

France Tours Helpful Information

We have been conducting these tours to France to visit Normandy for over a Decade. One of the top comments we hear from our guests is how much they enjoyed and appreciated the full service, turn-key travel we provide. You relax and enjoy, we will worry about the details! Here is a quick list to help you get ready and how to get a seat!

To Help You Decide to Travel with us;

- Round Trip Air Fare from Dulles International(usually) or Reagan(alternate) airport. Includes Dinner and Breakfast going to, and Dinner coming back. Transport to and from Dulles is not provided.
- Dedicated private ground transport in France with driver(s) and private guides. The World War One tour is normally by tour bus, the Normandy tours are conducted in a bus or several vans.
- Double Occupancy Room for the duration of the tours. The rooms are set up for couples or travel partners. Travelers who do not want to share a room can reserve a single room for an additional cost as listed on the Trip Matrix info sheet, from \$500 to \$900.
- Most Meals. All breakfast meals are included with each hotel stay. The lunch meals are about 1/4th to ½ prepaid group meals and the rest on your own. Dinner meals are included group meals each night except for the Paris stay nights.
- Entrance to museums. Six museums are pre-paid on the Normandy tour and four Museums are pre-paid on the World War One tour.
- Tour Size Limits. The World War One tour is capped at 30 persons and the Normandy tour is limited to 20 people due to the Casino Hotel size. Minimum size to conduct a trip is 10 guests.

To Help You get Ready to Travel with Us;

- Passport. Make sure your passport is current and be prepared to send us a copy of the photo page that shows your full name and passport number. We will need that info to order your plane tickets.
- Cell Phone/Tablet/Computer. The Hotels and many public places offer Wi-Fi to connect to the net. Be sure to call your cell phone service and turn on international calling if you don't already have it. You can also buy pre-paid short-term use International SIM cards in France.
- Spending Money/Cards/Cash. Credit and Debit cards are widely used in France. If you don't want to carry a card we will make a bulk Euro purchase in advance and you can pay for your pre-ordered amount when we meet in France (or you can get your bank to buy some Euros for you before traveling).
- Clothing. The trips are usually conducted there in early Fall which is comparable to the U.S. mid-Atlantic region same season weather. Light hiking or sturdy walking shoes (no flip-flops or open toed), long pants, short and long sleeve shirts, fleece jackets and raincoats/windbreakers are the recommended dress. Be Prepared! There is a reception one night that you may wish to wear nice slacks and shirts/tops to. Bring enough for one full week to avoid laundry logistics. PLEASE, Only ONE Checked Bag Per Guest, due to cargo space limits/seating comfort in the vehicles.

To Help You know What to Expect Each Day;

- We hit the ground running. We will leave the airport and head right to the countryside stopping for snacks along the way to our first tour sites. The first day ends at the Hotel for a late group Dinner.

- Each day starts with group breakfast at 8:00 a.m., we will brief the group on the day's itinerary and usually be on the road between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. Each day is a full day of driving cross country and some walking to visit historic sites with lunch on the road and a late evening dinner. Your Guides meet late each night after Dinner to look ahead and adjust the next day as needed to ensure we see everything. Weather, especially on the coast, will sometimes cause events to be switched between days to offer the best experience.

To Help You Plan for Paris;

- Every tour group has some free time in Paris. You can buy an inexpensive round-trip train ticket that will take you from the Airport train station to downtown Paris. When there you can buy a double decker open-air tour bus ticket for a drive-by tour of the major sites or contract your own private one-day tour. See this website: Viator.com for an example.

- Some of our guests like to stay over an extra day(s) in Paris or France. Your flight home is paid for, so as long as you coordinate with us in advance for the departure date and you pay for the extra costs of hotel nights, etc., you will have more time to spend in Paris and France.

To Reserve Your Space;

- A \$1,000 minimum deposit is required to reserve a seat for each person on any trip. The July trip deposit is due by the end of March, the September trips by the end of April. We send monthly emails starting in May that describe each tour day in more detail, give you updates on flights, etc., and remind you that another payment is due. You can also pay in full at any time.

- Send your deposit/payment checks with a memo note for: France Tour, Trip # (indicate One to Three, or the Combined trip), payable to:

The 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation, Inc
P.O. Box 116
Staunton, VA 24402

Refunds/Cancelation Policy;

- Generally, we refund trip costs if you have to change your plans. We can't refund Airline ticket costs after we pay for your airline tickets. After that point you can get a ticket voucher from the Airline and we will refund the non-ticket amount of the trip. ***Our preferred option is for you to leave your payment with us and then just re-schedule you for the same trip next year...already paid!

Travel Insurance;

- We do not offer any type of travel insurance, either for lost expenses or medical coverage while overseas. You are encouraged to arrange for your own policy thru AAA, local travel agent, or online travel insurance provider, etc. as you see fit. Locally, you can call Brandi Simmons at Travel Leaders in Harrisonburg, VA @540-433-7292, they are licensed policy vendors. We are not affiliated with any travel insurance provider.

***If you have more questions that this information does not cover please email us directly. We look forward to having you as our guest in France.