

PARIS, NORMANDY, BERLIN, NUREMBERG & MUNICH

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart for Paris.

Day 2: Arrive **Paris**. Meet your guide for an orientation city walking tour. Later, your guide will leave you in the Latin Quarter. At one time only Latin was spoken here! Today it is brimming with cafes, restaurants, little bookstores, and tourist shops. Tonight a Seine Cruise.

Day 3: Today a guided visit to the **Louvre**. Then see Place de la Concorde, Place Vendome and Palais Royale. Walk the Champs Elysee, Ave de Montaigne, Rue du Faubourg, and Saint Honore, widely cited as the most fashionable streets in the world. See the **Arc de Triomphe**. Early this evening visit Paris's grands magasins (department stores) Galeries Lafayette and Printemps department stores. Later tonight the **Eiffel Tower**.



Day 4: Visit **Versailles**. See the Grand Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, King's and Queen's suites, and other sights. Have a quick lunch on your own before reboarding your coach for Pontorson. Enroute, stop in Dreux to visit its castle, Chappelle Royale Saint Louis. Arrive Pontorson.

Day 5: Morning visit to **Mont St Michel**. Mont St. Michel grew to become a massive Benedictine Monastery of great influence in the 12th and 13th centuries. The Mont is an impressive site – a soaring ensemble of buildings surrounded at its base by a jumble of buildings that house the few people. Depart for **Normandy**. The D day landings were the largest military operation in history and were followed by the Battle of Normandy which would lead to the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation. The most brutal fighting on D day took place along Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword Beaches. Today visit Arromanche. Visit **Juno Beach Centre**. The Centre recognizes Canada's military and civilian contributions during WWII. Overnight Dieppe, an ancient seaside town nestled between two limestone cliffs and a dramatic medieval castle perched on the cliff. The Dieppe Raid was mounted during WWII to relieve pressure on Allied forces in Russia and N Africa. Of the nearly 5,000 Canadians who embarked for Dieppe, 907 died and 1,946 were taken prisoner. Out of it came improvements in technique and tactics which helped plan the 1944 D-Day attack.

Day 6: Depart for Vimy Ridge. During WWI, a long series of battles fought nearby Arras are known as the Battle of Arras in which a series of medieval tunnels beneath the city, unknown to the Germans, became a decisive factor in the British forces holding the city. In 1922 the government of France gave Canada the 250 acres of **Vimy Ridge** in perpetuity. The Vimy Ridge Monument has the 11, 285 names of Canadians listed as missing and presumed dead in France during WW I. On to Ypres. Visit German Cemetery and Somme Tranche Museum.



Day 7: Visit **Flanders Fields Museum** which is dedicated to Ypres contribution to WW1.

Each visitor can track the fate of a single person (a soldier, a nurse, a child or a local) as it actually unfolded in the war years in Ypres. Along the way are displays of artifacts that survived the war - from medals to gas masks - but the most dramatic displays are audio-visual zones. Enroute to Brussels, see the impressive Canadian St. Julien Memorial which stands like a sentinel over those who died during the first gas attacks of the first World War. Evening flight to Berlin.

Day 8: **Berlin**, a city that was almost bombed into rubble during WWII but has reawakened into a dynamic bustling tourist city. Full day of sightseeing in what was **East Berlin**. Half day with guide. Begin at Karl Liebknecht Strasse what was the governments ideal of a modern socialist city. It connects to the wide and fashionable Unter den Linden. See Alexanderplatz, Berliner dom, Neue Wache, Bebelplatz site of the notorious book burning, Gendarmenmarkt, Friedrichstrasse, S Bahn Ghost Station, Brandenburg Gate. Visit the Reichstag. Take a side trip to the Jewish Holocaust Memorial. Visit Checkpoint Charlie, and the Topography of Terror. See Prinz Albert Strasse, headquarters of the SS and Gestapo head, the most frightening address in Berlin.



Day 9: Today is **West Berlin**. The main drag is Kurfurstendamm, once considered the Champs Elysees of Berlin. The ruins of the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedachtniskirche is a symbolic landmark with only its broken west tower still standing after the British bombed it. See the German Resistance Memorial. The Bendlerblock was a military headquarters where an ill-fated attempt to assassinate Hitler was plotted. Stauffenberg and his co-conspirators were shot here in the courtyard. The “Times Square” of Berlin, Potsdamer Platz was cut in 2 by the wall and left deserted for 40 years. The New Potsdamer Platz today it is an immense commercial, residential and entertainment center.

Day 10: Transfer to **Nuremberg**. Nuremberg played an important role during the Nazi years as the propaganda center for mass rallies and the scene of the war crime trials after the war. This historical city was reduced to rubble in 1945 but today is a bustling tourist attraction. See the Zeppelinfeld, where Hitler staged huge rallies, and the Justice Palace, where the War Crimes Tribunal sat in 1946. Visit the Documentation Center with its permanent exhibition “Fascination and Terror” which is concerned with the causes, connections, and consequences of Nazi Germany. It offers what is probably the most fascinating museum in Germany on the twelve years of Nazi rule.

Day 11: Depart for **Munich** with stop at **Dachau**, the first Nazi concentration camp built in March 1933. Over 200,000 Jews, political prisoners, homosexuals, and others deemed “undesirable” by the Third Reich were sent here. More than 30,000 died at Dachau or at other subcamps. Continue to Munich. See some of Munich’s most important historical sites including Residenz, the former residence of Bavarian kings dates back to the 14th century, the onion domed Frauenkirche, originally a small church built in the 13th century, Marienplatz square, and the Stadtmuseum.

Day 12: Transfer to airport for flight home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Paris return from Munich
- One way flight Brussels to Berlin
- Coach transfers
 - o Paris airport transfer
 - o 4 days coach Paris to Brussels with stops according to itinerary
 - o Berlin airport transfer
 - o 2 days coach Berlin to Munich with stops according to itinerary
 - o Munich airport transfer
- Assistance upon arrival in Paris and Berlin
- 10 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 10 breakfasts
- 5 dinners
- Guided tours
 - o Paris city walking tour
 - o Berlin east Berlin tour
- Entrances
 - o Guided visit to the Louvre
 - o Seine River Cruise
 - o Eiffel Tower
 - o Versailles with audio guides
 - o German Cemetery
 - o Somme Tranche Museum
 - o Flanders Fields Museum
 - o Juno Beach Center
 - o Mont St Michel
 - o Dreux Castle
 - o Reichstag
 - o Dachau Concentration Camp
 - o Documentaion Center in Nuremberg
- 2 day Metropass in Paris

