



Sample Itinerary for a Five Day Languages 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 central Paris.

10.15 **Visit to The Pompidou Centre**
www.centrepompidou.fr

The Pompidou Centre was designed with the pipes, air-conditioning, escalators etc. on the exterior of the building in order to maximise the amount of space inside the building. The brightly coloured exterior of the Pomidou Centre resembles a huge Meccano set. Floors can even be added or removed to accommodate different exhibitions.

The modern art gallery on the fifth floor of the Pompidou Centre is always a popular visit with our GCSE & A Level art groups. There are several works by Matisse & there are often temporary exhibitions, many of which are extremely alternative. There is a very pleasant cafe on the 6th floor from where Paris can be admired from the rooftops.

12.00 **Lunch & Shopping Time in the Les Halles District of Paris.**

13.00 Coach transfer to Montmartre & The Place de Tetre.

13.30 **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.

16.00 Transfer to Cergy Pontoise.

17.00 **Bowling at the Cergy Bowling Alley.**
[www.bowling-du-stadium.com/bowling-cergy.html](http://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.

19.00

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.

20.30

Transfer to Hotel Ibis.

21.00

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY FOUR

08.00 Breakfast.

09.00 Transfer to Disneyland Paris.

10.00 **Day's Visit to Disneyland Paris.**

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.

19.00 Dinner at Disneyland Themepark.

20.30 Return 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 Giverny.

10.00 **Visit to Claude Monet's House at Giverny**
www.fondation-monet.fr

Monet was lucky enough to be one of the very few Impressionist painters to become famous during his lifetime. The great wealth that he made allowed him to buy the large house in Giverny, approx. an hour's drive from Paris. Monet took great pride in his garden and brought new seeds and flowers back with him from his travels. He would often write to his wife telling her about the new plants he had acquired abroad to plant in his garden.

Monet was initially unsuccessful at persuading the local council to approve permission for the re-direction of the local river through his garden. On the second attempt the council did allow Monet to alter the course of the river and he was able to create the lake at the bottom of the garden.

Monet was inspired by Constable and shared the belief that a painter should be outside, painting landscapes, rather than shut in a room. The paintings of the poppy fields near his house in Giverny are cases in point. Monet painted hundreds of paintings of The Waterlilies and the bridge in his garden, painting at different times of day in order to capture the differences in light. Monet sought to explore the themes of constant renewal of plant life and an unending flow of light, water and time.

Today the gardens are breathtaking, especially when the waterlilies have opened up for the summer. The house has been left in exactly the same condition as when Monet lived there and the paintings on the walls were his personal favourites, which he refused to sell. On entrance to the garden, do not dispose of the ticket as you will need this for entry into the house itself.

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.

18.00 Transfer to the Port of Calais.

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

19.30 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 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.

Visit to The Orangerie Gallery.

www.musee-orangerie.fr

Located in the picturesque Tuileries Gardens, The Orangerie Museum has recently opened after a three year restoration project. The elliptical rooms have been designed to showcase Claude Monet's largest Waterlily paintings at their very best, using natural light from the ceiling windows to give the effect of being surrounded by light, colour & continuous movement.

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.

Visit to The Van Gogh House, Auvers Sur L'Oise.

www.maisondevangogh.fr

The beautiful town of Auvers sur l'Oise is closely linked with the Impressionist movement for it was here that Van Gogh lived in a small room above a noisy bar that fronted onto the town square. He was visited regularly by many of the Impressionists living in Paris at the time. It was in the fields next to the Chateau d'Auvers where Van Gogh shot himself in a fit of depression.

We will be dropped off in the town square, where pupils can view the bar and room where Van Gogh spent the last tortured days of his life. We will then walk the short distance to view the Church of Auvers - made famous by Van Gogh's painting. Many art students choose to sketch the church. We will walk through some of the fields in the village where there are plaques showing the exact scenes painted by Van Gogh and the visit will culminate with a visit to the graves of both Theo and Vincent Van Gogh.

Day's Visit to Parc Asterix, Paris.

www.parcasterix.fr

We will spend the whole day at this excellent theme - park, where pupils will be able to ride on the many roller coasters and attractions, as well as watching the Asterix parade at 15.00. The rides are some of the best in Europe & include the 'Zeus' rollercoaster, with a sheer drop of over 80ft. at 70mph. The park also has a rollercoaster with the highest number of loops in Europe as well as a 'Grand Splash' ride that leaves participants absolutely soaked to the skin!

ALTERNATIVE RESTAURANTS TO CONSIDER:

While the Flunch, Monte Carlo & Flams Restaurants that we use for our Study Tours are extremely good & offers a very comprehensive choice for both staff & pupils, some schools & colleges that join us request a more traditional choice of dinner so that they can give pupils a taste of the fine Parisien dining experience that the city has become famous for. This can be included as a 'final night treat' & is well worth the supplements that are payable for these optional dining experiences.

1. Dinner at Nos Ancetres Les Gaulois, Ile St. Louis, Paris.

www.nosancetreslesgaulois.com

This wonderful restaurant is located in one of the oldest buildings on the beautiful Ile St. Louis - the island behind Notre Dame Cathedral. The main dining room is on the site of a gatehouse for an ancient churchyard & was later used as an ironsmith's workshop. Nos Ancetres Les Gaulois ('Our Ancestors the Gauls') offers hearty French cooking within this atmospheric ancient building. Enormous vegetable baskets are brought to each table as the starter. Unlimited delicious pates, pickles & sausages can be chosen by diners from tables loaded with food that are hidden amongst the ancient cobbled passages. The main course is grilled on an indoor barbeque over leaping flames & there is an assortment of French cheeses or creme caramel to taste for dessert. During the three course dinner a troubadour strolls amongst the diners singing traditional French songs while the guests sing along. This restaurant provides a very memorable dining experience in the heart of Paris' most ancient quartier & is often a highlight for our groups visiting the city.

Please note that there is a supplement for this optional restaurant visit.

2. 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.

Please note that there is a supplement for this optional restaurant visit.