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London & Paris for Families

TAKE TIME CUSTOM

Depart USA



Depart USA on overnight flight to London

Arrive London/begin sightseeing



Arrive London morning or by mid-day



Private car transfer to city hotel



Check into hotel near Hyde Park or Victoria Station

4 nights



1:00 PM - 4 hr

Consider a Thames River Cruise with Tower of London admission

Get a jump on your London sightseeing this afternoon. This will also help work through jet lag. It could be fun to take the cruise to Tower of London so you can observe the sights ABOVE ground and from the water. Westminster Abbey, Parliament Square, Big Ben, Coca-Cola London Eye, Buckingham Palace, St. James' Park are all in reasonable proximity to one another, and what you don't see today, you can definitely catch tomorrow and subsequent days one way or another. For today, grab your all-weather gear, your umbrellas, and set out to enjoy a Thames River cruise as both sightseeing AND transportation to/from the Tower of London. Inside the ancient fortress that is the Tower of London complex, be sure to inquire about the next Yeoman Warder/Beefeater complimentary guided tour (every 30 minutes) for intriguing history and stories of this infamous royal "palace". Enjoy (or be horrified) seeing and hearing about the White Tower and all its prisoners (royal and otherwise), the Royal Mint, and peep in on the Crown Jewels! AND, Borough Market (lots of yumminess) is only about a 15 minute walk across London Bridge from the Tower of London, so you can take your time in this area once you've finished your Tower visit before you head back to your hotel.





Late afternoon/evening at your leisure

London sightseeing



9:15 AM - 2 hr 30 min

Westminster Abbey & Changing of the Guard Tour

For 2 of the best “don’t miss” iconic highlights of London, and for better understanding of the significance of what you are actually seeing, I am proposing a short guided visit for Westminster Abbey that also includes an opportunity to view the Changing of the Guard. And then the remainder of the day can be yours to explore the British Museum or other sights around London to your hearts’ content.



Remainder of afternoon/evening at your leisure

Stonehenge DAY TRIP



7:30 AM - 6 hr

Stonehenge Day Trip from London

Visit one of the most famous pre-historic sites in the world on this half-day morning tour to Stonehenge. Your priority group admission ticket is included, allowing access to the monument, exhibition and site shuttle bus.

Situated on Salisbury Plain in the Wiltshire countryside, Stonehenge is said to have been constructed more than 5,000 years ago. Enjoy the views of the surrounding plain, visit the monument, and explore the exhibition for approximately 2 hours. Head back to Central London for around 1:30 PM, so you’ll have time to sightsee for the rest of the day.



Remainder of afternoon/evening at your leisure back in London

London--FREE DAY



London all day at your leisure--NO SPECIFIC PLANS

This day is built in to allow for independent (or small group) activities that you may not have considered up to this point. If you want more time to wander London--you have it. Or should we consider another day trip out of town? Windsor Castle? Stratford and the Cotswolds? Leeds Castle, Canterbury Cathedral, Cliffs of Dover, and Greenwich? Harry Potter-- Warner Brothers Studios? Oxford? Bath?



London to Paris



Check out of London hotel



Taxi or Tube to rail station for departure



**9:22 AM
Train to Paris**



**12:50 PM
Arrive Paris**



Taxi or Metro to hotel



Check into hotel on Left Bank of Paris
4 nights



3:00 PM - 3 hr

Afternoon for Notre Dame & Sainte-Chapelle independently

You'll have time this afternoon to grab some lunch, begin to explore the neighborhood immediately adjacent to your hotel, and then expand to wander over the river to the Ile de la Cite, birthplace of Paris over 2000 years ago, and home to the fame Notre Dame Cathedral. Though ravaged by fire in spring of 2019, her majesty is still unmistakable and she is resilient. If you go almost just around the corner (look for the police headquarters), take time to visit inside the jewel-box-like church of Sainte-Chapelle, built in the 13th century and still retaining it's original stained glass.



