



A Parisian Panorama

A Week in the City of Light

January 2 - 10, 2009

We love Paris in the springtime – but it’s also incredible in the winter! From the heady allure of the Left Bank to the majestic sweep of the grand boulevards, the City of Light will be yours to explore for a week without the usual hordes of tourists.

Our included city tour will take in the gothic splendor of Notre Dame, the soaring Tour d’Eiffel, the Arc de Triomphe, and the splendors of the Louvre Museum. There will also be plenty of free time for you to explore the archetypal Parisian sights and sounds. Beyond the city, we’ll have a full day to experience the majesty of Versailles with a local guide to take us through its assortment of extravagant rooms and then, after lunch in the town, we’ll have the afternoon to stroll through the glorious gardens.

We’ll have a full day excursion to breathtaking Chartres Cathedral and the chateaux of the Loire Valley. The day will include a tour of Chartres, masterpiece of Gothic architecture, and visits to the chateaux of Chenonceau and Chambord. We’ll stop for dinner at a country restaurant before our late return to Paris.

There will also be plenty of free time to explore the fantastic art galleries, museums and parks of this most romantic of European capital cities.



The Garden Behind Notre Dame



The Chateau of Chenonceau

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Washington departure:	\$2780
Land only (no airfare included):	\$1980
Single supplement:	\$650

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Round trip air from Washington to Paris.
All airport taxes and customs charges included.
- Hotels:** 7 nights accommodation in a central 3-star hotel.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily, 2 dinners
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director throughout.
Local guides for Paris sightseeing and Versailles.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.

For further information & registration please contact:

John White at the Bluefield State College or
Discover Europe, toll-free, at (866) 563-7077



Friday, January 2nd

Evening departure from the USA aboard Air France's direct service to Paris.

Overnight: Plane

Saturday, January 3rd

Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport and escorted to your hotel. After time to unpack and relax, you will have an arrival briefing, where your Discover Europe courier will introduce you to the French way of life – from where to change money, and what it looks like, to how to use the subway (known as the 'Metro'). This afternoon you can relax and begin exploring the city. We'll gather this evening for a welcome dinner. **(D)**

Overnight: Paris

Sunday, January 4th

This morning a panoramic tour of the city with a local guide introduces the major monuments - the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Les Invalides, the Arc de Triomphe, and the many lovely bridges across the Seine - and provides

Overnight: Paris

an overview of the history of the "City of Light." The tour will end with a guided introduction to the Louvre. The afternoon and evening are free: why not climb Montmartre to see the Basilica of Sacre Coeur and the whole of Paris spread out below you. For dinner, Paris can offer tiny local bistros, 3-star Michelin restaurants, and everything in between. **(B)**

Monday, January 5th

A free day in Paris. Begin your day with a morning walk along the Seine, heading toward Place St. Michel near the Pont Neuf. You may wish to explore the Ile de la Cite, the beautiful island that houses Notre Dame, explore the narrow, winding walking streets in the vicinity, or stroll onto the Isle St. Louis where posh shops line the central street of this tiny jewel (home to the irresistible ice cream at Bertillon!). Check out the Musée d'Orsay, the medieval Cluny, or Rodin's museum. From superb museums to upscale shopping to café sampling, your day in Paris will fly by. **(B)**

Overnight: Paris



Tuesday, January 6th

Our morning begins with a short drive out of the city, and back in time, to the 17th century and the glory days of King Louis XIV. Versailles, the ultimate royal residence, occupied the talents of some of the great artists of the day, and it is a masterpiece of extravagance. We'll visit the royal apartments with a local guide, stopping for lunch, and then continue our exploration with a tour of Andre Le Notre's superb gardens, occupying some 247 acres, and the Queen's hamlet, where Marie Antoinette and her court play-acted at rural life. We'll return to Paris for a free evening. **(B)**

Overnight: Paris

Wednesday, January 7th

A full day excursion to the lush Loire Valley, where we'll begin in Chartres for the ultimate Gothic experience—Chartres Cathedral. Here the transcendent beauty of medieval stained glass combines with soaring archways to create one of the great mystical experiences, encompassing the world-famous labyrinth, Black Madonna, and sacred well. For lunch you're free to sample one of the local restaurants, before we continue on to Chenonceau and Chambord chateaux: the former is arguably the most romantic chateau in France, and a masterpiece spanning the Cher River on a series of graceful arches; the latter is the largest and most dramatic of the Loire chateaux—440 rooms that demanded the labor of almost 2,000 workmen. We'll stop for dinner at a country restaurant on the way back to Paris. **(B, D)**

Overnight: Paris



Thursday, Jan 8th - Friday, Jan 9th

Two free days in Paris. From the meandering Seine, its strongly delineated Left and Right Banks lined with booksellers, to the staggering Gothic splendor of Notre Dame, Paris comes to life in a swirl of superlatives. Wander through medieval streets that vie with sleek chic as you plunge into the ever-changing panorama of a vital, vibrant city that lives up to its romantic reputation, with highlights that include the celestial heights of Montmartre, the wide boulevards of the Champs-Elysees, and the giddy majesty of the Arc de Triomphe. In the evenings, sample some of the city's many superb restaurants. **(B)**

Overnight: Paris

Saturday, January 10th

Morning transport to the airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

Overnight: Home