



Paris, the Loire and the Riviera

10 or 12 DAYS

Included in the program fee:

- Round trip airfare
- Transfers to and from the airport and hotel and between destination cities (as per program itinerary)
- Overnight in hotels with private bathrooms
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinner daily
- Full-time services of an EF Tour Director

Not included in the program fee:

- Customary gratuities for your tour director, local guide and driver
- Porterage
- Personal Insurance
- Beverages and lunches
- Public transportation to free time activities

Overnight stays: French Riviera (2); Provence (1); Lyon (1); Loire Valley (2); Paris (2 or 3); [Normandy region \(1\)](#).

Sightseeing tours led by an expert: Loire Valley; Paris.

Entrances included: Perfume factory in Eze; Nîmes or Arles Amphitheatre; Pont du Gard; Papal Palace; Château de Chenonceau; Château d'Amboise; Chartres Cathedral; Louvre; Seine River Cruise; [Caen Memorial](#); [Juno Beach Centre](#); [Pointe du Hoc](#).

Optional Excursions: Versailles.

Please note that the following is a sample timed itinerary for this EF tour with approximate addresses, activity durations, and transfer times. Exact timing may vary based on available flights, hotel location, scheduled activity bookings, traffic, etc. Your EF Tour Director is available to the group 24/7 while on tour. EF works with Group Leaders to ensure that travellers have a safe and memorable experience while on tour.

Day 1: Fly overnight to France

Day 2: French Riviera

Morning: Arrive in the French Riviera and meet your Tour Director at the airport

Welcome to the French Riviera, land of deep blue waters waving palm trees and sun-drenched promenades. Learn why this area of France is a favored resort of the rich and famous, locals and visitors alike.

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

2:00pm: Walking tour of Nice

Get to know Nice during your Tour Director-led walking tour. Together you might stroll through the Vieille Ville or see the famous Promenade des Anglais.

5:00pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in the French Riviera

7:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in the French Riviera

9:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 3: French Riviera

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to Monaco and Eze

10:00am: Walking tour of Monaco

Your Tour Director will introduce you to Monaco. Together, you might see the Casino Monte-Carlo, or the hairpin turn made famous by the Monaco Grand Prix.

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

2:00pm: Visit a perfume factory

Stop in Eze, a small medieval town perched on a cliff high above the waters of the Mediterranean.

5:30pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in central Nice

7:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel

9:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 4: French Riviera | Provence

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to Provence via Nîmes and the Pont du Gard

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

2:00pm: See the Pont du Gard

See the Pont du Gard, a portion of an aqueduct built by the Emperor Agrippa in AD 19. This spectacular work of Roman engineering is impressive in both form and function-the water conduit, atop the three levels of arches over the River Gard, brought 2,000 gallons of fresh water to the city each day.

3:30pm: Walking tour of Nîmes

Your Tour Director acquaints you with the ancient Gallic settlement of Nîmes. The town sprouted up around a sacred spring, which was the haunt of the god Nemausus, origin of the city's name. With the arrival of the Romans in 121 BC, the settlement began to prosper. Today, you will visit an ancient amphitheater built to accommodate 21,000 spectators. Nîmes is also famous as the birthplace of denim, a fabric named for its origins-de Nîmes.

4:30pm: Visit the Nîmes Amphitheatre

Also called the Arena of Nîmes, the Nîmes Amphitheatre is a Roman style amphitheatre that was built around 70 AD. The structure's original usage, however, has now shifted as the amphitheatre currently hosts 2 major bullfights per year.

6:00pm: Arrive at the hotel in Provence

Welcome to the Provence region of France, one of the most beautiful and acclaimed parts of the country. In this region, discover a land of stunning architecture with heavy Roman influence, varied local produce and strong artistic links, none more famous than Impressionism.

6:30pm: Group dinner at the hotel in Provence

9:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 5: Provence | Avignon | Lyon

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to Lyon via Avignon

10:00am: Visit the Papal Palace

Pope Clement V, a native of France, chose Avignon as the seat of the papacy in the 1300s. Stroll through the splendid sprawling Palais des Papes in which he and six successive popes resided. View the stunning Italian frescoes in the chapel, step inside the papal vestry, and see the hidden vaults where the Church's riches were stored.

11:30am: Walking tour of Avignon

Your Tour Director will introduce you to Avignon, capital of the Provence region. Together, you might see the famous Palais des Papes or stroll by the quaint shops and restaurants within the walled city.

1:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

4:00pm: Arrive in Lyon

At the convergence of the Rhône and Saône Rivers lies Lyon, France's third-largest city. An important textile and manufacturing center, this vibrant city is the world's silk capital and is known as the gastronomic capital of France.

5:00pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in central Lyon**7:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Lyon****9:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out****Day 6: Lyon | Loire Valley****6:00am: Wake-up call****7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel****8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to the Loire Valley via central Lyon****10:00am: Walking tour of Lyon**

Begin your tour at place Bellecour, one of France's most charming squares, which features a large equestrian statue of Louis XIV. You will also see the medieval and Renaissance stone buildings in Vieux Lyon and the Romanesque Primatiale St-Jean, where you can watch the 16th-century Swiss clock announce the hours of twelve, two and three o'clock with animated roosters and angels.

1:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

5:00pm: Arrive at the hotel in the Loire Valley

Travel to the area known as the 'playground of Kings.' Featuring some of the most impressive buildings of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the Loire was also home to some of the most influential women in European history. Eleanor of Aquitaine and Catherine de Medici resided here, while Joan of Arc rode to Chinon to convince Charles VII to fight for his throne.

6:00pm: Group dinner at the hotel in the Loire Valley**9:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out****Day 7: Loire Valley****6:00am: Wake-up call****7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel****8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to central Loire Valley****10:00am: Guided Sightseeing of the Loire Valley**

Explore the area known as the 'playground of Kings.' Featuring some of the most impressive buildings of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the Loire Valley was also home to some of the most influential women in European history. Eleanor of Aquitaine and Catherine de Medici resided here, while Joan of Arc rode to Chinon to convince Charles VII to fight for his throne.

1:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

3:00pm: Visit the Château de Chenonceau

Built over the River Cher and surrounded by water, the château is characterized by the Pont de Diane, an arched bridge that spans the river. Serving both practical and aesthetic functions (it also houses the grand gallery), it was this bridge that spared the château from destruction during the French Revolution as it provided the only access across the river for miles. Learn of the extraordinary succession of women, beginning in the 1500s with Catherine Bohler, Diane de Poitiers, and Catherine de Medici, who each influenced the design of the castle as it is today.

5:00pm: Visit the Château d'Amboise

Inspired by the Renaissance architecture he encountered in northern Italy, Charles VIII commissioned the construction of Amboise, one of countless châteaux nestled in the Loire Valley. Charles' desire to emulate the majestic gardens of Italy prompted him to bring gardener Pacello da Mercogliano back to France, so that he might design a suitable garden for the king. Although it was partially destroyed during the French Revolution, you'll experience the medieval grandeur of the château up-close on a guided visit. Take in sweeping views of the valley below as you explore the former home of Louis XI, Louis XII, François I and Leonardo da Vinci.

6:30pm: Troglodyte Dinner

See how thousands of years of geological evolution created these subterranean hollows beneath France's Loire Valley. Though originally used as living spaces in the 11th and 12th centuries, many of the maze-like grottos are still in use today as wine cellars, chapels, bakeries and shops. Tonight, enjoy your dinner inside one of these medieval dwellings.

8:30pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in the Loire Valley**10:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out****Day 8: Loire Valley | Chartres | Paris****6:00am: Wake-up call****7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel****8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to Paris via Chartres****11:00am: Visit Chartres Cathedral**

Dominating the skyline of this town is the 13th-century cathedral, one of the most amazing achievements in Western architecture. With its two towers, one Gothic and the other Romanesque, this is a truly unique experience. Take time to enjoy the picturesque gardens that surround the cathedral.

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

2:00pm: Arrive in Paris

Welcome to Paris, the cosmopolitan City of Light. While visiting, learn why Paris has grown to become the undisputed center of France, and one of the world's most important cities both culturally and politically.

2:30pm: Visit the Louvre

The Palais du Louvre, built to defend the city in the 13th century, now safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's 1989 modernist glass pyramid. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Egypt, Greece, Italy and Asia such as the statues of *Venus de Milo* and *Nike of Samothrace*, better known as *Winged Victory*. You'll also see some of the Louvre's most prized paintings by Renaissance and European masters, including Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the mysterious *Mona Lisa*.

5:00pm: Walking tour of Paris

Join your Tour Director on a walking tour that will introduce you to Paris. Together, you might see the chic, boutique-filled Opéra district, city's largest square at the Place de la Concorde, and the geometric Tuileries gardens.

5:30pm: See Notre-Dame Cathedral

Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory.

