



Art in Paris

April 28 – May 5, 2015

Plan your arrival in Paris for April 27, 2015

Plan your departure from Paris for May 6, 2015

Immerse yourself in the art and history of Paris, and feel the heartbeat of one of Europe's great cities! The Louvre and a wealth of other museums—including the Orsay and Rodin Museums—will be “in your backyard.” Take your time and explore their vast and exquisite collections. Architectural icons like Notre Dame are woven into a centuries-old cityscape. Day trips from Paris will let you experience Claude Monet's home at Giverny, the palace of Versailles, and the chateau and gardens at Vaux le Vicomte. Sip a café au lait; stroll down a shaded allée; feel the chic of the Champs Elysées! Paris is a city like no other!

Amy Boyce Osaki will add a special walking tour, short introductory talks, special meals and bonus visits to relatively unknown art venues as extras to this art tour. Amy, an award-winning art educator, studied and lived in Paris. She is looking forward to revealing the unique aspects of Paris to you in a way that avoids the hassles and the crowds. You'll explore what is new as well as what is timeless. You'll savor well-known masterpieces as well as the little known secrets of the City of Light. You'll also meet local Parisian guides with whom Amy will craft a memorable Paris experience for you!

Day 1 – “You're in Paris!”

Overnight Paris

Dinner included

In celebration of your arrival in the City of Light, enjoy an afternoon walk through the streets of Paris. This special walking tour, led by Amy, will focus on both banks of the Seine and the two islands, Ile de la Cité and Ile St Louis. Also included will be a visit to the cathedral of Notre Dame. Follow in the footsteps of over two thousand years of history. Beneath the modern city lie the roots of the original settlement of the Parisii (the original tribe) as well as the remnants of Lutèce, the ancient Roman city. If you know where to look, you can actually see physical evidence of the city's two thousand year history! This evening we'll enjoy a welcome dinner at a small Parisian restaurant.

Day 2 – “Old Paris”

Overnight Paris

Breakfast included

Begin today at the Musée de Cluny which boasts a collection of art from the Middle Ages including a fabulous example of medieval domestic architecture. Also featured is a Roman bath built in A.D. 200. Among the other treasures of the museum is the tapestry of the Lady and the Unicorn and an outstanding example of a medieval garden. Continue to the Louvre, formerly home to French kings and now the repository of one of the great art collections in the world. Explore the history of the building itself from the archaeological remains of the earlier fortress to the decorated royal rooms. Then see the masterworks in the galleries including the Venus de Milo, the Winged Victory of Samothrace, the Mona Lisa, and the Coronation of Napoleon.

Day 3 – Versailles (Louis, Louis, Louis, Louis!)

Overnight Paris

Breakfast included

Travel to the palace of Versailles, home to the kings Louis XIII, XIV, XV, and XVI. Enjoy an exclusive, private tour of the castle far from the madding crowds during which you'll visit the King's bed chamber,

the King's private suite, and the royal opera. Linger in the opulent chateau, stroll through the extensive grounds, and return to Paris in the afternoon. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are at your leisure.

Day 4 – “Six centuries as a private castle.”

Overnight Paris

Breakfast & lunch included

Journey from Paris to the Chateau de Chantilly, owned by the Montmorency family from 1386 to 1897 when it was donated to the Institut de France. Today, the castle houses the Condé Museum whose painting collection of over 800 masterpieces of French, Italian, Flemish, and English painting has been called “the number one museum of ancient paintings (prior to 1850) in France after the Louvre Museum.” A splendid library of 700 manuscripts and 30,000 volumes includes a Gutenberg Bible and medieval manuscripts. The castle and the Montmorency family were linked closely to the French monarchy: Louis XIII confiscated Chantilly from the Montmorency family for a decade; Louis XIV hired Andre Le Notre to design the gardens at Versailles after his work at Chantilly; Louis XV's Prime Minister lived at Chantilly; and Louis XVI's “Hamlet” at Versailles was inspired by the Hamlet at Chantilly.

