



Welcome to France!



France is as diverse as its landscapes: from the endless beaches of Normandy to the perched villages of Provence and the green hills of Auvergne to the turquoise bays of Corsica. Meet the real French for wine tastings and cooking classes, off-the-beaten-tracks visits, exclusive itineraries with our expert licensed guides that drive and more...

Discover the largest country of West Europe, more of half of France is composed of vast plains, beautiful coasts and France hosts Western Europe's highest peak in the Alps, Mont Blanc. The climate is temperate, except near the mountains or in the northeast, with cool winters and mild summers. Southern France is generally warm, with mild winters and hot summers.



French people are known for good fashion sense and good food. They are courteous people, but also frank and usually to the point. French is the official language of France, and it is important for you to learn a bit of French. Indeed, your trip will be more enjoyable if you are able to relate to French people. Also, it will be easier to understand the culture once you learn the language.

As for French manners, the handshake is commonly used in France when people meet another for the first time, in both social and business settings. Close friends greet each other by kissing each other on the cheek (la bise). People typically greet one another with bonjour (good morning), bonsoir (good afternoon) and au revoir (goodbye). Party guests are expected to bring a gift, such as flowers or a bottle of wine.

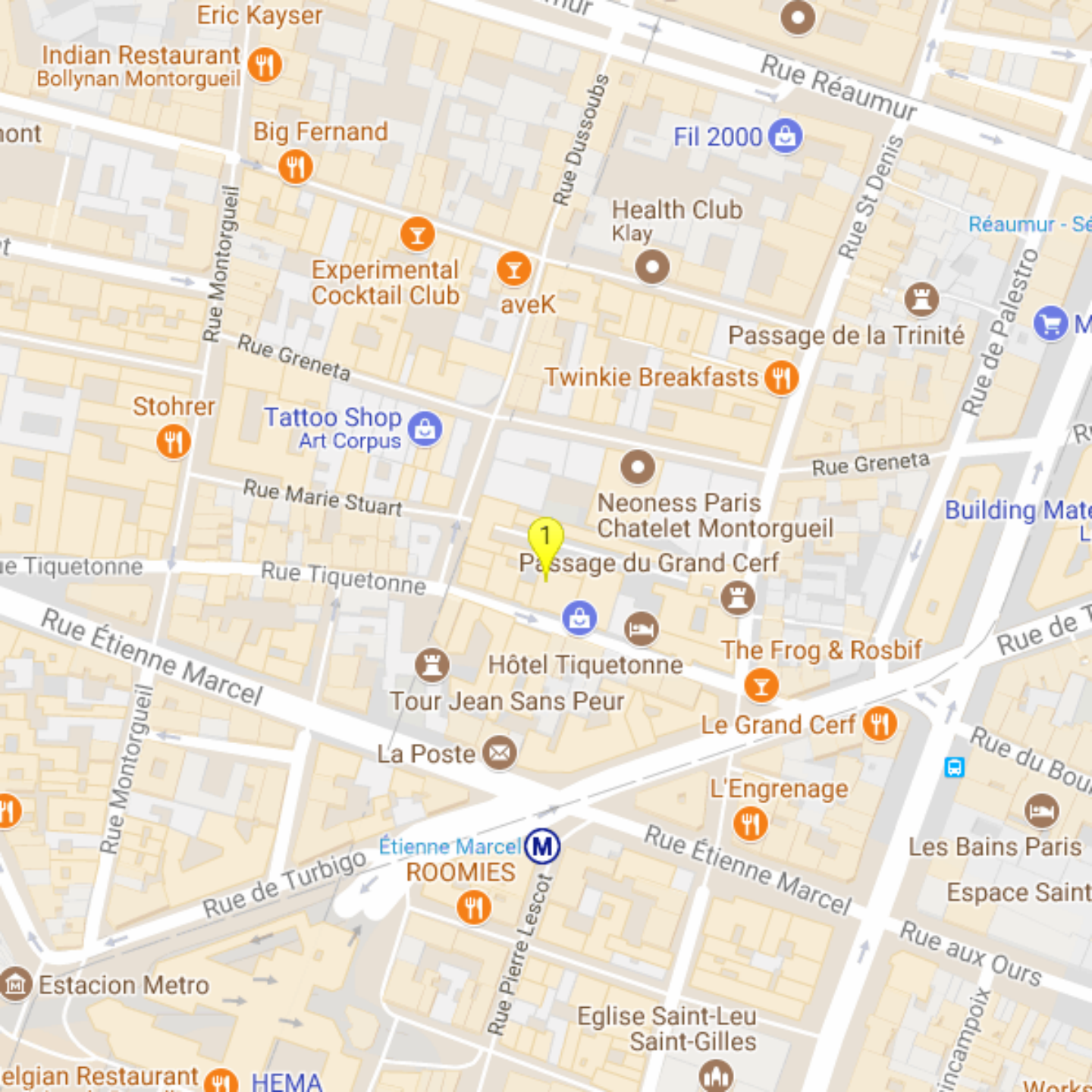


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Your itinerary

January 04: Arrival in Paris





Paris

Discover Paris!



