



**Normandy, Brittany & the
Chateaus of the Loire Valley
September 6th – September 18th, 2025**

***With optional Burgundy & Provence
River Cruise September 18th – September 25th***

Day 1 - Saturday, September 6th

D

Welcome to Paris, the *City of Light*. We make our own way to our hotel independently via taxi or train and meet in the lobby for a late afternoon tour of **Montmartre**. Situated on a hill north of the city, Montmartre is known for its beautiful Sacre Couer (Sacred Heart Church), winding cobblestone streets, artists and beautiful views of the city below. After our walking tour, we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

Overnight Paris- 2 nights pre nights available on request

Day 2 – Sunday, September 7th

BD

After breakfast we tour the **Ile de la Cite** along the Seine. Considered the epicenter of Paris, we'll stroll through the historic streets viewing the landmarks, including a visit to the newly reopened **Notre Dame Cathedral**. The afternoon is free to visit one of Paris's incomparable museums or explore other areas of the city. Dinner will be served on our Seine River cruise this evening featuring Paris in her best "light".



Day 3 – Monday, September 8th

BLD

After breakfast and check out, we make our way outside the city to the **Chateau de Versailles** for an audio guided tour of the palace. Listed as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, Versailles is one of the greatest achievements in 17th century French Art. Grandeur and opulence at its best, the Palace contains 2,300 rooms and the surrounding gardens are 2000 acres!

This afternoon, we tour the beloved garden of Claude Monet – **Giverny**. Monet gained inspiration for his paintings from the waterlilies in the large pond surrounded by weeping willows and a Japanese – style wisteria covered bridge. His flowers were his muse and even today Giverny is an abundant floral paradise.

We then continue on to the charming, pedestrian friendly town of Rouen.

Overnight Rouen – 2 nights

Day 4 – Tuesday, September 9th

B

This morning we **explore** the cobblestone streets of **Rouen** and learn more about its history as a regional capital in Roman times, its role in WWII and Joan of Arc's significance here.



The afternoon is spent in the modern, artistic gardens of **Etretat** blending nature with contemporary art in a dramatic setting. The gardens feature carefully sculpted plants and unique art pieces that mirror the shapes of the nearby cliffs.

There'll be time to take in the stunning coastal views and world- renowned white chalk cliffs rising dramatically from the sea.

Day 5 – Wednesday, September 10th

BD

After breakfast and check out, we travel west and further into Normandy stopping in the picturesque port town of **Honfleur**. Located on the southern bank of the estuary of the Seine River, we'll enjoy a guided tour of this delightful little town. There'll be some free time to explore and have a leisurely lunch before departing for **Arromanches** – ground zero for the D-Day invasion and home to some of the best war museums. Our visit to the **D-Day Landing Museum** will provide us with a greater understanding of that historical event.

Overnight Bayeux – 2 nights

Day 6 – Thursday, September 11th

BL

This morning is spent at Omaha Beach one of the **D-Day beaches** where the American troops landed on June 6th, 1944. We will visit the American Cemetery overhanging the beach and learn more about the events of that fateful day.

This afternoon we'll enjoy a brief **walking tour of Bayeux**, with its stunning thousand-year-old Gothic Cathedral and well-preserved medieval architecture, Bayeux was one of the first towns liberated after the D-Day landing.



Day 7 - Friday, September 12th

B

After breakfast and check out, we journey towards Mont Saint Michel & the region of Brittany. En route we'll stop for a cider tasting at **Domaine de Coquerel Pommeau de Normandie**. This family run distillery has been in operation since 1937 and specializes in the locally popular apple brandy (calvados). Using traditional methods and an orchard with a unique terroir, this distillery produces exceptional products.

There will be time for an independent lunch before enjoying a guided visit of UNESCO's World Heritage Site **Mont Saint Michel and the Abbey**. This magnificent solitary island is one of the most enchanting sites in France. What began as a humble oratory in the 8th century, Mont Saint Michel had the greatest influence in the 12th and 13th centuries as a Benedictine Monastery and served as a political prison during the 18th century French Revolution.

Overnight St. Malo – 2 nights



Day 8 - Saturday, September 13th

BL

This morning we'll tour the old walled city of **Saint Malo** - once a fortified island encircled by ramparts at the mouth of the river Rance. There will be time for free exploration before heading out on a scenic drive along the dramatic Brittany coast of shale and pink sandstone cliffs to **Cap Frehel**. This route has some of the most beautiful views in the region.

Day 9 - Sunday, September 14th

BL

Today we bid Brittany *au revoir* as we travel south into the **Loire Valley**. En route, we stop for a unique experience at the **Roche aux Fees** (Fairy Rock) one of Europe's most impressive dolmens. This Neolithic structure is made up of 41 massive stones forming a covered passageway and perfectly aligned with the winter solstice sunrise. It's an enchanting site to explore and a fascinating glimpse into ancient cultures and their connection to nature and the cosmos.

A **special lunch** will be served in the charming town of Chateaubriant.

