

Paris and western France

Your trip in detail

D1 Flights to Paris (Tuesday, May 23, 2024)

Flights to Paris.

D2 Paris (4 nights) (Friday, May 24, 2024)

Arrival in Paris. An orientation tour will help you discover the most beautiful monuments of the City of Lights. Installation at your hotel for 4 nights. *As everywhere, rooms will be available around 15:00 hrs.

D3-D5 Paris (Saturday-Sunday-Monday, May 25,26, 27, 2024)

Embark on a **one-hour cruise on the Seine** and admire its banks, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Discover Paris at your own pace or with the good advice of your guide. By metro or on foot, head to the main attractions of Paris: the Champs-Élysées, the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, the Montmartre hill, Saint-Germain-des-Prés, the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Marais district, without forgetting the Château de Versailles. 3PD

D6 Paris - Rouen - Etretat - Lisieux (2 nights) (Tuesday, May 28, 2024)

Departure to Giverny **to visit Claude Monet's house**, his flower garden and his water garden. You then discover **Rouen**, the City of a Hundred Bell Towers: its old quarter, its medieval streets lined with half-timbered houses, the cathedral, the Gros-Horloge, the Place du Vieux-Marché, where the torture of Joan of Arc took place, as well as the Archiepiscopal Palace, where a posthumous trial reestablished her innocence. Continue to **Etretat**, a picturesque seaside resort, whose cliffs have been made famous by painters such as Monet, Courbet or Corot. You then take **the superb Normandy Bridge** before you arrive in Lisieux, the capital of the Pays d'Auge. Installation at the hotel. PD/S

Note on included meals, indicated at the end of each paragraph:

PD = Breakfast (Petit déjeuner in France), and S = Dinner (Souper in Québec, Dîner in France)

D7 Lisieux - Honfleur- Deauville – Lisieux (Wednesday, May 29, 2024)

Visit to Honfleur, an ancient maritime city from where Samuel de Champlain left. You will discover the quays of the Vieux Bassin and the Sainte-Catherine church, the largest church built in wood by marine carpenters. Continue to **Deauville**, an elegant seaside resort dating from the 19th century, renowned for its racecourses, palaces and period villas. In the afternoon, you go to an old Norman farm to discover the history of Calvados and the secrets of cider making during a visit to an **artisanal distillery**. **Tasting on site**. Free time in Lisieux to visit the Holy Basilica Sainte-Thérèse or Saint-Pierre Cathedral before dinner. PD/S

D8 Lisieux - The landing beaches - Bayeux - Saint Malo (2 nights) (Thursday, May 30, 2024)

After a stop at the **Beny-sur-Mer military cemetery**, you visit the **Canadian Landing Beaches Museum** in the Juno Beach area. On June 6, 1944, Allied forces swept onto the beaches of Normandy. One hundred and thirty-five thousand men landed to liberate France from German occupation. The marine infantry landed along the beaches codenamed: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Sword and Juno where the prestigious Chaudiere regiment landed. **See Arromanches**, one of the beaches where the artificial port was built which allowed the transport of heavy vehicles. Continue to Bayeux to **visit the Bayeux Museum** and admire the famous tapestry which traces the stages of the conquest of England by the Duke of Normandy, William the Conqueror. Arrival in Saint-Malo and check-in at the hotel. PD

D9 Saint-Malo - Le Mont-Saint-Michel - Saint-Malo (Friday May 31, 2024)

In the morning, **excursion to Mont-Saint-Michel**, a true architectural masterpiece, rightly crowned the 8th Wonder of the World, rising from the waves like a ghost ship of distant memories. The legend of Mont-Saint-Michel was born from an apparition of the Archangel Saint-Michel, one night in the year 708, ordering the Archbishop of Avranches to build a church on Mont Tombe. Following a tidal wave, the land collapsed, isolating the mount in the sea. The mont was then baptized Mont-Saint-Michel and became an important place of pilgrimage. In the Middle Ages, it was an extraordinary construction site which enabled this feat of monastic architecture on three levels. The bay extends 23 kilometers inland. During the tides, the sea rises at the speed of a galloping horse. Free time at Mont-Saint-Michel. Return to Saint-Malo via Cancale, a pretty port combining all the pleasures of the coast such as shrimp tasting and the oyster trade. PD

D10 Saint-Malo - Rochemenier - Saumur - Tours (2 nights) (Saturday, June 01, 2024)

Road trip to Touraine; stop to visit a **surprising troglodyte village**. Discover an underground world with its unusual dwellings. Continuation towards Saumur, renowned for its castle and its cavalry school; **visit of a cellar followed by tasting of wines** with fine bubbles. Arrival in Tours, dinner and check-in at the hotel. PD/S

D11 Castles in Touraine (Sunday June 02, 2024)

Departure for a **photo safari** where you can admire and photograph a variety of castles, interesting in many respects, both in terms of their history and their architecture: the castle of Luynes, proudly camped on its spur; the Langeais castle with its military appearance; the castle of Ussé which inspired Charles Perrault for his tale of Sleeping Beauty. **Visit to Azay-le-Rideau castle**, jewel of the castles of the Loire, and the magnificent gardens of the castle of Villandry. Free afternoon to visit Vieux-Tours at your own pace. An essential visit to the Ursuline convent where the memory of Blessed Mary of the Incarnation is evoked who, on August 1, 1639, landed in Québec, a small village of 300 inhabitants at that time. PD

D12 Castles of the Loire - Chartres – Paris (Monday June 03, 2024)

Visit to the Castle de Chenonceau, the Castle des Dames, a magical white stone footbridge that spans the Cher river with its magnificent French gardens. Continue to the **castle of Chambord for the exterior discovery of the grandiose castle** of François the First; a striking impression when, as we approach, we discover this white mass which is widening and becoming more precise. In the afternoon, stop and free time in **Chartres** to admire its cathedral renowned for its exceptional stained glass windows. Departure for the Paris region and check-in at the hotel near the airport. **Farewell dinner with wine.** PD/S

D13 Paris – Return (Tuesday June 04, 2024)

Return flights. PD