

American History Tour in Paris, France

(This is a proposed and/or sample tour)

Discover American History in Paris *by Mary Jo*

Once you have been on this tour, you will forever have a deeper emotion on each 4th of July as Americans celebrate our historic declaration of independence from England and the results of the American Revolution. You will have a deeper affection for Paris, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, because of the direct links between that city and our revolution. In addition, you will see the places where Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Paul Jones and others lived and established themselves in both French and American history.

While living in Paris, I learned much about the historic connections between France and the United States, especially in relation to the American Revolution. I discovered numerous plaques, statues, squares, streets, and churches all over Paris that refer to these historic connections. I was given a book by a friend that provides much information about these places and these connections. Now I am passionate that more Americans know where these places are, what the signs and plaques say (most of them are written in French), and why they are there. Come explore with me American History in Paris. You will see Paris in a different way – through the lens of American history.

A Flexible Itinerary I have planned an itinerary that allows a good deal of free time so that you can fall in love with Paris in your own way. In addition, we will be a small group, no more than 12. Thus, we can be flexible, yet have a clear agenda of what we want to see during the week.

Each morning, we will visit several historic locations, and most afternoons I will offer an optional tour in a neighborhood where I have lived. We will take the metro and do lots of walking, pointing, and exploring. Every inch of Paris is interesting, so we may often become distracted by chocolate shops, boulangeries, cafés, and parks.

Mid-week, we will metro to a beautiful suburb where I lived for a while, which provides a magnificent view of Paris. If you are interested in perhaps purchasing top-quality cooking utensils and cookware, you will enjoy the optional afternoon visit with my friend Brigitte who sells Demarle products, made in France. She presents a cooking demonstration, and the items she prepares are then shared with YOU. Do let me know if you are interested in this opportunity so I can tell Brigitte how many are coming.

Others can stroll through the charming town or visit the National Archeological Museum, and we will all return to Paris via metro in late afternoon. Enjoy Parisian neighborhoods with a person who has lived there. You will discover new places, new parks, and new memories.



Discovering the City of Light and making it your own has always been the most compelling reason to visit Paris. You will discover such classic sights as the Tour Eiffel, Notre-Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, the Sacré-Coeur, and all of those charming cafés. Don't forget the parks, gardens, and squares, the Champs-Élysées and other grand boulevards, the river Seine and its quays. Paris's beauty is still overwhelming, especially at night, when it truly is the City of Light.

Itinerary

DAY 1: - Arrival

If arriving at Paris' airport Charles-de-Gaulle, please proceed to Passport Control and then to the baggage claim area to receive your luggage. Independent transfers to your hotel.

DAY 2: Independent Paris Highlights Tour (4 Hours)

I suggest a stop at one of the oldest and most famous areas, the Palais Royal, with its historic attractive Paris Arcades, or “passages couverts,” sheltering a certain “art de vivre” with couturiers, perfumers, gallery owners, fine food shops and impressive specialty shops, culminating with a walk through the garden of the Tuileries.



Commissioned by Cardinal Richelieu in 1642, the palace was christened Palais Royal when Anne of Austria temporarily lived there with her son Louis XIV. In 1780, Philippe, Duke of Orleans, hired the architect Victor Louis to design a square like Venice's Piazza San Marco but with a garden. The site became a favorite for French aristocrats as well as Americans, like Thomas Jefferson. In the 20th century, many celebrated residents such as Colette and Jean Cocteau lived in the luxurious apartments overlooking the gardens

4:00PM: Meet for an optional stroll with Mary Jo to Place des États-Unis. The Place des États-Unis (United States Plaza) is a public space in the 16th arrondissement of Paris, France, about a half-kilometer south of the Place de l'Etoile and the Arc de Triomphe.



Statue of Washington and Lafayette. It consists of a square — strictly speaking, a quadrilateral, — approximately 140 meters long and thirty meters wide, tree-lined, well landscaped, and circumscribed by streets, forming a pleasant and shady vest-pocket park. The park is officially named Square Thomas Jefferson, but buildings facing it (on three sides) have Place-des-États-Unis addresses. The eastern end of the square, however, is capped by the Avenue d'Iéna and a confluence of streets known as the Place de l'Amiral de Grasse. These streets, all of which debouche into the eastern end of Place des États-Unis, are the Rue Freycinet, Rue de Lubeck, Rue de Bassano, and the Rue Georges Bizet.

Other streets entering the Place des États-Unis include: the Rue de l'Amiral d'Estaing, which enters from the south; the Rue Galilée, which transits the western end of Square Thomas Jefferson; and the Rue Dumont d'Urville which enters the northwestern corner.

Evening: At leisure

DAY 3: American History near Place Trocadero

Here we begin our history tour of Paris. We will make our way by public transportation to Place Trocadero, where we will walk along rue Benjamin Franklin to the location of Hôtel de Valentinois, where Franklin lived for eight years while gathering support for the American Revolution.

Noon: Around noon, we will pause for lunch on your own. Both Café de l'Homme and the café at the Musée du Vin are nearby.

After Lunch: (OPTIONAL) Independent tour of the Musée du Vin.

4:00PM: (OPTIONAL) Mary Jo will guide us along Avenue President Kennedy and Avenue New York to Place de l'Alma, where we can enjoy an optional snack at the popular Café Corona.

Evening: At leisure.

DAY 4: American History near the Jardin du Luxembourg

We will use public transportation to visit Palais du Luxembourg and Jardin du Luxembourg, and see the residence of John Paul Jones, the Hôtel d'York where the Treaty of Paris was signed, and Café Procope, the oldest café in Paris.

