



SPRINGTIME IN PARIS!!!!

This trip is the perfect way to see the highlights of Paris plus the World War II landing beaches in Normandy, Brittany, and the Loire Valley in a short amount of time. In Paris, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, then visit magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral and ascend to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower during your guided sightseeing. Travel to Normandy, where World War II comes alive at the fascinating Memorial Museum for Peace and the Normandy American Cemetery. Next is the famous Abbey of Mont St. Michel. Here, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Then, travel via Brittany into the Loire Valley, where a special "châteaux day" has been included: visit Catherine de Medici's lovely Chenonceau and Clos Lucé to admire Leonardo da Vinci's inventions. To top it off, you'll explore Chartres' cathedral and back in Paris, there is time to join an optional excursion to the Louvre Museum.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE IN PARIS, FRANCE

The day is free to rest or to start exploring the splendid French capital. At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions and leave the hotel for a welcome dinner with wine at one of Paris' lively restaurants. After dinner you may wish to join an optional outing to get a first impression of the "City of Light". (Dinner)

DAY 2: PARIS

Sightseeing with a Local Guide features the Arc de Triomphe, Opéra, Madeleine, Louvre, and Champs-Élysées. Visit magnificent NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL, and for a panoramic view, take the elevator to the second floor of the EIFFEL TOWER. Balance of the day at leisure and lots to do. An optional excursion to Versailles Palace and Gardens as well as exciting evening outings are available. (Breakfast)

DAY 3: PARIS, ROUEN, CAEN

A pleasant morning drive takes you to Rouen. Time here for a leisurely stroll along the lovely cobblestone Rue du Gros-Horloge leading from the cathedral to the square where Joan of Arc was burned in 1431. Then, continue to Caen and look forward to a visit to the fascinating MEMORIAL MUSEUM FOR PEACE with its great exhibits and audiovisual show about the Battle of Normandy. Continue to Caen for your overnight stay. (Breakfast, Dinner)

DAY 4: CAEN, NORMANDY BEACHES, MONT ST. MICHEL

Focus on the scene of the Allied Forces' landing on D-Day, June 6th, 1944. Drive by Juno Beach, then stop at Gold Beach for a view of the Mulberry Harbor remains at Arromanches. Visit the AMERICAN CEMETERY and its visitor center at Omaha Beach. Continue to Sainte Mère Eglise, the first town to be liberated, with its evocative parachute memorial. In the afternoon, enjoy a guided visit of the famous ABBEY OF MONT ST. MICHEL, perched on a rocky isle in the Gulf of Saint Malo. Overnight on the coast near Mont St. Michel and a special dinner is included. (Breakfast, Dinner)

ITINERARY (Cont)

DAY 5: MONT ST MICHEL, LOIRE VALLEY

Enjoy a scenic ride across Brittany via Châteaubriant to Angers. Stop here for pictures of the impressive 13th-century castle. Then, continue your journey to the Loire Valley, where you will stay for the next two nights. Tonight, why not sample French cuisine at one of the excellent restaurants? (Breakfast)

DAY 6: LOIRE VALLEY. Excursion to Castle Country

A rich day of sightseeing. Visit the jewel of the French Renaissance, Château CHAMBORD, and the 16th-century Château of Catherine de Medici, lovely CHENONCEAU. On to Amboise. Visit CLOS LUCÉ and marvel at an amazing collection of models of Leonardo da Vinci's inventions, painstakingly reconstructed from the drawings of the great renaissance genius. (Breakfast, Dinner)

DAY 7: LOIRE VALLEY, CHARTRES, PARIS

This morning, visit Chartres with its superb 13th-century gothic CATHEDRAL—a jewel of medieval architecture. Arrive in Paris in the afternoon. An optional excursion to the Louvre Museum is available as well as exciting possibilities for an unforgettable night out on the town. (Breakfast)

DAY 8: PARIS

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (Breakfast)

MAYSLAKE MINISTRIES MISSION STATEMENT

Mayslake Ministries is a faith-based, lay led 501.c.3 Not-for-Profit Christian/Catholic organization founded by Fr. Jonathan Foster, OFM. Formerly known as the St. Francis Retreat House in Oak Brook, IL, Mayslake Ministries was established in 1991 as a "retreat house without walls" and serves the spiritual needs of Christian/Catholic men and women where and whenever the need arises through a variety of spiritual enrichment programs. Mayslake Ministries provides a tranquil and inspiring setting for all who seek a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.