

American Celebration of Music in France

Standard Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France

Day 2

Paris / Caen

(D)

Arrive in Paris

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Caen

Welcome Dinner

Caen is the capitol of Lower Normandy. Known as The City of the Normans, the architectural heritage reveals the affection for the city felt by William the Conqueror and his Queen, Matilda. Many of the city's medieval buildings are constructed of "Caen stone," a light creamy-yellow limestone also used extensively in England. Caen was the center of some of the fiercest fighting in the Liberation of 1944. The peace memorial is unquestionably the greatest museum of World War II and a "must-see" for anyone who visits the city

Day 3

Caen / Coleville

(B,D)

Enjoy morning sightseeing of Caen, including a visit to the Peace Memorial. The Memorial, to the northwest of the town center, is a modern Peace Museum, built of light-colored sandstone in the form of a square block (architect Jacques Millet). Its themes are the two world wars and the means of ensuring and preserving peace. Also pass the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, built by William the Conqueror and containing his grave

Then take an excursion to Coleville to **perform a short memorial recital**, and participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the American Cemetery, site of the June 6th Normandy Invasion

Performance in the Caen area as part of the American Celebration of Music in France

Day 4

Caen / Paris

(B,D)

Morning transfer to Paris

Stop in Rouen, lying northwest of Paris on the lower Seine. The ancient capital of Normandy, it is now chief town of the Haute-Normandie region, the see of an archbishop, France's largest river port and one of its largest seaports, situated at the highest point on the river navigable by seagoing vessels. In the Place de la Cathédrale stands the Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame, one of the largest and most magnificent in France. The main structure was completed between 1202 and 1220, but the building was not completed until the 16th C. The most striking feature is the elaborately articulated west front which was several times painted by Claude Monet

Following your visit, continue on to Paris for dinner and overnight



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

They've all come to Paris. The Gauls, the Romans, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Pablo Picasso, Dwight Eisenhower, the Czar of Russia, Lenin, the Queen of England, Benjamin Franklin and George Gershwin. Some have even tried to capture the city. And now everyone wants to come to Paris -- millions of tourists each year, motivated by the desire to see the most beautiful city in the world. But Paris is more than a city. It is a place that breathes history and legend, a combination of the modern and the ancient

Day 5 **Paris** **(B,D)**

Half-day guided tour of *Paris historique*, including Notre-Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Place de la Concorde, Luxembourg Palace and Gardens, Latin Quarter, Place de la Bastille, and other highlights

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France

Day 6 **Paris** **(B,D)**

For choirs only: Late morning performance in Notre Dame Cathedral

Enjoy an afternoon tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the largest and greatest art museum in the world

Day 7 **Paris / Versailles** **(B,D)**

Morning guided tour to Versailles Palace. This palace is the creation of the French monarchy at the moment of its greatest splendor. Consisting of the great palace, the gardens and the Trianons, it is a wonderfully harmonious composition of building and landscape, the definitive monument of French classicism

Evening Farewell Dinner

Day 8 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to one of Paris's airports for return flight

Arrive home in the evening of the same day

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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