

LONDON, PARIS, LOIRE VALLEY & NORMANDY

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart today on your flight to London.

Day 2: Arrive in **London** and transfer to your hotel. Meet guide for your sightseeing tour. **Visit Westminster Abbey, see Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and 10 Downing Street.**

Day 3: This morning visit the **Tower of London**. The tower has a notorious history of murder, confinement and intrigue and has served as a castle in wartime, a king's residence in peace, and as a prison and execution site and houses the best display of crown jewels on earth. Later cross the Thames to the Southbank Area, home to attractions, theatres, restaurants, exhibitions, festivals and all sorts of family fun activities. As you explore the Southbank, be sure to stop at Borough Food Market for some delectable lunchtime eats. Enjoy the Globe Theatre Exhibition and Tour. Tonight meet your guide for an enjoyable **Jack the Ripper tour.**



Day 4: Make your way to **Buckingham Palace** to catch the changing of the guard. Your tube pass also gives you the freedom to visit some of London's notable street markets. You won't want to miss Petticoat Lane, Portobello Road and Camden Markets for a fun shopping adventure at one or more of the markets London is so famous for. Tonight discover Covent Garden prior to your West End Theatre performance.

Day 5: Visit London's Museum Mile for a visit to at least one of London's "must see" museums. The list includes: The National Gallery, Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Victoria and Albert Museum, Natural History Museum, The Science Museum, Museum of London, The Royal Academy, and The National Portrait Gallery. Later tour St. Paul's Cathedral. Later today transfer to the train station where you will transfer via Eurostar to Paris. Bonjour **Paris.**

Day 6: Walking orientation tour of the city. Your guide will leave you near Notre Dame Cathedral. Visit **Notre Dame Cathedral**, and Ste Chappelle and possibly the Conciergerie. Ste Chappelle was constructed as a royal chapel and to house precious relics. The Conciergerie was built in the early 14th century and became the first prison of Paris. During the French Revolution nearly 3000 of the condemned, including Marie Antoinette, spent their last days here. Today you can visit the Prisoners Gallery where cells have been reconstructed according to the time as well as a few mementos of the French Revolution. Spend time in the Latin Quarter. Today it is a lovely place to stroll as it is brimming with cafes, restaurants, little bookstores and tourist shops. Board the metro to see the famous cabaret, **Moulin Rouge**. Continue to Montmartre, one of the most picturesque 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. This evening visit Paris's grands magasins (department stores) Galeries Lafayette and Printemps department stores. Tonight ascend the **Eiffel Tower.**



Day 7: Depart for some of France's most beloved castles of the **Loire Valley**. In 2002 part of the Loire Valley was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Visit Chambord and Chenonceau Castles. Chambord consists of 440 rooms, 365 fireplaces, 14 great staircases, and a stable which can accommodate up to 1200 horses. It is the largest and most spectacular chateau in the entire Loire Valley. Then on to Chenonceau Castle, also called the Ladies Castle. The 16th century Chenonceau, complete with a moat, drawbridge, towers, and turrets, is everything you imagine a fairy tale castle to be. It is considered to be the loveliest of the Loire chateaux. Overnight near Normandy.



Day 8: Depart for **Normandy**. 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 D Day beaches extend along almost the entire coast of Calvados and you can still see shelled out craters on the rocky cliffs alongside the occasional remains of German bunkers. Visit Arromanche and the remains of the artificial Mulberry Harbor. Huge concrete blocks still sit on the sand and more can be seen further out at sea. Visit the Juno Beach Centre. The Centre recognizes Canada's military and civilian contributions during the Second World War. Return to Paris.

Day 9: 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 10: Choose to visit the Musee Dorsay, or the Catacombs or the magnificent gilded dome church Les Invalids where you can visit the imposing Tomb of the Emperor Napoleon. Later this afternoon visit one of Paris's fascinating "nooks". The Canal Saint Martin Neighborhood is a hotspot for the fashion-conscious. Or perhaps Rue Montorgueil Neighborhood minutes from the Saint Eustache Cathedral and the Georges Pompidou Center. Les Halles was transformed into a major shopping area in the 20th century. Rue Montorgueil is 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. Later tonight you will ascend the Eiffel Tower.

Day 11: Depart for home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to London return Paris
- One way Eurostar London - Paris
- Coach transfers:
 - o London – airport and train station transfers
 - o Paris – return airport and train station transfers
 - o 2 day coach tour to Loire Valley and Normandy with visits according to itinerary
- Assistance upon arrival in London
- 9 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
- 9 Breakfasts
- 4 dinners
- Guided orientation tours
 - o Walking in London
 - o Jack the Ripper Tour
 - o Walking in Paris
- Entrances/visits:
 - o Westminster Abbey
 - o Tower of London
 - o 1 West End Theatre
 - o Globe Theatre backstage tour
 - o St Paul's Cathedral
 - o Museum of choice in London
 - o Guided Louvre visit
 - o Eiffel Tower
 - o Seine River Cruise
 - o Chambord Castle
 - o Chenonceau Castle
 - o Juno Beach Center
 - o Choice of Musee D'Orsay or Catacombs or Invalids
- 4 day tube pass for London
- 3 day metro pass for Paris

