

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY

1

Sep 20, 2018: Overnight Flight

Embark on your journey through France. Bask in the rich history, art, culture and romance of its celebrated cities and charming towns.

DAY

2

Sep 21, 2018: Paris, France - Tour Begins

Your tour opens in beautiful Paris. **Celebrate the beginning of a fabulous trip with a sunset river cruise** past famous glittering landmarks along the River Seine, which divides the north from the south of Paris into what is known as the right bank and the left bank. Then we'll head to one of Paris' brasseries for a delightful French dinner. Enjoy sumptuous food and wine set amongst an Art Nouveau background reminiscent of the jazz and Hemingway-era of Paris.

Included Meals

Dinner

DAY

3

Sep 22, 2018: Paris

It's your choice! Take a splendid panoramic coach tour that includes a stop for a short walking tour inside the impressive Notre Dame Cathedral. Or, for a truly local experience, join a guide who will take you to some of Paris' most iconic sights by Metro. Either way you'll see the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame Cathedral, Champs-Elysees, Place de la Concorde, and the magnificent Place Vendome. Write your own story during a free afternoon. Perhaps you'll take an optional guided tour at the famous Louvre.

Included Meals

Breakfast

DAY

4

Sep 23, 2018: Paris - Caen

Set off for the Normandy coast. During WWII, the largest invasion in history took place here. **Visit the Memorial Peace Museum**, built to commemorate those who died in the epic Battle of Normandy in 1944. Later, see the remains of the artificial Mulberry port built near Arromanche-les-Bains – where the allies resupplied their lines during the liberation of France – before making your way to the hotel.

Included Meals

Breakfast

Dinner

DAY

5

Sep 24, 2018: Caen - D-Day Landing Sites - Caen

This morning **visit the Omaha Beach Cemetery and stop by the new interpretive center.** See the stars and stripes raised over the graves of the valiant soldiers who gave their lives in the Battle of Normandy. Then, **walk through Pointe du Hoc Ranger Memorial** and see where the 2nd Ranger Battalion scaled 100-foot cliffs on D-Day to seize the fortified enemy position. Next, make your way to Sainte Mère Eglise, the heart of the American Airborne operations on D-Day, and **visit its parachute-shaped Airborne Museum.** You will also visit other landing beaches, such as Utah and Juno.

Included Meals

Breakfast

DAY

6

Sep 25, 2018: Caen - Bayeux - Dinan - Saint-Malo

Travel back in history when you stand before the impressive Bayeux Tapestry (UNESCO), a 230-foot embroidered cloth depicting the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England. Next, journey to Dinan, one of the best-preserved medieval villages in France. Then, **it's your choice!** Join a local guide for a walking tour along cobbled streets and discover the city's fortified walls. Or, meet a local guide at the quaint port of Dinan, the entry point for resupplying the Duke of Dinan during the Hundred Years' War, and walk up the famous *Rue de Jerzuel* hill to the town center. Either way, you'll fall in love with the streets lined with half-timbered houses and the ramparts that overlook this picture-perfect port village. Then it's off to Saint-Malo, Brittany's famous coastal village. Here you'll be immersed in the beautiful beaches, striking blue water, and views of the fortified Old Town where you'll enjoy a wonderfully prepared local dinner.

Included Meals

Breakfast

Dinner

DAY

7

Sep 26, 2018: Saint-Malo - Le Mont St. Michel - Saint-Malo

Travel to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Le Mont St. Michel, the "Wonder of the West." Resting on the border between Normandy and Brittany, this world-famous pilgrimage site sits on the edge of the sea and becomes an island at high tide. Take in the breathtaking views as you stroll through the old city at the base of the village before exploring one of the most beautiful abbeys in France, dating back to the 11th century. Return to Saint-Malo and enjoy time to relax or explore independently.

Included Meals

Breakfast

DAY

8

Sep 27, 2018: Saint-Malo - Chinon - Fontevraud

Journey south to the Loire Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site brimming with châteaux and parks, once the setting for the French court. Arrive in the medieval village of Chinon, set on the banks of the Vienne River. **Visit the renowned Royal Fortress of Chinon** where Joan of Arc first met young Charles VII and shared her vision that he would defeat the English during the Hundred Years' War. This afternoon, **check into your hotel within the magnificently renovated abbey of Fontevraud.** Delve into the history of this site which was home to one of the largest orders in Europe during medieval times and serves as the final resting place of King Richard the Lionheart. Tonight's dinner is set amongst flying buttresses, chiseled arches and ancient stone.

Included Meals

Breakfast

Dinner

DAY

9

Sep 28, 2018: Fontevraud - Amboise - Fontevraud

Embark on a **tour of the spectacular Château de Chenonceau.** Perched along the banks of the Cher River, it is a jewel of Renaissance architecture. Head to the picturesque center of Amboise. Enjoy free time for exploring and getting to know the local culture. Tour **Château du Clos Luce** – where Leonardo da Vinci spent his last three years – which showcases a display of his early inventions. Next, **visit a local winery** to discover some of Europe's best Cabernet Franc and Chenin Blanc wines.

Included Meals

Breakfast

DAY

10

Sep 29, 2018: Fontevraud - Lyon

Travel the French countryside to the gastronomical capital of France, Lyon (UNESCO). The city was once an important area for silk production. Today it is known for its world-renowned cuisine. This evening experience this cuisine firsthand when you dine at a *bouchon*, a local restaurant that serves traditional Lyonnaise fare.

Included Meals

Breakfast

Dinner

DAY

11

Sep 30, 2018: Lyon - Avignon

Visit the Basilica of Notre Dame de Fourvier with its amazing views of the city. Tour the historic *Vieux Lyon*, or Old Quarter, with a local expert. Continue to Les Halles de Lyon - Paul Bocuse market, named after the famous chef. Marvel at its culinary delights as you enjoy free time to explore before continuing to Provence and the city of Avignon.

🍴 Included Meals

Breakfast

DAY

12

Oct 01, 2018: Avignon

This morning come to know the walled city of Avignon during a walking tour led by a local resident. Learn about the historical period when the Papacy moved here in 1309. Then, **explore some of the 25 rooms of the 14th-century papal palace, Palais des Papes**, the world's largest Gothic palace. Your evening is capped off with dinner at a local restaurant, complete with a cocktail reception and crème brulee demonstration.

🍴 Included Meals

Breakfast

Dinner

DAY

13

Oct 02, 2018: Avignon - Tour Ends

Set out for home with many magnificent memories.

🍴 Included Meals

Breakfast
