For the 14th World Congress for Laser Dentistry, the WFLD chose—in the words of Prof. Josep Arnabat, chairman of the European Division of WFLD—“one of the most beautiful and breathtaking cities in the whole world” as their location. „Paris is a city of culture, artists, designers and researcher“, Arnabat states. In fact, this statement describes the emotional perspective most people might associate with Paris as well as the main themes of this place.

Starting its life as the Celto-Roman settlement Lutetia on the island in the Seine, the city got its present name from the then dominant tribe Parisii. In medieval times, the small settlement expanded onto the right bank into the so-called le Marais. Nowadays, this area is one of the most stunning and oldest quarters in Paris, where still a number of historical buildings can be seen. At first populated by the working-class and immigrants, le Marais evolved to a wealthy and prestigious quarter. Surely, this is not the liking of all. But without a doubt, it has made this area a well worth seeing place to eat, drink, lounge and walk around.

In the middle ages, also one of the most important centres for learning in old Europe was founded: the Parisian University Sorbonne. Divided into the faculties Arts, Medicine, Theology and Law, the university brought forth lots of famous clever and creative heads. For several hundred years, students from all over Europe, if not the whole world, came here to expand their knowledge and still do.

Thanks to the aims of governing elites to set themselves a monument, numerous impressing buildings such as Notre Dame, Arc de Triomphe, Louvre, Palais Royal or Eiffel Tower were built up in the course of time. More and more, the city became the cultural and intellectual hub of the Western world with its philosophers, scientists, artists and
literati. They got together in scientific houses, parks or in one of the hundreds of Parisian cafés—places for bruits publics and rumour. The first café was established by François Procope in 1686 and became the midpoint of Enlightenment with famous people like Rousseau, Voltaire and Diderot stopping by.

Nowadays, with about 23 per cent of the total population born outside of France, Paris is one of Europe’s biggest melting pots of nations. Germans, Italians, Russians, Armenians, Poles, Spaniards, Portuguese, African and Asians—since the beginning of the 19th century, people from many different countries immigrated to Paris and made the city’s culture even richer and colourful in the course of time. Besides a visit of the classic Paris, it is always a good idea to just stroll through small alleys and hang out in cozy cafés, eating pastry and drinking café au lait. Around Place de la Bastille one can check out young fashion designers and newest street wear, find romantic places as well as neo-punk lolitas, tattooing and mangas. The bustling Parisian street markets invite their visitors to buy food and wine, maybe for a romantic picnic in a park or along the Seine.

When the evening comes, haute cuisine restaurants are waiting for their guests to serve fine and delicious food—don’t forget to start the evening in the civilised French way with an aperitif hour. Finally one maybe ends up in Paris nightlife in trendy bars or clubs for dancing. In the summer, there are several outdoor music events, bringing people onto the street or Paris Plages.

There has been said a lot about Paris and it has been given many names over time: “International capital of style”, “City of culinary finesse”, “Best place to pick ideas”, “City of love”, “Heaven for all women’s obsessions” and the “City of light”—just to mention a few. But of course, it’s always better to get one’s own expression.