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## Paris history

A programme for cultural groups interested by the history of Paris.



Notre Dame Cathedral

**Day 1:** Arrival in Paris late afternoon. Transfer from the airport or the train station to your hotel. Each participant receives a **metro pass valid for 3 days** for unlimited use of the Paris public transport (metro and city busses) accompanied by a map of Paris and information about restaurant and current shows. **Welcome dinner** in a nearby restaurant.

**Day 2:** The day will be dedicated to the visit of the old quarter of Paris around the **Ile de la Cité**. The programme begins with a guided tour of **the archaeological crypt of Notre Dame Cathedral**. Set up to protect the vestiges discovered during the exactions made in 1965, the crypt is open since 1980 in order to present constructions which followed each other since the antiquity to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The day continue with a guided visit of **Notre Dame Cathedral**. Masterpiece of gothic art, the construction of the cathedral started in 1163 under the order of Maurice de Sully and was followed until the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Constantly remodelled its last great restoration is due to the French architect Viollet-Le-Duc in 1841. Afternoon guided visit of **the Sainte Chapelle**. Edified by Saint Louis from 1242 to 1248 to host the relic of the Crown of Thorn, the Chapel is a jewel of gothic flamboyant art. We will then visit the nearby **Conciergerie**, former Royal Palace from 10<sup>th</sup> century to 1378 when it became the centre of the Paris judicial system. During the French revolution sentenced people, among which Queen Marie Antoinette, were jailed in the prison of the Conciergerie. Return to your hotel late afternoon. Evening at leisure.

**Day 3:** Morning visit of the **Musée Carnavalet**, exciting memory museum which collection relates the history of Paris until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Programme continue with a walking tour through the **Marais quarter** (the swamp) and the famous **Place des Vosges**, architectural masterpiece build under Henry IV in 1605. Afternoon visit of the **Musée Nissim de Camondo**, reconstruction of an aristocratic residence of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in a mansion along the Parc Monceau. The museum presents the most perfect example of French decorative art in of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with an exceptional collection of furniture, paintings, carpets, china and plates. Evening at leisure.

**Day 4:** To day, we will first visit the **Napoleon's tomb** under the **Invalides Dome** and have the opportunity to recall the French revolution and the first Empire. Then we will visit the **Opera Garnier** built by Charles Garnier from 1862 to 1875, a perfect example of the architecture of the second Empire. Afternoon includes a visit of the modern quarter of **La Defense**, a French interpretation of the Manhattan Skyline and we will finish our programme with an ascension to the rooftop of the **Grande Arche** to admire the panoramic view over Paris. Evening **farewell dinner** in **Le Procope**, one of the oldest restaurant of Paris.

**Day 5 :** Transfer to the airport or or the train station for departure

### Our services:

- 4 x overnight and breakfast in central Paris
- Escorted airport or train station transfer by private coach
- 3 days Paris visit pass valid for unlimited use of the Paris public transport
- Welcome and farewell dinner
- Professional guide for the whole programme
- Admission fees to the Archaeological Crypt, Sainte Chapelle, Conciergerie, Nissim de Camondo museum, Napoleon's Tomb, Garnier Opera, Rooftop of the Grande Arche.



Grande Arche, La Defense