

# La Belle France

Group Organizer: Ms. Lily Walker

## Tour Includes

### Departure Date

April 7, 2023

### Overnights

Paris 3 • St. Malo 1 • Loire Valley 2 • Paris 2

### Accommodations

Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels. Rooming on a triple basis. Double rooms: \$320 per person.

### Transportation

Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline. Deluxe touring motorcoach. Paris Metro 10 tickets.

### Meals

All breakfasts. All dinners.

### Tour Director

Services of a specially-trained **passports** Tour Director throughout.

### Travel Protection

**passports** provides and pays for a Post-Departure Travel Protection Plan that provides coverage for Trip Interruption, Trip Delay, Baggage Loss or Delay, Medical Expense and Evacuation and more.

## Investment

# \$4248

Program Cost \$4348

*-\$100 Early Enrollment Discount*

Total \$4248

*Early Enrollment Discount expires September 15, 2022. Final payment is due 12/18/2022 or, with E-Z Pay, 3/8/2023. Tour cost is based on a combined group size of 35 participants. Departure from San Francisco, CA. Adults 24 years or older are automatically charged for double rooms. With doubles, total price is \$4,568.*

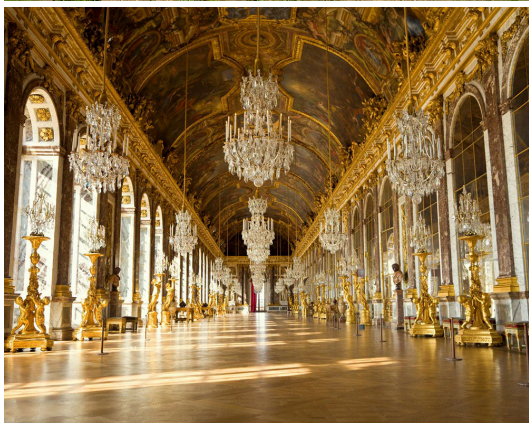
## For More Information

1 Visit our website  
**passports.com/enroll**

2 Enter Tour ID  
**LWALKER2023**

# La Belle France

Departs: April 7, 2023



## Days 1-2: Arrival Paris

Arrival transfer

## Day 3: Paris

Paris City Sightseeing, Excursion to the Palace of Versailles, RER train to Paris

Photo stop near Notre-Dame Cathedral

Tour director-led walking tour in Montmartre: Visit to the Sacré-Coeur Basilica

## Day 4: Paris

Visit to the Louvre Museum

Ascent to the second level of the Eiffel Tower: Optional Eiffel Tower Summit (subject to availability)

Seine River cruise

Tour director-led walking tour in the Latin Quarter

## Day 5: Paris - St. Malo

Visit to the Bayeux Tapestry Museum, D-Day Beaches, Film at the Arromanches 360 circular cinema, Visit to the Normandy American Cemetery

## Day 6: St. Malo - Loire Valley

Tour director-led walking tour in Saint-Malo  
Visit to Mont Saint-Michel Abbey

## Day 7: Loire Valley

Excursion to Loire Valley Châteaux: Visit to the *Château de Chenonceau*, Chenonceau audioguide, Visit to the *Château de Chambord*, Chambord *HistoPad* interactive tablet

## Day 8: Loire Valley - Paris

Visit to Chartres Cathedral, Cathedral visiguide

## Day 9: Paris

## Day 10: Departure

Departure transfer

To enroll or view full text itinerary, point your camera here:



# Detailed Itinerary

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## Friday 4/7 - Saturday 4/8

### Arrival Paris

Arrival transfer

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight: Paris

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## Sunday 4/9

### Paris

Paris City Sightseeing, Excursion to the Palace of Versailles, RER train to Paris

Photo stop near Notre-Dame Cathedral

Tour director-led walking tour in Montmartre:

Visit to the Sacré-Coeur Basilica

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Paris

### Days 1-2: Arrival

Weeks, or even months of preparation come to fruition at last as you board your airplane bound for Europe and the glittering jewel at her heart, Paris.

