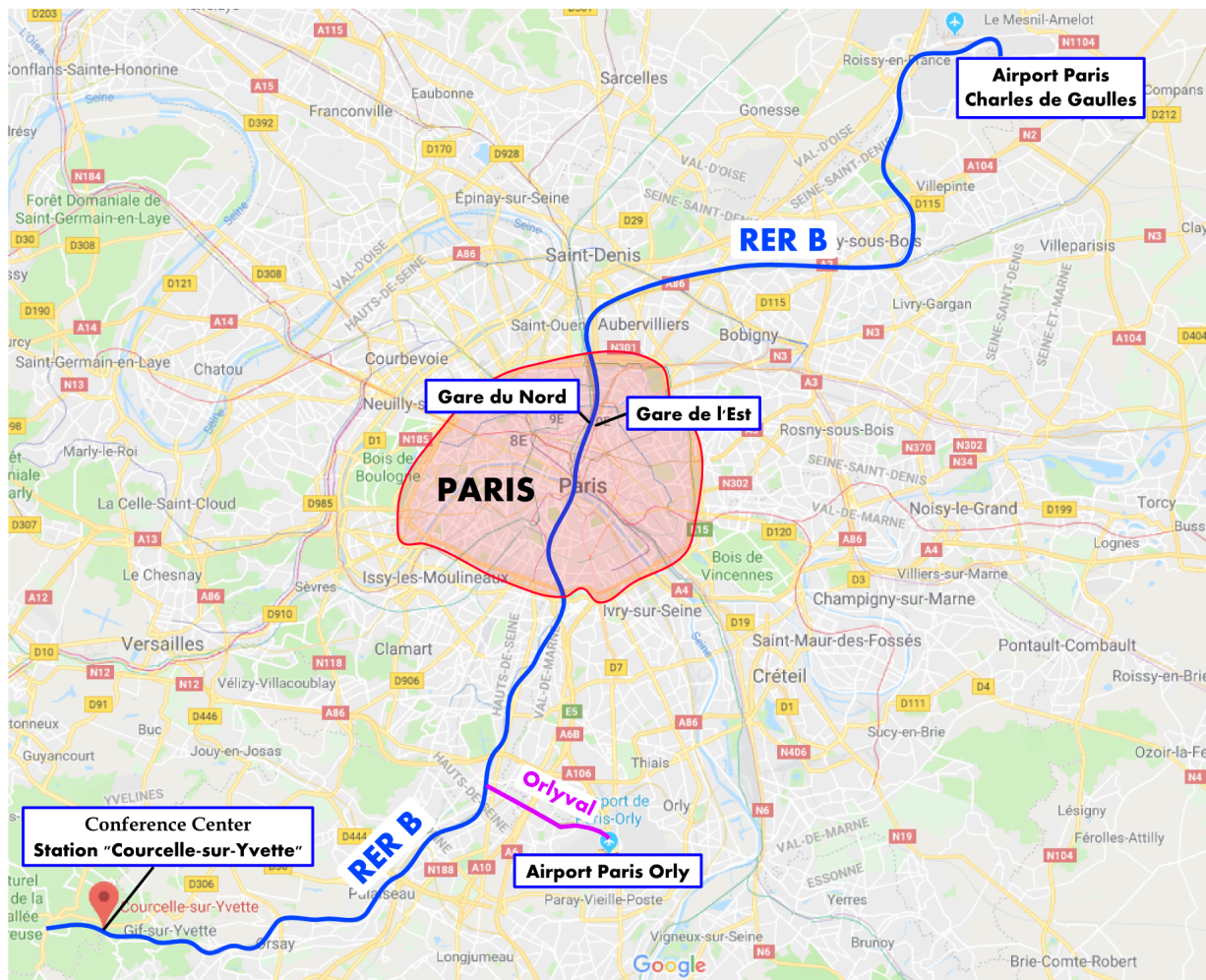


Travel advice

We hope the following advice will help you to a smooth finish of your journey to the PALM School on Attosecond Science at the conference center “Benoît Frachon” in Gif-sur-Yvette.

You will be accommodated in single rooms at the conference center (except most local participants and those who registered “without accommodation”). Please note that you can check in on Monday 28 May from 9am until 10:30pm, and will have to leave at the latest on Friday 1 June in the evening.

