



Suggested Itinerary For a Five Day MFL Study Tour to Paris by Coach. Prepared For The Languages Department.

Dates: To Be Confirmed.



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 Group Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the tour itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The tour can be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The tour guide can run the tour according to Group Leader wishes. In this way Group 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**

Bd Newton, 77420 Champs sur Marne, Paris, France. Tel. +33164680083.

Located in the university district west of Paris, the Hotel Ibis is conveniently placed for our groups visiting Paris & the surrounding sites.

This modern hotel offers excellent accommodation in twin & triple bedded rooms. Each has television and en-suite bathroom facilities. There is a restaurant and a bar area. We have found the Hotel Ibis to be a friendly and secure base, close to the heart of Paris and within close proximity to the visits of the Ile de France region.

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

<u>06.30</u>	Coach arrives at School.
<u>07.00</u>	Depart School. Transfer to Port of Dover.
<u>12.30</u>	Coach visits Cash & Carry, Dover to collect picnic lunch supplies.
<u>13.15</u>	E.T.A. Port of Dover. Check-in for next departure.
<u>14.05</u>	Depart Port of Dover.
<u>16.30</u>	Arrival at Calais. Onward transfer to Paris. <small>(Note: Continental time is one hour in advance of British time)</small>
<u>19.30</u>	<u>Ascent of The Arc de Triomphe.</u>
<p>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.</p>	
<u>20.15</u>	<u>Dinner at The Monte Carlo Restaurant, Avenue Wagram.</u> www.monte-carlo.fr
<u>21.30</u>	Transfer to Hotel Ibis.
<u>22.00</u>	E.T.A. Hotel Ibis, Paris.

On arrival at the hotel: Participants will be given their room keys with a safety briefing and will have time to settle into their rooms.

DAY TWO

08.00

Breakfast.

A continental style breakfast will be served in a private room for the group. After breakfast, we will make picnic sandwich bags for the day that are carried with us until we need them at lunchtime.

09.00

Transfer to Paris centre.

09.45

Visit to The Musee d'Orsay

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.

12.30

Picnic Lunch by Eiffel Tower.

13.00

Ascent of The Eiffel Tower.

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.

15.30

Transfer to Montmartre.

16.00

Exploration of Montmartre, The Sacre Coeur Church and the Place de Tertre.

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 de Tertre, pupils will be able to admire the many artists at work, perhaps having their own portrait/silhouette done.

18.30

Dinner at Chez Eugene Restaurant, Place de Tertre.
www.chezeugene.fr

Participants will enjoy eating on the historic Place de Tertre, where Picasso, Van Gogh, Claude Monet & Edgar Degas would have enjoyed an aperitif in days gone by. We will enjoy a grilled steak or poulet roti either on the terrace, surrounded by the artists at work, or inside at the cabaret bar. This historic brasserie evokes the memories of a bygone era when Paris attracted artists from around the world, drawn to the new phenomenon known as 'Impressionism'.

20.00

Guided Tour of Paris By Night.

The Tour Guide will give a commentary during the tour that will include the following sights, all illuminated:

The Town Hall (Hotel de Ville).
The Italian style Rue de Rivoli.
The Place Vendome.
The Paris Opera.
The Madeleine
The Place de la Concorde.
The Arc de Triomphe.
The Eiffel Tower.

Trocadero.

21.00

Transfer to Hotel Ibis.

21.30

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast.

09.00 Transfer to Giverny.

10.15 **Visit to Claude Monet's House at Giverny**

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 Water lilies 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 water lilies 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.

13.00 Lunch by the River Seine.

13.30 Transfer to central Paris.

15.00 Coach transfer to The Stade de France Stadium.

16.00 **Guided Tour 'Behind The Scenes at The Stade de France'**

Students will enjoy a peak behind the scenes at France's newest national stadium. Our visit to this iconic stadium & home of the team Paris Saint Germaine will include a visit to the pitch, changing rooms, press box & museum. Students will be able to imagine the atmosphere of a major sporting event as they walk down the tunnel onto the pitch. They will gain an understanding of the versatility of the stadium. It can host a pop concert once night, a sports event the following day & am athletics event the day after that. This is an excellent tour which the students always enjoy.

17.45

Guided Cruise on the River Seine - The Bateaux Mouches.

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 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.

19.30

Evening dinner at the Carrousel du Louvre Restaurant Area

www.restaurantsdumonde.fr

We will take our evening dinner at the Carrousel du Louvre Restaurant area where there is a wide choice of restaurants contained within one area. Pupils will be able to choose from Italian, Moroccan, Chinese, Japanese & Spanish restaurants as well as a burger outlet. Pupils will be given dinner money & they will be free to purchase the meal of their choice.

20.30

Evening Visit to The Louvre Museum.

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.

21.30

Onward transfer to Hotel Ibis.

22.00

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY FOUR

08.00

Breakfast.

09.00

Transfer to Disneyland Paris.

10.00

Full 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.

Please note: there is a supplement of £25 for optional visits to themeparks.

18.00

Dinner in the Disneyland Park.

19.30

Onward transfer to Hotel Ibis.

20.30

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

For those group leaders who prefer a more authentically Gallic experience, we can organise an alternative day's visit to the excellent Parc Asterix Themepark – a secret that the French like to keep to themselves!

DAY FIVE

08.00 Breakfast.

09.00 Transfer to Auvers sur l'Oise.

09.30 **Visit to The Town of Auvers Sur L'Oise.**

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.

12.00 Lunch.

12.15 Transfer to Port of Calais.

15.30 **Shopping Time at Cite de Europe Hypermarket.**

Pupils will have the opportunity to visit the many shops of this large shopping complex located near the Eurotunnel in Calais. There are many popular shops including a Disneyland shop, several fashion outlets & a large LeClerc hypermarket.

17.00 E.T.A. Port of Calais. Commence check-in for next crossing.

17.55 Depart Port of Calais.

18.10 E.T.A. Port of Dover. Onward coach transfer to School/College.
Local time

21.30 **E.T.A. School/College.**

This is a Suggested Itinerary only. Please note that we make hotel & itinerary bookings upon receipt of the initial deposit payments. The timings & visits contained within this itinerary serve as a guide only & may change. The choice of hotel, visits & timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.

ALTERNATIVE VISITS TO CONSIDER

Guided Visit to The IWW Battlefield of Vimy Ridge.

Vimy Ridge was a particularly well defended area of vital strategic importance. After a number of failed attempts, it was the Canadians who, after weeks of careful preparation, finally took it. Vimy Ridge and nearby Arras were also sites of important military action during the Second World War. It was here that the B.E.F. met to counter attack against the German advance. Their valiant efforts forced the enemy to pause and gave time to withdraw via Dunkirk.

As we approach the front line in our coach, participants will be impressed by the landscape pitted by thousands of shell holes. Participants will tour the allied front line, no-mans-land and the German trenches. The tour will end with a visit to the Canadian Memorial, towering above the valley on the highest part of the ridge.