



Sample Itinerary for a Five Day History Study Tour of Paris.

Dates: To Be Decided.



The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the holiday itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The visit will be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The director is able to run the holiday according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.

ACCOMMODATION



The Hotel Ibis**

33 rue Barbès - 92120 - Montrouge, France. Tel : (+33)142316700 Fax : (+33)142316701.

Our hotel lies just North of Paris. The hotel is modern, with accommodation in one, two, three and four bedded rooms, all with en-suite facilities, televisions and telephones. There is a pleasant meeting room and bar area.

Above all, this is a secure and well-staffed hotel for our groups. Apart from the usual double locks on each door, the hotel is large enough to ensure that all pupils are usually on the same floor, directly next to their supervising staff. In addition there is a 24 hour concierge service.

The manager heads a particularly friendly and helpful staff and we have found the Hotel Ibis to be an ideal base for our groups in this region of France.

DAY ONE

06.30 Coach arrives at School.

07.00 Depart School. Transfer to Port of Dover.

We will show a dvd feature-film en-route to Dover & will make frequent refreshment stops as necessary.

11.30 E.T.A. Port of Dover. Check in for next crossing.

12.30 Depart Port of Dover on P&O Ferries 'The Pride of Kent'.

15.00 Arrival at Calais. Onward transfer to Paris.

(Note: Continental time is one hour in advance of British time)

18.15 **Ascent of The Arc de Triomphe**

Pupils will have the opportunity to take photographs of the Arc before passing through the pedestrian underpass to get underneath the Arc itself. The Tour Director will explain the names and sculptings on the Arc as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Participants will then mount the spiral staircase to reach the top of the Arc. (There is a lift available for adults.) Inside the monument pupils can explore the museum, visit the shop and see a film show in English. They can then climb up to the outdoor viewing gallery to enjoy a spectacular view over Paris.

19.30 **Dinner at the Monte-Carlo Restaurant, Avenue Wagram.**

www.monte-carlo.fr

The Monte Carlo Restaurant is located directly next to the Arc de Triomphe & offers panoramic views over the Avenue Wagram & the Arc itself.

This traditional Parisian bistro self-service restaurant offers a choice of two courses from a sample set menu as follows:

Starter: Salad, crudités, vegetables, pickles etc.

Main Course: Roast chicken, prime quarter-pounder beefburger, turkey escalope, grilled pork loin, salmon or fish slice. Served with hot vegetables, rice, pasta or French fries.

Dessert: Fresh yoghurt with crème de marrons, mousse au chocolat, fresh fruit salad, sugared fruit with dessert cream.

1 soft drink. French red/white wine for staff.

21.00 Onward transfer to Hotel Ibis, Paris.

21.30 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis, Paris. Check in & allocate room keys.

DAY TWO

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Transfer to Paris centre.

10.15 **Guided Cruise on the River Seine - The Bateaux Mouches.**
www.bateaux-mouches.fr

Most of the main sights of Paris are clustered along the River Seine & we will enjoy a cruise lasting just over an hour. There will be a commentary in English & this is often the best way to become familiar with the layout of central Paris. We will pass the Eiffel Tower, the original Statue of Liberty, the Louvre Museum, the Conciergerie Prison, the Samaritaine Department Store, the Academie Francaise, Notre Dame & the Ile St. Louis.

12.00 Lunch on The Champs de Mars, under the Eiffel Tower.

13.00 **Visit to The Musee d'Orsay**
www.musee-orsay.fr

Once the Gare d'Orsay, many French soldiers would meet here prior to their journey to the front in the First World War. By 1939 the station had become underused due to its short platforms. During the Second World War it was used as a depot for parcels to prisoners of war. Since the war it has had various uses such as a theatre and a hotel.

In narrowly escaped demolition in 1973 and was inaugurated, in 1983, as a museum of 19th century art.

The Musee D'Orsay accommodates the dispersed collections of art from the Romantic Period to the Art Nouveau or, more specifically, from 1848 to 1914. The collection follows on from the works in The Louvre and yet is out of place amongst the modern and contemporary works hanging in the Centre Pompidou. Numerous selected canvasses long relegated to the reserves of other museums have again seen the light of day following changes in interest, taste and fashion.

There is no lack of space, with the main vault alone spanning 138 metres in length. The main entrance is at the West end giving access to a cafe, a library and temporary exhibition rooms. The long central hall houses displays of sculpture, with side galleries exhibiting paintings from 1848 to 1870. There is a gallery illustrating Haussman's town-planning projects and separate rooms contain work by Chauchard, Mollard and Moreau-Nelaton.

