

Day 1: Depart USA for Paris

Make your way to your local airport where you will board your overnight flight(s). Your meals will be served on board.

Day 2: Arrive Paris

Welcome to “City of Light!” Upon arriving at Paris airport, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage and then proceed to the arrival’s hall, where you will be greeted by your driver, who will transfer you to your hotel. Meet and greet followed by Mass. Dinner and overnight.

Day 3: Paris – Reims – Paris

This afternoon we will visit Notre-Dame de Reims Cathedral, one of Europe’s most important Gothic structures. A World Heritage site, the 13th century Cathedral has characteristics all its own, in particular its lighting, statuary and unity of style. Notre-Dame boasts an exceptionally rich statuary. The Cathedral is adorned with 2,303 statues, including the famous Smiling Angel, whose jovial expression reflects the Champagne School of the 13th century. In French, Notre Dame means “Our Lady”, so the literal translation of the Cathedral’s name is Our Lady of Reims. The pinnacle of Joan of Arc’s career occurred on July 17, 1429 when Charles VII was crowned King of France in the Cathedral of Reims. Joan was later described as kneeling before Charles while embracing his legs and through tears of joy looking up at him and saying: “Noble King, now is accomplished the pleasure of God, who willed that I should raise the siege of Orleans and should bring you to this city of Reims to receive your holy coronation, thus showing that you are the true King, him to whom the throne of France must belong.” All the kings of France were crowned in Reims Cathedral. Return to Paris for dinner and overnight.

Day 4: Paris

After breakfast we will start the sightseeing tour of Paris. We will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, where we will view the incorrupt body of St. Catherine Laboure. The Saint’s guardian angel led her to the Chapel where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her. During apparitions, Our Lady repeatedly instructed the making and purpose of the Miraculous Medal. According to the Blessed Virgin Mary, those who wear the Miraculous Medal will receive special protection and abundant graces. After the visit we will walk to Saint Vincent de Paul Church where we will find Saint Paul’s incorrupt body. Our sightseeing tour via motor coach continues on to the most recognizable symbol of the city of Paris: the Eiffel Tower, L’Arch de Triomphe, the Champ-Elysees, Louvre Museum and the iconic and renovated Notre Dame Cathedral. We will end the day with a visit to Montmartre Hill. From the dawn of time Montmartre has been a place of worship: from the Druids of ancient Gaul, through the Romans with their temples dedicated to Mars and Mercury, to the Church of Saint Peter, the oldest in Paris where on August 15, 1534, Saint Ignatius of Loyola and six other young men, including Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Peter Faber, gathered and professed vows of poverty, chastity, and later obedience, including a special vow of obedience to the Pope in matters of mission direction and assignment, founding the Company of Jesus. Dinner and overnight in Paris.

Day 5: Paris – Port – Embarkation

Breakfast at Hotel followed by visit of the Basilica of the Sacré-Coeur, erected at the end of the 19th century, built as a reaction to the exactions committed during the Paris Commune. Following this visit, transfer to the Port to board AMADante river ship for your Highlights of Seine River Cruise.

Day 6: Les Andelys

Les Andelys is best known for its imposing castle overlooking the city, the Château Gaillard. Built in 1196 by Richard the Lionheart, the castle and the village's strategic location bolstered the importance of Les Andelys throughout the Middle Ages. The town also gained notice for its Sainte Clotilde Miraculous Spring, where the wife of the first Frankish king, Clovis, turned well water into wine to serve the builders of her Benedictine monastery. Europe's devout, upon hearing of the act, flocked here on pilgrimages until the end of the 19th century. Uncover the history of Château Gaillard, the former stronghold of Richard the Lionheart, situated on the chalk cliffs high above the Seine, on a morning tour. Or, if you prefer a more active adventure, you can hike there from the banks of the Seine, admiring the scenic views along the way. For those who wish to explore the area on two wheels, join a guided bike tour through the charming town of Les Andelys. After your adventures, set sail along the meandering Seine for a scenic cruise. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Le Havre