Day 5 – 19th century and Impressionism

Overnight Paris

Breakfast & dinner included

Adjacent to the former royal palace of the Louvre are the renovated Tuileries Gardens. Whet your appetite for a feast of Impressionist art by beginning the day viewing the renovated galleries of the Orangerie Museum housing Monet's water lily paintings. The new installation is stunning. Linger and enjoy the excellent collection of 19th and early 20th century art by Cezanne, Derain, Matisse, Rousseau, Soutine, Picasso and Modigliani. Cross the Seine on a the new pedestrian bridge (Passerelle Solférino), to enter the Orsay Museum and its new exhibition of Impressionist art. The curators have selected masterworks from the world's greatest collection of French Impressionist art and present them in the context of the entire period from 1848-1914. The exhibit encompasses art from the Barbizon School (Corot and Rousseau), the Realists (Courbet, Daumier), the Impressionists (Manet, Monet, Morisot, Renoir), and the Post-Impressionists (Van Gogh, Gauguin, Seurat). Enjoy dinner together this evening.

Day 6 - Monet, Giverny, and Impressionism in the 19th century

Overnight Paris

Breakfast & lunch included

Today depart Paris and travel one hour west into Normandy. Step into the village of Giverny and leave the hustle of the modern world behind. In Giverny you'll visit the home and garden of Claude Monet. Here is where the artist lived from 1883 until 1926. Explore the house and gardens and the secrets of the village typically overlooked by the rushing crowds. Enjoy lunch at an excellent small restaurant housed in a brand new museum. Visit the Hotel Baudy, which housed American artists, and pay homage at the newly restored church where Monet married his second wife and where he was buried. Linger, savor, and relax amidst the beauty of a place that inspired Monet and over a century's worth of artists from France, the United States, Japan, and beyond. Return to Paris for the evening.

Day 7

Overnight Paris

Breakfast included

A day at your leisure. Whether you decide to return to a favorite museum (Louvre or Orangerie) or discover a new one (such as the Pompidou), Amy will be happy to offer her suggestions for a fulfilling day in the city. Or you might decide to just relax and fall under the spell of Paris.

Day 8 - Rodin and Monet (19th century)

Overnight Paris

Breakfast & dinner included

Continue to revel in the masterworks of the 19th century at the Rodin Museum which houses the largest collection of his art anywhere in the world. The museum occupies the 18th century hotel where Rodin lived and worked from 1908 until his death in 1917. Art by Rodin and Camille Claudel fills the rooms. Here is the heart of the neighborhood where Amy lived while a student at the Sorbonne and the Louvre. Perhaps you'll take some time to sample the wares of les pâtisseries in a quest for the best pastries in the neighborhood. Complete the homage to Impressionism at the quiet Musée Marmottan which houses Monet's Impression Sunrise which inspired the name "impressionism." A farewell dinner caps off your art adventure in Paris! Your lodging tonight and breakfast tomorrow morning are included.

Other Details about this Trip

Trip Dates: April 28 – May 5, 2015

Trip Leader: Amy Boyce Osaki

Price: \$4,295 (A deposit of \$400 is required to guarantee your reservation)

Single Room for entire trip: \$675

Meeting Point: The trip begins at the hotel in Paris on the morning of Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

Departure Point: The trip concludes after dinner on May 5, 2015. However, your overnight lodging in Paris this evening and breakfast the following morning are included in the trip price.

Included in the trip price: Access to museums and attractions, admission to all sites, thirteen meals, eight nights lodging, all local transportation, expert insights into art provided by your trip leader and local experts.

Not included in the trip price: Airfare, excess baggage charges, personal insurance, meals not mentioned in the itinerary, and all items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone, and internet access.

Customize your trip to Paris! Come early or stay longer by adding extra nights at the hotel. Take advantage of all the museum visits included in the itinerary, or pick and choose, as you desire. Opt out of some of the museum visits in favor of more time relaxing, or set off to explore other museums not on the schedule. Choose to extend your stay in Paris at the group hotel (or in other lodging).

Resources for Further Learning

- Check out the article "The Cradle of Paris" by Gully Wells in the July 2007 issue of Conde Nast Traveler Magazine to discover what Honoré De Balzac meant when he talked about the "gastronomy of the eye."
- Visit the Orsay Museum's website at www.musee-orsay.fr/en/
- Set off on a virtual visit to the Louvre at www.louvre.fr/en/