

PARIS OF THE BELLE EPOQUE: SUGGESTED ITINERARY

31 MAY-JUNE 6, 2014

MINIMUM 8 PARTICIPANTS

Day 1, Saturday

Arrival day: *The French Traveler welcomes you to Paris.*

Take a few moments to catch your breath in your beautiful new surroundings. Settle in to your elegant hotel, take a nap, have a drink in the lounge, and if you're not too tired, join us for an afternoon stroll through the Parc Monceau. Welcome cocktails at 6 pm, followed by dinner at a Belle Epoque establishment.

DINNER



Belle Époque décor

Day 2, Sunday

Explore the magnificent Opera House and understand how Haussmann transformed Paris. You'll experience the opulence and the sweeping boulevards which modified Paris forever. A visit to a *parfumerie* rounds out your morning, before an afternoon strolling through the elegant Tuileries gardens and optional stop at the Orangerie. Unforgettable dinner cruise on the Seine this evening.

DINNER



Opera House Paris

Day 3, Monday

The magnificent Palais Royal and the beautiful 19th century covered passages this morning, then lunch at Le Grand Colbert, where Diane Keaton and Jack Nicolson had their romantic rendezvous in *Something's Gotta Give*. On to the unmissable department stores of Galeries Lafayette and Printemps, both temples of 19th century architecture. Finish off the day with a wine tasting in a delightful Parisian wine bar.

LUNCH

Day 4, Tuesday

Our guide will take us on a private tour of the Orsay Museum, with its fascinating history and outstanding collection of Impressionist art. Afternoon at leisure, then a late-afternoon visit behind the scenes at the Eiffel Tower, icon of the Belle Epoque. A glass of Champagne will reward your ascent to the top.

COCKTAILS & HORS D'OEUVRES



Renoir : Bal du Moulin de la Galette

Day 5, Wednesday

Nothing says Paris and Belle Epoque better than the vibrant, 19th century neighborhood of Montmartre. We'll spend the better part of the day here, wandering its lovely little streets, visiting the cathedral, discovering off-the-beaten-path hideaways. Afternoon at leisure; optional evening at the Moulin Rouge or the Opera this evening.

MEALS AT LEISURE

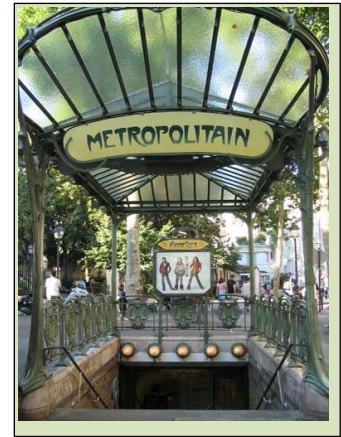


Day 6, Thursday

The Grand Palais and the Petit Palais were two monuments especially constructed for the Universal Exhibition of 1900. They stand today as a tribute to the brilliance of the architecture and the novelty of the structure. We'll visit them and the lively Champs Elysées, as did the Parisians during the Belle Epoque. Gala dinner this evening in a very special restaurant.

DINNER**Day 7, Friday**

Departure today after breakfast, or 9th stay another day and visit the Belle Epoque of the French Riviera with us.



3-DAY EXTENSION : DAY TRIPS OUTSIDE PARIS

MINIMUM OF 4 PARTICIPANTS

Day 1, Friday

Travel to the magnificent house and gardens of the impressionist painter Monet, called Giverny. Located northwest of Paris, at the border of Normandy, the gardens will be in full bloom and very beautiful at that time of year; you will appreciate Monet's attraction to the light and to nature. The American Impressionist Museum is right next door to Monet's house, within walking distance, also very interesting. Lunch on the premises; evening at leisure **LUNCH**

Day 2, Saturday

Back to the future: although not chronologically "Belle Epoque", this magnificent château southeast of Paris is breathtakingly beautiful and historically fascinating. Relax all day in Paris, see the sights you haven't yet seen, go on private visits, shop in the Marais, etc...then leave Paris this afternoon and head to the incredible chateau of Vaux le Vicomte, the forerunner of the Château of Versailles. In 1661, Nicolas Fouquet, then Louis XIV's finance minister, built this incredible chateau for himself,



Giverny : Magnificent gardens. spectacular scenery



Vaux-le-Vicomte by candle light

and to honor the king, threw an enormous inauguration party with fireworks, music, theatre, and food. Louis, raging with jealousy that Fouquet had outdone him, had him arrested the following day and imprisoned for the rest of his life. Fouquet never saw his chateau again and died in prison 30 years later. The chateau of Vaux le Vicomte hosts a stunning candlelight tour every Saturday evening. Arrive at the chateau around 5 pm, wander the magnificent gardens, dine at the chateau in the early evening, then do the candlelight tour of the interior of the chateau. Return to Paris by 11 pm. **DINNER**

Day 3, Sunday

After breakfast, you're free to continue your exploration of Paris or return home.