*Bienvenue!*

Settle into your hotel, then have a look at one of the world's most beautiful capital cities.

Time permitting, you may want to head to Montmartre, Paris' highest hill and its most celebrated bohemian district. Artists still flock to the charming *Place du Tertre*, as they did when Toulouse-Lautrec painted the French Cancan dancers at the famous *Moulin Rouge* cabaret. Visitors enjoy panoramic views of the city as they make their way to the *Sacré-Coeur*, the white-domed basilica that anchors the Parisian skyline.

### Day 3: Paris City Sightseeing, Excursion to Versailles, RER train to Paris, Notre-Dame Cathedral Photo Stop, Montmartre Walking Tour

Set out on a coach tour of the city in the company of a local guide. On the Right Bank of the River Seine, see Napoléon's *Arc de Triomphe*, the *Champs-Élysées*, the *Place de la Concorde*, and the exuberant *Opéra Garnier*. On the Left Bank, discover the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter and *Saint-Germain-des-Prés*.

*Visit to the State Apartments and the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles*  
Enjoy a bit of relevant French history today at the palace where the Sun King, Madame de Pompadour and Queen Marie-Antoinette all come to life. In this ultimate example of Baroque architecture, you will marvel at the lavish decoration, abundant gilding and exuberant ornamentation, particularly in the Royal Apartments of Louis XIV and in the Hall of Mirrors. Imagine the sense of self-importance that must have inflated the ego of these kings and queens.

Then, take a stroll around the Main Gardens.

Return to Paris using the efficient RER transit system.

#### Photo stop near Notre-Dame Cathedral

View *Notre-Dame de Paris*, gutted by the fire of April 15, 2019, but still standing, solemn and magnificent with its iconic towers miraculously preserved from destruction.

Begun in 1163 and completed in 1272, this cathedral has presided over centuries of glorious and somber French history, including its desecration during the French Revolution. In 1831, Victor Hugo launched a campaign of restoration with a novel he titled *Notre Dame de Paris*. Because he saw the cathedral as the main character, he strongly objected to the title of the English edition: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

#### Tour director-led walking tour in Montmartre

Enjoy a walking tour on Paris's highest hill and its most celebrated bohemian district. Artists still flock to Montmartre's charming *Place du Tertre*, as they did when Toulouse-Lautrec painted the French Cancan dancers at the famous *Moulin Rouge* cabaret.

*Visit to the Sacré-Coeur Basilica*

Discover panoramic views of the city as you make your way up to the *Sacré-Coeur* for a visit to this white-domed basilica, which anchors the Parisian skyline.

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## Monday 4/10

### Paris

Visit to the Louvre Museum

Ascent to the second level of the Eiffel Tower: Optional Eiffel Tower Summit (subject to availability)

Seine River cruise

Tour director-led walking tour in the Latin Quarter

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Paris

## Day 4: Louvre Museum, Paris, Eiffel Tower, Seine River Cruise, Latin Quarter Walking Tour

Enter the *Musée du Louvre* and walk along grand galleries filled with treasures. See Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, the *Vénus de Milo* sculpted between 130 and 100 BC, the 19th century painting depicting *The Coronation of Napoléon* among many other masterpieces.

### Free time in Paris

The afternoon is unscheduled.

You may wish to visit the *Musée de la Parfumerie Fragonard* housed in the *Théâtre des Capucines*, a theater built in 1900 that was transformed into a museum in 1993. Its collections illustrate the history and manufacture of perfume. A mini-factory with a 19th-century copper distilling apparatus demonstrates the extraction of essences. Visitors also learn all about the esoteric artistry of the "Noses."

For a change of pace, go have a look at 21st-century Paris at the *Quartier de la Défense*, on the outskirts of the city. Admire *la Grande Arche*, a feat of modern architecture with its hollow cube large enough to contain *Notre-Dame*. See how it is situated in near-perfect alignment with the *Arc de Triomphe*, the *Place de la Concorde* and the *Louvre* (you may want to take the elevator to the top for a better perspective). Check out *Les Quatre Temps*, a huge shopping center located nearby.

