

Notre Dame of Paris to Reopen in December 2024

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Spire (Noun) /'spaɪər/ a tall pointed structure on the top of a building, typically a church
Example: The spire of the famous cathedral can be seen from miles away.
2. Reappear (Verb) /ˌriːə'pɪr/ to be seen, heard, used, etc. again after a period of time
Example: Her skin cleared up for a few days, but then the rash suddenly reappeared on her leg.
3. Method (Noun) /'mɛθəd/ a technique or process for doing something
Example: Annual flu shots are one of the most effective methods of preventing the spread of influenza.
4. Stable (Adjective) /'steɪbl/ not likely to move, fall, or break
Example: The ladder doesn't look very stable.
5. Remains (Noun) /rɪ'meɪnz/ the parts of something that are left after the rest have been destroyed, used, or removed
Example: Archaeologists have uncovered the remains of an ancient city.
6. Renovation (Noun) /ˌrɛnə'veɪʃən/ the act of repairing or improving something, especially a room or building
Example: The renovation is going to cost much more than we initially thought.



The Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris will reopen to visitors and churchgoers at the end of 2024, less than six years after a fire destroyed much of its roof. The cathedral's famous spire, which fell down in the fire, will begin reappearing above the building this year.

Officials have decided to rebuild the 12th-century church the way it was before. That includes rebuilding the 93-meter-high spire added in the 19th century. It also means using the

same construction methods and materials that were used in the Middle Ages. The rebuilding itself started last year, after more than two years of work to make the building stable and safe enough for people to start working on it.

The reopening date of December 2024 is in line with the goal given by President Emmanuel Macron just after the fire — but it will be too late for the Paris Olympic Games which take place in the summer of next year.

However, Culture Minister Rima Abdul-Malak told The Associated Press that the work won't be complete when the cathedral reopens. "There will still be some renovation work going on in 2025," she said.

For now, an exhibit called "Notre-Dame de Paris: at the heart of the construction site" is open to visitors in an underground space in front of the cathedral. It's free to visit and includes information about the building work as well as the expert workers doing it. It also includes some remains from the fire and art from the cathedral.

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on the plans to reopen Notre Dame in December 2024?
2. Do you find it surprising that the cathedral will reopen next year?
3. Have you been to Paris? If so, did you visit Notre Dame? If not, do you plan to?
4. Which of the famous landmarks you've visited impressed you the most?
5. What famous historical buildings or structures do you hope to see someday?