6:00pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in central Paris**8:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Paris****10:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out****Day 9: Paris****6:00am: Wake-up call****7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel****8:00am: Transfer from the hotel to central Paris****10:00am: Guided sightseeing of Paris**

Discover the city on the Seine during your panoramic bus tour. An expert local guide will accompany you as you drive through Paris' lively Latin Quarter. Nearby, see Notre-Dame Cathedral, standing tall at the center of the city. You will also drive down the elegant, tree-lined Champs-Élysées. Finally, be sure to snap a photo at the magnificent Eiffel Tower, an unmistakable and controversial symbol of Paris since its appearance at the 1889 World's Fair.

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

2:00pm: Optional Activity – Guided Excursion to Versailles

Step back into le grand siècle as you experience the opulence of Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Built to be the envy of all Europe, France's most extravagant château continually threatened to bankrupt the national treasury. Here the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. You'll also tour the State Apartments of the King himself and walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors, where France, Spain and England officially recognized the independence of the United States in 1783, and where the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WWI, was signed. You'll also witness the ornate decor of the Queen's State Apartments, furnished for Marie Antoinette. After your visit inside the palace, be sure to take some time to stroll through the elaborate gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre. Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace.

5:00pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in central Paris

7:00pm: Seine River Cruise

This evening, take a narrated river cruise along the Seine. As your boat glides from one graceful bridge to the next, sit back and gaze at the illuminated landmarks of Paris as they pan into view.

9:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Paris

11:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 10: Depart for Home

4:30am: Wake-Up Call

5:30am: Breakfast at Hotel

6:30am: Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you will check in for your return flight home.

The itinerary is subject to change.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.ca/bc.

 **For an additional cost add the following 2-day extension:**

Day 10: Paris | Normandy region

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to the Normandy region

12:00pm: Arrive in the Normandy region

Welcome to the Normandy region, the location of many of the battles that turned the course of World War II. See why Normandy is not only known for its connection with major military events, but for its scenic beauty, elegant landscapes and patchwork fields, as well.

1:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

3:00pm: Visit the Caen Memorial

Pay tribute to WWII troops who fought on the beaches of Normandy as you visit the Caen Memorial. You'll see a short film about the D-Day invasion, followed by a slide show on WWII. A third audio-visual presentation recounts the wars in Korea, Afghanistan, and Vietnam, as well as the continuing quest for world peace. Afterwards, tour the museum and see displays that depict pre-WWII Europe and trace the events that eventually led to the outbreak of war. Take time to walk through the Nobel Peace Prizewinners' Gallery, a gallery that highlights the accomplishments of the men and women who struggled for peace.

5:30pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in the Normandy region

7:30pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in the Normandy Region

9:30pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 11: Normandy region | Paris

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to Paris via the Juno Beach Centre

10:00am: Visit the Juno Beach Centre

Visit Juno Beach Centre, the first memorial of its kind for Canadian veterans of WWII. The Centre was conceptualized by Canadian veterans who fought in the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy and stands at Courseulles-sur-Mer, the site of the invasion. The Centre is an educational facility designed to teach Canadians more about Canada's role in the war, whether on land, sea or air.

11:30am: See La Pointe du Hoc

The Pointe du Hoc was a vital position on the Atlantic Wall because it contained guns capable of firing on Omaha and Utah Beaches. It was one of the strongholds in the German fortifications. Colonel Rudder's "Rangers" battled the German observation post on the edge of the Point and the monument commemorates their courage on the morning of June 6th.

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

2:00pm: See La Pointe du Hoc

The Pointe du Hoc was a vital position on the Atlantic Wall because it contained guns capable of firing on Omaha and Utah Beaches. It was one of the strongholds in the German fortifications. Colonel Rudder's "Rangers" battled the German observation post on the edge of the Point and the monument commemorates their courage on the morning of June 6th.

3:00pm: See Arromanches

Visit the seaside town of Arromanches, whose coastline hosted some of the D-Day landings in 1944. As part of the designated 'Gold Beach' area, British troops landed here. Arromanches was also important in WWII as one of the chosen sites for the Mulberry Harbours built by the British forces to aid in the allied invasion of Normandy. The massive concrete blocks can still be seen today.

5:00pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in central Paris

7:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Paris

9:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 14: Depart for Home

4:30am: Wake-Up Call

5:30am: Breakfast at Hotel

6:30am: Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you will check in for your return flight home.

The itinerary is subject to change.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.ca/bc.

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