The palace was built for Marie de Médicis, mother of king Louis XIII of France and of Gaston, duc d'Orléans, just near the site of an old hôtel particulier owned by François-Henri de Montmorency, duc de Piney-Luxembourg, hence its name (now called Petit Luxembourg, home of the president of French Senate). Marie de Médicis desired to make a building similar to her native Florence's Palazzo Pitti, and to this effect had the main architect Salomon de Brosse send architect Clément Metézeau to Florence to obtain drawings. Marie de Médicis bought the structure and its extensive domain in 1612 and commissioned the new building in 1615, which she referred to as her Palais Médicis.



1:00PM: (OPTIONAL) Lunch at Café Procope.

3:00PM: (OPTIONAL) Walking tour of the neighborhood where Mary Jo lived in the 14th arrondissement. We will use public transportation to go there and return.

Evening: At leisure

DAY 5: Visit a suburb and experience a cooking demonstration

Begin our trip to Saint Germain-en-Laye, where Louis XIV was born. The magnificent view from the large garden there overlooks the west side of Paris.

You can sign up for an *optional cooking demonstration* by Brigitte in her own French kitchen, where she will demonstrate Guy Demarle cookware and utensils.



Some may prefer to visit the National Archeological Museum, which is located in Saint Germain. Moreover, this lovely suburb of Paris is noted for its excellent shops, forest and garden, and pedestrian-friendly streets.

Prior to the French Revolution in 1789, it had been a royal town and the Château de Saint-Germain the residence of numerous French monarchs.

The Church of Saint-Germain. The old château was constructed in 1348 by King Charles V on the foundations of an old castle (château-fort) dating from 1238 in the time of Saint Louis. Francis I was responsible for its subsequent restoration. In 1862, Napoleon III set up the Musée des Antiquités Nationales in the erstwhile royal château. This museum has exhibits ranging from Paleolithic to Celtic times. The "Dame de Brassempouy" sculpted on a mammoth's ivory tusk around 23,000 years ago is the most famous exhibit in the museum. Kings Henry IV and Louis XIII left their mark on the town.

Louis XIV was born in the château (the city's coat of arms consequently shows a cradle and the date of his birth), and established Saint-Germain-en-Laye as his principal residence from 1661 to 1681. Louis XIV turned over the château to King James II after his exile from Britain after the Glorious Revolution in 1688. King James lived in the Château for 13 years, and his daughter Louisa Maria Stuart was born in exile here in 1692. King James Stuart is buried in the Church of Saint-Germain. We will return to Paris in the afternoon.

Afternoon/Evening: At leisure

DAY 6: American History around the Ile de la Cité

We will use public transportation to visit Hôtel des Monnaies, and then explore on foot the bouquinistes (bookstalls) along the Seine and see the Conciergerie and Sainte-Chappelle.

The Conciergerie is a former royal palace and prison in Paris, located on the west of the Île de la Cité, near the Cathedral of Notre-Dame. It is part of the larger complex known as the Palais de Justice, which is still used for judicial purposes. Hundreds of prisoners during the French Revolution were taken from La Conciergerie to be executed on the Guillotine at a number of locations around Paris.



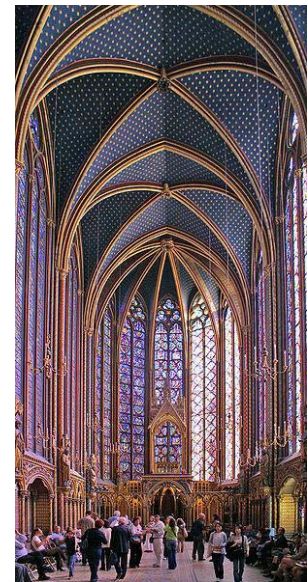
The Conciergerie thus already had an unpleasant reputation before it became internationally famous as the "antechamber to the guillotine" during the Reign of Terror, the bloodiest phase of the French Revolution. The most famous prisoners (and victims) included Queen Marie Antoinette, the poet André Chénier, Charlotte Corday, Madame Élisabeth, Madame du Barry and the Girondins, who were condemned by Georges Danton, who was in turn condemned by

Robespierre, who was himself condemned and executed in a final bout of bloodletting.

The Conciergerie and Palais de Justice underwent major rebuilding in the mid-19th century, totally altering their external appearance. While the building looks like a brooding medieval fortress, this appearance actually only dates from about 1858.

The Conciergerie was decommissioned in 1914 and was opened to the public as a national historical monument. It is today a popular tourist attraction, although only a relatively small part of the building is open to public access – much of it is still used for the Paris law courts.

La Sainte-Chapelle (*The Holy Chapel*) is a Gothic chapel on the Île de la Cité in the heart of Paris, France. It is perhaps the high point of the full tide of the *rayonnante* period of Gothic architecture. It is famous for housing Christian relics including the crown of thorns brought to the site by Louis IX. The chapel was sometimes used for coronation of the queens of France.



Afternoon/Evening: At Leisure

DAY 7: American History in the Marais

We begin our visit to the colorful, trendy Marais district via metro. Once there we will stroll by the Hôtel des Ambassadeurs de Hollande, the Bourse, Eglise Saint- Roch (which is near several great chocolate shops), and Hôtel de Coislin.

3:00PM: (OPTIONAL) Walking tour of the neighborhood where Mary Jo lived in the 13th arrondissement. We will use public transportation to go there and return.

Evening: At leisure

DAY 8: Departure

After breakfast and check-out, independent or (optional) transfer to the airport Charles-de-Gaulle.