

D-Day Commemoration Concert Series

Commemorating the 73rd Anniversary of the
Battle of Normandy and the Liberation of France

Custom Tour #3 (7 nights/9 days)

Day 1 June 4

Depart via scheduled air service to Paris, France

Day 2 June 5 Paris / Rouen / Caen (D)

Arrive in Paris

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Caen

Time permitting, stop en route at Rouen to see the Cathedral. In the Place de la Cathédrale stands the Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame, one of the largest and most magnificent in France. The most striking feature is the elaborately articulated west front which was several times painted by Claude Monet

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

As the capital of Lower Normandy, Caen is a thriving university city with exceptional historical heritage. William the Conqueror lent the town his favor in the 11th century and commissioned many of the city's most famous sites including the Abbey aux Hommes and the Abbey aux Dames, where his wife Mathilde is buried. Caen was the center of some of the fiercest fighting in the Liberation of 1944. The peace memorial is unquestionably the greatest museum of World War II and a "must-see" for anyone who visits the city

Day 3 June 6 Caen (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning excursion to Coleville to *perform a short memorial recital*, and participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the American Cemetery, site of the June 6th Normandy Invasion

Lunch on own

Return to Caen for sightseeing including a visit to the Peace Memorial. The Memorial, to the northwest of the town center, is a modern Peace Museum. Its themes are the two world wars and the means of ensuring and preserving peace. Also pass the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, built by William the Conqueror

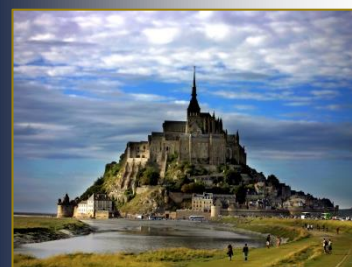
Performance as part of the D-Day Memorial Concert Series

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4 June 7 Caen / Mont St. Michel / St. Malo (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Mont St. Michel. Mont St-Michel is one of the most striking sights that France has to offer. Perched on its rocky islet and surrounded by walls and bastions, this old abbey has the appearance of a fortified castle. Entrance is included to the Abbaye, La Merveille (the incredible grouping of buildings on the north side of the Mount), the Abbaye Gardens and the Refectory



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Lunch on own

Continue to St. Malo

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France

Evening dinner and overnight

Within the walls of St. Malo there is a wealth of narrow streets, alley and ancient steps to wander with plenty of cafés and restaurants where you can sit and enjoy. It is difficult to image that 80% of it was destroyed during the Second World War



Day 5 June 8 St. Malo / Rennes / Angers / Tours (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Rennes. Rennes boasts a rich heritage, with its Parliament of Brittany building, Champs Libres centre, Fine Arts Museum and Thabor gardens. The city also has magnificent fortifications

Lunch on own

Continue to Angers, the capital of the historic province of Anjou. Angers is considered one of the most beautiful cities in France. Foremost among its many notable structures is the magnificent twin-spiraled Cathedral of Saint Maurice (12th-13th century) and the massive Castle of Angers (early 13th century), with its moat and soaring towers

Then it is off to Tours for dinner and overnight



Tours was an important center of trade and administration under the Romans, but is presently most famous for its location in the heart of the Chateaux Country of France— also known as the "garden of France." Kings and courtiers and magnates built famous Renaissance chateaux such as Blois, Chambord, Chenonceaux, Azay-le-Rideau in this gentle valley



Day 6 June 9 Tours (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a guided tour of the Loire Valley, including entrance to one of the most famous Chateau. *Chateau Chenonceau* is perhaps the finest of all of the castles in the region. It straddles a river and was constructed in the 1520's, once the home of Diane de Poitiers, Catherine de Medici and other luminaries

Lunch on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 7 June 10 Tours / Chartres / Paris (B,D)

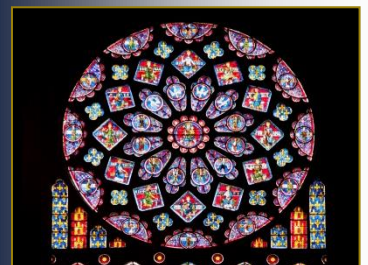
Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Paris

Stop en route at Chartres for a tour of the magnificent cathedral. Pilgrims have now been coming for almost eight centuries to admire the 175 representations of the Virgin Mary. The 25,000 square feet of stained glass (mostly from the 12th century) depicting 5,000 figures is considered the greatest achievement of this art form in the world

Lunch on own

Continue to Paris for a half-day guided tour of *Paris historique*, including



Notre-Dame Cathedral, Champs Elysees, Luxembourg Palace and Gardens, Place de la Bastille, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Place de la Concorde, Latin Quarter, and other highlights
Evening dinner and overnight

With its grand boulevards, Streetside cafés, magnificent architecture, and river vistas, it takes little to understand why Paris is known as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. There is nothing more inspiring than walking the streets of Paris taking in the dynamic atmosphere. Paris is a place that breathes history and legend, a perfect combination of the modern and the ancient

Day 8 June 11 Paris (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy an afternoon tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the largest and greatest art museum in the world

Lunch on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 9 June 12 Depart for home (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to one of Paris's airports for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. *Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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