Like all the world's great capitals, Paris lives at a fast pace, by day and night. It is divided into 20 districts that spiral out like a snail shell from the first, centered round the Louvre. Enjoy a stroll through Paris while on vacation and soak up the "art de vivre", it will feel as if you are walking through an open-air museum. Admire the city's regal buildings, gardens, fountains and places which have witnessed so monumental events & so fascinating history.

Paris is a place of iconic architecture, with its famous cloud-piercing Eiffel tower, Arc de Triomphe at the end of the most famous avenue of the world, les Champs-Élysées. Notre-Dame and its gargoyles, old bridges and Art Nouveau cafes are famously part of the City. Always evolving, the City now proudly shows the contemporary Centre Pompidou and the Musée du Quai Branly and its vegetal wall.

Paris is also famous for its cuisine. Anywhere from cosy bistros to three-star Michelin stars, you'll be able to find quality produces, with excellent presentation and preparation, always served with wine. Stop at the cheese shops, boulangeries, patisseries for top produces to take to a picnic in the city's parks and gardens.

Lastly, browse designer boutiques, flagship haute couture stores, concept stores to find the perfect dress. Wander in vintage shops and flea markets, original bookshops and bookseller on the banks of the Seine, antique dealers, gourmet food and wine shops galore!



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APR 03, 2017 - YOUR EXPERIENCE IN PARIS

Treasure hunt in musée du louvre



Parents and children learn from the same works of art, but the younger set gets additional motivation through our educational and interactive treasure hunt (parents are free to pitch in of course!).

This scavenger hunt takes the family and their personal guide through a broad range of collections (Ancient Near East, Greek and Roman, Renaissance Italian, French), asking specific and detailed questions about many of the Louvre's masterpieces.

It is designed to give children (ages 6-12) an entertaining background to the history of art while sharpening their "detective" skills of observation. Their own answers to the clues lead them to discover an educational prize hidden somewhere under the Louvre's glass pyramid.





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Château de versailles



The Château de Versailles, which has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List for 30 years, is one of the most beautiful achievements of 18th-century French art. The site began as Louis XIII's hunting lodge before his son Louis XIV transformed and expanded it, moving the court and government of France to Versailles in 1682. Each of the three French kings who lived there until the French Revolution added improvements to make it more beautiful.

The Hall of Mirrors, the King's Grand Apartments, the Museum of the History of France. The Château de Versailles, the seat of power until 1789, has continued to unfurl its splendour over the course of centuries. At first it was just a humble hunting lodge built by Louis XIII. But Louis XIV chose the site to build the palace we know today, the symbol of royal absolutism and embodiment of classical French art.





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Gardens and park of the château



From the central window of the Hall of mirrors the visitor look down on the grand perspective that leads the gaze from the Water Parterre to the horizon. This original perspective, which preceded the reign of Louis XIV, was developed and prolonged by the gardener André Le Nôtre by widening the Royal Path and digging the Grand Canal. This vast perspective stretches from the façade of the Château de Versailles to the railings of the park.



In 1661, Louis XIV commissioned André Le Nôtre with the design and laying out of the gardens of Versailles which, in his view, were just as important as the Château. The works were undertaken at the same time as those for the palace and took forty years to complete. But André Le Nôtre did not work alone: Jean-Baptiste Colbert, Superintendent of the King's Buildings, directed the project from 1664 to 1683; Charles Le Brun, appointed First Painter of the King in January 1664, produced the drawings for a large number of statues and fountains; and, a little later, the architect Jules Hardouin-Mansart drew up increasingly understated scenic plans and built the Orangerie. Lastly, the King had all the projects submitted to him and wanted the "details of everything".

The laying out of the gardens required enormous work. Vast amounts of earth had to be shifted to lay out the flower beds, the Orangerie, the fountains and the Canal, where previously only woods, grasslands and marshes were. The earth was transported in wheelbarrows, the trees were conveyed by cart from all the provinces of France and thousands of men, sometimes whole regiments, took part in this vast enterprise.



