

American Celebration of Music in France

Standard Tour #3 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France

Day 2

Paris / Tours (D)

Arrive in Paris. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Tours

Time permitting, stop en route at Chartres for a tour of its famous Cathedral with Malcolm Miller

Welcome Dinner

Tours was an important center of trade and administration under the Romans, but is presently most famous for its location in the heart of the Chateaux Country of France — also known as the "garden of France." Kings and courtiers and magnates built famous Renaissance chateaux such as Blois, Chambord, Chenonceaux, Azay-le-Rideau and others in this gentle valley

Day 3

Tours (Loire Valley) (B,D)

Enjoy a guided tour of the Loire Valley, including entrance to one of the most famous Chateaux. Chateau Chenonceau is perhaps the finest of all of the castles in the region. It straddles a river and was constructed in the 1520s, the home of Diane de Poitiers, Catherine de Medici and other luminaries

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France

Day 4

Mont St-Michael (B,D)

Morning transfer to Mont St-Michael

Afternoon sight-seeing includes entrance to the Abbey, La Merveille (the incredible grouping of buildings on the north side of the Mount), the Abbey Gardens and the Refectory

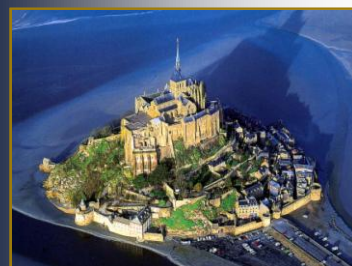
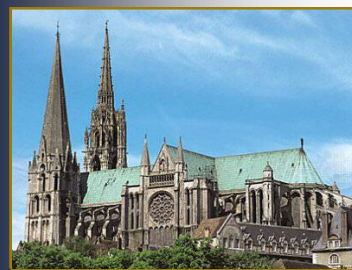
Mont St-Michel, rising out of the sea in the Baie de St-Michel on the coast of Normandy, is one of the most striking sights that France has to offer. Perched on its rocky islet and surrounded by walls and bastions, this old abbey has the appearance of a fortified castle. At this point in the English Channel the tides have a very considerable rise and fall (up to 14 m/45ft): at low tide it is possible to walk round the island, while at high tide the waves surge up to its very walls and may even wash over the parking lot at the foot of the hill. It is a particularly impressive sight at the spring

Day 5

Coleville / Caen (B,D)

Transfer to Caen via Coleville (***perform a short memorial recital*** and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach)

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 Mathilda. 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, a "must-see" for anyone who visits the city



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

Guided tour 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

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



Day 7 **Caen / Rouen / Paris** **(B,D)**

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 Paris for dinner and overnight

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 8 **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 9 **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 10 **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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