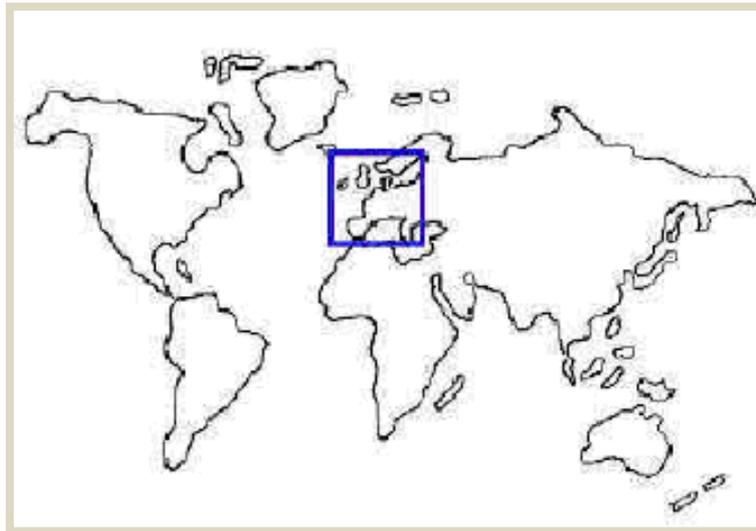


VIVE LA FRANCE!

Countless facets of a great country – 13 days

"Vive la France" starts in Paris, the "City of Light". Then you drive down to see the famous cathedral of Chartres and the enchanting Loire Castles. Normandy and Brittany are the next destinations, with sights like the Landing Beaches and the imposing pilgrimage place Mont St. Michel, situated on an island. In the area of Bordeaux you'll get an idea as how to grow and cultivate wine and you'll sample some of the best! Follow the impressionists' steps along the Mediterranean coast and through fabulous Provence and sunbathed Côte d'Azur. Then the journey takes you through a quite different region: the Rhone valley of the noble city of Avignon.

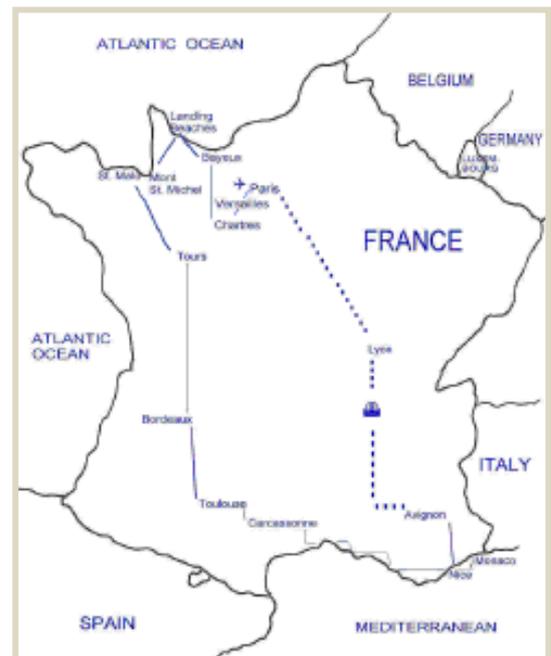
A last experience in France: a ride on the TGV, the famous high speed train, to return to Paris for your departure back home.



The World



Europe



"Vive la France"

In-depth sightseeing in France:

- Paris
- Toulouse
- Carcassonne
- Monte Carlo
- Nice
- Avignon

Guided inside visits to

- Louvre in Paris
- Versailles Palace
- Bayeux Tapestry museum
- Cathedral of Chartres
- Abbey of Mont St. Michel
- One of the Loire-Castles
- Monastery of Fontvraud (tomb of Richard Lionheart)
- Pope's Palace in Avignon

Included Highlights:

- Welcome Dinner in Paris
 - Normandy Landing Beaches
 - Wine tasting in Bordeaux region
 - St. Maries de la Mer, Camargue
 - Pont-du-Garde, Provence
 - Ride on the TGV (High Speed Train)
 - Farewell Dinner
-

Day 1 Depart USA

Overnight transatlantic flight to Paris.

