



RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Proposed Itinerary for:

12 days / 10 nights

Nice (4) Avignon (1) Paris (5)

Day One- Leave from **Calgary** international airport for your flight via wide-bodied jet for **Paris, France**. You will fly first to Montreal change planes for your flight to Paris arriving the next morning. Enjoy in-flight meals and services.

Day Two – You will arrive at the Charles de Gaulle airport where the **Rainbow Educational Tours Representative** in Paris will meet you. After checking through customs you will be transferred to your hotel

There will be time to check in at the hotel before your orientation. You will have an orientation, which includes the famous **Parisian Metro** and the area where you are staying. The Metro in Paris consists of 18 lines, over 350 stations and transports over five million people each weekday: You will soon feel confident about traveling on the convenient Paris **Metro**. Take an evening stroll in the **Place de La Concorde** for your first glimpse of the floodlit monuments of Paris, notably the **Arc de Triomphe** at the head of the long **Champs Elysees**, the fountains and obelisk of **Concorde**. As you gaze around the spacious place it is hard to imagine the guillotine set up here during the French Revolution and the many heads that rolled. You will climb to the top of the Arc de Triomphe. Dinner and return to hotel for overnight.

Day Three-: You will have breakfast in the hotel and then your coach and guide will pick you up at the hotel. Morning sightseeing takes you around the major monuments of Paris. The **Tour Eiffel**, (get your cameras ready at the **Palais de Chaillot** photo stop), the **Arc de Triomphe**, the **Madeleine**, the sumptuous **Opera Garnier**, the **Ile de la Cite** with **Notre Dame** and is **Sainte Chapelle** and many other sights. Then you will meet at **Rue Saint Honore**, in front of the **Palais Royal**. You will board the bus for the excursion to **Versailles**. Entrance is included to see the **Grands Appartements** of the royal living quarters and the beautiful **Galerie des Glaces** also known as the Hall of Mirrors. Return to Paris. You will have dinner and then you will go to the third level of the Eiffel Tower. Then return to hotel for overnight.

Day Four -: After breakfast you will travel by Metro to the **Louvre** to see the **Mona Lisa** and the **Venus de Milo**. From the Louvre you will go to the **Opera Garnier** for a guided tour. There will be time for lunch on your own. In the afternoon you will have a guided walking tour of **The Marais**. The Marais is arguably the most fascinating area of Paris. The area is quite fashionable with its new galleries and restaurants, chic fashion boutiques and cultural centers.

You will have dinner and then some time to explore the **Latin Quarter** before returning to the hotel for overnight.

Day Five-: This morning you depart at by private coach on a full day excursion of the Loire Valley to visit some of the many chateaux that dot the area. Most outstanding are **Chenonceau** and **Chambord**. **Chenonceau** straddles the **Cher river** like a bridge and is surrounded by beautiful gardens. The colossal palace of **Chambord** was mainly used as a hunting lodge for **Francis I**. Inside you can see the beautiful double-spiral staircase and on the terrace **365 chimnies** all elegantly decorated. You will also visit the **Monmosseau winery** near **Chenonceau**. Return to Paris for Dinner at the Hotel and overnight.

Day Six – This morning after breakfast you will take the Metro to the **Musee d’Orsay** for a guided tour. Here you will find the collection of Impressionist Art most of it moved from the Louvre. After lunch you will climb the steps up to **Montmartre** where the white **Basilica of Sacre-Coeur** places of perpetual pilgrimage that gleams high above Paris. Visit the Basilica and then go round the corner to the nearby **Place du Tertre** where *artists* have set up their easels, and perhaps have your portrait sketched you will have your final dinner at **Montmartre**. Enjoy your last evening in Paris with a scenic cruise down the **River Seine** on one of the Bateaux Parisiens. Return to the hotel for your final night in Paris.

Day Seven -: After breakfast you will be picked-up at the Hotel by coach and transferred to the **Gare de Lyon** train station where you will catch the **TGV** train to **Avignon**. You will arrive and be met by the local guide, coach and be transferred to your hotel. (Example Hotel Le Magnan)

Then enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of the city including entrance to the extravagant **Palais des Papes** and the remains of the **St-Benezet Bridge** featured in the nursery rhyme "**Sur le Pont d'Avignon**" The rest of the day is for the group's plans. Stroll through the old quarter with its fascinating buildings. Bordering the **Sorgue** are unusual waterwheels used by the dyers of the past. You will have dinner and then return to the hotel for overnight.

