



Paris Top Picks 2016

Leatta Perdue – Travel Central American Express
504-84-7000 leatta@vacationsdepartment.com



Full-Day VIP Tour of Versailles: Behind Locked Doors - In the Footsteps of Marie-Antoinette

Small Group of 15: \$230 per person - 8 Hours

Spend a day in the magnificent Palace of Versailles, in the company of an English-only speaking expert local guide, who will bring to life the stories of the lavish courts under the French kings, their queens and mistresses. On this excursion from Paris, you will follow the lives and destinies of the French Royal family, most particularly Marie Antoinette, as you learn about regal life at the Court of Versailles under Louis XIV, XV and XVI. See the magnificent staterooms where the kings and queens held court, including the spectacular Hall of Mirrors. Then step behind the scenes with exclusive access to rarely seen areas including the homes of influential mistresses, royal children, ambitious nobles and jealous courtiers. Learn about Marie Antoinette and how she eventually fled this public life, retreating to the Petit Trianon and her Hamlet on the palace grounds where she lived a simple country existence, in stark contrast to the intrigues and constraints of the court. Explore these tranquil gardens appreciating the beauty of her private paradise, a world away from the crowds at the palace. See the secret corridors behind her bedroom where Marie Antoinette fled from the revolutionaries who finally stormed the palace and put an end to the extravagant court of Versailles and, indeed, the French royal family themselves. Beyond the palace's private locked rooms, in addition to the hidden corridors and staircases, you will also have free time to enjoy lunch at your leisure.

Includes: Guided visit inside the Palace of Versailles, Guided visit to the Gardens of Versailles, Guided visit inside the Petit Trianon, Guided visit to Marie Antoinette's hamlet, Escorted train travel to and from central Paris, Return train ticket, Small groups of 15 people or fewer, Headsets when appropriate, so you can always hear your guide.



Access To Eiffel Tower Summit, Skip The Line \$70 per person 2 Hours

Get a fast-track access to one of the world's most famous landmark: The Eiffel Tower. Your local expert will escort to the second floor the Eiffel tower with short amusing and interesting stories about this iconic tourist attraction and Paris. Then at your own pace you will visit the Eiffel Tower top floor.

Dinner Inside the Eiffle Tower 6:30 or 9pm Service

Starting at \$150 Per person – 2 Hours

Located on the first floor of the Eiffel Tower, the 58 Tour Eiffel restaurant offers a spectacular view of the Seine river, the Trocadero and the Ecole Militaire. MENU SERVICE PREMIER: Privileged seating close to the bay window Glass of Champagne as an aperitif Appetizer Tasting menu (4 Dishes) Drinks: Selection of Premium wines+ mineral water +Delicacies with coffee

Includes: One Glass of Champagne, a 4 course meal, wine, mineral water and coffee. Lift ticket for the 1st floor of the Eiffel Tower.



Skip the Line: VIP Secret Rooms of Versailles Tour Small Group of 20: \$105 per person - 4.5 Hours

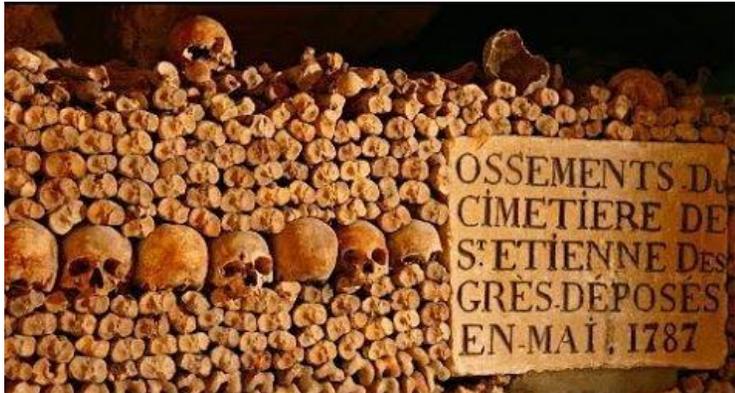
Our representative will meet you in central Paris where your experience will begin with a swift, escorted train ride to Versailles. Learn how the King would go to bed in public, then wait for everyone to leave, before retiring to his private apartments to really sleep, making sure of course to return to the public bedroom before sunrise so that the court could watch him wake up! Access is so restricted that the itinerary will adapt and change each time, to include either the stunning Opera House or the private Chapel, both closed to the public. At the end of our visit we'll reappear through a hidden door into the public apartments to find the crowds there again, just as the Kings and Queens would have in their day! Of course, no visit would be complete without a guided stroll in the magnificent gardens.

Includes: Expert, English-speaking tour guide; Small groups of 20 people or fewer; Entrance ticket and reservation fee for the Chateau de Versailles including the King's private apartments; Return train ticket from Paris (accompanied by a coordinator); Headsets when appropriate, so you can always hear your guide.