Services

Detailed itinerary

April 03

- Treasure hunt in Musée du Louvre

From 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.

Meeting point: at the Arc du Carrousel, facing the Louvre

2 hours of Treasure Hunt with a professional guide at the Louvre Museum

Entrance fees included

Lunch not included

12.00 pm: End of the visit

Transport from and to your Hotel on your own.



Detailed itinerary

April 04

- Half day excursion with a guide-driver in Paris
From 8.00 am to 1.00 pm
Pick up and drop off at your hotel.
Meet your driver guide at the lobby of your hotel.
Please, do not forget your ID documents (for each member of the family)
- Château de Versailles
Entrances fees included.



Sales and terms Conditions

Please note that our quotes are merely informative as all services are subject to availability. All fares and availabilities will therefore be confirmed on the day you confirm your client's booking by faxing us back the signed credit card authorization form.

TOTAL COST INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

The total NET price provided by Découvertes includes the services listed, a tailor-made itinerary, Découvertes' fees and taxes. We consider that our negotiated rates are confidential and therefore, as a general rule, Découvertes does not provide a break-down of rates and services – thank you for your understanding.

VIP TREATMENT

- Personalised Itinerary
- Prepaid Voucher/s
- Co-ordination and Support
- 24 hours Concierge service (Assistance) during your trip

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Airfare not listed in the itinerary
- Transfers not specified in the itinerary
- Entrances fees when not mentioned
- Meals when not mentioned
- Room Service
- Excess Baggage Charges
- Porterage
- Passport and Visa Fees
- Personal & Travel Insurance
- Gratuities
- Any Item specified as 'Own Arrangements'

Terms conditions

RESERVATIONS

GUIDE- DRIVERS Vs DRIVER-GUIDES:

Our Guide-drivers will chauffeur your clients; they are also licensed to guide and accompany them into museums and monuments.

Driver-guides are NOT qualified to enter and guide your clients into museums, as well as around historical monuments and sights, for this purpose we recommend your clients have either a driver AND a guide or a Guide who is licensed and insured to drive. Our Driver-guides all speak very good English and will chauffeur your clients on sightseeing tours, their knowledge of the historical aspects of the territory can NOT be incompared to that of a guide.

A 30% deposit is requested at the time of booking and full payment 45 days prior to your clients' arrival in France, unless otherwise advised. Payment is made in Euros and can be made by credit card, US Dollars check, Euro check or wire transfer.

Découvertes accepts the following credit cards: American Express, Visa and Mastercard. Please note that Découvertes does not charge any supplement for credit card payments.

FINAL DOCUMENTS

You will receive, via email, 30 days prior to the travelers arrival in France the following documentation: General Prepaid Voucher, Individual Vouchers for hotels and special services where required.

Cancellation policy

Découvertes strongly recommends that travellers purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance. The following cancellation penalties apply for non group bookings:-

- In case of cancellation up to 30 days of individual services (up to 7 services) – a penalty of Euro 35,00 per service will be charged.
- In case of cancellation up to 30 days before arrival of more than 7 services - an administration fee of 250 Euros per person will be charged;
- In case of cancellation up to 30 - 15 days prior to arrival date 25% of the full cost of your holiday will be charged.
- In case of cancellation 14 - 7 days before - 50% of the full cost of your holiday will be charged.
- In case of cancellation less than 7 days prior to arrival date - 100% of the full cost of your holiday will be charged.

REFUNDS

Within 30 days of receiving written notification of the cancellation the refund will be processed. The refund will be made in Euro or US Dollars and sent to the traveller, via the travel consultant by Check.

UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Trip costs do not include items not specified in the itinerary. Although Découvertes will make every effort to adhere to this itinerary, on rare occasions it may be necessary to make an adjustment to these arrangements. Should such adjustment be necessary, a substitute will be offered when and where possible. If war or terrorist activities threatened or actual, civil unrest, closures of airports or seaports, industrial action threatened or any other event outside the control of Découvertes which causes either delays or extends the holiday or compels a change in the holiday arrangements.

Découvertes cannot accept liability for any resulting loss, damage or expense and any refund will be subject to deduction of reasonable expenses. These conditions are governed by French law and both parties shall submit to the jurisdiction of French Courts at all times.



YOUR TRAVEL AGENT IN ORINDA

Leslie Lagomarsino
Lagomar Travel (HQ)



YOUR TRAVEL AGENT IN FRANCE

Jessica Decouvertes
Découvertes



Découvertes
Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel