

# “Vive La France Tour”

*Paris, Bayeux, Normandy’s American Cemetery, Reims in Champagne, Strasbourg, Bergheim, Ribeauville’, Riquiwihr, Equisheim and Colmar*



**A TEN DAY JOURNEY**

**May 10<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**KEYROW TOURS**

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60 Georgia Road Trumansburg, New York 14886 Tel: 315.491.3711

# Day#1: Departure for Paris

**Friday: May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## **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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## **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.

## **Guided visit to the D’Orsay Museum and optional unguided visit to the Rodin Museum**

Located on the Left Bank of the Seine, this important museum is housed in the former Gare d’Orsay, a Beaux-Arts railway station built between 1898 and 1900. The museum holds mainly French art dating from 1848 to 1914, including the largest collection of impressionist and post-Impressionist masterpieces in the world by painters including Monet, Manet, Degas, Renoir, Cézanne, Seurat, Sisley, Gauguin, and Van Gogh.

## **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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## **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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 forgotten 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: “Tiny Bubbles in the Champagne Region”

**Tuesday: May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## **European Breakfast**

## **Morning train departure for the city of Reims**

## **Formal Champagne Tasting**

The House of Ruinart is unlike any other. It was the VERY FIRST established Champagne house in 1729 and inspired by the intuition of a monk well ahead of his time... The Ruinart family has run the house for the past two centuries, upholding tradition and producing one of the highest quality, award winning (and most expensive) champagnes in the world...

## **Tour of Ruinart Cellars with Champagne Tasting**

## **Lunch!**

## **Tour of Reims**

Reims is the unofficial capital of the Champagne Region of France. Its incredible gothic cathedral was the traditional site of crowning for the French Monarchy. The city itself was also the site of the unconditional surrender of the German army in World War II on 7 May 1945. With a guided stroll through this important historic town and some free time to explore, Reims will inspire and gratify the senses.

## **Evening Train Return to Paris**

## **Day’s Recap**

## **Dinner on your own**

***“Come Quickly, I am tasting the stars!”***

Dom Perignon, a Benedictine monk, when drinking the very first sparkling champagne ever invented!

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# Day #6: “I Love Paris in the Springtime”

**Wednesday: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## **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**

**Stroll to the Louvre Museum, visit the Eiffel Tower, sit at a café...**

### **Group 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**



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*“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#7: “Treasures of Strasbourg”

**Thursday: May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**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#8: “A Food and Wine Experience”

**Friday: May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**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: “The Pearls of Alsace”

**Sunday: May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 #10: “Departure for USA”

**Tuesday: May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**European breakfast**

**Departure from the Strasbourg Airport to the USA**



*“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 2019

## WHAT IS INCLUDED?

### Centrally Located Hotels

Double room occupancy with private bath in our centrally located historic three and four-star hotels: 5 nights in Paris and 3 nights in Strasbourg

### 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

All minivan transportation as indicated  
Seine Riverboat Cruise  
High speed train from Paris to Strasbourg

### All Entrance Tickets

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

Reims: Champagne Tasting and tour, Cathedral

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

### Keyrow's Services

Paolo will serve as your personal full time tour director. Together with his hand-selected team of local guides, he will offer daily walking tours who will share their expert knowledge of each site and region to be visited.

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

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