



Incredible France: Loire Valley & Normandy

8 nights / 9 days

Day 1, Arrival in Paris

Welcome to Paris! Upon arrival at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, meet your driver for the transfer to the hotel. Check in and spend the rest of the day at leisure. Overnight in central Paris.

Day 2, Paris

Discover the city's most famous tourist sights and monuments on a Half Day Private City Tour with a professional English-speaking guide.

Marvel at Paris's best-known sights: Place Vendôme Square, the Opera House, the Pantheon, the Luxembourg Palace and Gardens, the Orsay Museum, Place de la Concorde Square, the Champs-Élysées, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Invalides.

Your tour will end back at the hotel or at another central location, as you prefer. You will have the rest of

the day to explore Paris at your leisure. Overnight in central Paris.

Day 3, Paris

Day spent at leisure. Overnight in central Paris.

Day 4, Paris – Orleans – Chambord – Tours

After breakfast, leave Paris on board of your private coach towards the Loire Valley and its wonders of the Renaissance period. Our first stop is the capital of the Centre-Val de Loire region: Orleans.

The history of this lovely city on the banks of the Loire River is inseparably bound with the history of Joan of Arc. The city owes its survival to the 17-year-old "Maid of Orléans," who helped lead the French to victory against the English when Orléans was besieged in 1429.

While you explore the city on your own, you will discover that, apart from the few medieval remaining

buildings, there is also a very rich Renaissance heritage reflecting the city's prestigious past.

An important landmark you should not miss is the 13th-century Sainte-Croix Cathedral, with its monumental exterior featuring twin towers (81 meters high), five doorways, and elaborate Baroque decoration. The sheer size of the interior leaves a lasting impression, while colourful stained-glass windows allow visitors to marvel at the history of Joan of Arc.

For a further immersion into the city's culture, you can peruse the art collection at the Musée des Beaux-Arts, displaying around 700 artworks (paintings, sculptures and decorative objects) from famous artists of the 15th to the 20th century, such as Correggio, Tintoretto, Delacroix, Gauguin, and Picasso.

After lunch, we will proceed to our next stop: The Chambord Estate, where you will have an audio-guided visit. A breath-taking sight to behold, this enormous castle provided inspiration for the building of the Château de Versailles, and it is one of the most emblematic examples of Renaissance architecture in France. The estate was created in the early 16th century (at the height of the French Renaissance), by François I, who spared no expenses. With immense proportions, the building has iconic turreted towers, impressive vaulted ceilings, 440 rooms, and a gigantic double-helix staircase at the entry hall. The architect remains unknown, but the influence of Leonardo da Vinci is very

perceptible. Outside, you will be dazzled by the French Formal Gardens that are landscaped in geometric patterns with perfectly manicured shrubs and tidy flowerbeds. The garden's Italianate terrace was a central feature of court life when the king was in residence.

After your visit, you will be taken to the historic city of Tours. Check-in at the hotel. Overnight.

DAY 5: Tours – Chenonceau – Valençay - Tours

This morning you will explore through an audio-guided tour the magnificent Castle of Chenonceau. The two-story gallery stands upon a graceful arched bridge that crosses the Cher River, giving the impression that the château is floating on water.

Also known as "The Ladies' Castle", it was initially constructed in 1513 by Katherine Briçonnet. Later when forming part of the Crown Estate, King Henri II left the Castle to his mistress Diane de Poitiers. But then once he had passed away his widow Catherine de Medici deposed Diane and extended the Castle to stretch over the river Cher.

Equalling the beauty of the interior, the château's Renaissance French Gardens were perfectly landscaped with decorative pools and flower beds, and are one important destination for garden lovers from all over the world. The garden's spacious "floating parterre" (raised terraces covered with lawn) was the

creative vision of Diane de Poitiers. In the Garden of Catherine de Médicis, roses flourish on trellises of a walking path, which overlooks the castle moat, a sublime scene sure to inspire leisurely strolls.

