

# American Celebration of Music in France

With a visit and performances in Heidelberg, Germany

Standard Tour #5 (8 nights / 10 days)

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## Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France

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## Day 2

**Paris**

**(D)**

Arrive in Paris

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for a transfer to your hotel with a panoramic introductory tour of Paris en route

Depending on arrival time, stop at the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, and Latin Quarter, with lunch on your own before continuing on to the hotel for a late afternoon check-in

Evening Welcome 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*

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## Day 3

**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***

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## Day 4

**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

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## Day 5

**Paris / Versailles**

**(B,D)**

Day excursion 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

Return to Paris for overnight

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## Day 6

**Reims / Strasbourg**

**(B,D)**

Transfer to Strasbourg

Stop en route in Reims. Visit the Reims Cathedral, coronation site for over 25 French kings



**Music Celebrations International**

*Concert Tours With Integrity*

*Strasbourg holds a unique position in both French and German history. One of the earliest documents in both languages is the Strasbourg Oaths sworn by two of the sons of Louis the Pious (himself the son of Charlemagne). Johann Gutenberg was an early citizen of Strasbourg experimenting with movable type. The French National Anthem is also associated with this city. Today Strasbourg is the headquarters of both the multinational Council of Europe and the European Parliament*

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**Day 7** **Strasbourg** **(B,D)**

This morning is devoted to exploring Strasbourg. “La Petite France” is the name given to the well-preserved and pedestrianized medieval quarter in the southwest section of the city. Its high gabled gingerbread houses on narrow streets and canals date from the 16th and 17th centuries when millers, tanners and fishermen thronged the area. Enjoy a canal ride through this medieval city

Visit the Notre-Dame Cathedral (and Museum) which recalls the city's early ecclesiastical importance and the several centuries of struggles between bishops and citizens

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***

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**Day 8** **Heidelberg, Germany** **(B,D)**

Morning transfer to Heidelberg

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany***

*The jewel of the Neckar River is Heidelberg, with town, castle and wooded hills rising above the river. A close runner-up to the castle is Germany's oldest university forever immortalized in The Student Prince. It is as delightful as any operetta with its student inns, student prison and the narrow streets of the old town. There are a variety of boat trips available from Heidelberg on some of the loveliest stretches of the Neckar and Rhine Rivers*

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**Day 9** **Heidelberg** **(B,D)**

A half-day tour of Germany's oldest university town includes the Schloß (castle) offering a splendid view of the city beneath. In the castle, see the Great Barrel, the Courtyard and the Pharmaceutical Museum

Also see the old university itself, the Cathedral of the Holy Ghost, the Old Bridge and the Jesuit Church. This is an enchanting city in which to stroll!

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure

Evening Farewell Dinner

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**Day 10** **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to Frankfurt's International Airport 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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