

“Viva La France Tour”

*Paris, Bayeux, Normandy’s American Cemetery, Strasbourg, Bergheim,
Ribeauville’, Riquihr, Equisheim, Colmar, Beaune, Annecy,
Mont Blanc and Chamonix*



A TWELVE DAY JOURNEY

May 11th – May 22nd, 2018

KEYROW TOURS

60 Georgia Road Trumansburg, New York 14886 Tel: 315.491.3711

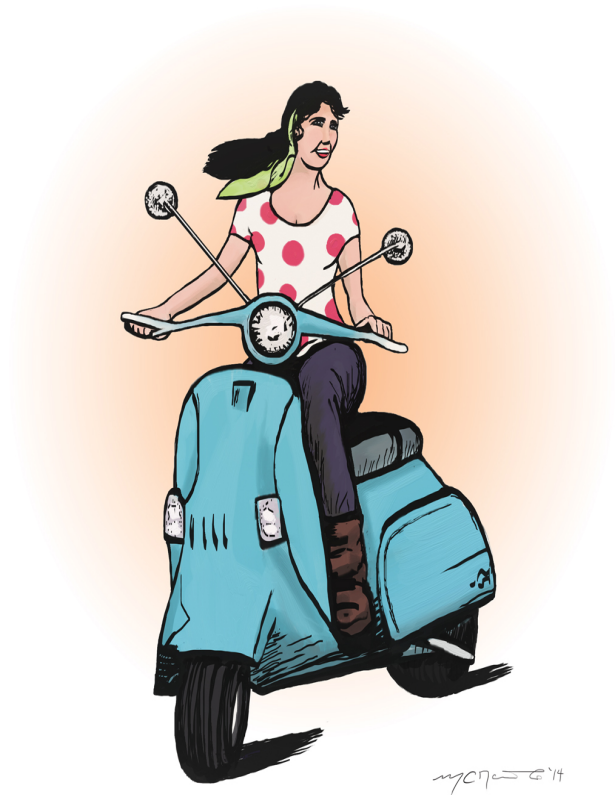
Day#1: Departure for Paris

Friday: May 11th, 2018

In conjunction with AAA Travel (Ithaca, NY), Keyrow Tours is pleased to make all flight arrangements, including primary flights originating from anywhere in the United States and international flights.

We will depart from a major international airport located on the east coast of the United States [usually JFK (NY) or Philadelphia (PA)] and fly to Paris, France. Private minivans will shuttle us to our hotel located in the historic center of “The City of Lights.”

Transportation to and from your primary airport of departure is each person’s responsibility.



“Paris is always a good idea.”

~ Audrey Hepburn

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Day #2: “Parisian Wanderings”

Saturday: May 12th, 2018

Flight arrival into Paris Airport

After passport control and collecting our luggage, private minivans will transfer us to our hotel located in a historic neighborhood. Time to shower and unpack...

Lunch Included

Notre-Dame de Paris

“Our Lady of Paris” is a medieval Catholic cathedral, and one of the finest examples of French Gothic Romanesque architecture. One of the largest and most famous churches in the world, Notre-Dame is a real showpiece of craftsmanship with its flying buttresses, rose windows and gargoyles. Construction began in 1163 and ended in 1345.

The Latin Quarter

Located on the Left Bank of the Seine River, this neighborhood is known for its student life, lively atmosphere and bistros. The area gets its name from the Latin language, which was once widely spoken in and around the University since Latin was the language of learning during the Middle Ages in Europe.

Market Tour

Discovering Our Neighborhood

Day’s Recap

Dinner Included

“If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young person, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast.”

~ Ernest Hemmingway

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Day #3: “The City of Lights”

Sunday: May 13th, 2017

European Breakfast

Private Minibus Tour

Together we will explore the city’s most historic and important monuments, including the **Eiffel Tower**, the **Champs Elyse’es**, the **Arc de Triomphe**, the **Opera House** and **Place de la Concorde**.

The most iconic monument in Paris is the Eiffel Tower, a wrought iron lattice tower constructed between 1887-1889 as the entrance to the 1889 World’s Fair. The Champs-Elyse’es is nearby. This avenue, famous for its theatres, cafes and luxury shops, is named after the Elysian Fields...the after-life paradise for heroes in Greek Mythology. The avenue is crowned by the Arc de Triomphe, a Parisian monument honoring those who fought and died for France in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.

Lunch Included

The Marais District

“Marais” means “marsh land”. From swampy to swanky, this neighborhood on the Right Bank became the aristocratic district of Paris and features buildings of historic and architectural importance. Today it is the city’s epicenter of “cool” with hip boutiques, designer hotels, the center of Jewish life and art galleries galore.

The Louvre Museum

This is the world’s second largest museum. Housed in a palace originally built as a fortress in the 12th century, it was eventually converted into the main residence for French kings. The museum opened in 1793 and is a treasure chest of masterpieces, including Leonardo DaVinci’s “Mona Lisa”.

