

Art and Culture Travel

A Taste of Art: Paris – Guided Tour

Thursday 8th October to Sunday 11th October, 2026



This is a wonderful opportunity to see Paris on and off the beaten track. We stay at a well-positioned hotel in the heart of the Rive Gauche, close to the exceptional range of first-class museums and unique architecture, as well as the vibrant restaurants, bars and music scene which Paris has to offer.

You need make no more decisions than you want to – we know just where to eat and how best to travel around. The hotel provides breakfast, and several restaurant meals are also included in the price, as this is the best moment to discuss the art you have seen with like-minded art enthusiasts.

Join us for an uplifting long weekend in Autumn, an ideal time to visit Paris.

“The chief danger about Paris is that it is such a strong stimulant.”

T. S. Elliot.

Thursday 8th October

14.30. Meet in the Hotel Trianon Rive Gauche lobby. Short walk to Musée de Cluny

15.00 – 17.30. Musée de Cluny.

We begin our Paris tour in this 15th Century building, with its fine collection of artifacts from the Gallo-Roman until the 16th Century, including pieces from the Byzantine and Islamic eras of the Middle Ages. This Medieval 'hotel', built over an impressive Roman baths, was formerly the Paris residence of the powerful Abbots of the highly influential monastery of Cluny. There will be time during the tour for an optional coffee break.



Musée de Cluny

18.00- 20.00. Musée D'Orsay

The collection in this former station never ceases to amaze. We start with Academic painting and sculpture before moving to the top floors, where the Impressionists, Post Impressionists and Expressionists are so beautifully housed. The collection which starts mid-19th century, where the Louvre ends, is a wonderful source of understanding of this period.

20.30. Evening meal together at Le Procope, one of the oldest restaurants in Paris.

Friday 9th October.

Meet in the lobby at 08.30, and walk 15 minutes to Notre Dame.

09.00 – 11.00. Notre Dame

This iconic medieval cathedral re-opened in December 2024, after the devastating fire of 2019. Completed in 1345, it is one of the finest examples of the French Gothic style. Partly vandalised during the French Revolution, it was converted into a Temple of Reason. Then in 1802 Napoleon restored its use to the Catholic church, and in 1804 crowned himself Emperor in the cathedral, as depicted in David's famous painting.

11.00 – 12.00. Coffee break, then we take the Metro to the Petit Palais

12.00 – 14.00. Petit Palais

Built for the 1900 Universal Exhibition, this fine building houses the City of Paris Museum of Fine Arts. The permanent collection initially consisted of French art from the 19th and early 20th centuries, but has been added to by a range of paintings, sculptures and other art objects bequeathed since the early 20th century.

14.00 – 16.00. Lunch at the Brasserie Le Bourbon, followed by a short stroll to the Musée de l'Orangerie.

16.30 – 18.30. Musée de l'Orangerie.

Dedicated to some of the greatest 20th Century art, the museum's permanent collection includes important works by Monet, Modigliani, Renoir, Cezanne, Matisse, Gauguin, Sisley, Picasso and many other great artists.

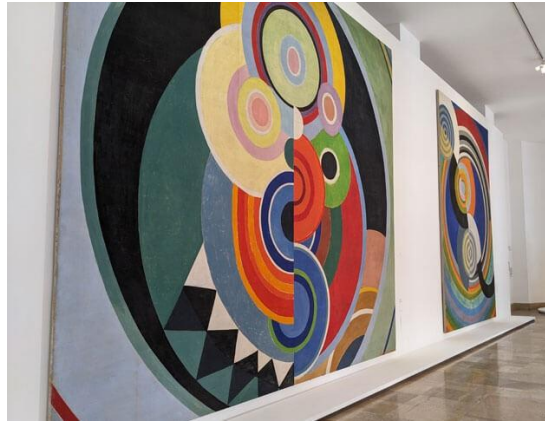
Free evening – supper at your own discretion

Saturday 10th October

09.30 Meet in the lobby.

10.30 – 12.30. Musée d'Art Moderne

Located in the art deco Palais de Tokyo, the museum is dedicated to modern and contemporary art of the 20th and 21st centuries. The extensive international collection includes over 15,000 works by artists such as Pierre Bonnard, Raoul Dufy, Robert and Sonia Delaunay, Marie Laurencin, George Baselitz, André Derain, Fernand Leger, Henri Matisse, Natalia Goncharova, amongst others.



Musée de l'Art Moderne

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch at Noura (Lebanese) restaurant

15.00 – 17.00. Fondation Luis Vuitton.

This *Deconstructivist* building designed by Frank Gehry, and located in the beautiful Bois de Boulogne, houses four categories of art in a unique setting: Contemplative, Pop, Expressionist, Music & Sound. Sponsored by LVMH, the Foundation aims to present contemporary French and international art to the broadest possible audience, in contrast to the more formal approach of many other Paris museums.

Evening: supper at your own discretion. Optional musical event (details TBC)

Sunday 11th October

09.00. Meet in the lobby. Walk to the Musée Carnavalet.

10.00 - 12.30. Musée Carnavalet.

This museum is dedicated to the history of the city of Paris. Purchased on the advice of Baron Haussman, who transformed Paris in the late 19th century, the building contains furnished rooms from different periods of Paris history, historic objects, and a very large collection of paintings of Paris life. These works depict the city's history and development, and its notable characters.

13.00 – 14.30. Lunch at Le Café des Musées, followed by a short stroll to the Musée Picasso.

15.00 - 17.00. Musée Picasso

This beautiful collection in the Maison Salé is dedicated to the work of the inimitable Picasso. After the recent refurbishment, the collection focusses on his early artistic developments, his relationship with Marie Thérèse and his war years. Love him or hate him, you will find so many different aspects of styles that you will be amazed by something.

17.00. Return to the hotel to collect luggage (35 minute walk, or take a taxi).

From the Hotel to Gare du Nord takes 15 minutes via RER Line B, to catch the Eurostar any time from 7.30pm.



Picasso Museum

Tutors

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn is co-founder and director of Art & Culture Travel. She is a course director at the V&A, and also lectures at the Royal Academy and The Art Fund.

Ian Cockburn is co-founder and director of Art & Culture Travel and has an MA from the Courtauld Institute in medieval Spanish art history. Both are lecturers accredited by The Arts Society.

Fees (minimum 14 people/maximum 18 people): £1,940 per person (shared room).

The fee covers three nights' double accommodation (breakfast included) at the 4-star Hotel Trianon Rive Gauche (1B, Rue de Vaugirard, 75006) a classic Parisian hotel, with old-fashioned charm, wonderfully situated between the Jardins du Luxembourg and the Place de la Sorbonne; teaching and guiding by three specialist tutors over four days; all Metro journeys around Paris (excl. airport/Eurostar); all museum and other entry fees; all meals except Friday and Saturday evening. Individual room supplement 20%.

Not included in the fees: Flights/Eurostar, transfers to and from the hotel in Paris, travel and medical insurance. Optional music evening.

Note: Itinerary subject to change, if necessary.

Fitness: Please note that as a courtesy to your fellow travellers, a good level of fitness and mobility is required for walking and for visiting galleries and monuments.

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