

SCHOOL TOUR TO FRANCE

A SUGGESTION FOR A TWO WEEK TOUR

Options for both French Language-Students and Non-Language Students

(Given the problems with weekly closing dates of sites and monuments, this example assumes an arrival at airport early morning on a Friday....

We can adjust to whichever day on which you will in fact arrive!

Day 1 Friday

Arrival at CDG airport

Transfer by coach to hostel situated in a mansion in the historical heart of Paris.

Discovery walk to *Ile St Louis* close by, then to the *Ile de la Cité*.

Visit Notre Dame and climb up the **towers** to admire the view.

Visit the **Sainte Chapelle** and its unbelievable and unforgettable stained glass windows. If time, visit **La Conciergerie** where Marie Antoinette was prisoner and spent her last months.

Dinner and night in hostel

Day 2 Saturday

Morning : Visit the **Louvre** from the remains of the 12th century castle to the 20th century glass pyramid. (each group free to choose what they want to see).

Afternoon : visit of **Montmartre** and its tradition of painting

Late afternoon or early evening : **cruise on the Seine**

Dinner and night in hostel

Day 3 Sunday

Walking discovery of the *Latin quarter*, the Luxembourg gardens, the most important Roman remains in Paris : the Roman Baths in the **Cluny Museum** where you will also admire the celebrated *La Dame à la Licorne*, a magnificent XVth century tapestry

Walk across the most beautiful bridge in Paris le Pont Alexandre III .

Then up the *Champs Elysées*. to the Arc de Triomphe.

Up the **Arc de Triomphe** for the view.

Dinner and night in hostel

Day 4 Monday : Whole day either in the **Parc Asterix** or **EuroDisney** (transfers included)

Dinner and night in hostel

Day 5 Tuesday

Visit the **Orsay Museum** (the National Impressionism Museum)

Then walk across the *Tuileries* garden to see the Rue de Rivoli, *La Place de la Concorde*, la Madeleine and the National Assembly

Afternoon : Visit the **catacombes**.

To by metro the *Trocadero* : from the esplanade you have the best view of the *Eiffel Tower*.

Then walk to the **Eiffel Tower** and up to the top (3rd floor)

Dinner and night in hostel.

Day 6 Wednesday

To **Versailles** for the whole day. Visit all the superb state apartments and especially the magnificent Hall of Mirrors which has just been restored to its 17th century splendour. Visit the gardens and Marie Antoinette's domain including the hamlet, now most beautifully restored

Dinner and night in hostel

Day 7 Thursday

Morning : Visit some of the most striking features of the *Marais* and the *Place des Vosges*. then through one of the impressive street markets in Paris : Bd Richard Lenoir, close to the *Bastille*.

Visit of the **Musée Rodin** interesting both as the museum housing Rodin's masterpieces but also for the building which houses the museum, the *Hotel de Biron*, superb example of 18th century architecture.

Visit of the **Musée des Invalides**, masterpiece of 17th century architecture, also Napoleon's tomb and the army museum.

Dinner and night in hostel

Day 8 Friday

Morning Visit of the **Opera Garnier** followed by a visit to the *Grands Magasins* close by : Le Printemps and Les Galeries Lafayette.

Now follow the two options ***Option One : For students studying French***

Mid afternoon transfer by coach to Gare de Lyon. Fast Train to Nevers
Welcome by host families

Days 9 & 10 Saturday and Sunday : spent with the families welcoming the students.

Day 11 Monday: visit school and discovery of the town.

Day 12 Tuesday morning
9h22 train to Tours arriving at 11h34

Meet up with the other group to continue the same programme for all.....

Option Two : For students who do not study French

(Day 8 cont'd) Mid-afternoon transfer by coach to Gare St Lazare. By train to **Rouen**.
Begin the visit of the town and at night fall watch the illuminations of the cathedral as painted by Monet.

Dinner and night in youth hostel

Day 9 Saturday : for the first part of the morning, continue the visit of the town
12h02 train to **Caen** arriving at 14h

In Caen, visit the **Peace Memorial** and/or the **Abbaye aux hommes**.

Coach transfer to **Bayeux**.

Dinner and night in Youth Hostel (Bayeux).

Day 10 Sunday :

Whole day devoted to the ***Normandy Landing*** with coach and guide. Highlights include Arramanches, the site of the main Mulberry harbour as well as the 360° cinema (short film evoking the 1944 Landing), Gold Beach, the *Batterie* at Longue-sur-mer, Omaha Beach, the *Pointe du Hoc*, and the great and very moving cemetery at Colleville-sur-mer

Dinner and night in Hostel (Bayeux)

Day 11 Monday

Morning : by coach to the **Mont St Michel**. (Visit using audioguides).

Return to Bayeux to visit the world-famous ***Bayeux Tapestry***, believed to have been made by Queen Mathilde and picturing the conquest of England by her husband William. Probably dating from the end of the 11th century, in many ways it is the world's first cartoon strip!! It is very striking, beautiful and unforgettable.

Day 12 Tuesday

Very early departure from Bayeux. Transfer to Caen
8h32 train to Tours arriving at 11h17.

Meet up with the other group to continue the same programme for all.....

Both groups meet up with the coach for transfer to **Amboise**. Settle in Youth Hostel.

Visit the ***Château d'Amboise*** and the ***Clos Lucé***, Leonardo DaVinci's last home where you can discover all his inventions.

Dinner and night in Hostel

Day 13 Wednesday

Whole day coach excursion.

Morning : Visit the **Château d'Ussé** (called the "fairy tale château" as it inspired the tale of *Sleeping Beauty*)

Followed by a visit to the marvellous **gardens of Villandry**.

Then visit the loveliest château of them all : **Chenonceau**.

Dinner and night in Hostel

Day 14 Thursday

By coach direct to CDG airport.(Day will depend on the time of the flight)

If time on the way, visit the **Château de Cheverny**, which inspired Hergé for Captain Haddock's *Moulinsart* in the Tintin books. The château is now especially famous for its magnificent collection of French furniture, having always belonged to the same family.

Also if time, stop at **Chambord** to have a look at the largest of the royal palaces outside Paris.

Departure : CDG airport

Please don't forget!

**If you have any questions or worries at all, or ideas for alternative itineraries,
just talk them over by email (or skype!) with Annie & David Bancroft :**

cpederf@cpederf.com