



RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS

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Proposed Itinerary for:-
France in Depth
16 Days/ 14 Nights

Paris (6) Tours (1) St. Malo (2) Mont Saint Michel (1) Caen (2) Rouen (1) Arras (1)

Saturday April 16, 2011

Day One-: Leave from **Calgary** international airport at night for your flight via wide-bodied jet for **Paris**, France. Enjoy in-flight meals and services.

Sunday April 17, 2011

Day Two -: You will arrive at the Charles de Gaulle airport where the **Rainbow Educational Tours Representative** in Paris will meet you and then you will meet your guide and have a half day guided sight seeing of Paris, which will take 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 be taken to your hotel by coach there will be time to check in at the hotel before your orientation. Dinner and continental Breakfast are included throughout the tour. 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**. Dinner in a restaurant and then 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..

Monday April 18, 2011

Day Three-: After breakfast you will travel by Metro to visit the **Tomb of Napoleon** at **Les Invalides**. Then, you have entrance included to the **Musée de l'Armée** which houses items from the middle ages through the Second World War; it is one of the world's richest army museums. One of the most interesting collections includes Napoleon's personal weapons, flag, sword, medals, uniform and his horse and dog are on display in the museum as well. You will continue to the **Louvre** where you will have a guided visit at of the **Palais du Louvre** where you will see Leonardo Da Vinci's **Mona Lisa**, the **Venus de Milo**, the **Raft of the Medusa** by Théodore Géricault, and several other famous works of art. Dinner will be in a local restaurant this evening on the Champs-Élysées. Then, head for the **Eiffel Tower** where you will take the elevator up (entrance included to the 3rd level) for an excellent view of the 'City of Lights' by night. Return to your hotel by metro for overnight.

Tuesday April 19, 2011

Day Four-: This morning after breakfast your coach and guide will take you to the **Palace of Versailles**, the monumental chateau of **Louis XIV**, the '**Sun King**'. You will visit the Private Apartments of the King and Queen including the perfectly-restored boudoir of **Marie Antoinette** and the beautiful **Galerie des Glaces** also known as the **Hall of Mirrors**. Great state occasions were held in this room stretching 70 m (233 ft) along the west façade. Here in 1919 the **Treaty of Versailles** was ratified, ending World War I. Spend time exploring the vast beautiful gardens and fountains. (Entrance included). You will return to Paris you might want to shop in the **Grands Magasins** such as **Printemps** and **Galeries Lafayette**. Explore the **Latin Quarter** and pick up some interesting souvenirs on the '**Boul' 'Mich'**'. This afternoon is free to shop and explore Paris.

Wednesday April 20, 2011

Day Five-: This morning you start your tour with a scenic drive to **Chartres**, where you will see **Chartres Cathedral**. This cathedral escaped the Wars of Religion and the destruction of the French Revolution, as well as the world wars. Today it is the greatest Gothic Cathedral in Europe. One of the prominent features of the Cathedral is the **Stained Glass Windows**, which cover a surface area of over 3 000-sq. meters. After your visit to Chartres, you continue to 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 chimneys** all elegantly decorated. You continue on to Tours for dinner and overnight.

Thursday April 21, 2011

Day Six-: Morning sightseeing of the city of **Tours**. This city is popular with foreign students eager to learn the country's purest French, and is a perfect base for exploring Touraine's impressive Chateaux. You will visit **the Cathedral of St. Gatien**, **Hotel Gouin** and Rue **Bricconet**. You drive to picturesque **St. Malo**. This port was also home to **Jacques Cartier** and the historic old walled town has been completely restored to its pre-war charm. Dinner and overnight St. Malo.

Friday April 22, 2011

Day Seven-: This morning you will have a Half Day tour of St. Malo which will include a visit to the Chateau de St. Malo and the Fort National. The afternoon you will have an opportunity to enjoy walking the ramparts and sampling Breton cuisine. Overnight St. Malo.

Saturday April 23, 2011

Day Eight-: This morning after breakfast you continue to follow in the footsteps of tourists and pilgrims for the last thousand years as you make your way to **Mont St. Michel**. Visit the **Abbey** at the top of the island (actually now joined to the mainland by a causeway) before being at leisure to wander in the narrow streets with brightly-painted signs and souvenir stands. Transfer to your hotel nearby Mont St. Michel for dinner and overnight

Sunday April 24, 2011

Day Nine-: Students will travel across **Normandy** with a scheduled stop at the WWII memorial museum in the city of **Caen** where students can explore the Canadian Gardens and war artifacts. This leg of our journey will take us to the town of **Courseulles-sur-mer** where students may visit the small museum dedicated to the Canadian forces and nearby **Juno Beach**. Students will also have the opportunity to visit some of the bunkers and ramparts, remnants of WWII that still dot the French coastline. **Omaha Beach** is also nearby and boasts an impressive American cemetery and interpretive centre which you will visit. There will be time to visit Point du Hoc on the coast of Normandy situated between Utah and Omaha beaches, where the Germans had a massive battery of guns. Dinner and overnight Caen.

