STUDY ABROAD: FRANCE

10 days | Orleans | Paris | Summer 2016
STUDY ABROAD: FRANCE

INCLUDED ON TOUR

Round-trip flights on major carriers; Full-time Tour Director; Air-conditioned motorcoaches and internal transportation; Superior tourist-class hotels with private bathrooms; Select meals with a mix of local cuisine; Connect to your travel experiences with weShare, our project-based online educational tool.

Guided Sightseeing: Orleans; Loire Valley; Paris; Versailles

Walking Tours: Paris, Montmartre

Entrances: Sainte-Croix Cathedral; Joan of Arc Museum; Château d’Amboise; Château de Chenonceau; Sound and Light Show at Amboise; Chartres Cathedral; Cheese Farm (time permitting); Versailles Palace and Gardens; Louvre; Notre Dame Cathedral; Sacré Coeur; Giverny; Seine Cruise; Eiffel Tower

Overnight stays:
Orleans (4)
Paris (4)

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.

NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAM PRICE

Optional excursions; Insurance coverage; Beverages and lunches; Transportation to free-time activities; Customary gratuities for your Tour Director, bus driver and local guide; Porterage; Adult supplement (if applicable); Weekend supplement; Shore excursions on cruises; Any applicable baggage-handling fee imposed by the airlines (see eftours.com/baggage for details); Expenses caused by airline rescheduling, cancellations or delays caused by the airlines, bad weather or events beyond EF's control; Passports, visa and reciprocity fees.

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YOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to France

Board your overnight flight to Paris!

Day 2: Orleans

Arrive in Paris and Transfer to Orleans

Touch down in the magical city of Paris. After clearing customs, you will meet your Tour Director and transfer to the town of Orleans, where you will be spending the first portion of your tour. Located on the Loire river, Orleans is perhaps most well-known for the location of Joan of Arc’s famous stand.

Visit the Joan of Arc Museum

While the original home where Joan of Arc lived during her time in Orleans was destroyed during WWII, you can visit a recreation that sits on the same spot. Walk through the museum and learn more about France’s most celebrated woman.

Day 3: Orleans

Free Time for Group Leader-Arranged French Lessons

Today your Group Leader will arrange French lesson for your group. (Please note that any costs associated with these activities have not been included in your total Program Price. See your Group Leader for more details.)

Guided Sightseeing of Orleans

Today a local guide will help you discover this quaint and historical town.

Visit the Cathedral Sainte-Croix

Visit the Orleans’ beautiful Gothic Cathedral.

Day 4: Orleans | Chartres

Free Time for Group Leader-Arranged French Lessons

Today your Group Leader will arrange French lesson for your group. (Please note that any costs associated with these activities have not been included in your total Program Price. See your Group Leader for more details.)

Excursion to Chartres

Dominating the skyline of this town is the 13th-century cathedral, one of the most amazing achievements in Western architecture. With its two towers, one Gothic the other Romanesque, this is a truly unique experience. Take time to enjoy the picturesque gardens that surround the cathedral.

Day 5: Orleans | Loire Valley

Free Time for Group Leader-Arranged French Lessons

Today your Group Leader will arrange French lesson for your group.

Guided Sightseeing of the Loire Valley

Explore the area known as the ‘playground of Kings.’ Featuring some of the most impressive buildings of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the Loire Valley was also home to some of the most influential women in European history. Eleanor of Aquitaine and Catherine de Medici resided here, while Joan of Arc rode to Chinon to convince Charles VII to fight for his throne.

Visit the Château d’Amboise

Inspired by the Renaissance architecture he encountered in northern Italy, Charles VIII commissioned the construction of Amboise, one of countless châteaux nestled in the Loire Valley. Charles’ desire to emulate the majestic gardens of Italy prompted him to bring gardener Pacello da Mercogliano back to France, so that he might design a suitable garden for the king. Although it was partially destroyed during the French Revolution, you’ll experience the medieval grandeur of the château up-close on a guided visit. Take in sweeping views of the valley below as you explore the former home of Louis XI, Louis XII, François I and Leonardo da Vinci.

Visit the Château de Chenonceau

Your excursion into the Playground of the Kings includes a visit to the most romantic château in the region: the exquisite Château de Chenonceau. Built over the River Cher and surrounded by water, the château is characterized by the Pont de Diane, an arched bridge that spans the river. Serving both practical and aesthetic functions (it also houses the grand gallery), it was this bridge that spared the château from destruction during the French Revolution as it provided the only access across the river for miles. Learn of the extraordinary succession of women, beginning in the 1500s with Catherine Bohier, Diane de Poitiers, and Catherine de Medicis, who each influenced the design of the castle as it is today. After touring the lavish interior, be sure to stroll through the terraced gardens and take in the spectacular views of the château as it sits along the river that makes Chenonceau so unique.

Troglodyte Dinner

See how thousands of years of geological evolution created these subterranean hollows beneath France’s Loire Valley. Though originally used as living spaces in the 11th and 12th centuries, many of the maze-like grottos are still in use today as wine cellars, chapels, bakeries and shops. Tonight, enjoy your dinner inside one of these medieval dwellings.

See the Sound and Light Show at Amboise (pending confirmation of schedule)

This evening you will be treated to a grand display of sound and light at the Château d’ Amboise. Hundreds of volunteers from the town bring the history of the Chateau to life.

Day 6: Orleans | Paris

Free Time for Group Leader-Arranged French Lessons

Today your Group Leader will arrange French lesson for your group.

