
GEEO ITINERARY

Paris and Normandy

Day 1: Paris Arrive in Paris at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Paris at any time. We recommend arriving a day or two early to fully explore this world-renowned city. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference, overcome any jetlag, and avoid any disruption to your trip due to flight delays or cancellations. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Paris before and/or after the trip. Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. The "City of Lights" is unlike any other place on Earth. Known for its glorious monuments, museums, and markets, from the Eiffel Tower to the Louvre, Montmartre to the Marais, Paris has something for everyone. Discover for yourself Paris' "je ne sais quoi."

Day 2: Paris/Bayeux (B, D) Travel to Giverny and visit Claude Monet's garden, the inspiration for his famed series of water lily paintings. Continue to the port town of Honfleur for a guided walk and some free time. This evening, arrive in Bayeux and enjoy a dinner at a local crêperie.

Depart Paris for Upper Normandy and the quaint village of Giverny. Impressionist painter Claude Monet lived and worked here from 1883 until his death in 1926. Monet felt that his flower and water gardens here were his greatest works of art, and they are meticulously maintained to this day. The gardens served as inspiration for his celebrated *Water Lilies* series and have been named by National Geographic as one of the "10 most magnificent gardens in the world." Afterward, continue on to Honfleur, which sits on the estuary where the River Seine meets the English Channel. The town is considered one of the prettiest ports in France, and its quaint harbor and historic buildings have long been a draw for artists, including Monet. Your tour leader will take you on an orientation walk and then leave you with some free time to eat lunch and explore on your own. This evening, arrive in Bayeux and enjoy an included dinner at a local crêperie. Approximate travel time: 3-4 hrs by private vehicle

Day 3: Bayeux (B) Gain insights on the Allied invasion of Normandy during a lecture at a local museum, where you can examine and handle wartime relics. Then head to Secqueville-en-Bessin War Cemetery. This afternoon, visit notable Normandy sites including Omaha Beach, the cratered cliff-top at Pointe du Hoc, and the American cemetery and memorial.

Today is designed for those who can't get enough of WWII history. In the Norman town of Bayeux, you will meet a recognized war historian who will lead a lecture about the Allied invasion of Normandy and how it has shaped this region in Northwest France. Visit a hands-on museum to view and touch relics including weapons, uniforms, vehicles, and maps. Then board an authentic WWII transport to travel to the British War Cemetery at Secqueville-en-Bessin, where you will walk the grounds and learn about the emblem of the ultimate sacrifice in war, the poppy. In the afternoon, visit sites of the D-Day invasion that had a pivotal role in the history of the world. Visit the moving memorials and beaches, and learn about how this event impacted the direction of the Second World War. The Battle of Normandy Historical Area is considered an open-air museum and encompasses all of the sites, museums, and memorials associated with D-Day and the invasion. Old army bunkers and war relics still exist along the five beaches: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Museums and memorials throughout the region are forceful reminders of this decisive moment in WWII. Nearly 30 cemeteries (including American, British,

Canadian, French, German, and Polish) hold the remains of almost 100,000 soldiers who never returned from their service in Normandy. Today, these memorials offer quiet space for personal reflection for every visitor, young or old, regardless of nationality. With your tour leader, you will visit some of the key landmarks from D-Day, which can include Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc, and the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial. Approximate travel time: 3-3.5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 4: Bayeux (B) Visit Mont-Saint-Michel, a medieval fortress that dates to the 6th century and is considered one of Europe's most stunning and imposing sites. Explore on your own after an orientation walk.

Go on an excursion to Mont-Saint-Michel, an iconic town off the coast of Normandy. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the medieval fortress dates to the 6th century and is considered one of Europe's most stunning and imposing sites. Get your bearings with an orientation walk and then explore on your own. Opt to visit the abbey, monastery, or museums, or simply wander the winding lanes and cobblestone streets. At high tide, Mont Saint-Michel is nearly turned into an island. Before road-dykes were added, Mont Saint-Michel was inaccessible to pilgrims and tourists during high tides. Approximate travel time: 3-3.5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 5: Bayeux (B) Enjoy a free day to explore Bayeux and its medieval center. Opt to visit the 11th-century Cathedral of Bayeux, a Norman-Romanesque architectural gem, and see the famed Bayeux Tapestry.

Bayeux's medieval city center is worth exploring, so amble along its quaint streets and take in the local scene at shops and cafés. Then opt to visit the 11th-century Cathedral of Bayeux and see the famed Bayeux Tapestry. Depicting over 50 scenes, the Bayeux Tapestry is a 230-foot-long embroidery created in the 11th century. The scenes tell the tale of the conquest of England by William, Duke of Normandy. The stunning linen canvas was thought to be embroidered by monks in the south of England after the Battle of Hastings in October 1066.

Day 6: Bayeux/Paris (B) Depart for Rouen and explore the port city before heading back to Paris.

Depart for riverside Rouen, and then set out to explore the port city on foot. Rouen was an important city in the Roman era and Middle Ages, showcased by its historical (and beautiful) city center with Gothic churches and medieval half-timbered houses. It is most notable as the place where Joan of Arc was tried for heresy. Enjoy free time in Rouen before heading back to Paris, where you will spend the rest of the day at your leisure exploring the City of Lights. Beautiful Paris is the capital of France and is famous around the world for its magnificent architecture, glorious monuments, fine museums, and romantic ambiance. Check out the Arc de Triomphe, Champs d'Elysees, the Musée du Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, the Centre Pompidou, the Cathedral of Notre-Dame-de-Paris, and the Sacré-Cœur Basilica. The most iconic sight in Paris is, of course, the Eiffel Tower, which sparkles for five minutes every hour, on the hour, from dusk until 11:45 p.m. Take a walk along the famous *ponts de Paris* (bridges) and enjoy some fine French food. Approximate travel time: 3-4 hrs by private vehicle

Day 7: Paris (B, L) Enjoy an orientation walk this morning in the medieval center of Paris, the Île de la Cité. Opt to step inside Sainte-Chapelle. Afterwards, indulge in a guided lunch presentation of French wine and cheese pairings. The rest of the day is free to visit the city's iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower or the Louvre.

During orientation walk this morning around the Île de la Cité, you can opt to step inside Sainte-Chapelle, a dazzling Gothic chapel with 1,113 stained glass windows. Afterward, enjoy a presentation on French wines and learn the art of perfectly pairing them with cheese. Taste five wines presented by our local expert, and learn the proper etiquette, terminology, and appreciation of French wine. Later this afternoon and evening, you are free to explore on your own to discover the *je ne sais quoi* of this marvelous city.

Opt to visit the Eiffel Tower, explore the city's outstanding museums and churches, float down the River Seine on a cruise, or simply people-watch.

Day 8: Paris (B) Depart Paris at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Paris at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Paris, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book.