



## Itinerary

Mon., May 22nd

- Departure from US (Recommended airlines: United, American, Air Tahiti Nui, not Air France because of possible strikes and the very busy terminal it comes in to.)

**(Paris May 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup>)**

Hotel in Paris: [Mercure Paris Centre Eiffel Tower Hotel](#)

Tues., May 23rd

- Arrive Paris in the morning
- Lunch: Enjoy lunch on your own.
- City orientation bus tour – In the afternoon, meet our tour guide, alumna Lexie Martone, '69 for an orientation tour. Learn the neighborhoods we will be exploring and catch a first look at Paris' iconic landmarks, the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe.
- Dinner: Join us for drinks and a welcome dinner at Restaurant 15T at our hotel (included).

Wed., May 24<sup>th</sup> – Disney, Paris-style:

- Two options:
  - Board a bus to Paris Disneyland for a tour of the park, arguably Disney's most beautiful, as well as the adjacent Hollywood Studios, both celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The tour will be led by University of Redlands alumna Marilyn Magness '75, Disney's former Executive Creative Director, responsible for live entertainment in Disney parks worldwide. We will stay in the park through the evening parade.
  - Stay in Paris for tours and sightseeing, arranged by Lexie.
- Lunch: Paris Disneyland group – Bistrot Chez Rémy
- Lunch: Those staying in Paris enjoy lunch on your own.
- Dinner: Guests enjoy dinner on their own in the park or in Paris



Thurs., May 25<sup>th</sup> – The Art and Secrets of Paris:

- Enjoy a guided tour of the famous [Louvre](#), the world's largest museum and a historic monument in Paris, opened in 1793 and located on the Right Bank of the Seine. Lexie, the first guide ever hired to give tours of the Louvre in English, will be our personal guide.
- We will tour the [Eiffel Tower](#), constructed in 1889 as the entrance to the World's Fair, which was initially criticized by some of France's leading artists and intellectuals for its design, but it has since become a global cultural icon of France and one of the most recognizable structures in the world.
- We will visit the very unique [Musée du Parfum Fragonard](#) (Fragonard Perfume Museum) where, in addition to learning the history and perfume-making process, you will test your sense of smell in an interactive exercise that associates smells and images. (Fragonard perfumes are also available for purchase at factory prices in the boutique.)
- Lunch: Guests enjoy lunch on their own in Paris.
- Dinner: We will have a group dinner on the Seine River (included).



### **Amboise (May 26<sup>th</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup>)**

Hotel in Amboise: [Novotel Amboise](#)

Fri., May 26<sup>th</sup> – Loire Chateaux

- We will travel by bus to the Loire Valley, an area notable for its historic towns, architecture, and wines and dotted with elegant stone giants: the Loire castles. The landscape is dominated by their majestic silhouettes, illustrating the Renaissance ideals of design in France, concentrated over an area of less than 60 miles.
- Enjoy a guided tour of the most famous castle, the [Chateau de Chenonceau](#), an architectural mixture of late Gothic and early Renaissance built between 1514 and 1522 and once the home of Catherine de' Medici. Additional photo stops along the way at Chambord, the banks of the Loire River, and other villages in this area known as the Garden of France.
- Lunch: Guests enjoy lunch on their own in Chenonceau.
- Dinner: We will dine at a very unique restaurant in the valley (included).



Sat., May 27<sup>th</sup> – A Day in the Loire Valley

- Spend the day in the Loire Valley. We will go to a local wine cave for a tasting, then visit the Clos Lucé, the home where Leonardo da Vinci spent his final three years as the guest of the king of France. Clos Lucé is a museum dedicated to the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci including period furniture and numerous models of his designs on display. A large landscaped garden includes further models, art,

and civil engineering works inspired by Leonardo da Vinci. We will also visit the Castle of Amboise, originally constructed in the 11th century and built for the strategic view of the Loire River. The castle was also the first to have gardens laid out in the formal style that came to be known as a 'French style garden'. Then explore the village of Amboise on your own.

- Lunch: We will enjoy lunch on our own in Amboise.
- Dinner: At the Novotel Amboise (included).

### **Honfleur (May 28<sup>th</sup> – May 29<sup>th</sup>)**

Hotel in Honfleur: [Ibis Styles Centre Historique](#)

Sun., May 28<sup>th</sup> – Mont St Michel & Environs:

- Drive to Mont St Michel, an island/abbey on the English Channel on the edge of Normandy and tour its [monument abbey](#), one of the most important places of medieval pilgrimage, built by Benedictine monks in the 10th century. A symbol of French national identity because of its heroic resistance to English attacks during the Hundred Years' War, it has been listed as a historic monument since 1874.
- On the drive through the beautiful countryside, we will stop for a tasting at a local cookie factory and end the day in the famous fishing port of Honfleur.
- Lunch: We will enjoy lunch on our own in Mont St Michel.
- Dinner: We will enjoy dinner on our own at one of the many restaurants near the hotel.