Transfer to Paris via a Stop at a Cheese Farm (time permitting)

Taste some of France’s famous cheeses to day on your way to Paris!

Arrive in Paris

Welcome to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light. Over the centuries, Paris has grown to become the undisputed center of France, and one of the world’s most important cities both culturally and politically. Equally famed for its high fashion, awe-inspiring museums and elegant cuisine, Paris has also been a center of theater, literature and philosophy throughout the ages.
Day 7: Paris

Guided Sighseeing of Paris
Discover the city on the Seine during your morning bus tour. Learn about Paris’ origins as a Roman settlement as you pass through the Île de la Cité, where you will also see Notre Dame Cathedral. Pass by the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon’s Grande Armée, and the École Militaire, where he graduated to Lieutenant. Continue down the elegant Champs-Elysées to the Place de la Concorde, dedicated to King Louis XV and the site where Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were executed during the French Revolution.

Then, head through the Quartier Latin where you will see the world-renowned Sorbonne University, and drive along the Seine for wonderful views of the Musée D’Orsay, the Louvre and the Pont de Neuf, or “new bridge,” which is ironically Paris’ oldest. Finally, make a photo stop at the iconic Eiffel Tower, built for the 1889 World’s Fair. Learn why this impressive, yet controversial, symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

Guided Excursion to Versailles
Step back into le grand siècle as you experience the opulence of Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Built to be the envy of all Europe, France’s most extravagant château continually threatened to bankrupt the national treasury. Here the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. You’ll also tour the State Apartments of the King himself and walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors, where France, Spain and England officially recognized the independence of the United States in 1783, and where the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WWI, was signed. You’ll also witness the ornate décor of the Queen’s State Apartments, furnished for Marie Antoinette. After your visit inside the palace, be sure to take some time to stroll through the elaborate gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre. (Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace.)

Day 8: Paris

Visit the Louvre Museum
The Palais du Louvre, built to defend the city in the 13th century, now safeguards one of the world’s greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei’s 1989 modernist glass pyramid. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Egypt, Greece, Italy and Asia such as the statues of Venus de Milo and Nike of Samothrace, better known as Winged Victory. You’ll also see some of the Louvre’s most prized paintings by Renaissance and European masters, including Leonardo da Vinci’s painting of the mysterious Mona Lisa.

Walking Tour of Paris
Begin your walking tour at the Louvre and cross over the Seine River. On the left bank, visit the bouquinistes selling old books and postcards and catch glimpses of the Conciergerie and St. Chapelle from the Pont Neuf, the oldest bridge in the city. Continue through the Latin Quarter, an area dominated by the Sorbonne, Paris’ most famous university, founded in 1253. The quarter was named for its inhabitants’ native tongue; Latin was the official language until 1793. As you stroll, look for the Panthéon, created by Louis XV because of a promise he made during a severe illness to build a church dedicated to Saint Geneviève if he survived. Your tour will end at Notre Dame Cathedral.

Visit Notre Dame Cathedral
Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as “a vast symphony in stone.” However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo’s novel The Hunchback of Notre Dame helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose window and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Free Time to Visit the Catacombs
The catacombs cover an area of some 11,000 square meters with 200 miles of corridor and the remains of over six million dead. The practical purpose of these subterranean chambers was to house the dead once the cemeteries of the city became too crowded. Additionally, the city of Paris had weakened due to the strange process of removing stone from foundations to help build above ground, a condition these piled up bodies also helped to remedy. (Please note that the entrance fee is not included in your total EF Program Price.)

Evening Walking Tour of Montmartre
This evening you will explore the neighborhood of Montmartre, the highest point in Paris. Once a medieval village, Montmartre is home to the famed Moulin Rouge nightclub. As you stroll along the narrow, cobbled streets, you’ll see the many artists who paint the passing scene as visitors drift in and out of inviting cafes and shops. Upon reaching the crest of the hill, step inside the grandiose white basilica of Sacré-Coeur.

Crepe Dinner in Montmartre
This evening, enjoy a French specialty from the Brittany Region, crepes. Choose between savory fillings such as ham, egg, spinach and curry, or go straight for the sweet crepes and have yours filled with fruit and topped with powdered sugar.

Day 9: Paris

Excursion to Giverny
Follow the Seine to lush Giverny, where Claude Monet lived from 1883 until his death in 1926. The grounds, including his pink and green house, are open to the public as a museum. View the workspace in which he fostered his great artistic inspiration; then absorb the intricate palette of colors that he so magically depicted in paintings such as the Water Lilies series as you stroll through the surrounding gardens.

Seine River Cruise
This evening, take a narrated river cruise along the Seine. As your boat glides from one graceful bridge to the next, sit back and gaze at the illuminated landmarks of Paris as they pan into view.

Ascend the Eiffel Tower
Built in 1889 for the World’s Fair, the tower is now one of the world’s most recognizable monuments and a symbol of Paris. Standing over 300 meters high, with a viewing balcony on each of its three levels, a journey up the Eiffel Tower is one of the must-do events in any visit to the city. (Pending availability due to limited group reservations)

Day 10: Return Home

Transfer to the Airport for Your Return Flight
Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change.
— The easiest ways to —
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“As a parent I am very grateful that I was able to give this opportunity to my child. It was worth every penny to see her smiling face in the pictures on the trip. Encourage your child to embrace the moment; be open to new cultures, foods, and just a new way of life and looking at things.”

– KATHLEEN, DAUGHTER TRAVELED APRIL 2013

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