### Ascent to the second level of the Eiffel Tower

Take an elevator to the *deuxième étage* of the most famous cast iron structure ever built, *la Tour Eiffel*, for an unforgettable panorama of Paris.

*Optional Eiffel Tower Summit (subject to availability)*

Ascend to the third level of the tower.

### Seine River cruise

See Paris transformed into a wonderland like no other during a cruise along the River Seine.

### Tour director-led walking tour in the Latin Quarter

Explore the *Quartier Latin*, home of one of the world's oldest universities, the Sorbonne, which was founded in the Middle Ages, when Latin was the language of instruction. Walk along the *Boul' Mich'*, past bookstores windowed cafés where students have brooded for centuries over real and imagined injustices.

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## Tuesday 4/11

### Paris - St. Malo

Visit to the Bayeux Tapestry Museum, D-Day Beaches, Film at the Arromanches 360 circular cinema, Visit to the Normandy American Cemetery

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: St. Malo

## Day 5: Bayeux, D-Day Beaches, St. Malo

Head west to the Normandy city of Bayeux, which was the first French city to be liberated by the Allies on D-Day, and one of the few in the area that escaped major damage. It has kept its 14th-century half-timbered houses and a magnificent cathedral which overlooks the city.

Enter the *Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux* and marvel at the city's treasure, 226 feet long and 20 inches high. Embroidered in the 11th century with amazing details, it tells the story of the invasion of England by the Normans in 1066 - nearly 900 years before the Normandy D-Day landing of 1944.

### *D-Day Beaches*

This is indeed Second World War country, with sobering memorials, bunkers, and occasional remnants of barbed wire. Three-quarters of a century after D-Day, the beaches of Normandy are still referred to by their WWII code names.

### *Film at the Arromanches 360 circular cinema*

Stop on the cliff that overlooks the landing beach of Arromanches to watch the impressive *Normandy's 100 Days*, an HD film with surround sound that's presented in a circular cinema. It places spectators in the middle of the Battle of Normandy, thanks to archival footage.

### *Visit to the Normandy American Cemetery*

Just over the coastal bluffs, in Colleville-sur-Mer, lie the 9,387 military graves of the American Cemetery. The endless, crisp rows are poignant reminders of heroic days that changed the outcome of World War II.

### *Travel to St. Malo*

Proceed to the medieval harbor known as *la Cité des Corsaires* for famous native seafarers such as Surcouf, who captured countless English ships, and Jacques Cartier, who sailed to the New World and up Canada's St. Lawrence River in 1535. *Saint-Malo* is perched on a rock at the mouth of the River Rance, its only link to the mainland a narrow causeway.

## Day 6: St. Malo Walking Tour, Mont St. Michel, Loire valley

Enjoy the walled city of St. Malo in the company of your courier. See landmarks such as the *Cathédrale Saint-Vincent* (whose 12th-century nave, lit by sparkling modern stained-glass windows, houses Jacques Cartier's tomb), and the 15th-century castle with its *Tour Quiquengrogne*. You may want to stroll along the ramparts for great views. Look for souvenirs along the narrow shop-lined streets.

### *Travel to Mont St. Michel*

Enjoy the ride through Normandy.

### *Visit to Mont Saint-Michel Abbey*

As you get closer to the site, see how the *Mont Saint-Michel* rises out of the sea mists, its spired abbey church perched upon a rocky island set in a tidal bay.

On your way up the hill for a visit to the abbey, you will walk along steep streets filled with tales of pilgrimages and of prisoners who were once kept on this small island.

On the way back, spend some time browsing in the village's souvenir shops. Have a look at the surrounding seabed, a flat sandy expanse at low tide, where incoming tides are said to rush in as fast as a galloping horse.

### *Travel to the Loire Valley*

Vineyards color the roads of the region the French call *Val de Loire* and *Jardin de la France*. For UNESCO, it's an Outstanding Cultural Landscape.

