



GASTON
COLLEGE

Tour to Paris, Bavaria & Austria

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Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1 Flight to Paris

Today you depart on the overnight flight to Paris.

DAY 2 Notre Dame, St Chapelle and Montmartre

You arrive in Paris in the morning and are met by your Tour Manager and private tour bus. You then transfer to your central hotel for check in.

After lunch you visit one of the oldest districts of Paris on the **Île de la Cité**. This historic island district is home to the spectacular **Notre Dame Cathedral**, and we can see the imposing façade. Following the disastrous fire of 2019 and the ongoing restoration work, the Cathedral is expected to reopen to visitors in December 2024.

You also visit the ancient church of **St. Chapelle**, a royal palace and gothic masterpiece which was built in the thirteenth century by Louis IX to be the private chapel of the French Monarchs. St Chapelle is rightly famous for its unique and incredible stained-glass windows which are the buildings central feature.

In the early evening you visit the **Place du Tertre** in the Bohemian quarter of **Montmartre**, close to the **Cathedral of Sacre Coeur**. Montmartre is where you find Parisian artists and is the perfect place to have your portrait sketched. There is also a wonderful view across the city from the steps of Sacre Coeur.

DAY 3 Montparnasse, Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees, Napoleon & River Cruise

This morning you take a trip to the top of the **Montparnasse Tower** for a spectacular view across the city.

You then visit the **Champs Élysées**, the most famous avenue in Paris with its fashionable shops and restaurants. You have time to shop here and then stroll to the **Arc de Triomphe**, one of the most famous monuments in Paris. The arch was built to honour those who died in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars and is modelled on the Arch of Titus in Rome.

After lunch you visit the **Army Museum and Tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte at Les Invalides** with its ornate gilded dome. The Army Museum traces French military history back to the Middle Ages, with an excellent section on WW2. We also go into the crypt of the Church where we can see the ornate Tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte.

In the early evening we have **Bateaux Parisiens boat trip** on the River Seine. This will show us many of the most famous sights in the city including the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame.



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DAY 4 Versailles

This morning you travel outside the city and visit the **Palace of Versailles**, one of the largest and most opulent palaces in the world and a fine example of 18th century French architecture and art. Its origins date to the 11th century but the palace you see today is largely the product of Louis XIV—the Sun King—who moved the Royal Court here in the seventeenth century and where it remained until the French Revolution of 1789. One of the most famous attractions here is the Hall of Mirrors which measures 73m in length and comprises 17 arched windows, each with 21 individual mirrors.

Your ticket also allows admission to the famous and extensive **Gardens**, landscaped in the classic French formal garden style.

In the afternoon you return to Paris for free time to explore at your leisure.

DAY 5 Flight to Munich - Old Town Walking Tour & Residence Palace

This morning you fly to Munich. On arrival you transfer to your hotel for check in and time for lunch.

In the afternoon you can enjoy a guided **Walking Tour through Munich's Old Town**. You walk through the Karlstor Gate which is part of the original medieval fortifications of the city. You continue along the pedestrian Neuhauser Strasse to the Rathaus (the town hall), a magnificent neo-gothic building from the turn of the 20th century which architecturally dominates the north side of Munich's Marienplatz.

The **Glockenspiel** here is one of the most famous sights of the city. This famous clock chimes every day at 11 am, noon and 5 pm. When its 43 bells ring out, more than 30 figures make merry, fight and dance! The whole show lasts about 15 minutes when finally, a golden bird chirps three times to end the proceedings. Close by is the gothic Frauenkirche Church which survived the bombing of WW2, despite suffering considerable damage from Allied air raids. With its twin towers, topped with onion domes, the church is an enduring symbol of the city.

You then continue to the **Residence Palace**, the largest Renaissance building north of Italy. The palace is one of the largest of its type in Germany and was the former home of the Wittelsbach monarchs of Bavaria who ruled up until 1918. You explore the magnificent State Rooms, courtyards, private chapel and ceremonial hall. The visit also includes the Cuvillies Theater, a fine example of the Rococo design and a venue that once hosted the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. You also visit the Treasury which houses the crown jewels of the Bavarian monarchs.



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DAY 6 Nymphenburg Palace

This morning you visit the beautiful **Nymphenburg Palace**, built as the residence of the Elector of Bavaria. The palace dates from the middle of the seventeenth century and incorporates Rococo, Baroque and Neoclassical styles. Within the Palace there are a series of opulent rooms including the Great Hall and the Hall of Mirrors.

You return to central Munich for lunch and in the afternoon the **English Garden** is the perfect place to visit. One of the largest city parks in Europe, bigger even than Central Park, it was first laid out in 1789 and includes a Chinese Pagoda, cafes, a lake and boating.

DAY 7 Castle Neuschwanstein

This morning you visit **Neuschwanstein**, the fantasy castle built by Mad King Ludwig II of Bavaria and commonly known as Ludwig's Castle. It was famously used as Baron von Bomburst's castle in the 1968 children's film Chitty Bang. Few castles in the world are as majestic and dreamy as Neuschwanstein and before visiting, we stop at Marienbrücke just a few minutes away, from where you get the famous view and pictures of the castle. After the visit you have time for lunch in the pretty town of Fussen.