The conference center is located south of Paris and can be reached by the B-line of the “RER”-train. Instructions on how to reach “RER B” obviously depend on where in Paris you arrive: for the most probable arrival points, the two airports or the North and East train stations, this will be easy and is described in the following. If you arrive elsewhere, you’re probably French and will manage to find your way to “RER B” on your own ;-).



You arrive at Gare du Nord (e.g. Eurostar or Thalys)

"RER B" stops at "Gare du Nord", so all you have to do is follow the signs to "RER B" underground and buy a ticket to "Courcelle-sur-Yvette" at one of the ticket machines in front of the entrance gates to the line.

Go to the platform for destination "Robinson / Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse". Make sure you get into a train with destination "Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse" as some trains end at different destinations. You can always check this on the big boards above the platform where the next train's final destination is shown and all stations where the train will stop are lit up.

Once on the train, stay put for about 50 min and then get off at the line's last-but-one station "Courcelle-sur-Yvette". Then follow the way shown at the end of this document.

You arrive at Gare de l'Est (e.g. TGV from Germany or Switzerland)

"Gare de l'Est" is right next to "Gare du Nord" where the "RER B" line has a station. The fastest and easiest way is a ≈600-m walk over to "Gare du Nord". Step out of the station "Gare de l'Est", walk up the street "Rue d'Alsace" on its western side, then turn left into the street "Rue Dunkerque" and go straight until "Gare du Nord" appears on your right. Or use maps on your cell phone.

At "Gare du Nord" follow the instructions above.

You arrive at Orly Airport (you're lucky)

Orly Airport is connected to the station "Antony" of the "RER B" line via a small airport train called "Orlyval". Follow the signs to "Orlyval", buy an "Orlyval" - ticket and go to "Antony".

There, buy another ticket for "RER B" to "Courcelle-sur-Yvette" and go to the platform for destination "Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse". Make sure you get into a train with destination "Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse" as some trains have their last stops at earlier stations.

Once on the train, stay put for about 25 min and then get off at the line's last-but-one station "Courcelle-sur-Yvette". Then follow the way shown at the end of this document.

You arrive at Charles-de-Gaulles (CDG) Airport (you're not so lucky)

Your itinerary is very easy but rather long. The "RER B" train runs from CDG airport in the north through all of Paris and then continues south all the way to the conference center.

So at the airport follow the "Paris by train" signs, which will lead you to the "RER B" station. Buy a ticket to "Courcelle-sur-Yvette" at one of the ticket machines labeled "Billets Paris Ile-de-France" near the entrance gates to the line. Then go to the platform for destination "Paris".

Make sure you get into a train with destination "Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse" or "Massy Palaiseau" as some trains end at different destinations. You can always check this on the big boards above the platform where the next train's final destination is shown and all stations where the train will stop are lit up. Once on the train, you can remain seated for a long time (about 85 min) until "Courcelle-sur-Yvette".

If your train terminates at "Massy Palaiseau", get off there and get into a train with final destination "Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse", which often already waits on the other side of the platform.

Attention: The French like a good strike, don't they, and if you arrive on either May 28 or 29, there will indeed be a strike on the northern part of the "RER B" line which will affect your journey. The following annoying but non-critical complications are added:

- Trains will run less often (1 out of 2), but still every 15 min or so, and they will all terminate at "Gare du Nord".
- You will have to change trains at "Gare du Nord", where you'll arrive on one platform on the ground level, get off, follow the crowd or the signs to the usual "RER B" platform underground, and get into the right train with final destination "Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse". Now you stay put for about 50 min and get off at "Courcelle-sur-Yvette".

Again Attention: The "RER B" train between CDG airport and Paris is a popular area of operation for thieves. Do *not* leave your bags standing next to the exit doors, and beware of pickpockets.

The last 200 m to the conference center

When you've arrived at the station "Courcelle-sur-Yvette", you've almost made it. Take the underpass to the other side of the rails, and then follow the street "Rue Ferdinand Léger" as indicated in the map below. The entrance to the "Benoit Frachon" conference center will be on your left.

We will be waiting for you!



What to bring

Towels will be provided in the rooms at the conference center. A hair dryer can be borrowed from the reception desk. No shower gel or other cosmetics are provided. Don't worry though, a supermarket is only a few hundred meters away, so you should be able to get everything you forgot to bring.

If you like, do bring sports wear. We plan to play football and basketball, and you can go running.

The weather should be quite pleasantly warm during the day, but also a bit sticky and humid with a risk of thunderstorms. So bring light clothes, but also a rain cover of some sort.