

9 DAYS - FRENCH EXPERIENCE

Explore the most popular tourist destination in the world in one incredible week, and experience France's fantastic food, wine, history & culture

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Paris

Bienvenue! Welcome to Paris for the start of your 8 day Taste of France tour! If you arrive early, take time to explore The City of Lights, stroll the historic boulevards, visit the many museums, shop in charming boutiques or simply people-watch from a Parisian cafe. This evening, you'll meet your tour leader and fellow travellers at our included welcome dinner.

Dinner. Overnight accommodation

DAY 2: Paris - Burgundy - Lyon

Leaving Paris behind us, we make our way to the Burgundy region, where we'll enjoy a wine tasting. If Paris is the place for romance, then Burgundy is the place for two other things France is well-known for: great food and fine wine. Famous 'Burgundies' (wines made in this region) include whites made from Chardonnay grapes, and dry reds made from the Pinot noir grape. We'll then travel on to Lyon, where your tour leader will take you on an orientation tour. The city, itself a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is famous for its gastronomy, historical landmarks and picturesque riverside setting. This evening, you'll have the opportunity to join your tour leader for an optional dinner, where you can try classic Lyonnais cuisine.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

DAY 3: Lyon - Loire Valley

Our first stop today is at the incredible Château de Chambord. Built in the 15th century, this stunning example of a renaissance French Château (castle) stands on a hill above the River Loire, and is known for its summertime garden festival. The 'Festival des Jardins' (International Garden Festival) has been held here since 1992, and features up to 30 themed gardens that paint a panoramic picture of landscape design from around the world. After having some time to explore the chateau and the extensive gardens, we'll head to our accommodation in the Loire Valley, where we'll enjoy an included dinner.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

DAY 4: Loire Valley - Free day

Enjoy a free day to explore the Loire Valley! This fertile river valley in central France is covered in vineyards, hundreds of chateaux and quaint French villages. The valley is one enormous UNESCO World Heritage Site, testament to the centuries of history and architectural riches offered by this region, and the perfect way to experience these treasures is on the chateaux optional excursion. In addition to experiencing the stunning French countryside and the charming town of Amboise, you will visit three of the finest chateaux in France; Château de Chenonceau, Château d'Amboise (where you can also visit the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci)



and Château de Chambord.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

DAY 5: Mont St Michel - Bayeux - Normandy

Our first stop is at magical Mont St Michel. An island commune located just off the coast, it is one of France's most recognisable landmarks, and is another French entry on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. After some time to explore the abbey and monastery we'll travel on to Bayeux, a commune in north-western France. Bayeux is famous for the bayeux Tapestry, a large embroidered cloth more than 70 metres long which depicts the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England. You'll have free time to see the tapestry in the Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux, or alternatively the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy, which offers a great insight into WWII and the prominent

role this region played during the Normandy Landings. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

DAY 6: Normandy beaches - Paris

This morning we'll explore 'Omaha' D-Day landing beach. It was here that the Allied forces landed in June 1944 during WWII. The largest seaborne invasion in history, the Normandy landings began the invasion of German-occupied



Western Europe and led to the eventual liberation of France. You'll have time to explore the area and reflect on all that transpired here, as well as the opportunity to visit the Arromanches 360 cinema. This optional experience tells the story of the Battle of Normandy thanks to archive images gathered from around the world. The film is a tribute to soldiers from all countries and to the 20,000 civilians who were killed during this battle for the liberation of Europe. We'll then continue back to Paris where your tour leader will lead you on a driving tour of this famous city; you'll see the must-see sights including The Eiffel Tower, The Champs-Élysées, Notre Dame, the Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe. To round off the last day of the tour we'll enjoy a farewell dinner so you can say your goodbyes and share your memories

of the last week with your fellow travellers and tour leader. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

DAY 7: A free day in Paris

Today is all yours to explore as you wish. Take an optional cruise up the River Seine, head up the tower of Montparnasse for exquisite views, visit L'Opéra Garnier, the Tuileries Gardens, Place de la Concorde, Hotel de Ville, the River Seine, l'Île de la Cité or the Louvre Museum. Get a glimpse of that most famous avenue, the Champs Elysees, overlooked by the famous Arc de Triomphe. Alternatively, why not head to the boutiques of La Marais? Or visit the graves of Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison at Père Lachaise Cemetery? Those with a taste for the macabre can even descend to the infamous catacombs! Alternatively, stay above ground and explore the museums, people-watch from a roadside café, or simply stroll the city, following in the footsteps of great painters, musicians and writers. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

DAY 8: Departure out of Paris

It's our last day already! After breakfast your private transfer will take you to the airport for your flight back home. In case your flight is in the afternoon or in the evening you can do some last minute shopping. We hope you've loved every minute of your French Experience adventure! Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 7 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 8 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

ACCOMMODATION

Paris

Ibis la Defense

Lyon

Campanile Lyon Centre

Loire Valley

Kyriad Tours Centre

Normandy

Campanile Bayeux