Lifts ascend from the lower level to the fourth level, comprising a series of rooms housing the world's largest display of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist work.

There are terraces overlooking the central court which display sculptures from 1870 to 1914. The N.E. corner accommodates material on the early history of cinema.

15.30 Transfer to The Eiffel Tower.

16.00

Ascent of The Eiffel Tower.

www.tour-eiffel.fr

The Eiffel Tower continues to be the symbol of Paris. It lost its title as the world's tallest building 50 years ago to the Empire State Building. Built for the World Fair of 1889, the Tower is 307 metres high and one can see for a distance of 45 miles on a clear day.

The Tower was originally granted 20 years of life but its use for radio telegraphy saved it from demolition in 1904.

We will take the lift to the second floor, where there is a cafe and a spectacular view. Participants can then descend to the first floor to view the excellent exhibition on the Tower. We will then meet at the bottom of the North Pillar at an arranged time.

18.00

Transfer to Flams Alsacian Pizza Restaurant.

18.30

Dinner at Flams Alsacian Pizza Restaurant.

www.flams.fr

Located in the popular shopping & restaurant region of Grands Boulevards, the Flams Restaurant offers a variety of traditional Alsatian thin pizzas. Popular with large dining groups such as for birthday celebrations, end of term parties, office celebrations etc, the communal dining experience of sharing wooden boards of flat pizzas at long oak tables is enjoyed by our student groups visiting Paris. There are several choices of main course pizza including saucisson, mushroom, sour cream, sauerkraut etc. Students are often curious to then taste the dessert pizzas such as chocolate or crème de marron pizza! Soft drinks are provided for students & wine for staff.

20.30

Driving Tour of Paris By Night

After dinner we will have a guided driving tour of Paris to view the various monuments & sites magnificently illuminated. The tour will include:

The Paris Opera

Notre Dame Cathedral

The Champs Elysees

The Ritz Hotel & The Place Vendome

The Place de la Concorde & The French Parliament

The Arc de Triomphe & The Eiffel Tower.

At the end of the tour we will have the opportunity to get off the coach to take photographs of the Eiffel Tower from the viewing platform at Trocadero.

21.00

Return coach transfer to Hotel Ibis.

21.30

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY THREE

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Transfer to Versailles.

10.15 **Visit to The Palace and Gardens of Versailles.**
www.chateauversailles.fr

Participants will enter the grand courtyard and will wait at the statue of 'The Sun King' for the Director to collect the tickets. We will then enter the Chateau via the group entrance and will have a guided tour as outlined in the back-up notes to accompany the excursion. On leaving the Palace, pupils will be able to stroll in the gardens and admire the symmetrical lakes, paths and tree-lined pathways. We will also be able to board the mini-train to see the Triannons and Marie Antoinette's cottage. Some pupils may enjoy hiring a bicycle to explore the extensive gardens of the Versailles estate. We will take our lunch in the grounds of the estate.

13.30 Lunch.

15.00 Coach transfer to Montmartre & The Place de Tetre.

16.00 **Visit to Montmartre, The Sacre Coeur Church & The Place de Tetre.**
www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.com

The coach will park on the boulevard running along the bottom of the hill. Participants will be able to make their way along the side streets and up the steps to the facade of the Sacre Coeur. Here we will enjoy a spectacular view over the city before entering the church to view the continuous Catholic service inside. Walking to the Place du Tertre, pupils will be able to admire the many artists at work, perhaps having their own portrait/silhouette done.

18.30 **Dinner at 'Bouillon Chartier' Restaurant, Paris.**
www.restaurant-chartier.com

Since its creation in 1896 as a restaurant for the blue-collar workers of this ancient Parisien quartier, Bouillon Chartier claims to have satisfied over a billion bellies. The original idea was to serve a hot 'bouillon' (a traditional meat & vegetable stew) to the workers who would be seated on long wooden benches under the wooden hat stands. Today, the menu changes daily & is a lot more adventurous (see the website for each day's menu). The guiding principle is of traditional French recipes from all parts of the country. It is a good opportunity for the more adventurous students in our groups to taste some French delicacies such as snails in garlic butter, frogs' legs in parsley sauce, grilled oysters or the traditional bavette steaks, grilled salmon with green beans & some very tempting desserts or cheeses.