During your time in Le Havre, set out on an excursion to the seaside town of Honfleur, renowned for its picturesque harbor, and for being an inspirational site for Impressionist painters. During the afternoon, you can join a city tour of the UNESCO-designated Le Havre. Alternatively, you have the choice of a bike tour through Le Havre. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Le Havre – Normandy Beaches – Caudebec En Caux

Experience the Normandy region with a variety of excursions. For those wishing to go to the American sector of the historic Normandy Beaches, you will visit the cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, Omaha Beach, the artillery battery at Longues-sur-Mer and the village of Arromanches, where the remains of the floating harbor used during the WWII landings can be seen. If you prefer, you can tour the Gold and Juno beaches in the British and Canadian sectors, where you will visit Ranville Cemetery, Pegasus Bridge, the Canadian cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer, the WWII museum in Courseulle and, finally, Arromanches. Alternatively, you can set out on a full day excursion to the delicious Pays d'Auge region of Normandy, where apple cider, Calvados and pommeau outrank French wine. If you wish to experience a different kind of inspiration in Caudebec-en-Caux, you can journey back in time with the interactive exhibits and vessels at the Seine Museum. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Rouen

Spend the morning enjoying medieval Rouen with a choice of several excursions. Founded by Romans, Rouen is situated amid chalk cliffs along the Seine. The Norman capital boasts many pleasures, from the 700 charming half-timbered houses of the Old Town to the glorious Rouen Cathedral, which so captivated Claude Monet that he painted it many times in varying light. Until the 17th century, Rouen was the second-largest city in France. Today, it is the country's fourth-largest port. The city is perhaps best known as the site of Joan of Arc's last stand; the patron saint of France was tried and condemned here for heresy and burned at the stake in 1431. Join a walking tour and see the square where Joan of Arc was martyred, as well as the Medieval Quarter and Great Clock. You also have the choice to go on the "Tastes of Normandy" tour, where you'll be treated to the delicious flavors of the region, including chocolate, Norman cheese and cider; or get active by going on a guided bike tour. Then visit Bonnemare Castle, a 16th-century architectural treasure lined with picturesque poplar trees. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Vernon

Enjoy scenic cruising around Vernon before disembarking the ship for your excursion. You will have a choice of three excursions, depending on your interests. Visit Claude Monet's home and gardens in Giverny. Art lovers will immediately recognize images immortalized in Monet's most beloved paintings—such as water lilies, Japanese bridges and graceful willow trees. Wander around his famous gardens and home where he lived for more than four decades. Or visit the regal 18th-century Château de Bizy, inspired by the opulence of Versailles. Enjoy an escorted tour of the palace and gardens. If you prefer a more active adventure, go on a guided bike tour, taking in the beautiful French countryside. (B,L,D)

**Monet's Gardens may be closed; therefore, an alternative tour will operate instead.*

Day 11: Paris

Travel to Auberge Ravoux in the heart of Auvers-sur-Oise, the last home of artist Vincent van Gogh. His spirit still lingers in his former attic rooms at the Ravoux Inn. The mere 70 days Van Gogh spent in Auvers-sur-Oise were astonishingly prolific as he painted more than 70 works here before his death. Or enjoy the exquisite architecture of the Château de Malmaison, the former home of Napoleon and Josephine Bonaparte, also known as “the most beautiful and curious garden in Europe. Alternatively, stay in Paris explore the “City of Light” on a guided bike tour. Later, enjoy some of Paris' most famous sights during your panoramic tour. You will be guided through the charming Latin Quarter, home to the world-famous Sorbonne University, and through the stunning 400-year-old Luxembourg Gardens, created by King Henry IV's widow, Marie de' Medici. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Paris - Disembarkation

Bid farewell to Paris and prepare for your flight home. (B)

***206 Tours Disclaimer:**

Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits.