



La Belle France

Normandy • Tours • Loire Valley • Paris • Avignon • Nice



Day 1 • Depart

We board our plane this morning for our transatlantic flight to France.

Day 2 • Normandy

Upon arrival at the Charles DeGaulle International Airport we meet our coach and depart for Normandy. En route we stop at **Giverny** to visit **Monet's House and Gardens**. We stroll through the gardens and see the lily pond, the arched **Japanese Bridge** and many other subjects that inspired the paintings of this Impressionist master. Then we continue on to the Normandy area. Additional sightseeing today is dependent on our flight schedule. **D**

Day 3 • Normandy

Our guided tour today traces the story of D-Day, with stops at the **Caen Peace Memorial**, **Arromanches** ("Mulberry" Harbor), the German shore battery and observation post at **Longues-sur-Mer**, the **American Cemetery at Omaha Beach**, and **Point-du-Hoc** where Rangers scaled the vertical cliffs. We then drive to **Bayeux**, a medieval town that escaped wartime destruction. Here we visit the **Tapestry Museum** containing the 220 foot long tapestry dating from the 11th century that recounts the Norman invasion of England in 1066. **B/D**

Day 4 • Tours, Loire Valley

This morning we travel across Lower Normandy to visit one of the most enchanting sights in France, the fortified **Benedictine Abbey of Mont-St.-Michel**. We then make a stop at another fortified island off the coast of Brittany, **St. Malo**. Our destination today is Tours in the Loire Valley, the heart of "Chateau Country." **B/D**

Day 5 • Paris

On our drive to Paris today we pass through France's Chateau Region. We take a guided tour of **Chenonceau**, one of the most elegant of these magnificent palaces, which were built as pleasure palaces and summer retreats by the French nobility. We continue on to Paris, the "City of Lights". En route, we visit the **Palace of Versailles**. What started as a small hunting lodge is now a grand estate and magnificent royal palace. We stroll through the Queen's and King's apartments, the **Halls of Peace, Mirrors and War**, and the English and French gardens and park. **B/D**

Day 6 • Paris

Today we enjoy a locally-guided tour of France's beautiful capital. We see the sights for which Paris is famous, such as the **Champs Elysées** and the **Arc de Triomphe**, **Concorde Square**, **Montmartre Hill**, the **Cathedral of Notre**

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Dame de Paris, and of course, the **Eiffel Tower**. The afternoon is open to pursue individual interests, perhaps to visit one of Paris' world famous museums: the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, or Centre Pompidou. **B/D**

Day 7 • Avignon

This morning we transfer to the Gare de Lyon and board a high speed "bullet train" (TGV). We travel south to the **Provence** region and the city of Avignon, a fascinating town enclosed by massive ramparts. Here we meet our coach and driver, then take a guided tour of the **Palais du Pape**, a magnificent fortification and the residence of the popes from 1309 to 1376, a period called the "Babylonian Captivity." **B/D**

Day 8 • Avignon

After some additional time to explore Avignon this morning, we drive to **Arles**, a charming old Roman town where Van Gogh lived in 1888-89. Here we take a city tour that includes the well-preserved **Roman Amphitheater** and the **Constantine Palace** with its extensive baths. **B/D**

Day 9 • Nice

This morning we depart for Nice. Along the way we stop at **Cannes**, the site of the international film festival. Nice, the capital of the Côte d'Azur and "Queen of the Riviera," is known for its museums, beaches, and vibrant atmosphere. A city guide takes us on a walking tour through the narrow, winding streets of the old town. **B/D**

Day 10 • Nice

On our final full day, we continue our exploration of the Riviera. We visit a world renowned perfume factory in **Grasse**. Then we drive to the village of **Eze**, perched on a rocky pinnacle high above the Mediterranean with a magnificent view overlooking Monaco. Returning to Nice, we take a stroll on the **Promenade des Anglais** and marvel at the azure blue Mediterranean. **B/D**

Day 11 • Return

This morning we transfer to the Nice airport for our return flight to the U.S. We bid farewell to France but take with us memories of beautiful land and seascapes, fascinating cities, and a wealth of new friends. *Au revoir!* **B**

Abbreviations for Meals: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Cost of tour: 1,669*

Land portion only

**Based on minimum of 30 paying participants*

<u>Included</u>	<u>Not included</u>
<p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach <p>Accommodations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth hostels and multi-bedded tourist class hotels <p>Meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As indicated in itinerary <p>Sightseeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission to all activities as indicated in itinerary <p>Tour Guides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher serves as tour leader (Professional tour director can be added upon request) • Local guides for city tours and major attractions <p>Taxes and Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All taxes and tips for provided services except end of tour tip for driver <p>Complimentary Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One tour per 8 paying participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtrip air transportation • Professional tour director • Meals not indicated in the itinerary • Beverages, except with breakfast • End of tour tip for driver • Items of a personal nature such as passport fees <i>Passports must be valid 6 months beyond return date</i> • Travel Insurance <p style="text-align: center;">This tour can be customized to your specifications.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tour Code: SPFL10</p>

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