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Week end in Impressionism country

The impressionism found its inspiration in the second part of the 19th century along the twists and turns of the Seine at that time spread with dancing cafes, row boat garages and bathing establishments between Asnières and Bougival. Monet, Pissaro, Renoir, Sisley, Berthe Morisot, Vlaminck have immortalized the charm and the colours of one of the most attractive part of the Ile de France. We invite you for a week end to discover the places where in the 19th century, the famous landscape painters have set there easel and mixed there colours.



Day 1: Friday

Welcome at hotel in **Bougival**. Check in and dinner. After dinner conference with slide show: Birth and development of the impressionist painting in the **Seine Valley**. Looking for countryside landscapes, light and human activities, the painters of the end of the 19th century regularly visit the buckle of the Seine and the surrounding villages.

Day 2: Saturday

Walking tour through the narrow streets of **Bougival** and **Louveciennes**. **Bougival** was an attractive site for artists of the 19th century where tens of paintings of **Monet, Renoir, Sisley, Berthe Morisot** have been painted. The village is facing the Island of la Chaussée on the river where the famous dancing place "**Le Bal des Canotiers**" was located. Louveciennes is spread with former residence of impressionist painters. More than 100 paintings by Renoir, Monet, Sisley, or Pissaro representing Louveciennes are presently scattered in museums around the world.

The visit continue in Chatou on the Impressionist Island where painters and rowers, looking for open air and entertainment, used to come to enjoy there Sundays. We visit the **Musée Fournaise** and have lunch at the Restaurant Fournaise, a place frequented at that time by painters and where Renoir painted its famous painting "**Le Déjeuner des Canotiers**"

From the terrace of the restaurant we recognize the place painted by Renoir and which has been restored and maintained in the same colour and style as it appears on Renoir's masterpiece.

Afternoon continuation to Carrières-sur-Seine which inspired the "wild painters" (peintres fauves) as **Maurice Vlaminck**, then we visit the **Grenouillère museum in Croissy-sur-Seine**. Located in the ancient house of Empress Joséphine de Beauarnais, the small museum celebrate the memory of the famous dancing café located opposite on the Ile de la Grenouillère immortalised by Claude Monet. We then proceed to **Port- Marly** and **Marly-le-Roi** where many artists and writers have lived as **Maillol, Dumas or Victorien Sardou**. Time to stroll around in the old Marly and its picturesque main street where we stop for a tea break in a charming tea lounge.

Evening dinner at the hotel. After dinner special musical evening dedicated to **Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)** French composer born in nearby Saint Germain en Laye.

Day 3: Sunday

Morning at leisure for free discovery of one of the numerous cultural site in the surrounding as Ivan **Tourgeniev Datcha in Bougival**, open air museum in **Marly-le-Roi**, **Monte Cristo Castle**, **residence of Alexandre Dumas in Port-Marly** or **Maurice Denis museum in Saint Germain en Laye etc..**

Our package includes :

- 2 nights hotel accommodation, rooms with bath/shower WC in hotel Holiday Inn or Villa des Impressionnistes in Bougival, breakfast buffet included
- 2 evening dinner
- 1 lunch at Restaurant Maison Fournaise in Chatou
- 1 tea break in Marly-le-Roi with coffee and pastry
- 1 conference with slide show
- 1 guide for a full day visit on the steps of the impressionist
- Admission and guided tour of the musée Fournaise and of the musée de la Grenouillère
- A musical evening dedicated to Claude Debussy