Your return to Munich in the afternoon and have free time for your own sightseeing.

DAY 8 Berchtesgaden & Salzburg

This morning you depart from Munich and travel to the alpine village of **Berchtesgaden**. The narrow streets in the pretty pedestrian zone are lined with pastel-colored houses in the traditional alpine style, with restaurants, cafés and souvenir shops. Bavarian traditions and customs are preserved here and there is often typical Bavarian music and dancing in the town center.

You have time for lunch here in Berchtesgaden and in the afternoon you continue the journey to Salzburg.



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DAY 9 Salzburg - Mozart & the Castle

Salzburg is the city of Mozart and this morning you have a **Walking Tour of the Old City** including the Cathedral, and **Mozart's Birth House**. The center of the city has changed little over the last three centuries and you will walk the same narrow streets that Mozart would have known in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Along with its undeniable history and character, Salzburg has some excellent shopping opportunities with numerous little hidden courtyards to discover.

In the afternoon after lunch you visit the **Hohensalzburg Castle**, the fairy-tale castle that is the most famous landmark in the city. You take the small funicular railway that ascends to castle ramparts and from there can explore its baroque interior and are rewarded with exceptional views across the city and beyond.

DAY 10 Travel to Vienna

This morning you depart from Salzburg and travel to Vienna, a journey of about 3 hours 30. You arrive in time for lunch at one of the many attractive cafes in Michaelerplatz.

In the afternoon you can explore some of central Vienna. The grandeur of some of the buildings on the Ringstrasse reminds us that Vienna was once the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, ruling a territory that stretched across Eastern and Southern Europe and playing a pivotal role in the European power politics of the nineteenth century. You commence at the **Hofburg Palace at Heldenplatz**. This was the residence of the Imperial Habsburg Dynasty. You then continue with a tour of the imposing Gothic **St. Stephens Cathedral** and its **Catacombs**.

DAY 11 Vienna - The Belvedere

This morning you visit the baroque **Belvedere Palace**. Built as a summer residence for Prince Eugene of Savoy. The building was subsequently purchased by the Empress Maria Theresa and in 1781 it became one of the first public art galleries in the world. At the heart of the collections today are the works of **Gustav Klimt** with his famous paintings *The Kiss* and *Judith*.

The afternoon will be free for you to **explore Vienna on your own**. Those interested in pre-war history can explore the **Jewish Quarter** while for music lovers there are always concerts to be seen, whether at the Opera House or one of various concert halls.



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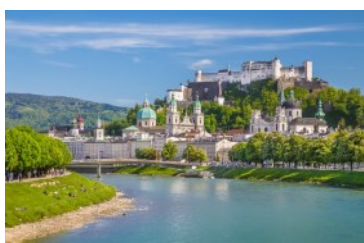
DAY 12 Vienna - Schönbrunn Palace

This morning you visit the **Palace of Schönbrunn**, the official residence of the Habsburg Emperors until Austria became a republic at the end of the First World War. The Palace was built in the 1740's and all the Habsburg rulers since this date have lived here, most famously the only Habsburg Empress, Maria Theresa who ruled during the critical years from 1740 to 1780. Besides touring through the authentically furnished residential and ceremonial rooms of the Imperial Family, there are also extensive and exquisite gardens to explore which include a maze.

The afternoon is free for you to explore Vienna on your own.

DAY 13 Fly Home

This morning you transfer to the airport for your homeward flight.



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What's Included

- Round trip flights with Lufthansa from Charlotte Douglas to Paris and returning from Vienna in coach class
- Check in bag - 1 bag per person at 50lbs
- Flight from Paris to Munich
- Three nights in Paris - 4 star hotel
- Three nights in Munich - 4 star hotel
- Two nights in Salzburg - 4 star hotel
- Three nights in Vienna - 4 star hotel
- Breakfasts at all hotels
- 5 Group Dinners in local restaurants, including water, tea and coffee
- Private air conditioned tour bus
- Full Time Tour Director
- Local specialist guides where required

Paid Admissions

Paris:

River Seine Cruise
St Chapelle
Montparnasse Tower Army
Museum at Les Invalides & Napoleon's Tomb
Versailles Palace & Gardens

Munich:

Residence Palace
Nymphenburg Palace
Castle Neuschwanstein

Salzburg:

Hohensalzburg Castle
Mozart Birth House

Vienna:

St Stephen's Cathedral & Catacombs
Hofburg - Imperial Apartments & Sisi Museum
Schonbrunn
Upper Belvedere

What's Not Included

- Personal Travel Insurance
- Lunches
- Dinners (except the 5 Group Dinners)
- Soft and alcoholic drinks with group dinners
- Public transportation if used
- Tour Director Tips
- Single Room Supplement

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Trip Details

Date	July 9, 2024	
Travel Dates	April 16 - 28, 2025	
Accommodation	4 Star Hotels - Twin Share Occupancy (unless otherwise requested)	
Meal Plan	Breakfasts and welcome dinners at each new destination	
Group Size	From 16 to 24 travelers	
Tour Pricing	Group Size	Price per person
	24 + 1	\$4933
	22 + 1	\$5038
	20 + 1	\$5164
	18 + 1	\$5318
	16 + 1	\$5511

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Notes:

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