



Suggested Itinerary For a Three Day French Revolution Study Tour to Paris by Eurostar. Prepared For The History 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 Meininger Paris **

37 Boulevard Carnot, 75012 Paris, France.

Tel: +33 (0) 182883057

A finalist of the Global Youth Travel Awards, our hotel lies in the heart of the city, close to the Bois de Vincennes – a large forested green area to the South-East of Paris with cycling tracks & pleasant walks. The Place de la Nation, site of Paris' second guillotine during the Revolution, is a short walk away, as is the Number 1 metro line which runs across the whole city & along the Champs Elysees, allowing for rapid transfers between visits.

The German Meininger hotel chain has introduced a new concept of hotel to several European cities & is expanding rapidly. The Hotel Meininger Paris has a popular bar/café meeting area downstairs with a games room where students can meet & chat. Free wifi operates throughout the hotel. The breakfasts are plentiful & provide for a good morning's sightseeing.

All bedrooms have flat-screen TV's, en-suite bathrooms with towels & toiletries provided. Some of the rooms are dormitory style with bunkbeds, each with their own nightlights & USB chargers.

The reception team are extremely helpful & friendly & we have found the Meininger Hotel to provide dynamic, exciting yet homely & comfortable accommodation for our groups visiting Paris.

DAY ONE

06.45 Group meets at St Pancras International Train Station. Check-in.

There will be time for students to purchase a coffee or breakfast along with reading material & foreign exchange facilities before boarding the train.

07.52 Depart London on Eurostar 9008. Transfer to Paris.

11.27 E.T.A. Gare du Nord, Paris.

11.45 Metro transfer to Hotel Meininger.

12.30 E.T.A. Hotel Meininger. Check-in, allocate room keys & deposit bags.

The check-in time is 15.00 so some of the rooms may not be ready to check-in when we arrive. In this case we will deposit suitcases in the hotel storage room & head out sightseeing, checking in when we return after dinner.

13.30 Walk to Porte de Vincennes Metro.

13.50 Metro transfer to The Eiffel Tower.

14.50 **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.

17.00 Metro transfer to Montmartre.

17.50

Visit to Montmartre, The Sacre Coeur Church and the Place de Tertre

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.

19.00

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'.

(Special dietary requirements are well catered for here).

20.15

Descend the Hill of Montmartre.

Our walk down this historic hill will take us along cobblestoned roads, past historic restaurants to the bottom area known as Pigalle which has become popular recently for a thriving live music scene amongst the young of the city.

20.45

Metro transfer to Hotel Meininger.

21.30

E.T.A. Hotel Meininger.

DAY TWO

08.00 Breakfast & packing of lunch picnics.

09.00 Onward transfer to central Paris.

09.45 **Visit to The Conciergerie Prison**

The Conciergerie was built to house Philippe le Bel'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 Ravallac (murderer of Henry IV), the bandit Cartouche and Madame de Brinvilliers, a most notorious poisoner. Inmates 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 Ravallac 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

Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral & Ascent of The Towers

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.

13.00

Lunch.

14.00

Visit to Les Invalides Military Museum.

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

15.30

Walk to The Bateaux Mouches.

16.15

Guided Cruise on the River Seine on the Bateaux Mouches.

We will enjoy a one hour cruise on the River Seine with Bateaux Mouches. This will take us around the Ile de la Cite and the Ile St Louis and offer views of Notre Dame Cathedral, the Conciergerie, the Place de la Concorde and the Eiffel Tower.

17.45

Walk to Avenue Wagram.

18.30

Dinner at The Monte Carlo Restaurant, Avenue Wagram.

www.monte-carlo.fr

20.00

Transfer to Hotel Meininger.

20.45

E.T.A. Hotel Meininger.

DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast, packing of lunch picnics & hotel check-out.

09.30 Onward transfer to Versailles.

10.45 **Visit to The Palace and Gardens of Versailles.**

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.

(We will have our picnic lunches during the day's visit to Versailles).

14.30 Train transfer to central Paris.

15.45 Collect suitcases from Hotel Meininger.

Students will have time to organise luggage & prepare for the transfer to the U.K.

16.15 Metro transfer to Gare du Nord.

17.00 E.T.A. Gare du Nord. Check in for next departure.

18.15 Depart Paris on Eurostar 9039. Transfer to London.

19.30 **E.T.A. London St Pancras Train Station.**
(local time)

This is a Suggested Itinerary only. Please note that we make hotel, Eurostar & 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.