7:15 PM - 4 hr

Paris City Tour--Eiffel Tower--Seine Cruise

Capture the essence of the city during this enveloping tour of Paris. The Paris Seinorama tour shows you Paris from two different angles: above and below. Enjoy panoramic views of the capital from above as you ascend the statuesque Eiffel Tower, then cruise the River Seine and be captivated by an all together different view of the sights from below.



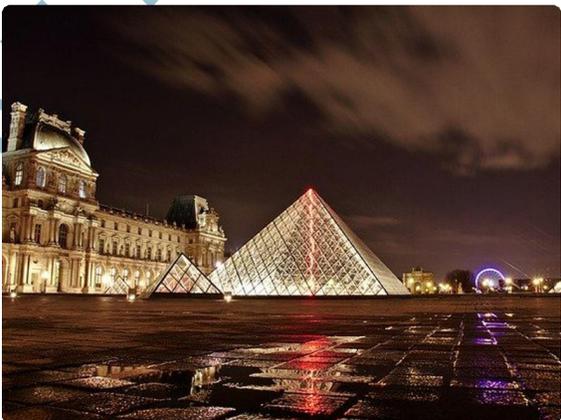
Paris sightseeing



10:30 AM - 2 hr

Louvre Tour

Head in faster and see art from an expert's perspective. Over 2 hours, skip the ticket line and follow a smart route through the Louvre with your guide. Get up close to the Venus de Milo, the sculpture that inspired so many artists. Next, head over to visit the Mona Lisa where your guide will explain the history behind the infamous painting. On top of this, see The Winged Victory of Samothrace, the famous Hellenistic statue carved in the form of Nike, the Greek goddess of victory. Your guide will take you to see all the big stuff, as well as underrated gems visitors often miss. In the basement of the Louvre Palace see the foundations of the castle that once stood on the site and learn the history behind it all. After the tour, feel free to explore the museum on your own for as long as you like.





2:15 PM - 1 hr 30 min

Paris Catacombs Tour

Believe it or not, the Paris Catacombs are just as much a symbol of city at Notre Dame or the Eiffel Tower. They contain bones representing some 2,000 years of history and their construction was a unique civil engineering project that helped give rise to the modern city. If you want to see a different and completely surprising side of the City of Lights, this is the perfect place to start.



Remainder of afternoon/evening at your leisure

Versailles DAY TRIP



9:45 AM - 4 hr

Versailles Palace & Gardens Half-Day Tour

On this half-day tour, you'll skip the lines at the entrance with your pre-booked admission to Versailles. With as few as 8 or only up to 25 people per group, your Versailles tour will be intimate and unhurried. An English-speaking guide will meet you at Versailles and lead you through the Gardens and Palace.

Marvel at the sheer size of the Palace of Versailles, one of the largest and most spectacular castles in the world, boasting 700 rooms! See the incredible array of fine art and the intricate designs of the 1,250 fireplaces as you work your way through the palace's highlights, including the King's and Queen's apartments, the Chapel, the Coronation Room, the Hall of Mirrors and the Salon of Abundance.

Head out into the sunlight and visit the manicured gardens, covering an area of 1,800 acres.



Remainder of afternoon/evening at your leisure

Target places you haven't visited yet this afternoon and tomorrow: Arc de Triomphe and Champs Elysees. Montmartre and Sacre Coeur. The Marais district. Canal St-Martin area. The main department stores Galleries Lafayette and Printemps and Le Bon Marche. Other museums: Orsay, Picasso, Rodin.

We'll evaluate on a case by case basis if it will make good sense for any to utilize a Museums/Monuments pass for the other primary museums, etc.



Paris--FREE DAY



Paris all day at your leisure--NO SPECIFIC PLANS

Continue sightseeing in Paris independently according to your interests and perhaps utilizing a hop-on/hop-off bus tour as your transportation. Or might you consider other day trips outside Paris? Monet's House and Gardens at Giverny? LONG day trip to Normandy D-Day Beaches or Mont Saint-Michel? Disneyland Paris? Loire Valley Chateaux?



Return to USA



Check out of Paris hotel



Private car to Paris airport for departure



Depart Paris on flight to USA (arrive same day)