

Saturday, January 28

We got a wonderful, exciting surprise on Saturday (Jan 28). In the morning, we heard a lot of racket outside and looked out the window. Dragons! There were a bunch of dragons parading down Montmorency accompanied by drums and eventually firecrackers. I grabbed my camera and started taking photos, then realized that I needed to get it on video so changed the settings on my camera.

Here is where the noise was coming from. Later the vendor threw out a long line of firecrackers.

After that excitement we got our lists and went out to shop for the party on Sunday.

Dongu, one of the vendors stopped us to say that later today, at 2:30 there would be a huge parade on rue du Temple. So we decided to finish as much as we could in order to watch it and also not to get caught in the traffic.

He was right! There were several gigantic Chinese dragons, hundreds of people dressed in all sorts of gorgeous costumes, many different marching groups, with banners and flags and beating drums and deafening loads of firecrackers and dragons -- beautiful dragons of all kinds and lengths (numbers of people carrying and manipulating the dragons).

There were a lot of people watching and the parade itself consisted of many, many parts. There were marching people wearing badges, others dressed in costumes and masks, many carrying flags.



There were lots of children in costumes carrying flags and red lanterns, or drumming. And Dragons! Many dragons, many of them very long, and others consisting only of 2 people. Those tended to be more active and had eyelids and blinked. Some had mouths that opened and shut, all were colorful. It must have gone on for at least half an hour.

[LINK to YouTube clip of the dragons on Rue du Montmorency.](#)

The haze in many of the photos is from the firecrackers. When you see the video you will hear the deafening crack, crack of the firecrackers.

The fellow in the blue shirt looking at the first dragon is one of the workers from the shop under the second bedroom. He speaks English.



Video Link: [Long Golden Dragon](#)

There was a truck carrying a bunch of pretty young Chinese women dressed in costumes.



The people marching below are wearing masks. This is a side view of the vendor.



Video Link: [Regions and Red Lanterns](#)

Video Link: [Orange long dragon](#)

And outside many of the wholesale shops owned by Chinese were little kids dressed in costumes and offering sweets to the thousands of people on the street watching the parades. So the district where we live (called "Le Marais" the 3rd and 4th Paris districts) has a very large population of Chinese and is one of the locations for the annual celebrations in Paris.