

# Discover France : Paris and the Pyrénées



## Day 1 - Depart

Take an overnight flight from St Louis to Paris.

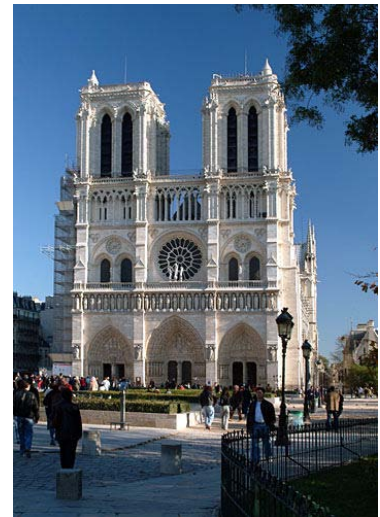
## Day 2 - Arrive in Paris

Meet your coach bus and at the airport and Transfer to your hotel. After settling in, take a walk through this majestic city. Watch its breezy boulevards, impressive monuments, and magic lights. Stroll along the river Seine stopping to browse through the chic shops, and sample the legendary cuisine.

## Day 3-Paris

Take a tour of Paris. Start at the **Eiffel Tower**, the most visited site in the world and the symbol of France. Then on to the **Arc de Triomphe** one of the landmarks of Napoleon's imperial capital

which offers an admirable perspective of Paris and the twelve avenues converging in a star shape. Walk along the **Champs-Élysées Boulevard** and see how Parisians relax and enjoy a beautiful morning on its many sidewalk cafes. Visit the **Notre Dame de Paris**, a symbol of Gothic art. Its harmonious layout seems to be the work of just one architect, yet dozens followed on from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the afternoon visit the **Louvre Museum**, home to nearly 300,000 works of art including the famous Mona Lisa.



## Day 4 - Paris

In the morning take a tour of the Musée d'Orsay home to a vast collection of Impressionist art.

In the afternoon take the Metro to Opera. See the beautiful newly renovated Paris Opera. In the evening take a ride on the Bateaux-Mouche

## Day 5 - Toulouse

After breakfast transfer to the train station and take the bullet Train, TGV, to **Toulouse**, the old capital of Languedoc and France's fourth-largest city. Toulouse (known as La Ville Rose) is filled with

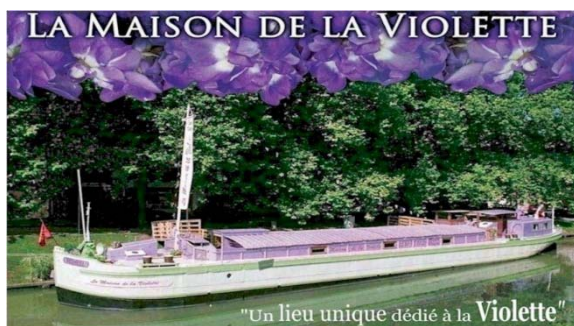
gardens and squares and it's a gateway to the Pyrénées. Upon arrival meet your Tour bus, transfer to your hotel. After settling in, take a guided tour of Toulouse.

Toulouse is an artistic and cultural center. The city has 20 historic pipe organs, more than any other city in France.

Visit the **Basilique St-Sernin**, the largest and finest Romanesque church in the Old World, The **Cathédrale St-Etienne**, another major ecclesiastical building, and **Eglise des Jacobins**, the largest convent in France, among other major sites in Toulouse.

The highlight of the tour will be at **La Maison de la Violette**. The barge "Maison de la Violette" has thrown its anchor on the Canal du Midi since July 2000. The friendly staff will welcome you aboard a traditional barge built in 1930 to help you discover the authentic world of Violets.

<http://www.lamaisondelaviolette.fr/FR/bienvenue.html>



# Discover France : Paris and the Pyrénées

## Day 6 - Toulouse - Albi – Cordes Sur Ciel



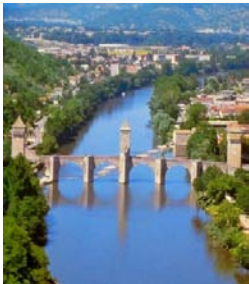
After breakfast at the hotel, leave in the direction of **Albi**, a commune in the Southern France. Albi is one of the main cities built in Languedoc-style red brick. Visit the **Sainte Cécile Cathedral**, a masterpiece of the Southern Gothic style, built between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Albi is also home to the **Toulouse-Lautrec Museum** which houses more than 1000 works of this famous artist. After lunch, continue your journey to the medieval city of **Cordes sur Ciel**. Cordes on the Sky – so called officially since the twentieth century, because of the way it rises above low lying mists on winter mornings.

After a short ascend by train, take a walk through the town. Return to Toulouse for overnight.



## Day 7- Toulouse – Carcassonne

After breakfast Board your coach bus and leave to **Carcassonne**, the greatest fortress city in Europe. The city was used as a backdrop to the movie Robin Hood. Carcassonne consists of two towns: the Ville Basse (Lower City) and the medieval Cité, which is among the major attractions in France. Take a guided visit of the city. Spend the afternoon in the beaches of Narbonne. Return to Toulouse for dinner and overnight.



## Day 8 - Toulouse – Vallée de la Vézère – Dordogne

Have breakfast at the hotel and continue your trip in the direction of the **Vallée de la Vézère**. This small town brings together some of the most famous and richest sites of prehistoric European history which earned the town the privilege of becoming a World Heritage of UNESCO. Visit **Montignac**, the identical replica of the famous **Lascaux Cave**. This fresco is regarded as the “Sistine Chapel of Prehistory”.

This town is also known for its famous truffles. Watch a Truffle hunting demonstration with the trained dogs. There will also be a tasting. Return to Toulouse for dinner and overnight.

**Day 9 Toulouse-Saint-Lizier - Salies du Salat - Saint-Girons** After breakfast leave for another excursion trip. First visit the beautiful village of **Saint-Lizier**, the ancient Gallo-Roman city with a prestigious past. Visit some of its famous monuments such as the Cathedral with its Roman frescos, a Romanesque Cloister, and an 18<sup>th</sup> century pharmacy. Continue your day to **Moulis** to visit the famous Christmas figurine makers. In the afternoon visit a cheese maker, and a wooden clog maker which make Pyrénées an artisan heaven.



## Day 10 - Departure

After breakfast transfer to the airport and take your flight back to St Louis from Toulouse!

*Price includes:*

*Round Trip airfare*

*3 nights hotel in Paris including breakfast and dinners*

*6 nights hotel in Toulouse including breakfast and dinners*

*Chaperones' lunches at \$15 per day for 8 days*

*All transfers to and from the airports and train stations*

*4 Excursion trips from Toulouse*

*Public transportation in Paris*

*All other transportation included in the program*

*All entrances, guided Visits & special attractions in the program*

*Travel insurance including health, trip delay and luggage loss/delay*

# Discover France : Paris and the Pyrénées

---