



ACADEMY  
TRAVEL

TAILORED  
SMALL GROUP  
JOURNEYS

# PARIS IN SPRINGTIME

A JOURNEY THROUGH ART & HISTORY

## OVERVIEW

As Audrey Hepburn once said, 'Paris is always a good idea', but never more so than in Spring when blue skies and clear air show the city at its sparkling best.

Through lectures, immersive walking tours, museum visits and excursions, our 14-day residential tour will introduce you to the fine art, beautiful architecture, fascinating history, and sophisticated gastronomic tradition for which Paris is justifiably famous. Adding a unique local perspective to your experience is our guide – Parisian resident, writer and historian Patrick Bade.

Our elegant four-star hotel, located near the historic Opéra Garnier and minutes from the fashionable rue Saint – Honoré, provides the ideal base for a program which includes extended visits to iconic museums such as the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay and lesser-known sites such as the Musée Nissim Camondo, Musée Carnavalet and Musée des Années Trente.

Our walking tours, taking us from the restrained elegance of the Palais Royal to the fashionable Marais district, are complemented by a day trip to the royal palace of Fontainebleau and a Sunday morning browsing the iconic flea markets. Two performances and select meals in carefully chosen restaurants complete the experience.



## TOUR LEADER

Local Parisian **Patrick Bade** is an historian, writer, and broadcaster who studied at University College London and at the Courtauld, before becoming a lecturer at Christies Education.

## TOUR DATES

**March 10-23, 2025** | 14 Days

## TOUR PRICE

**\$13,420** per person, twin share  
**\$3,770** single supplement

## TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

## GROUP SIZE

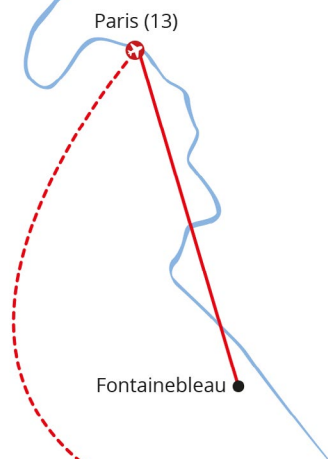
Maximum number of **16** in group

## ITINERARY

Paris (13 nights)

## INCLUSIONS

**13** nights' accommodation in a centrally located 4-star hotel. All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners. Best available tickets to **3** performances. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

### World-Class Art – Ancient to Modern

Admire the Louvre's superlative collection and deepen your appreciation of modern and contemporary art at the Musée d'Orsay, Musée Marmottan Monet and the Pompidou Centre

### Paris beyond the guidebook

Experience the diversity of Paris as our walking tours take us through its fascinating arrondissements – urban precincts each with their own distinct personality, spiralling out from the river to the edge of the city.

### Centuries of Sophistication

Appreciate the elegance of Parisian architecture, art and interiors from the graceful surrounds of the Palais Royal to the extraordinary sculptures of Rodin and the superb decor of the Hôtel de la Marine.

### Fontainebleau

Discover the Renaissance beauty of the chateau of Fontainebleau, the only chateau occupied by 34 successive kings of France and the favoured residence of Napoleon Bonaparte.

### Fine dining

Enjoy a selection of iconic French restaurants from local bistrotts where Parisians linger over lunch, to the opulent Le Grand Vefour, the fabulous restaurant of the Musée d'Orsay and a farewell meal at the historic Train Bleu Restaurant inside the Gare de Lyon.

## Start & Finish

The tour starts at 3.30pm on Monday 10 March, at the Hotel Edouard VII, Paris.

The tour ends after breakfast on Sunday 23 March, at the Hotel Edouard VII, Paris.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

## Monday 10 March

### Arrival

After individual travel arrangements to Paris, join the tour leader for a mid-afternoon orientation tour of the local area before we meet in the evening for welcome drinks, followed by a welcome dinner at le Grand Vefour, an opulent 1700's brasserie within easy walking distance of the hotel. Overnight Paris (D)

## Tuesday 11 March

### Palais, Places & Passages

Following an introductory lecture in the hotel, we begin our Paris adventure with a walking tour through the elegant Palais Royal precinct. Originally built for Cardinal Richelieu, the Palais was the childhood home of Louis XIV and the venue for lively parties thrown by the Regent, Philippe d'Orléans. Strapped for cash in 1781, Philippe subdivided the site, creating one of the first purpose-built shopping promenades. Here there's time to explore the chic boutiques in the beautiful Belle Epoque arcades before we pause for lunch in a charming local bistrot. In the afternoon we make our way to the Palais Garnier, where we tour this opulent and extravagant 19th-century temple to music, adorned with gold leaf, coloured marble, and artworks commissioned from the leading artists of the time. Overnight Paris (B, L)

