣氛非常浪漫。

Segas兄弟若工作至深夜便會睡在樓上，他們的家則在別處。其他走廊店主大多住在店舖上面的小公寓。Verdeau拱廊街是唯一在店後有窗戶的走廊街，全拜街

中的私人庭院所賜。Grand-Cerf拱廊街的三樓公寓外更設有露台。一位不願透露姓名的工藝師在自己的工作室樓上居住。她說，黃昏時，當大部分遊人離開後，走廊便散發出另類的魅力；那時候少數尚在營業的餐廳內擠滿各間商店的店主及鄰居等常客。她同意Segas的說法：「這是一個小村莊，訴說著許多小故事。」

自19世紀的黃金歲月至今，不少走廊街都在經濟發展進程中被拆掉。然而，多得市政府及歷史保育組織的努力，倖存的拱廊街大部分都前景美好。

Choiseul拱廊街是最富朝氣及最有趣的拱廊街之一，其歷史可追溯至1820年代。最近，這條拱廊街重修鋼筋結構的玻璃拱頂，大部分經費由巴黎市政府承擔。自1968年已在此經營珠寶鐘錶店的Jean-Claude Gaillard讚賞政府的支持，但對店主、租客及居民之間欠缺團結精神，這位拱廊街東主協會會長則搖頭嘆息。

Choiseul拱廊街鄰近中上階層聚居地區，街內有兩個截然不同風格的拱廊商場：Galerie Colbert和Galerie Vivienne，兩者都以「galerie」為名，象徵更高檔及精緻的品味。Galerie Colbert恍若皇宮大廳入口的門廊，兩旁掛有玻璃燈球，典雅而莊嚴，令人感到說話也得輕聲點。Galerie Vivienne同樣優雅，卻充滿生氣和商業氣息，是巴黎的速寫，就如每一條拱廊街一樣，各自展現獨特的一面。拱廊街已成為巴黎的文化寶藏，歷史悠久兼具生命力。