Overnight Angers – 1 night

Day 10 – Monday, September 15th

BL

Today we learn more about the region's **troglodyte caves**. First, we'll visit a **mushroom farm** where button mushrooms are cultivated and the caves where they are produced. We'll enjoy lunch in Saumur followed by a **wine tasting** and tour of a uniquely charming **troglodyte vineyard**. Nestled into ancient limestone caves, this region's vineyards honor winemaking traditions in an underground world.

Overnight Saumur – 1 night

Day 11 - Tuesday, September 16th

BLD

Our day begins with a guided tour of the incomparable **Villandry Gardens**. These gardens illustrate the stylistic library of French garden art from the medieval garden to the Renaissance Garden, the formal garden “a la francaise” to contemporary garden design.



Midday, we'll **crruise** the winding, romantic Cher River enjoying lunch as we float past rolling hills of vineyards to the most grand and magnificent Renaissance chateau in the world – Chenonceau.

Our last visit of the day is **Clos de Luce**, the final residence of Leonardo da Vinci. This charming manor is where the great Renaissance master spent his last years honing his inventions and artistic creations. We'll discover his genius through fascinating exhibitions including models of his inventions and sketches.

Overnight Blois – 2 nights

Day 12 - Wednesday, September 17th

BD

This morning we enjoy a self – guided visit to the **International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire** - a garden lover's delight!

This festival showcases innovative and artistic garden designs from designers around the world and is set on the chateau's stunning grounds.



Our afternoon is spent at the **Chateau de Chambord**, one of the most iconic symbols of the French Renaissance. A UNESCO World Heritage site and designed in part by Leonardo da Vinci, Chambord stands as a masterpiece of Renaissance and medieval architecture. The recently restored 18th c., French style gardens perfectly complement the chateau's grandeur.

Day 13 – Thursday, September 18th

B

Today we bid *au revoir* to our group as we return home or continue to Burgundy for the optional cruise.

Reservations and train tickets are available from Blois to Paris or Paris Airport: €70 p.p.

Please note that late afternoon flights back to the US would be best to allow time for travel to the airport and check-in.

Post Tour River Cruise Extension offer:

An optional river cruise extension to the regions of Burgundy and Provence is being offered on *Amawaterways* and is subject to availability. Please see the link below and contact me for more information and availability inquiries.

https://www.amawaterways.com/destination/europe-river-cruises/2025/essence-of-burgundy-provence?ra_ref=lmg&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=&utm_term=&utm_content=&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA34S7BhAtEiwACZzv4SnjSSsoISHoLkRejkzEsK8lD6F7y-iyjIVLWitaNEjaOQMCzI5VlxoCkLcQAvD_BwE



Private coach transfer from our hotel in Blois to Dijon port for optional cruise €215 p.p..

Transfers from the ship to Marseilles Airport on September 25th are available at \$130 per person.

Land Tour Inclusions:

- 12 nights' accommodations in 3-4-star hotels
- air-conditioned coach with professional driver
- local English-speaking guide traveling with group
- breakfast daily and other meals where specified
- lunches & dinners include 1 glass of wine per person
- all sightseeing and garden visits' entry fees per itinerary
- personal audio device for guided tours where available
- all taxes
- tour manager Dee Montpetit travelling with group at all times

Cost:

The tour is priced in Euros and is based on double occupancy with a **minimum of 16** participants. Final payment determines actual cost conversion.

€ 5500 per person - double occupancy
Based on today's rate of exchange (12/26/2024) \$5726

Single supplement:

€1150

Airfare:

Your international airfare from the US is not included. Please contact me if you need assistance with your flights. You will need to arrive in Paris no later than September 6th. Pre-nights are available on request.

Hotels:

Please be advised that our group room blocks are "run of house" and individual rooms are assigned by the hotel on the day of arrival. It is based on availability and room assignments are completely arbitrary unless special requests have been made. Historic hotels especially have rooms of varying sizes and locations.

Payment schedule and cancellation policy: A \$1500 per person deposit is due at time of reservation. The deposit is nonrefundable.

Final payment is due **July 1st** and is non-refundable. A check is the required method of payment for the deposit. For final payment, a 4% surcharge will be added for credit card use.

Please make checks payable to **Ma Petite Tours** and send along with your reservation form to the address below:

Ma Petite Tours
9614 180th ST SE
Snohomish, WA. 98296

Insurance: Insurance is highly recommended. Once the deposit is received you will be emailed information from Allianz regarding insurance coverage. There can be restrictions pertaining to pre-existing coverage so please read the fine details. Since all payments are non-refundable, it is important to purchase as quickly as possible to ensure coverage. Insurance can be paid by credit card via the link for no additional fee.

Documentation: You will need a valid US Passport with at least 3 months' validity from the return date to visit France. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you on the required documentation.

Health statement:

While on the tour, if you are exhibiting signs of a respiratory illness other than seasonal allergies, we ask that you please mask when on the bus or in an indoor space with the group. If you have a fever, please stay back from the group until you recover. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Please complete the attached reservation form and send your deposit to secure your reservation.

For more information, contact:

Dee Montpetit at 425-208-6515 or

email: dee@mapetitegardens.com



France 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Person and phone #: _____

Passport Information:

Passenger One: _____

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Traveling with: _____

Passenger Two: _____

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Special Requests:

Single requesting share: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical: _____