

# La Belle FRANCE

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

**Day 1:** Depart today on your flight to Paris.

**Day 2:** Arrive today in **Paris**. Meet your guide for an orientation city walking tour. Visit **Notre Dame Cathedral**, Later, your guide will leave you in the Latin Quarter. At one time only Latin was spoken here! Today it is brimming with cafes, restaurants, little bookstores, and tourist shops. Enjoy the evening in the Latin Quarter.

Day 3: Today a guided visit to the **Louvre**. Then see Place de la Concorde, Place Vendome and Palais Royale. Walk the **Champs Elysee**, Ave de Montaigne, Rue du Faubourg, and Saint Honore, widely cited as the most fashionable streets in the world. See the **Arc de Triomphe**. Tonight a **Seine Cruise**.

Day 4: Visit **Versailles**. See the Grand Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, King's and Queen's suites, and other sights. Return to Paris and see the famous cabaret, **Moulin Rouge**. Walk the Boulevard Clichy to Montmartre, one of the most picturesque and lively quarters of the city. Climb or take the funicular up to **Sacre Coeur**, a beautiful white basilica, magnetically towering from the highest point in Montmartre. Later tonight ascend the **Eiffel Tower**.

Day 5: Paris's **Opera Garnier** offers guided tours that include a visit to the public foyers, the main auditorium and the backstage areas. This morning enjoy your guided visit. Later this afternoon visit the Canal Saint Martin Neighborhood, a hotspot for the fashion-conscious. Or perhaps Rue Montorgueil one of Paris's oldest streets and is a vibrant cheery quarter bursting with food markets, pastry shops, bars, cafes, eateries and quirky contemporary boutiques and young cutting edge designers. Possible visits to Musee D'orsay, the Catacombs or Les Invalids. Paris's grands magasins (department stores) dominate Boulevard Haussmann with real Belle Epoque grandeur, concentrating top designer collections for men and women, gourmet food shopping, home design, jewelry, and even hardware into a labyrinth of consumer delights. Shop this evening at Galleries Lafayette or Au Printemps.

Day 6: Depart today for the green rolling hills of **Normandy**. Despite the peaceful nature of the region, it has a long history of war. Most recently it was the site of a WWII battle that changed history. Arrive in picturesque **Honfleur**. Honfleur escaped the WWII bombings and today is a cozy town lined with chock a block tall houses overlooking the harbor. Enjoy the rest of today in this delightful port town.

Day 7: Morning to visit **D Day Beaches**. The D day landings were the largest military operation in history and were followed by the Battle of Normandy which would lead to the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation. The most brutal fighting took place along the coastline known as **Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword Beaches**. Visit Arromanche, Pointe du Hoc, Longues Sur Mer, the American Cemetery and Mulberry Harbor. Visit the **Juno Beach Centre**. The Centre recognizes Canada's military and civilian contributions during WWII. Continue to the beautiful medieval town of Dinan. The old town of Dinan is crammed full of carefully restored and preserved half-timbered buildings dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. The walled city with its cobbled streets is complete with imposing ramparts, towers and even a castle.

Day 8: Morning visit to **Mt St Michel**, a massive Benedictine Monastery of great influence in the 12th and 13th centuries. The Mont is a soaring ensemble of buildings in a hodge podge of architectural styles sounded at its base by a jumble of buildings that house the few people who live there. Equally impressive is that at low tide the Mont looks out on to bare sand but at high tide the huge expanse of tideland is completely surrounded by water. Continue back to Paris for flight to **Nice**. Nice is a big sprawling city, situated on the Mediterranean. Starting in the second half of the 18th century, many wealthy English people took to spending the winter in Nice, enjoying the panorama along the coast. The countryside, panoramic views and exclusive villas that surround this Riviera city are breathtaking.



Day 9: Board your coach for a full day guided tour of the area including the city of Nice. Travel along the coast and see **Cannes**, famous for the annual film festival. Visit **Antibes**, Nice's attractive but much less crowded neighbor. Antibes picture perfect Old Town with its cluster of red tiled roofs rises above the blue Mediterranean and is a lovely spot to browse. Also visit **St Paul De Vence**, the tiny 16th Century medieval and most famous of the Riviera hilltop towns and the most visited village in France. It is filled with art galleries, boutiques and cafes. The picturesque walk along the Rue Grande (Main Street) is beautiful and an enjoyable walk. Magnificent old medieval and baroques facades abound.

Day 10: Explore the city on your own. Walk along the Promenade des Anglais. Note the architecture and in particular the Hotel Negresco constructed in 1912 and in keeping with the conventions of the time with its front opening on the side opposite the Mediterranean. Leading from Nice's downtown, begin at Place Masséna and run parallel to the promenade for about 4 blocks. This section of the city is referred to as the "Zone Pietonne", or "Pedestrian Zone". Here you will find a fine selection of restaurants, cafés and plenty of small shops. There is great shopping as well as along Jean Medicin. Old Town is one of the delights of the Riviera. Starting at Cours Saleya, Nices market square since the middle ages, wander through the twisty streets of old town and enjoy the day shopping for some souvenirs. Or perhaps you prefer to stroll or bicycle the promenade.

Day 11: Au revoir La France. Alas all good things must come to an end and you must return home.

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

- Return airfare to Paris with return from Nice
- One way flight Paris to Nice
- All airport transfers
- 3 day coach tour to Normandy with sightseeing as per itinerary
- 9 night hotel accommodation with private facilities
- 9 Breakfast daily
- 3 dinners as shown
- Guided orientation walking tour upon arrival in Paris
- Full day guided sightseeing of Nice and surrounding area
- Entrances / Activities / Tours
  - o Entrance to Versailles with audio guide
  - o Guided visit of Louvre
  - o Guided backstage visit to the Opera Garnier
  - o Seine River boat cruise
  - o Visit to top level of Eiffel Tower
  - o Guided visit to Juno Beach Center
  - o Entrance to Mt St Michel
- 4 day unlimited metro pass
- Parking fees at all sites
- Coach driver expenditures as required