Day Eight-: This morning you will have a guided bus tour to **Nimes** to see the Roman ruins such as the Temple, Amphitheatre and the Arena. Return to Avignon to take the TGV to **Nice** You will arrive in Nice, and then you will transfer by coach to the Hotel. Check into the Hotel (Example Comfort Inn Nice Vieux Port) You will have dinner a walk along the **French Riviera** and overnight Nice.

Day Nine-: Today you will have a bus tour and this afternoon you will have a walking tour of **Nice** with a local guide. Then the balance of the day will be free for your own exploring in Nice. The pedestrian malls and central shopping area make this a beautiful place to browse. There are also some interesting little museums to visit, as well as the beautiful promenade and **Main Square**. Visit the **Old Town**, the prettiest part of Nice, to see **St-Francois-de-Paule** church, the **Opera House** and place **Garibaldi** with its yellow-ocher buildings and formal fountains. You may wish to visit the **Musee Chagall** on the **boulevard de Cimiez** near the Roman ruins. The collection includes the 17 huge canvasses of "The Message of the Bible" which took 13 years to complete. There is also the **Musee Matisse**. The pedestrian malls and

central shopping area make this a beautiful place to browse. There are also some interesting little museums to visit, as well as the beautiful promenade and Main Square. Spend time strolling through the charming Old Town. If weather permitting, you may wish to spend the day on the **beach!** Dinner and overnight Nice.

Day Ten-: Today you will have guided full day excursion with a local along the coast to the wonderful little villages in the hills above Nice, including **St. Paul de Vence** and **Grasse**-home of the perfume factories. Stop for lunch and some free time in **Cannes** before visiting a perfume factory in **Grasse**. Return to Nice for dinner and overnight.

Day Eleven-: Today you have a full day guided excursion by coach along the scary **Haute Corniche** to **Monte Carlo**, the capital of **MONACO**. You may wish to visit the **Musee Oceanographique** (entrance not included), which houses **Jacques Cousteau's CALYPSO**. Highlights of Monte Carlo include the **Royal Palace** and the very ornate Casino. You will have time at leisure to stroll about Monaco. Then you will go to Italy to visit the little town of **Ventimiglia, Italy**, where you will be able to take in the local market. You will return to Nice via the picturesque little village of **Eze (if time permitting)**, which overlooks the Mediterranean Sea. Dinner and overnight in Nice.

Day Twelve – Transfer by bus to the airport in Nice for your flight back to Calgary.

Included in the Cost of the Tour:

- Airfare Calgary/ Paris return Nice/Calgary via scheduled airlines such as Air Canada/British Airways
- All transportation as stated in the day-to-day itinerary
- Continental Breakfast and dinners daily
- 10 nights Tourist Class Accommodation in multi bedded rooms (mostly triples) with individual beds and bathrooms
- Services of the RAINBOW Escort through out the whole tour
- Entrances and guided sightseeing tours (in French if requested) as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary
- Services of the RAINBOW educational consultant before departure including materials for the students, meetings with parents,
- Comprehensive Insurance: Excess Medical, Trip Cancellation, Baggage and Default
- Airport Tax

- Boat Ride on the Bateaux Mouches
- Carnet (10) Metro tickets
- Entrance to the top of the Arc De Triomphe
- Entrance to the third level of the Eiffel Tower
- Entrance to Versailles
- Entrance to the Louvre
- Entrance to the Opera Garnier
- Entrance to the Palais des Papes
- Entrance to the Roman ruins in Nimes
- Entrance to the Basilica-Sacred Coeur

Not Included:

- Expenses of a personal nature
- Lunches
- Passport and Visa Fees (if necessary)
- Extra Beverages with meals
- Optional tours, excursions and activities
- Single supplements for any single hotel room accommodation required
- Fuel surcharges imposed by airlines or any new taxes**

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