Monday April 25, 2011

Day Ten-: Today, you travel to the town of **Arranches** to visit the **Normandy Beaches**. Entrance to the museum that vividly re-creates the events of June 6, 1944 with a film is included. This morning, you will visit the “**Museum for Peace**”, the Memorial, where you will journey from 1918 to the present day, dealing successively with the failure of the peace treaty following the First World War, the Phoney War of 1939-40, the Occupation, the global spread of the conflict, D-Day, the battle of Normandy and the liberation of France and the rest of the continent from Nazi occupation. Caen was at the center of the Battle of Normandy in June 1940 in a fight for freedom leading to peace. The Memorial recalls the event and what was at stake and encourages all of us to fight for the progress of liberty and the rights of man. Later this afternoon, you will have time to visit Caen; you may wish to visit the 11th century **Abbaye aux Hommes** and **Abbaye aux Dames**, built respectively by William the Conqueror and Queen Mathilde. Dinner and overnight Caen.

Tuesday April 26, 2011

Day Eleven-: This morning after breakfast you will stop at the quaint town of **Honfleur**. This town is very important to Canadians and Canadian History, because it is the point from which Jean Dennis set sail in 1506 to explore the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, and from which Samuel de Champlain set sail in 1608 to found Québec City. Honfleur is a very picturesque town and full of character. Head straight out along the fast **auto route** to **Rouen**. Here you will visit the reconstructed Cathedral of **Notre Dame**. The 525-foot spire of Notre Dame was badly damaged in the war, but has been restored to its original state. Rouen, the city of spires, is host to the largest number of church and cathedral spires in Europe and was the burning-place of Joan of Arc. Students will have the opportunity to walk the streets of the old marketplace and study the thatched roofs, cobbled streets, famous old clock, as well as museums and monuments commemorating the life and struggle of France’s patron saint, Joan of Arc. Dinner and overnight Rouen.

Wednesday April 27, 2011

Day Twelve-: This morning there will be sightseeing in Rouen. You will continue by coach to **Arras** where you will check into your hotel and have time to freshen-up before heading out on your walking tour of the town and tunnels. Dinner and overnight Arras.

Thursday April 28, 2011

Day Thirteen-: Located just outside of this small town lies the twelve thousand tonne marble monument atop **Vimy Ridge** commemorating Canada's significant victory during World War I. Bilingual Canadian guides offer a haunting tour of the networks of tunnels and trenches that housed German and Canadian troops during the battle. At the museum students may learn more about the battle and the monument at Vimy. Later you will continue your journey to Paris for dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Friday April 29, 2011

Day Fourteen-: This morning you will have a walking tour of the Marais district which was the area for the fashion classes and now full of boutiques. The high light of your tour will be the visit to the Jewish bakery. Then you will continue to the Pompidou centre where you will be able to buy your lunch and watch some of the performers. After this you will continue to the catacombs for a guided visit. Dinner and overnight Paris

Saturday April 30, 2011

Day Fifteen-: This morning after breakfast your escort will take you to the Fragonard Museum where you will see how perfume is made and maybe buy some to take home.

This is your last day in Paris so this will be your last time to for some shopping later this afternoon, take the metro to **Montmartre**. You will climb the steps up to the white **Basílica of Sacré Coeur** gleaming high above Paris. Go around the corner to the nearby Place du Tertre where artists have set up their easels, and perhaps have your portrait sketched. In the beginning of the 19th century renowned artists Théodore Géricault and Camille Carot came to this place, and since then Montmartre has been associated with art and artists. You will have dinner in a local restaurant at **Café Montmartre** 7 rue de la Bourdonnais , and then travel by metro to the docks where you will embark on a scenic cruise down the Seine River on one of the **Bateaux Parisiens** for a glimpse of Paris by night.

Sunday May 01, 2011

Day Sixteen -: This morning after breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home to Canada.

Included in the Cost of the Tour:

- Airfare Calgary/ Paris /Calgary via scheduled airlines such as Air Canada or Lufthansa
- All transportation as stated in the day-to-day itinerary
- Continental Breakfast and dinners daily
- 12 nights Tourist Class Accommodation in multi bedded rooms (mostly triples) with individual beds and bathrooms
- Services of the RAINBOW representatives in Paris and tour escort for circuit tour
- Entrances and guided sightseeing tours as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary
- Services of the RAINBOW educational consultant before departure including meetings with parents,
- Comprehensive Insurance: Excess Medical, Trip Cancellation, and Baggage
- Airport Tax (**\$468.07**)
- Tips for the Bus Driver the escort and the guides
- Boat Ride on the Bateaux Parisiens
- 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 Napoleon's Tomb
- Entrance to Musee de l' Armee
- Entrance to Chartres Cathedral
- Entrance to Chenonceau
- Entrance to Chambord
- Entrance to Museum for Peace
- Entrance to Cathedral in Rouen
- Entrance to Museum at Courseulles-sur-mer
- Entrance t Chateau St. Malo
- Entrance fort National
- Entrance to Interpretive Centre Omaha Beach
- Entrance to the Catacombs
- Carnet of Metro Tickets per person.

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

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