

Kaleidoscope of FRANCE – 13 Days

Gate 1 Tours

DAY 1, Saturday - Depart the USA

Depart the USA for France. Your flight includes meals, drinks, and in-flight entertainment for the journey

DAY 2, Sunday - Arrive in Paris

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. In the early evening, join your tour manager for a welcome drink followed by a Seine river cruise to introduce you to Paris / Overnight: Paris

DAY 3, Monday - Drive to Loire Valley (B,D)

After breakfast, we begin our tour with a visit to Chartres, home to the greatest gothic cathedral in France. Originally built in 1020, the cathedral contains the sacred Veil of the Virgin relic and a world-renowned collection of stained glass windows. Depart Chartres and travel to the Chateau de Chambord, the largest residence in the Loire Valley. Chambord was built for Francois I in the 16th Century by 1,800 men and master masons. After a photo stop, we continue for a wine tasting before heading to our hotel in Tours

Overnight: Tours

DAY 4, Tuesday - Loire Valley (B)

Spend the full day in the Loire Valley exploring the nearby sights. Travel to the magnificent Chateau de Chenonceau. Stretching across the river Cher, the chateau boasts a 197 foot gallery, built over a series of arches. Take some time to explore the extravagantly furnished rooms and formal gardens, added by a mistress of Henry II, Diane de Poitiers. Also visit the Royal Chateau d'Amboise for a guided tour. The castle is most closely associated with King Francois I who introduced the Renaissance to France, and brought Leonardo da Vinci to his court. The artist is buried in the chapel. Return to Tours in the early evening / Overnight: Tours

DAY 5, Wednesday - Mont St. Michel, Normandy (B,D)

Depart northwards today to the iconic Mont. St. Michel, rising from the sea on a mighty rock. Browse the narrow streets and admire the views of the surrounding bay. This afternoon, continue to Bayeux to see the intricate Tapestry, woven to commemorate the Norman invasion of England by William the Conqueror in 1066 / Overnight: Bayeux

DAY 6, Thursday – Normandy (B)

Spend the full day in Normandy exploring the sandy beaches. Visit the historic St. Mere Eglise on Utah beach along the east coast of the Cotentin Peninsula, where the allied invasion took place on June 6, 1944. Make a stop at the Ranger Memorial at Pointe du Hoc. Continue east to visit Omaha beach and the site of the Normandy American Cemetery and memorial. The cemetery covers 172.5 acres and contains the graves of 9,387 American soldiers. Return to Bayeux in the early evening / Overnight: Bayeux

DAY 7, Friday - Normandy, Giverny, Paris (B,D)

This morning, depart for Paris. On the way, stop in Giverny and visit the former house of Claude Monet. Explore the famous gardens which inspired many of Monet's paintings. On arrival in Paris, join your fellow travelers for dinner in a French Bistro / Overnight: Paris



DAY 8, Saturday - Paris City Tour (B)

This morning, enjoy a guided city tour of Paris, the City of Light, including a drive along the Champs Elysées to the Arc de Triomphe. View the Eiffel Tower, Cathedral of Notre Dame, Napoleon's Tomb, the Latin Quarter, and the lively Opera district. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure

Optional: Versailles Apartments (PM)

Optional: Cabaret with dinner (PM) / Overnight: Paris

DAY 9, Sunday - TGV train to Avignon (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the Paris train station for your journey to Provence by fast TGV train. Enjoy vistas of Burgundy and the Rhone Valley during the comfortable ride. Upon arrival in Avignon, proceed to view the Pont du Gard, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is the most ancient Roman aqueduct in France. Next, drive to the Rhone vineyards and the lovely town of Chateauneuf du Pape, where we will enjoy a sampling of some of the wines for which Rhone is famous. Transfer to the hotel in Avignon. Spend the rest of the day at leisure. Explore the streets, gardens and museums or perhaps shop for local specialties / Overnight: Avignon

DAY 10, Monday - Avignon City Tour (B)

Today, enjoy an orientation tour of the town, including the famous broken bridge, the lively Place d'Horloge and the Papal Palace, one of the largest and most significant medieval Gothic buildings in Europe. Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the lively atmosphere of this charming city

Optional: St. Remy de Provence & Les Baux (PM) / Overnight: Avignon

DAY 11, Tuesday - Cannes, Nice (B)

After breakfast this morning, depart for the French Riviera. Admire the scenery which inspired so many of the impressionist artists. You will pass by the Abbey of Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume, and the Mont St. Victoire en route to elegant Cannes. Drive along the Boulevard de la Croisette to see the Film Festival Center and the harbor. Pay a visit to a French perfumery in Grasse before arriving in Nice

Optional: Monte Carlo by Night (PM) / Overnight: Nice

DAY 12, Wednesday – Nice (B,D)

A day at leisure to soak up the sun, swim in the Mediterranean, stroll the Promenade des Anglais or see the Old Town, and Place Massena. Perhaps take a mini-train up to the "Colline du Château" for panoramic views of the city and "Bay of the Angels" or visit one of the museums. This evening, celebrate your final night in France together with a farewell dinner / Optional: St. Paul de Vence (AM) / Overnight: Nice

DAY 13, Thursday - Depart for the USA (B)

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight to the USA

Featured Hotels		
Paris Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel - details	★★★★+	Paris
Alliance Hotel Tours Centre - details	★★★★	Tours
Novotel Amboise - details	★★★★	Amboise
Mecure Blois Center - details	★★★★	Blois
Novotel Bayeux - details	★★★	Bayeux
Mercure Avignon Cite Des Papes - details	★★★	Avignon
Hotel Nice Riviera - details	★★★★	Nice

** Note: Our company reserves the right to change the Journey to guarantee a successful trip **

** For terms and conditions, please visit our website: www.blueskytravelticket.com **

Blue Sky Travel & Tours

Web Site: www.blueskytravelticket.com

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Dates & Prices	Land Only		Air & Land	
	2013	Book By Dec 14	Book After Dec 14	Book By Dec 14
Apr 6	\$2199	\$2399	\$3209 *	\$3409 *
Apr 20	\$2199	\$2399	\$3259 *	\$3459 *
May 4	\$2249	\$2449	\$3269 *	\$3469 *
May 18	\$2249	\$2449	\$3339 *	\$3539 *
Jun 8	\$2299	\$2499	\$3629 *	\$3829 *
Jul 13	\$2399	\$2599	\$3779 *	\$3979 *
Jul 27	\$2199	\$2399	\$3529 *	\$3729 *
Aug 31	\$2249	\$2449	\$3339 *	\$3539 *
Sep 14	\$2249	\$2449	\$3269 *	\$3469 *
Sep 28	\$2249	\$2449	N/A	N/A
Oct 12	\$2199	\$2399	N/A	N/A