## Wednesday 12 March

### Musée D'Orsay

When the Gare d'Orsay was built in 1900, painter Edmund Detaille declared that the railway station looked like a palace of fine art. How appropriate then that one of Detaille's paintings is now part of the exceptional collection of 19th-century art in the building beautifully recreated as the Musée d'Orsay. A talk at the hotel this morning is followed by a tour of the museum and collection highlights before a break for lunch in the elegant, frescoed restaurant. The afternoon is reserved for any special exhibits featured in the museum's spring program, or more time in the permanent collection. Overnight Paris (B, L)





### Thursday 13 March

#### The Marais | Performance I

Following this morning's lecture, today's walking tour takes us through the Marais. The chequered history of this fascinating district saw it transform from swamp to royal precinct then fall out of favour and into decay before being reborn first as an active Jewish community then as the fashionable, bohemian heart of Paris. Thanks to its aristocratic past, the area has retained many of its grand mansions or *hôtels particuliers*, now transformed into exceptional museums. We visit the Musée Carnavalet, whose comprehensive display charts the history of Paris through to 1789, before a light lunch in our tour leader's favourite bistro. There is also the opportunity to visit other sites such as the elegant Musée Picasso before returning to the hotel. This evening we attend a performance (opera, ballet or orchestral, depending on schedules). Overnight Paris (B, L)

#### Performance details

Venue: To be announced

Program: To be announced

Performers: To be announced

### Friday 14 March

#### Musée Marmottan Monet - Paris between the wars

After our lecture this morning we make our way to the Musée Marmottan Monet on the edge of the Bois de Boulogne. Once the hunting lodge of the Duke de Valmy, then home to collector Paul Marmottan, the lodge now houses an extraordinary collection of Impressionist works, established with bequests from Doctor Georges de Bellio, an early supporter of the Impressionist movement, and Claude Monet's son and heir Michel. Here we'll see many of Monet's later works such as the monumental water lily canvases, beautifully displayed in a purpose-built room. After a break for lunch we transfer to nearby Boulogne Billancourt, a smart area west of the centre of Paris, where we visit the Musée des Années Trente, an often-overlooked gem which champions the fine, decorative, and Industrial arts of the 1930s. The excellent, wide-ranging collection includes paintings and decorative arts from the period. Overnight Paris (B)



Nissim de Camondo

### Saturday 15 March

#### Nissim de Camondo

Our destination this morning is the beautiful Musée Nissim de Camondo, a sumptuous residence built by wealthy banker Moïse de Camondo to showcase his astonishing collection of 18th-century furniture and objets d'art. On his death in 1935, Moïse bequeathed both house and contents to the French state in honour of his only son Nissim, who was killed in action in WWI. After a break for lunch we take a walk in the nearby Parc Monceau, a genteel oasis established in the late 18th century by Phillippe d'Orleans. Painted by Monet, beloved by Berlioz, the park's informal layout in the "English" style makes it a popular destination for an afternoon promenade. Returning to the hotel the afternoon is at leisure before meeting again this evening for dinner close to the hotel. Overnight Paris (B, D)





**Sunday 16 March**  
**Marché aux Puces**

Today is at leisure if you wish to relax near the hotel, or your tour leader is happy to lead a stroll around one of Paris's famous flea markets. The Marchés aux Puces first appeared in Paris in the 18th century, located just outside the gates of the city to avoid paying fees and taxes. Still located around the peripherique, the ring road which separates the city from the suburbs, the markets sell quality second hand goods. The Marché aux Puces de Vanves is one of the smaller and easier to navigate flea markets, tucked away in a quiet corner of the city. Expect to find eccentric furniture, vintage collectables and quirky curiosities - some of which should fit in your suitcase! Overnight Paris (B)

**Monday 17 March**  
**Fontainebleau**

This morning we join our coach for Fontainebleau. Ignored by large tour groups in favour of its showier competitor Versailles, Fontainebleau is a gem of a château and a wonderful destination in Spring. The original medieval castle on the site was transformed into a hunting lodge for the early Kings of France before Francois I commissioned architect Giles le Breton to transform it once more into a magnificent Renaissance palace. The château was further extended by subsequent monarchs from Henri II through to Louis XIV and remained relatively unscathed through the Revolution, but the site languished until rediscovered by Napoleon, who decorated a suite of apartments in his favoured Empire style. Our visit today includes the Grand apartments and the apartments of Napoleon, followed by a stroll around the gardens, weather permitting. Returning to Paris the evening is at leisure. Overnight Paris (B)



Fontainebleau

**Tuesday 18 March**  
**Republic of Pleasure | Performance II**

Behind the clichés and tourist tat, Montmartre has a fascinating and colourful story to tell. The site where 3rd-century Christian bishop and martyr Saint Denis was believed to have been beheaded by the Romans, Mons Martyrium was also the birthplace of Parisian bohemia, cabaret and, arguably, of modern art. Our walking tour takes us through the winding, cobbled streets and up to the basilica of Sacré-Cœur then on to the Montmartre cemetery, whose famous residents include Dégas, Nijinsky and François Truffaut. After free time for lunch, we visit the Musée de la Vie Romantique, a charming museum devoted to the works of novelist George Sand and artists of the Romantic Period. Tonight we enjoy our second performance (opera, ballet or orchestral, depending on schedules). Overnight Paris (B)