In the afternoon, our stop will be at the Château de Valençay, for an audio-guided tour. Built in stages from the medieval era through the Renaissance period, the building blends a variety of architectural styles. The main wing reveals design elements inspired by the Italian Renaissance, while the two-story side wing is Baroque. The side wing also shows the influence of Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord (Prince Talleyrand), Napoleon's foreign minister, who acquired the château in 1803 and resided here in rooms outfitted with Empire furniture. One of the highlights of the château is the Family Portraits Gallery, adorned with paintings that depict Talleyrand's ancestors. As a tribute to Prince Talleyrand, the château's Salle des Trésors (Hall of Treasures) displays a collection of personal items that belonged to the savvy Lord of Valençay, who was known for his business acumen, diplomatic talents, and art of living.

Similar to many royal estates, the Château de Valençay encompasses vast grounds. Set in a 53-hectare park including lush forests, the property features immaculate gardens with an infinity of flowerbeds, sculptures, decorative pools, and

fountains. Ideal for relaxing, some of the grassy spaces of the gardens are designated as picnic areas.

After our visit, we will return to Tours, where you can take some time to explore the city.

A walk through the cobblestone streets between Place Plumereau and the Place du Grand-Marché will give you allow you to see the beauties of the Old Town. With its tree-lined courtyard space, bustling outdoor cafés, and handsome half-timbered houses, the Place Plumereau is a particularly inviting place to stop. You can spend some time at the Saint-Gatien Cathedral and admire its Flamboyant Gothic façade, glorious vaulted sanctuary, and stained-glass windows from the 13th century. Overnight in Tours.

DAY 6: Tours – Mont Saint Michel (Normandy)

After breakfast, we leave Tours heading towards the world-renowned Mont Saint Michel, a Unesco World Heritage site. Please note that the car park stands approximately 1.5 miles away from the island. Once you leave the coach, head for the Place des Navettes, where shuttle buses called Passeurs will take you to the mount itself.

The Mount has been consecrated to St-Michel from the year 708, the Benedictine abbey presents a big panorama of the medieval architecture from the centuries XI - XVI. A lunch of omelette at the famous local restaurant “Mère Poulard” is suggested. Spend

some time exploring the village built on the slopes in the shadow of the fortifications. Overnight in the surrounding areas.

DAY 7: Normandy D-Day Beaches - Caen

After breakfast, we will visit some of the WW-II landing beaches of the Allied Forces (you can choose which memorials, beaches you prefer to visit). We will also visit the Memorial de Caen, a museum and war memorial commemorating World War II and the Battle for Caen. More generally, the museum is dedicated to the history of the twentieth century, mainly focused on the fragility of peace. Overnight in Caen.

DAY 8: Caen - Paris

After breakfast, it is time to learn more about the best food and drink that this rich region of France has to offer, starting with a visit to the Graindorge Cheese Dairy in Livarot. Since 1910, three generations of cheese makers have succeeded one another to produce Livarot and Pont l'Évêque, cheeses that are Norman Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) cheeses. You will see all stages of cheese production then taste four

different cheeses (Livarot, Pont l'Eveque, Normandy Camembert and Neufchatel).

After the visit, we will head to Honfleur, where we will have time for lunch. This small city and harbour dates back to the Vikings invasion in the 11th century. Its position, right in the Seine estuary, designed it to be both defensive line of Royal Seine River and the starting place for numerous great sea adventures. After the Hundred Years War, from 16th to 18th centuries, Honfleur basks in its glorious maritime history.

On our way back to Paris, we will stop at the city of Rouen, the capital of Haute-Normandie, which owes everything to its advantageous location on the road from Paris to the sea. Marvel at its exquisite Gothic cathedral and see Rouen square where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. After a couple of hours exploring the city, we will continue our journey eastwards until we reach Paris. Overnight.

DAY 9: Departure

At the designated time, transfer to Charles de Gaulle Airport for your return flight home.

Inclusions:

- 8 nights' accommodation;
- Daily buffet breakfast;
- Roundtrip CDG Airport Transfers in Paris;
- Private City Tour in Paris (4h) with Transportation and English-speaking local Guide;
- 5 days of private vehicle at disposal as per the program (max 10 hours at disposal per day), from Day 4 to Day 8;
- Entrances to Loire de Valley Castles with audio-guide: Château de Chambord, Château de Chenonceau and Château de Valençay;
- Entrance to Caen Memorial;
- Visit and tasting at the Graindorge Cheese Dairy.