Back to hotel

Day’s recap

Dinner on your own

“When good Americans die, they go to Paris.”
~ Oscar Wilde

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Day#4: “The Normandy Region”

Monday: May 14th, 2018

European Breakfast

Early morning train departure for Normandy

Cathedral tour in Bayeux

Bayeux is a major attraction in the Normandy Region, perhaps best known for its large Norman-Romanesque and Gothic Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Bayeux, consecrated in 1077. This is village of great charm and picturesque views...

Lunch Included

Omaha Beach and the Normandy American Cemetery

The Normandy American Cemetery is located on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, one of the primary landing beaches of the Normandy Invasion that took place on June 6th, 1944. It covers 172 acres and contains the remains of 9,387 American military dead, most of whom were killed during the invasion of Normandy and other neighboring military operations. In the film *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), World War II veteran Private James Francis Ryan visits the cemetery with his family. The Private Ryan story is based upon the true story of the Niland Brothers, two of whom are buried here.

Return to Paris

Day's recap

Dinner on your own

“I had forgotton how gently time passes in Paris. As lively as the city is, there’s a stillness to it, a peace that lures you in. In Paris, with a glass of wine in your hand, you can just be. All along the Seine, street lamps come on, apartment windows turn golden.”

~ Kristin Hannah in *The Nightingale*

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Day#5: “I Love Paris in the Springtime”

Tuesday: May 15th, 2018

European Breakfast

The Montmartre District

Montmartre is a large hill on the Right Bank, in the northern section of the city. The historic district is primarily known for the white-domed **Basilica of the Sacré-Cœur**. At the beginning of the twentieth century, during the *Belle Époque*, many artists had studios in or around Montmartre, including Salvador Dalí, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, Camille Pissarro and Vincent van Gogh.

Patisserie Experience

France has some of the best pastries in the world. Follow us to a hidden gem where pastries are prepared by a Michelin rated chef. Dentist not included 😊

Lunch on your own

Free afternoon (Orsay Museum, Rodin Museum, Eiffel Tower...shopping?)

Evening Cruise on the River Seine

Say farewell to Paris on a river cruise that celebrates the city's magnificence and lights...

Grand Parisian Dinner



“The last time I saw Paris, her heart was warm and gay. I heard the laughter of her heart in every street café.”

~ Oscar Hammerstein II

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Day#6: “Treasures of Strasbourg”

Wednesday: May 16th, 2018

European Breakfast

Morning Train Departure for Strasbourg

We will enjoy a high-speed train ride, a pleasant two hour journey.

Hotel Check-in and Lunch Included

Touring the City of Strasbourg

Strasbourg is the capital city of the Alsace-Champagne-Ardenne-Lorraine region in northeastern France. It's also the formal seat of the European Parliament and sits near the German border, with culture and architecture that blends German and French influences. Its Gothic Cathédrale Notre-Dame (do all Cathedrals in France bear this name?) features daily shows from the astronomical clock, and sweeping views of the Rhine River from the 142m spire.

The Kammerzell House

The Church of Saint Thomas

Notre Dame Cathedral

The Petite France Quarter

Day's recap in our hotel garden

Dinner Included

“We are all very much alike in France in this respect; we still remain knights, knights of love and fortune.”

~ Guy de Maupassant

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Day#7: The Pearls of Alsace

Thursday: May 17th, 2018

European Breakfast

This full day Pearls of Alsace tour features *Les Plus Beau Villages de France*... “The most beautiful villages of France”. These traditional villages, their monuments, historical landmarks, wine and food are some of the very best that France has to offer.

The Chateau Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle

This mighty fortress overlooks an expansive valley. Built in 12th century, the castle occupied a strategic position controlling the wine and wheat routes to the North and the salt route from the East.

Bergheim

It is a completely fortified town and has magnificent towers and walls. A very pleasant winegrowing village on the Wine Trail, this village is one of the best preserved and most typical towns in Alsace.

Ribeauville’

Surrounded by ancient walls, the village has picturesque medieval houses, two old churches and fine Gothic buildings.

Lunch Included

Riquwihr

Surrounded by ramparts, the village has been very fortunate to survive war and destruction. Its tiny streets, fortified walls and old houses have preserved their 16th century splendor virtually intact, making for remarkable architectural harmony. Free time for personal discovery

Equisheim

Surrounded by vineyards, the narrow and concentric streets highlight the architectural merits of its half-timbered houses, lovingly decorated with flowers.

Day’s Recap at the hotel garden

Dinner on your own

“If there ever was a fairytale land that really exists, it must be Alsace.”

~ Brian Janssen

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Day#8: “A Food and Wine Experience”

Friday: May 18th, 2018

European Breakfast

Minibus Departure for the village of Colmar

We will discover the charm of the old town, its prestigious monuments, the Pfister house, the Koïfhus, Saint Martin collegiate church, and the picturesque neighborhood of small Venice.

