



Family Twist: Real Guides for Families in Paris

Written by [Anna Tobin](#)

The guide book that really 'guides' a family around a city, has yet to be published, or I just haven't discovered it. They tend to let you down right when you need it, like when your kid needs the loo and you're just about to get to the top of the camel ride line in Marrakech; or, when you need to replenish your organic diaper stock whilst staying in a village in the Scottish Highlands.

What you need in these circumstances is a real guide who knows your holiday destination, inside out and upside down and has the answer to every question a parent could possibly, desperately, need a response to. And that's just what the Paris-based company Family Twist does ...

Meet a Family Twist Client

Cynthia Crossley stumbled upon [Family Twist](#) whilst researching a cross generational family trip to the city. 'We were looking to take our in-laws and our children, aged 14, 11 and two to Paris and I didn't really have an idea of how I wanted the holiday to pan out. I just wanted all of us to enjoy ourselves.'

This was a tall order for Cynthia who was dealing with ages ranging from toddler to pensioner and teens and pre-teens in between. And she had to take into account the fact that her Father-in-law couldn't walk long distances.

"What I found on the Family Twist site, was several suggested outlines of activities and places to visit that the whole family would enjoy. I then spoke to them and outlined exactly what we wanted to get from the trip. I told them what we were all interested in and what our constraints were and they were so responsive to our needs.

They came up with a fluid timetable tailored for us and we ended up doing all these wonderful things that we wouldn't have known about otherwise. We went on a boat ride along The Seine, I specified that I didn't want to go on one of the very commercial restaurant boats.

A guide took us to a local market where we selected food together and then we went to a cookery class to cook it. The children really enjoyed the whole experience and wanted to know why we couldn't find markets like that in the UK!"



“And one of the last things we did was an art class, with the theme being to pull together ideas from all the adventures we had done during our stay, so that we had a memento of the whole holiday.

The guides were so informative too. They spoke great English and were so knowledgeable, which my in-laws loved as they are both really into history. They took the children’s needs into account too and everything was designed for their short attention spans, we did a treasure hunt, for example and we were never far from a really good restaurant so we could eat and rest whenever it was needed, plus they often pulled out little gifts for the kids to entertain themselves with. Somehow they managed to fit in chilling out time too.”

Attention to detail is Family Twist’s USP and Cynthia says that the additional costs it entailed were more than worth it. “You’re paying for added value, that you wouldn’t otherwise get. Not one of my kids had a melt time throughout the entire trip, and I think that is due to how well our schedule was organised.”

It’s not only the activities and sight-seeing that Family Twist takes care of, they can also provide private taxis with car seats so that you are not hopping on and off the Metro, emergency numbers such as that of an English-speaking doctor, a babysitter should you wish to have some adult time and even a professional photographer to accompany you during your trip.

They really have thought of everything and thankfully they are taking the concept outside of Paris too. They now offer the service in the Loire Valley and will be launching in London soon too.

“I would definitely recommend Family Twist,” says Cynthia, “my husband and I are talking about doing a return trip to Paris with them soon, perhaps seeing more of the outskirts of the city next time.”