The highlight of this restaurant is the building itself, which has changed very little over the years. Indeed, it is often used as a setting for period French films. There is no crystal, no silverware & no silk. There is a strong feeling of nostalgia in the room, with its simple wooden chairs, glossed copper & long wooden tables where diners sit together. Still in use are the wooden racks with tiny numbered drawers, used for frequent diners to store their own napkins & cutlery.

We can either have a budget for pupils to make a free choice from or we can have a three-course set menu containing a choice of two main courses.

21.00 Return coach transfer to Hotel Ibis.

21.30 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY FOUR

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Onward transfer to central Paris.

10.15 **The Conciergerie Prison**

The Conciergerie was built to house Philippe le Bet's concierge and palace guards. By 1391 it was functioning as a prison and continued as such till 1914.

Before entering we will look at the Tour de l'Horloge, which incorporates Paris's first public clock, commissioned by Charles V in 1371.

A bell that rang for three days following the birth of a royal child could hardly toll for the Revolutionaries and in 1793 a new silver bell was installed.

Prisoners included Ravaillac (murderer of Henry IV), the bandit Cartouche and Madame de Brinvilliers, a most notorious poisoner.

All waited here for their death sentences to be carried out.

The Conciergerie, however, is most closely associated with the Great Revolution. Prisoners during this period included: Marie Antoinette, Charlotte Corday (Marat's assassin), Madam du Barry (mistress of Louis XV), Georges-Jacques Danton, Camille Desmoulins, Maximilien Robespierre, Marat and Saint Just amongst others.

During 'the Terror' 4,164 citizens were held here. 2,278 finished their lives under the blade of the guillotine. In 1793 it served the Jacobins as a prison for the Girondins, who sang and drank until the morning when they were delivered to the executioner.

THE COURTYARD

Our tour will start in the courtyard, where prisoners bade their last farewells before mounting the tumbrils which took the condemned through the streets of Paris to meet their fate.

SALLES des GARDES

Entering the prison proper, we will enter the Salles des Gardes, a vaulted stone chamber. From here staircases lead to, firstly the Tour Cesar, where Francis Ravaillac was imprisoned in 1610. The other leads to the Tour Argent, where Robert Damiens was kept after his attempt on the life of Louis XV in 1757.

The spiral staircase in the right hand corner as you leave this room was climbed by Marie Antoinette on her way to face the Tribunal.

GENS d'ARME

This opens onto the Salle des Gens d'Arme, a hall measuring 70 by 27 metres said to be Europe's oldest surviving medieval hall.

The tour guide will talk to the group in this hall, prior to walking through the Rue de Paris. Here less moneyed prisoners slept. From here we will reach what was the most animated cross roads, 'the Galerie des Prisonniers,' where lawyers, visitors and prisoners came and went.

THE BARBER'S CELL.

Here the condemned were shorn and pinioned before they made their way into the courtyard.

COMMUNAL CELL.

This is particularly interesting as it is lined with panels listing the names and occupations of those executed.

CELLS OF PRISONNIERS DE MARQUE.

Walking along the connecting passageway we will see three cells that were occupied by important and moneyed prisoners. To illustrate the conditions under which they lived there are waxwork figures and contemporary furniture.

THE MUSEUM

We will enter the museum at the end of this passage. This is full of really excellent material Prints showing The Tribunal in progress, the great revolutionary leaders, earlier infamous prisoners and of daily life in the prison.

Pupils will view letters and documents as well as an original blade of the Guillotine which was used on more than a thousand victims. Pupils will also view an area devoted to Robespierre, around the spot where he was laid down after his entrance to the prison.

THE CHAPELLE DES GIRONDINS

We will descend from the museum into the Chapel named after the 22 condemned Girondins, who were left wing members of the 1791 Legislative Assembly. They celebrated their last night here. There is also a poignant memorial to the Royal Family, with paintings and carvings.

THE WOMEN'S EXERCISE YARD

From the Chapel we will enter the open air with some relief. This is the women's exercise yard associated with the massacres of 1792.

THE CELL OF MARIE ANTOINETTE

Our final visit, and perhaps the most important, will be to the cell of Marie Antoinette. Participants will enter the cell to see the spartan furniture, peeling wallpaper, models of card-playing guards, a wax work of the Queen herself dressed as a widow. A strong impression of Marie Antonette's last sojourn is gained.

12.00

Lunch.