Day 2 Arrival in Paris

City tour of Paris on both banks of the Seine river: Opera, Arc de Triomphe, Madeleine, Louvre, Champs-Élysées and the Notre Dame – just to mention some that you will see today. Dinner will be in a typical restaurant. Dinner and Overnight in Paris



Paris: Notre Dame

Day 3 Paris

Morning visit to the Louvre with an expert, then a free afternoon (maybe take the elevator up the Eiffel Tower, a visit to the Impressionist museum with its outstanding collection, go shopping, or there's something to do for everybody's taste!)
Overnight in Paris



View of Paris from Eiffel tower

Day 4 Paris – Versailles

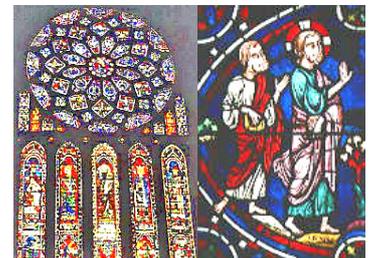
Excursion to Versailles and guided tour through the splendid palace. There is enough time to walk through the fantastic park and have lunch, before driving back to Paris, for a stroll along the Champs Elysee or through some of the typical Parisian quarters like Montmatre or St. Germaine.
Overnight in Paris



Versailles: Trianon

Day 5 Paris – Chartres – Normandy Landing Beaches – Bayeux

Chartres is a quaint hill-top town, dominated by its famous cathedral whose brilliant stained-glass windows will entrance you. Then a very different page of the European history book opens: a visit to the Normandy Landing Beaches.
Dinner and overnight in Bayeux



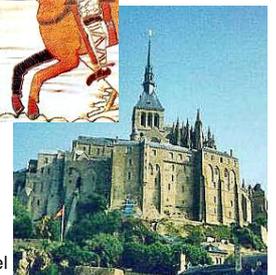
Chartres: Stained glass windows

Day 6 Bayeux – Mont St. Michel – St. Malo

Quite a unique work of art is the highlight of Bayeux: the medieval embroidery on a band of linen – 231 ft long, 1 9.5 inches wide. More the 70 embroidered scenes depict the story of the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 .
Then „La Merveille“ (the wonder): Mont St. Michel. The huge rocky island between Normandy and Brittany that is reached by a long road. Climb up to the abbey where a guide is waiting to tell you everything about this mystical place.
Overnight in St. Malo



Bayeux Embroidery



Mont St. Michel

Day 7 St. Malo – Tours

After breakfast there is time to enjoy a walk along the beach of St. Malo and then to visit the old walled city center. Then board the bus to drive down to the valley of the Loire. Stop in Saumur to get tuned-in to the special feeling of these places along the Loire river. Your destination is Tours, a quaint university town, ideal location for visiting the Loire castles. Orientation walk of Tours upon arrival. Overnight in Tours



St. Malo

Day 8 Excursion to Loire Castles

Visit one of the famous castles, as well as Fontevraud, a Romanesque abbey which served both nuns and monks, and contains the tombs of Richard Lionheart and his mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine. Overnight in Tours



Loires castles: Cahmbord

Valency

Day 9 Tours – Bordeaux

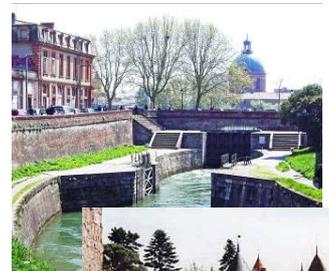
Further south to the wine growing Bordeaux region – you'll learn about the old tradition of producing wine and about the art of drinking and enjoying it ! Dinner and overnight in Bordeaux



Grapes that make delicious wine

Day 10 Bordeaux – Toulouse – Carcassonne

Toulouse is often overlooked by travelers, being associated mainly with the aerospace industry. But the city is proud of the 11th Century Basilica of St. Sernin, as well as of its lovely center, where the writer Saint-Exupéry (Little Prince) lived. There's time for independent discoveries before reaching Carcassonne, one of the finest examples of a medieval walled-town. Overnight in Carcassonne



Toulouse: Canal du Midi



Carcassonne: City Walls

Day 11 Carcassonne – St. Maries de la Mer – Avignon

Along the glittering shores of the Mediterranean Coast and into the Camargue where a visit of Saintes Maries de la Mer, a most interesting fortified church, is scheduled. Then through the heart of the Provence on to Avignon where you'll see the Papal Palace, an eight-towered fortress and the famous bridge that inspired the song "Sur le Pont d'Avignon..."

Dinner and overnight in Avignon

Camargue Landscape & Pont of Avignon



Day 12 Avignon – Paris

Today you have plenty of time for some last minute shopping, taking pictures or just packing. And then a last magnificent sight: Pont-du-Garde, bridge and aqueduct at the same time, built by the Romans and still intact today. The TGV (High speed Train) whisks you directly to the airport in Paris. Farewell dinner and overnight in an airport Hotel in Paris

TGV



Day 13 Departure

Time to say "Au revoir" (see you again) to your Tour Director and to beautiful France – your return flight is waiting !

