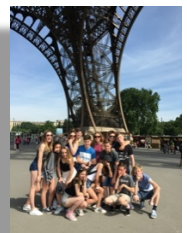




Suggested Itinerary For a Three Day Languages Study Tour to Paris by Eurostar. Prepared For MFL Department.

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.
- 09.00 Walk to Porte de Vincennes Metro.
- 09.15 Metro transfer to The Stade de France.

10.15 **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 & an athletics event the day after that. This is an excellent tour which the students always enjoy.

- 11.30 Metro transfer to The Bateaux Mouches.

12.30 **Guided Cruise on the River Seine - The Bateaux Mouches.**

We will enjoy our picnic lunches during the boat cruise.

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.

- 14.00 Walk to The Musee d'Orsay.

14.30 **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.

16.30 **Visit to The Tuileries Gardens.**

Students will enjoy exploring these formal gardens in the heart of the city & in the shadow of the Louvre Museum. Parisiens visit the gardens to stroll, relax, jog or sit by the fountains in the evening sunshine. There is a café & ice-cream shop for pupils to enjoy.

17.45 **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.

19.30 **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.

20.45 Metro transfer to The Hotel Meininger.

21.30 E.T.A. Hotel Meininger.

DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast & hotel check-out.

09.30 Metro transfer to The Pompidou Centre.

10.30 **Visit to the Pompidou Centre.**

Pupils usually agree that the Pompidou Centre is one of the strangest-looking buildings in the world, with all of the brightly coloured air-conditioning, plumbing, water pipes & escalators sited on the exterior of the building in order to maximise the space within. Whole floors can be added or removed & the building was championed as representing the new modern age of Parisian architecture.

The Pompidou Centre has recently re-opened after a complete renovation. The modern art gallery on the fourth floor has received massive acclaim & is well worth a visit. There are permanent works by Matisse & Chagall as well as a constantly changing temporary display of modern works set over two floors. Pupils may like to ascend to the roof terrace to admire the beautiful skyline view over the area of Notre Dame & Les Halles below.

We will have a guided tour of the Modern Art Gallery in English by one of the centre's official tour guides.

12.00 **Lunch & Exploration of The Beaubourg area.**

Students will enjoy visiting the shops & cafes of the area in front of the Pompidou Centre. This popular area is similar to London's Covent Garden, with street entertainers & souvenir shops as well as the modern Stravinsky Fountains.

12.45 **Exploration of The Les Halles Shopping Centre.**

Students will enjoy visiting the ultra-modern shopping centre of Les Halles which has benefitted from a recent refurbishment. There are many shops within the complex as well as restaurants & cafes.

14.45 Walk to Chatelet metro station.

15.00 Metro transfer to Gare du Nord.

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

16.45 Depart Paris on Eurostar 9039. Transfer to London.

18.00 **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.