

# AGELESS ARTS



## Day 1

Depart from home city.

## Day 2: City Tour and Orientation

Arrive in Paris, the historically dynamic and artistically romantic capital of France. Get acquainted with your surroundings on a **motorcoach overview tour** highlighting notable landmarks like the **Eiffel Tower**, the **Champs-Élysées**, the **Place de la Concorde**, the **Arc de Triomphe**, the **Pyramid of the Louvre**, and **Notre Dame**.

Embrace the pleasures of French food by stopping for a sweet at a **pâtisserie**. Your **Focus Director** will then familiarize you with the areas around your hotel and share practical information with you such as banking, mail services, phone, personal security, and health care.

### From Emblem to Eyesore

Head up to the second level of the **Eiffel Tower** for a magical view of Paris at night! Find it hard to believe that many Parisians originally fought the construction of this 'eyesore'? After mapping out the height of the tower in comparison to Paris' other not-nearly-as tall buildings and reading the 1887 protest petition, students discuss and debate convention vs. invention in a city's architecture and identity.

## Day 3: Tastes of Timeless Paris

### Morning at the Market

Join Parisians in a time-honored tradition and start your **morning at a French market**. Shop among locals while surrounded by aromatic cheeses, fresh vegetables, and high-energy merchants. This is a great chance to embrace the authentic French atmosphere.

Discover the historic center of the city where medieval buildings coexist with the hip crowds of the **Latin Quarter**. **L'Île de la Cité** was the island center of Paris throughout the Middle Ages. Walk through **Notre Dame**, a superb example of French gothic architecture built nearly 900 years ago, then visit the island's famous **Flower Market**.

### The Evolution of Revolution

Times may have changed since the blood and battle of the French Revolution, but you can get a feel for a much more recent revolt against the political and social climate. Take to the streets near **Sorbonne University** while walking through the **Latin Quarter**. Students will not only hear about the student protests and strikes of **May 1968**, but will deconstruct propaganda posters and reflect on the revolution's impact worldwide, then and now.

After lunch, explore the renowned arts of Paris! Let I.M. Pei's **Glass Pyramid** be your guide when you head to the world's most visited museum – the **Louvre**! Its collection of over 380,000 objects includes da Vinci's **Mona Lisa** and Michelangelo's **The Dying Slave**. Or choose to check out the impressive Impressionists showcased in the **Musée d'Orsay**.

In the late afternoon you are free to continue exploring Paris. Take in some of the architectural wonders of Paris by walking the **Champs-Élysées**, beginning at the **Place de la Concorde** and ending at the **Arc de Triomphe**.

Soak up the distinctive character and romance of Paris after dark as you glide along the **Seine River** on a **regal night cruise**.

## Day 4: Parisian Finale

### Versailles

Leave Paris and drive west to the **Palace of Versailles**. As the home of Louis XIV, the Sun King, this palace housed as many as 20,000 people at a time. Tour the Queen's and King's Bedrooms, the **Hall of Mirrors**, and extensive gardens of flowers and fountains.

In the afternoon, discover the districts of the **Marais** or **Montmartre**. Choose one of them for your **guided walking tour** with your Focus Director:

**Option 1:** Take a stroll through **Marais**, an old, charming district full of private mansions and narrow streets bursting with fashionable boutiques and restaurants. See the medieval **Hotel des Sens** and the **Place des Vosges**, a magnificent square that illustrates the importance of parks in Parisian life for over 400 years.

**Option 2:** Dive into the spectacular village atmosphere of **Montmartre**, a mecca for artists, writers, and poets. In addition to its hilled ascent, small, lively streets, and vineyard, the area's **Sacré Coeur Church** is the highest point in Paris and offers a spectacular view of the city.

Enjoy a night aboard the train as you travel from Paris to Rome.

## Day 5: The Eternal City

Arrive in Rome, a symbol of great beauty and unmatched opulence and one of the major benchmarks of Western Civilization. Get acquainted with your surroundings on a **motorcoach overview tour** highlighting the major sites of Rome, including **St. Peter's Basilica**, the **Colosseum**, the **Piazza Venezia**, the **Spanish Steps**, and the **Piazza Navona**. Your **Focus Director** will familiarize you with the area around your hotel and share practical information such as banking, mail services, phone, personal security, and health care.