12.30

Notre Dame Cathedral

Pupils can pay a brief visit to the stark 'Memorial to the Deportation' before walking along the side of the cathedral to admire the famous Flying Buttresses, the gargoyles and the images of the Kings of France at the front. On entry to the Cathedral pupils will see the spectacular Rose Windows and the high vaulted ceiling.

14.00

Visit to Les Invalides Military Museum.

www.invalides.org

Les Invalides was built by Louis XIV to care for his retired and injured soldiers. Today, the Dome forms the last resting place of some of France's most heroic dead, including the body of Napoleon. Participants will be able to admire the magnificent interior of what was the royal chapel. One can look down on the great multi layered coffin of the Emperor and descend a flight of stairs to walk around the coffin. Here Napoleon's greatest battles are listed and one can see a series of tableaux illustrating what he achieved for France.

We will go on to visit the military museum which is probably the greatest in the world. We will concentrate on the galleries devoted to the Revolutionary Era and the First Empire. These offer a comprehensive and fascinating illustration of this period

18.00

Dinner at Flunch Restaurant, Cergy Pontoise.

www.flunch.fr

The excellent Flunch self-service restaurant operates throughout France. The menu often changes & includes a hot vegetable buffet where pupils can have unlimited servings of chips, roast potatoes, rice, carrots, peas, lentils & salad.

An example of a typical choice is: Roast chicken/steak hache beefburger or fish in breadcrumbs with unlimited vegetables, a soft drink & a choice of ice-cream from 25 different flavours. We have found that the more adventurous eaters are able to experiment with the local dishes while those less adventurous can have some of the more familiar meals.

19.30

Bowling at the Cergy Bowling Alley.

www.bowling-du-stadium.com/bowling-cergy/cergy.html

We always combine visits of the greatest interest with recreational activities & pupils will be able to enjoy some time bowling. The Tour Director will provide prizes for the highest scoring individuals.

21.15

Transfer to Hotel Ibis.

21.30

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY FIVE

08.00 Breakfast & loading of suitcases into coach.

09.15 Transfer to central Paris.

10.00 **Visit to The Louvre Museum.**
www.louvre.fr

The group is able to bypass the long queues by using the special group entrance near the Rue de Rivoli. On entering the museum there are toilet facilities and a cloakroom, where participants will have to leave their bags (at no charge.) The Tour Director will hand out information sheets and plans before leading the group through the two entrance checks to the galleries.

Pupils will enter the museum through the 'Denon' wing to an exhibition of Roman sculptures. We will pass several famous paintings with which pupils will be familiar before entering the room of the Mona Lisa. We will then view the beautiful 'Winged Victory of Samothrace' to get to the 'Richelieu' wing. Here we will visit the Egyptian and Greek galleries before the highlight of the tour - the Venus de Milo.

12.00 Lunch.

12.30 Transfer to Calais.

16.00 **Visit to The Cite de Europe Hypermarket, Calais.**

The Cite of Europe hypermarket is the largest in Europe and is popular with the many British shoppers who take advantage of the great differences in price between the same goods in Calais and in the UK. Most shops in the complex take Pounds Sterling as well as Euros.

17.30 Transfer to the Port of Calais.

18.00 E.T.A. Port of Calais. Check in for next crossing.

19.00 Depart Calais on The P&O 'Pride of Burgundy'.

20.00

(Note: 1 hour time difference)

E.T.A. Dover. Onward transfer to School.

22.00

E.T.A. School.

ALTERNATIVE VISITS TO CONSIDER:

Visit to The Paris Catacombs

www.catacombes-de-paris.fr

Several thousand bodies were exhumed from the Parisian cemeteries in 1785 when it was decided to re-bury the dead in three disused quarries in order to create more space for the living. We will visit the largest network of catacombs, known as 'The City of the Dead', this is by far the most macabre place in Paris. After descending 20 metres from street level participants will follow 1.6km of underground tunnels with the bones & skulls of millions of Parisians neatly stacked in the shadows. A guard will check bags at the end of the visit for stolen bones & skulls.

Full Day's Visit to Disneyland Paris.

www.disneylandparis.co.uk

We will spend the whole day in Disneyland Paris, where participants will be able to ride on the many excellent rides & view the attractions which take place throughout the day. Rides include Thunder Mountain, The Haunted House, The Indiana Jones Ride, Honey I Shrunk The Kids, Star Wars & the largest rollercoaster in the park - Space Mountain. The group can meet to watch the Disney Parade at 15.00. In order to maximise the amount of time spent within the park, we will enjoy our dinner in the Disney Park before returning to the hotel in the evening.