**Performance details**

Venue: To be announced  
Program: To be announced  
Performers: To be announced



Hôtel de la Marine



### Wednesday 19 March

#### The Louvre and the Hôtel de la Marine

After our lecture this morning our group divides in two to make the most of a small group visit to two special destinations – the Louvre and the Hôtel de la Marine – with the groups swapping destination after each visit. The Palais du Louvre was a royal residence from the time of Charles V – demolished, rebuilt and extended by successive monarchs – until Louis XIV took his court to his splendid new palace at Versailles. After the Revolution the Louvre became a public museum and today contains one of the world's great collections of art and sculpture. A short walk across the Tuileries is the Hôtel de la Marine, a beautiful neo-classical building which served as the French Naval headquarters for over 200 years. Today the Hôtel displays beautifully restored 18th-century apartments as well as precious objects from the extensive collection of Sheik Hamad bin Abdullah Al Thani. Your Louvre ticket allows re-entry all day to maximise your exploration. Overnight Paris (B)

### Thursday 20 March

#### Love and War | Performance III

August Rodin bought the 18th-century Hôtel Biron in 1908, using the residence as a home and studio until his death in 1917. He bequeathed his entire collection of sculptures together with a number of significant paintings to the French State and the building opened as the Musée Rodin in 1919. Today the museum and sculpture garden which surrounds it offer an extraordinary insight into the sculptor's life with many of his greatest works on display. There is time to explore the collection and enjoy lunch in the museum café before we continue on to the Hôtel des Invalides, housing the tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte. Under a dome created by Jules Hardouin-Mansart for Louis XIV and regilded with 12 kilos of gold leaf for the bicentenary of the Revolution in 1989, the emperor rests in a magnificent red porphyry sarcophagus alongside many of France's greatest military heroes. This evening we attend a performance (opera, ballet or orchestral, depending on schedules). Overnight Paris (B)

#### Performance details

Venue: To be announced

Program: To be announced

Performers: To be announced

### Friday 21 March

#### Musée des Arts Décoratifs

Occupying the west wing of the Louvre, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs is dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of the decorative arts. The museum's vast permanent collection of largely European decorative arts has objects dating from the Middle Ages to the present day, including furniture, fashion, ceramics, glass, jewellery, textiles, toys and more. The fragile nature of many of the objects means that the museum stages fascinating, carefully curated



Musée Rodin

## HOTEL

### Paris, Hotel Edouard VII

(13 nights)

Located in central Paris, the Edouard is situated between the Paris Opéra Garnier and the Louvre. Offering elegant furnishings and amenities, rooms are modern and inviting for our two week stay. Additionally, the Avenue de l'Opéra and its surroundings offer some of the most prominent boutiques, such as the Galeries Lafayette and Printemps department stores, restaurants and bars in the city.

[www.hoteledouard7-paris.com](http://www.hoteledouard7-paris.com)

## WEATHER

Spring is arriving in Paris, so expect to have crisp, clear and cool days. Temperatures will sit around 12-15°C in the day and will drop into the single digits overnight. It can be lovely time of the year in Paris with bright blue skies and clear sunlight, though we are likely to get a few days of rain throughout the tour.

## FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

### Grade One

This tour is appropriate for travellers in good health with good mobility. You should be able to:

- comfortably participate in up to three hours of physical activity per day, including walking at an easy pace, sometimes on uneven terrain, with only short breaks
- keep up with the group at all times
- stand for one to two hours in galleries and museums at a time
- negotiate stairs and bridges
- get on and off a coach, train, ferry or boat with steep stairs unassisted
- move your luggage a short distance if required

seasonal exhibitions alongside the static collection. While your tour leader will help you navigate this extraordinary space, you may like to choose an area that particularly interests you and explore at leisure. After a break for lunch we walk up through the Tuileries to the Musée de l'Orangerie. This collection of impressionist and post-impressionist art complements what we have seen at the Marmottan Monet and includes a further set of Monet's magnificent *Water Lilies*, gifted by the artist in 1922. Overnight Paris (B)

### Saturday 22 March

#### Centre Pompidou

After a relaxed start to the day we head to the Beaubourg district where, in 1977, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing opened what was then the outrageously modern Centre Pompidou, designed by Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers. Now nearly 50 years old the Pompidou is showing its age, so we have a very special opportunity to enjoy both the building and its superb collection of modern art before it closes till 2030 for renovation and expansion. After a break for lunch the afternoon is at leisure before we meet for our farewell dinner at Le Train Bleu, the fine dining restaurant at the Gare de Lyon, whose majestic, thematic rooms representing the cities and regions of France were created for the Universal Exhibition in 1900. Overnight Paris (B, D)

### Sunday 23 March

#### Departure

Our tour ends after breakfast in our hotel. Transfers are available to Charles de Gaulle airport for those meeting departing flights. (B)



## ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Lucy Yeates** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

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