Visit the Flavian Amphitheatre, more commonly known as the **Colosseum**. Built in 80 AD, it serves as an example of Roman architectural innovation and once showcased epic battles among gladiators, slaves, and animals. Pass through the **Via Sacra** and enter the heart of the **Roman Forum**, the religious, political, and commercial center of Ancient Rome.

You are free for the remainder of the day to explore on your own. We strongly suggest a visit to the **Capitoline Museums**, the oldest public museums in the world, for unparalleled insight into classic civilization.



The *Mona Lisa*, on display at the Louvre



Remnants of the larger-than-life statue of Constantine



Students in the Versailles gardens



A statue at the Palais de Chaillot, backed by the Eiffel Tower

## 8, 9, OR 10 DAY PROGRAM

### Landmarks

Eiffel Tower (with admission to 2nd level)  
 Champs-Élysées  
 Place de la Concorde  
 Arc de Triomphe  
 Notre Dame  
 Sacré Coeur Basilica  
 Marais  
 Montmartre  
 Île de la Cité  
 St. Peter's Basilica (with admission to top of dome)  
 Colosseum  
 Roman Forum  
 Capitoline Hill  
 Vatican City  
 Spanish Steps  
 Piazza Navona  
 Pantheon  
 Trevi Fountain  
 Quirinal Square  
 Campo de' Fiori

### Museums and Galleries

Louvre or Musée d'Orsay  
 Vatican Museums

### Interactive Insights

From Emblem to Eyesore  
 Morning at the Market  
 The Evolution of Revolution  
 Eye on the Pies

### Eye-opening Excursions

Versailles  
 Giverny (program extension)  
 Caracalla Baths, Catacombs, and Appian Way  
 (program extension)



The luminous *Fontaine des Mers* in Paris' Place de la Concorde

### Day 6: Roman Faith and Feast

Step into **Vatican City**, the spiritual center of the Roman Catholic faith and the world's smallest independent state. Tour the extensive collections in the **Vatican Museums** – nearly two dozen galleries and period rooms, plus its grand finale, the **Sistine Chapel**. Next, enter **St. Peter's Basilica**. Measuring two football fields in length, the Basilica can hold 60,000 worshippers. **Climb up the gold-encrusted dome's spiraling walkway** for breathtaking views of **St. Peter's Square** and the city of Rome.

### Eyes on the Pies

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and **prepare your own pizza**. Stretch out the dough, add fresh Italian toppings, and bake them in wood-fuelled ovens.

After a Roman feast, take a **night tour of Rome**. The best way to appreciate the Eternal City and its ancient past is to see it in the evening, when dramatic lighting illuminates the buildings, fountains, and squares.

### Day 7: Politics to the Pantheon

Begin a walking tour of Italian political life in **Quirinal Square**, dominated by the **Palazzo del Quirinale** – the offices and residence of the President of the Italian Republic. Walk down the hill and toss a coin into the legendary and beautiful 240-year-old **Trevi Fountain**. Visit the **Pantheon**, first a pagan temple then a Christian church, and a perfect example of classical architectural harmony. Pass through **Piazza Navona**, famous for Bernini's *Fountain of the Four Rivers*, then shop with locals at the open air market in **Campo de' Fiori**.

This afternoon, you are free to enjoy Rome on your own. You may wish to explore the popular neighborhood of **Trastevere** or people watch in **Piazza di Santa Maria**.

### Day 8: Arrivederci, Au Revoir!

Enjoy free time in the early morning for last-minute souvenir shopping.

Coach transfer to airport for flight home.

### Choose to extend your program with the following options:

#### **E** Option 1: Giverny

Leave Paris and step into the picturesque village of **Giverny**, inspiration to artist Claude Monet. Tour Monet's home and gardens, then relax on the banks of Seine alongside Giverny's quintessential blooming flowers, lily pads, and Japanese bridge.

#### **E** Option 2: Caracalla Baths, Catacombs, and Appian Way

Take a walking tour of the famous ancient baths of Caracalla, built in 212 AD and spanning over 27 acres. Pass through **San Sebastian Gate** to reach the **Appian Way**, a road created in 312 BC to link Rome to Brindisi. In the last centuries of the Roman Empire, Christians were buried in underground cemeteries known as **catacombs**. Visit one of the catacombs that line the **Appian Way**.

**Note:** This itinerary may be modified depending on your travel dates, arrival and departure times, national holidays, and hours of operation in the host country. Prices vary depending on departure city and duration of program.



Students outside of the Roman Colosseum