



Spring Break in France Spring 2008

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Day One

Departure on a regularly scheduled flight from Washington D.C.

Day Two

Arrival in Paris where the group is met by your European Institute On-site Coordinator. Transfer to your hotel and begin exploring this beautiful city. This evening celebrate the beginning of your program with a special *Welcome Dinner*.

Day Three

This morning a local guide conducts a panoramic tour of the City of Light; highlights include Notre Dame Cathedral, the historic, spiritual and geographic center of Paris, the Arch de Triomphe, and the magnificent Invalides. In the afternoon a visit to one of the world's greatest collections of art, the Louvre, is included. Later enjoy an evening visit to the Eiffel Tower.

Day Four

Louis XIV's magnificent palace at Versailles is this morning's focus. See the royal chambers splendidly restored to their original glory, as well as the famed gardens including Marie Antoinette's Hamlet. In the afternoon continue to Chartres Cathedral, an encyclopedia of Medieval thought encapsulated in stone. If available the celebrated Malcolm Miller will conduct a comprehensive tour of the cathedral. Return to Paris in the evening and enjoy Paris from a different perspective aboard a *Seine cruise*.

Day Five

Today you have a free day to continue your exploration of this great city.

Day Six

A morning drive brings you to the providence of Normandy where you will learn about a ***Tale of Two Invasions***. From the shores of Normandy in 1066 William the Conqueror launched the last successful invasion of Britain; nearly 900 years later the allied forces landed in Normandy en-route to liberating France from the Nazi occupation. Visit the D-Day Museum at Arromanches and the American Cemetery. Tonight will be spent in the walled city of St-Malo.

Day Seven

Together with Chartres, Mont-Saint-Michel is one of the most important medieval monuments in France. At once an island, Abbey, fortress and town, the Mont is a fascinating and unique testament to France's medieval past. Later continue to the ***Garden of France***, the Loire Valley, and the lively Student City of Tours.

Day Eight

The Loire Valley was the ***Playground of Kings*** who left this region literally littered with castles and palaces. Today concentrate on the development of French architecture as the medieval fortresses give way to renaissance pleasure palaces, through visits to Amboise, Chenonceau and Azay-le-Rideau.

Day Nine

Journey to Paris where you board a TGV for Geneva. With a spectacular natural location on Lake Geneva, this city is one of the most beautiful in Switzerland. Begin your exploration of Geneva in the city's compact ***Old Town***.

Day Ten

This morning's drive along the Lake brings you to the Castle of Chillon, immortalized by Lord Byron. The castle dates from the 11th century and is remarkably well preserved. Return to Geneva where you have a special ***Farewell Dinner***.

Day Eleven

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the USA.