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## Wednesday 4/12

### St. Malo - Loire Valley

Tour director-led walking tour in Saint-Malo

Visit to Mont Saint-Michel Abbey

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Loire Valley

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## Thursday 4/13

### Loire Valley

Excursion to Loire Valley Châteaux: Visit to the *Château de Chenonceau*, Chenonceau audioguide, Visit to the *Château de Chambord*, Chambord *HistoPad* interactive tablet

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Loire Valley

## Day 7: Excursion to Loire Valley Châteaux

An excursion takes you into the very essence of the history and culture of France. See two of France's loveliest *châteaux*, which define the sophistication of the Renaissance.

### *Visit to the Château de Chenonceau*

Discover the prettiest of the Loire Valley *châteaux*, which spans the River Cher. In 1547, King Henri II gave this property to his mistress, Diane de Poitiers. On her orders, splendid gardens were added and a bridge was built to link the castle to the other bank of the Cher. The famous gallery later erected upon that bridge by Queen Catherine de Medici served, during World War II, as an escape route between Nazi-occupied northern France and unoccupied southern France.

An audioguide is included.

### *Visit to the Château de Chambord*

Enter the largest of the Loire Valley castles (440 rooms and 80 staircases). At the age of 25, King François I decided to build a sumptuous residence, and he did. However, over the 32 years of his reign he only spent 42 days at Chambord!

Today, visitors marvel at the park (enclosed by a wall 18 miles long), at the grand façade, and at the famous Double Helix Staircase (*Grand Escalier*), which leads to a roof adorned with 200 chimneys!

### *Chambord HistoPad interactive tablet*

Let the 3D and virtual reality technology of your *HistoPad Chambord* fill up castle rooms as they were in their heyday, back in the 16th century, while you listen to automatically triggered commentaries.

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## Day 8: Chartres, Paris

Today, travel to the region known as the Île-de-France.

### *Visit to Chartres Cathedral*

The spires of *la Cathédrale de Chartres* first come into view, solemnly rising above the wide-open fields of *La Beauce*. Soon, you're facing the most beautiful Gothic structure in Europe, known for its stunning stained-glass windows. As you will see, this cathedral *defines* Gothic architecture and the concept of the flying buttress.

### *Cathedral visioguide*

A visioguide is included.

### *Travel to Paris*

Pick up speed on the *autoroute* that takes you into a whole different world: the stately monuments and broad boulevards of the French capital.

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## Day 9: Paris

### Free time in Paris

Enjoy some free time in Paris.

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## Friday 4/14

### Loire Valley - Paris

Visit to Chartres Cathedral, Cathedral visioguide

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Paris

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## Saturday 4/15

### Paris

Meals included: Dinner  
Overnight: Paris

## Day 10: Departure

### Depart Paris

*Au revoir, Paris!*

Most good things must come to an end. With souvenirs tucked in your suitcase, and your phone full of photos ready to be processed, you're eager to share your discoveries with family and friends.

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**Sunday 4/16**

### Departure

Departure transfer

Meals included: Breakfast

# Cost Breakdown

<b>Itinerary</b>	La Belle France
<b>Departing</b>	April 7, 2023
<b>Departure City</b>	San Francisco, CA
<b>Rooming</b>	Triples
<b>Program Cost</b>	\$4,348
	-\$100 Early Enrollment Discount for enrollments before 9/15/2022
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$4,248
<b>Monthly Payment</b>	\$607 with <b>\$0 deposit</b>
<b>Standard Final Payment Deadline</b>	12/18/2022
<b>E-Z Pay Final Payment Deadline</b>	03/08/2023
<b>Available Add-ons not included in price</b>	Eiffel Tower Summit (subject to availability): \$99 Double rooms: \$320 per person - 8 @ \$40 per night (mandatory for adults 24 years and older)
<b>Alternate Departure Cities</b>	Spokane, WA: add \$150
	If fewer than 10 paying participants opt to depart from any alternate airport, an additional service fee in the amount of \$225 will be applicable.