Exclusions:

- Local city taxes collected by the hotels;
- Porterage / Tips;
- Other meals apart from Breakfast;
- Travel insurance;
- All items not mentioned in the programme.

Rates 15-20 PAX

	Start	End	Single	Twin/Do
3 Star	01/04/2020	31/10/2020	€ 1,750	€ 1,290
	01/11/2020	31/03/2021	€ 1,670	€ 1,230
	01/04/2021	31/10/2021	€ 1,750	€ 1,290
4 Star	01/04/2020	31/10/2020	€ 2,090	€ 1,460
	01/11/2020	31/03/2021	€ 1,995	€ 1,400
	01/04/2021	31/10/2021	€ 2,090	€ 1,460

Rates 8-14 PAX

	Start	End	Single	Twin/Do
3 Star	01/04/2020	31/10/2020	€ 2,220	€ 1,750
	01/11/2020	31/03/2021	€ 2,120	€ 1,680
	01/04/2021	31/10/2021	€ 2,220	€ 1,750

	Start	End	Single	Twin/Do
4 Star	01/04/2020	31/10/2020	€ 2,555	€ 1,930
	01/11/2020	31/03/2021	€ 1,450	€ 1,850
	01/04/2021	31/10/2021	€ 2,555	€ 1,930

Rates 4-8 PAX

	Start	End	Single	Twin/Do
3 Star	01/04/2020	31/10/2020	€ 3,045	€ 2,580
	01/11/2020	31/03/2021	€ 3,915	€ 2,475
	01/04/2021	31/10/2021	€ 3,045	€ 2,580

	Start	End	Single	Twin/Do
4 Star	01/04/2020	31/10/2020	€ 3,390	€ 2,770
	01/11/2020	31/03/2021	€ 3,250	€ 2,645
	01/04/2021	31/10/2021	€ 3,390	€ 2,770

Hotels

The hotels displayed below reflect the level of quality and location offered. If not available at the time of booking, we will provide a similar hotel.

	3*	4*
Paris	Val Girard Hotel / Standard Design Hotel	Auteuil tour Eiffel / Novotel Montparnasse
Tours	Grand Hotel / Ibis Tours Centre Gare	Novotel Tours / Mercure Tours
M S Michel	Ibis Styles Honfleur Centre Historique	Mercure Mont Saint Michel
Caen	Ibis Caen Centre	Royal Hotel Caen Centre

Optional Services

Local Guide for Walking Tour in any city in the programme, 2h (Per Tour, in English)	€ 285
Lunch at Local Restaurant, 2 Courses, No Drinks (per meal, per person)	€ 25
Dinner at Local Restaurant, 3 Courses, No Drinks (per meal, per person)	€ 35

General Terms & Conditions:

- All rates are net and per person, inclusive of VAT, city permits, road taxes, fuel and parking charges.
- Should hotels and/or governmental regulatory bodies impose further charges of any kind on current taxes, then FITbookings.com will be obliged to adjust the rates accordingly.
- No options have been taken at this stage. All rates are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Child rates available on request.
- If certain activities are unavailable during certain periods, alternative activities will be provided.
- Rates quoted are not applicable during trade fair periods, major European Holidays and other major events.
- The prices we quote are indicative but we always try to confirm the prices offered in this document.
- Early bookings increase the chances of achieving the quoted package rate.
- FITbookings.com requires 100% pre-payment either by bank transfer or by credit card (VISA or Mastercard only).
- All charges for bank transfers need to be covered by the Agent.
- Coach can be driven for maximum 10 hours per day between 08h00-21h00. Driver's meals and accommodation are included but not tips. For group bookings, it is customary to tip drivers and guides with EUR 2.00 per person, per day.
- All bookings have to be confirmed at least 90 working days prior to arrival date by the Agent.
- At the time of booking we will advise payment and cancellation deadlines.