Lunch Included at “JYS”, an incredible Michelin rated restaurant

Afternoon Winery Tour

Enjoy two wineries in the heart of the Alsace Region, which especially features white wines such as Riesling, Gewurztraminer and other European varieties.

Return to Strasbourg

Dinner on your own



“The shortest way to Paradise is the stairway to the cellar...”
~ Jacques Chevignard

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Day #9: “Burgundy In All Its Sunset Glow”

Saturday: May 19th, 2018

European Breakfast

Morning minivan departure for the village of Beaune, located in the heart of France’s Burgundy Region

Beaune is the wine capital of Burgundy in the Côte d'Or of Eastern France. Located between Paris and Geneva, the town is surrounded by some of the world's most famous wine villages and is rich in historical and architectural heritage.

Saturday Food and Antique Markets

Lunch and wine tasting tour included

Explore the village

A Dijon Mustard Tour

Dinner on your own



“Burgundy was...the wine that ought to be allowed to survive if it were ever decreed that...only one single wine was to be left alive to do the entire work of the whole heart- gladdening lot.”

~ C.E. Montague 1867-1928

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Day#10: “Feeling Annecy”

Sunday: May 20th, 2018

European Breakfast

Morning minibus departure from Beaune to the village of Annecy

Annecy is the largest city of Haute-Savoie department in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region in southeastern France. It lies on the northern tip of Lake Annecy, just 22 miles south of Geneva (Switzerland). Nicknamed the “Pearl of the French Alps,” this canal village is picturesquely situated along the shores of France’s third largest lake...and Europe’s cleanest.

Hotel Check-in and stroll through the old city

Lunch included

Afternoon boat ride on Lake Annecy

Free time to explore

Day’s recap

Dinner on your own

“In France we have a saying, 'Joie de vivre,' which actually doesn't exist in the English language. It means looking at your life as something that is to be taken with great pleasure and enjoy it.”

~ Mireille Guiliano

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Day #11: “Mont Blanc and Chamonix!”

Monday: May 21st, 2018

European Breakfast

Early morning departure for Chamonix and Mont Blanc

Mont Blanc means “White Mountain”. Standing at 15,774 feet above sea level, it is the highest mountain in the Alps, and the highest in Europe (after the Caucasus peaks that separate Europe from Asia). The mountain itself is in a range called the Graian Alps, between the Aosta Valley in Italy and the Haute-Savoie in France.

Chamonix is a popular destination for mountaineering, hiking, skiing, and snowboarding... and it was the site of the first Winter Olympics in 1924.

Round-trip Gondola Ride

To the top of Mont Blanc, with hot chocolate celebration at the summit! *Weather Permitting.*

Train Ride to the Glacier

After our descent from Mont Blanc, we will take a 20 minute train ride to Montenvers, an area which offers an imposing panorama of the Mer de Glace glacier. Those who wish can take an OPTIONAL hike to the “Grotte de glace” (the Ice Cave) inside the glacier: a gondola lift takes us part way, followed by 400 steps to the entrance of the ice cave. Those not opting to hike into the ice cave can take the 20 minute train ride back to Chamonix for free time.

Free time

Lunch on your own

Late afternoon return to Annecy

Closing Banquet

“Traveling forces you to lose sight of all the familiar comforts of home. Nothing is yours except the essential things – air, sleep, dreams, the sea, the sky – all things tending towards the eternal or what we imagine of it.”

~ Cesare Pavese

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Day#12: “Departure for USA”

Tuesday: May 22nd, 2018

European breakfast

Minibus transfer to Geneva Airport, Switzerland



*“Our battered suitcases were piled on the sidewalk again; we had longer ways to go.
But no matter, the road is life.”*

~ Jack Kerouac

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France in 2018

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Centrally Located Hotels

Double room occupancy with private bath in our centrally located historic three and four-star hotels: 4 nights in Paris, 3 nights in Strasbourg, 1 night in Beaune and 2 nights in Annecy

Meals

Daily European breakfast
Daily exquisite traditional main meal with local wine (lunch or supper)
Two light meals (lunch or supper)
Plus "The Last Supper"...a closing banquet extravaganza!

All Ground and Water Transportation

We will primarily be using private minivan transportation throughout the trip
Three journeys by train are included:
Train from Paris to Strasbourg
Train ride to Chamonix Glacier
Round trip train from Paris to Normandy
Boat ride on Lake Annecy

All Entrance Tickets

Paris: The Louvre Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral, Omaha Beach and the Normandy American Cemetery, the Cathedral tour in Bayeux, Evening Cruise on the River Seine

Strasbourg and Alsace: The Cathedral of Strasbourg, Chateau Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle and Winery Tour

Beaune: Dijon Mustard Tour and Wine Tasting Experience

Chamonix: Round-trip Gondola Ride to the top of Mont Blanc

Keyrow's Services

Paolo will serve as your personal full time director. Together with local guides, we will offer daily walking tours who will share their expert knowledge of each site and region visited.

Please make known any special needs well in advance of the trip.

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