Mon., May 29<sup>th</sup> – A Day in Normandy

- Drive along the landing beaches of Normandy, where the Allies, (Britain, the U.S, Canada and Free France), coordinated the large-scale invasion of German-occupied France in the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944 under the code name Operation Overlord.
  - Photo stop at Omaha beach, the code name for one of the five sectors of the Allied invasion. Taking the ten mile-long stretch was necessary to link the British landings to the east at Gold with the American landing to the west at Utah and was the responsibility of United States Army troops, with sea transport, mine sweeping, and a naval bombardment force provided predominantly by the United States Navy and Coast Guard.
  - Visit the [American WWII Cemetery and Memorial](#), built on the site of the temporary American St. Laurent Cemetery, established by the U.S. First Army on June 8, 1944 as the first American cemetery on European soil in World War II. The cemetery contains the graves of 9,387 U.S military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the D-Day landings and ensuing operations.
  - We will also visit the [Arromanches](#) (Port Museum), a very moving place where you get a strong sense of the huge effort involved in the Allied invasion to liberate France and the rest of Western Europe. Troops deliberately did not land at Arromanches on D-Day itself, to leave the coast here clear for a portable harbour (nicknamed Mulberry Harbour) being tugged over from southern England to be put in place. The Arromanches Mulberry Harbour became known as Port Winston, after British wartime leader Winston Churchill. A staggering 2.5 million men, 500,000 vehicles and 4 million tons of supplies arrived via Port Winston during the Normandy Campaign.



- Return to the village of Honfleur for a walking tour and tastings of local culinary favorites, Calvados (locally-made apple brandy), cider, caramels, and butter cookies.
- Additionally, learn about their famous sea salt, taste local cheese and see a demonstration of an [Opinel](#), a wooden-handled knife that has become emblematic of French culture – Pablo Picasso reportedly used one of the company's knives as a sculpting tool. Originally sold as a “working man’s knife”, it has been locally made by the Opinel family since 1890.
- Lunch: We will enjoy lunch on our own in Honfleur
- Dinner: We will enjoy dinner on our own in Honfleur.

### **Honfleur & Versailles (May 30<sup>th</sup>)**

Hotel in Versailles: [Hotel Pullman Chateau de Versailles](#)

Tues., May 30<sup>th</sup> – Monet’s Giverny

- Enjoy morning shopping in [Honfleur](#) then depart for [Giverny](#), the home and gardens of Claude Monet, the painter who founded the Impressionist school. Living in Giverny for 43 years, his house and garden, the village of Giverny and its surroundings, became his subject matter.
- In the afternoon, we will arrive in the city of Versailles, a town founded by the will of King Louis XIV which served as the de facto capital of the Kingdom of France for over a century, before becoming the cradle of the French Revolution. Located in the western suburbs of the French capital, 11 miles from the center of Paris, it is historically known for the numerous treaties signed there including the Treaty of Paris (1783), which ended the American Revolutionary War and the Treaty of Versailles, after World War I, in addition, of course to its famous chateau, the Palace of Versailles.
- Lunch: We will enjoy lunch on our own at Capucine Gardens (Giverny).
- Dinner: We will enjoy dinner on our own at one of the many restaurants around the hotel.



### **Versailles / Paris (May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>)**

Hotel in Paris: [Mercure Paris Montmartre Sacre Coeur Hotel](#)

Wed., May 31<sup>st</sup> – Versailles

- Enjoy a guided tour of the iconic [Palace of Versailles](#). First built by Louis XIII in 1623 as a hunting lodge of brick and stone, the edifice was enlarged into a royal palace by Louis XIV and served as the official seat of the government of the kingdom of France and home of the French king from 1682 - 1789. There will be ample time to explore the King Louis XIV gardens. We will then drive back to Paris and the day will end with a sunset river cocktail and dinner cruise aboard a private boat on the Seine.
- Lunch: Enjoy lunch on your own at Versailles
- Dinner: [La Petite Chaise](#) – Founded in 1680 under the reign of Louis XIV, La Petite Chaise is the oldest restaurant in the city (included).



Thurs., June 1<sup>st</sup> – Paris Arts District

- See the Arc De Triomphe, one of the most famous monuments in Paris which honors those who fought and died for France in the French Revolutionary and the Napoleonic Wars. The names of all French victories and generals are inscribed on its inner and outer surfaces. Beneath its vault lies the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from World War I.
- Tour the artist quarter of Montmartre where, at the beginning of the twentieth century, artists, including Salvador Dalí, Toulouse Lautrec, Monet, Picasso, Renoir and Van Gogh, gathered and painted.
- Free time in Montmartre to try a crepe for lunch, a specialty of the village.
- We will also tour the Palais Garnier, the 1,979-seat opera house, which was built from 1861 to 1875 for the Paris Opera. It is called the most famous opera house in the world, at least partly due to its use as the setting for Gaston Leroux's 1910 novel *The Phantom of the Opera* and, especially, the novel's subsequent adaptations in films and Andrew Lloyd Webber's popular 1986 musical.
- Dinner: Enjoy a farewell dinner and a show at the Moulin Rouge, best known as the spiritual birthplace of the modern form of the can-can dance. Originally introduced as a seductive dance by the courtesans who operated from the site, the can-can dance revue evolved into a form of entertainment of its own and led to the introduction of cabarets across Europe (included).



Fri, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Departure

For more information contact the Office of Alumni & Community Relations at [alumni@redlands.edu](mailto:alumni@redlands.edu) or 909-748-8011.