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Skip the Line - Catacombs of Paris

Small Group: Starting at \$75 per person - 2 Hours

Everyone knows Paris is famous for its monumental architecture, world-class museums, and illustrious people. However, few realize that just 65 feet below its streets a parallel city exists with a population of some 6 million skeletons arranged in 200 miles of former quarry tunnels that equally merits a visit. The Paris Catacombs are testament to the fact that the 'City of Light' has a darker side lurking below its romantic surface of tree-lined boulevards, public gardens and cafes, and its mysteries have rightly become one of its most popular must-see attractions. On our Paris Catacomb tours you walk past the long line outside to explore the most alluring portions of this massive labyrinthine network. Our tour groups benefit from the privilege of special access to parts of the Paris catacombs that are closed to the general public. Gates to two halls will be opened especially for your group to see the incredible sculptures chiseled out of the rock in the Port Mahon Gallery, where a quarry worker spent 5 years of secret toil from 1777 until a cave-in crushed him. Other sights include the Quarryman's Footbath, the Sacellum Crypt, with the altar where bones were blessed before being "archived", the Sepulchral Lamp, which burned constantly to show there was enough air in the tunnels, and the elusive Gilbert's Tomb.

Includes

Special access to restricted areas closed to general public; Expert, English-speaking tour guide; Small groups of 19 people or fewer; Entrance ticket and reservation fee for the Paris Catacombs



A Wine Tasting Dinner - O Chateau

\$125 per person

2 Hours Fri/Sat Only

This wine tasting dinner is a unique experience in Paris. While you enjoy a 3-course meal prepared by a French chef, four outstanding French wines (including one Champagne) as well as a digestif will be served, always with generosity. Our Wine Tasting Dinner makes not only for a different evening in Paris but also for a fun and tasty learning experience.

Skip the Lines and the Crowds: Semi-Private Louvre Museum by Night - Art & Wine Experience Small Group 20: \$130 per person 3.5 Hours Starts at 6:30 PM Wed/Fri Only

With over 35,000 pieces on display, to over 8 million yearly visitors filling its halls, the Louvre can be overwhelming! But we'll let you in on a little secret: when most tourists have finished their sightseeing for the day, the Louvre remains open to those few travelers who are in the know and looking for a unique and less-crowded way to experience its wonders. Standing before the Mona Lisa without climbing over the masses of picture-taking tourists, just to get a quick look? Admiring the Venus de Milo without fear of being trampled by the crowds? This experience is possible in small groups of 20 people or fewer and our evening Skip the Line Access to the Louvre. After your tour of the Louvre you will be escorted to a beautiful 18th century Parisian mansion just a short walk away, where you will be able to visit a spectacular wine cellar and enjoy a flight of wine (3 glasses selected specially for your group) and a buffet of typical French cheeses and charcuterie. As you relax with your group, an expert sommelier is on hand to provide information about the wines and the food, and your guide will be happy to provide information about the beautiful building and its history as well the original vaulted wine cellars, still used for storing wine today.

Includes: Expert, English-speaking tour guide; Small groups of 20 people or fewer; Entrance ticket and reservation fee for the Louvre; Headsets when appropriate, Flight of 3 glasses of wine, cheese and charcuterie buffet to share.





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Paris Aligre Market Walk

Small Group of 8: \$750 per person - 2 Hours

Enter into another world and see a different side of Paris: the most energetic, colorful, lively and cosmopolitan market in the city. It's the Market d'Aligre in the 12th district in the east, near Bastille. With our friendly and knowledgeable local guide, you will discover places that normal tourists never reach and enjoy 2 hours of exploring the market and meeting the local stallholders with tastings en route. At the heart of D'Aligre Market is one of the few remaining covered markets in Paris, the Marche Beauvau packed with permanent stalls overflowing with tapenades, spices, nuts, North African harissa, flowers, poultry and cafes at which to snack. Outside, filling the surrounding streets is the energetic open-air market around the square d'Aligre jammed with fruit and vegetable stalls and a busy flea market where you can find all sorts of treasures. Along the rue d'Aligre are interesting gourmet shops selling delicious North African breads, French cheeses, chocolates, mussels and fish, spices, teas, pastries, organic bread - all lying behind the market stalls crammed with lots of African and Asian delicacies. It is a vibrant atmosphere and has very much a local community feel. You will be introduced to stallholders and explain some of the history of the market. You will discover the full range of products and of course there will be pauses for a couple of tastings of the specialty foods on offer plus a break for a mint tea in a corner cafe.

Includes: Guided tour and hot chocolate or coffee or infusion at a Cabaret cafe



Flea Market in St Ouen and Vintage Paris Walking Tour Small Group of 8 \$101 per person 3 Hours Mon/Sat/Sun Only

Enjoy an exceptional walking tour in Paris vibrant giant flea market (biggest one in the world!). You can't imagine what you can find there! Different areas have different themes from decorative furniture, antique textiles, paintings, ceramics, glassware, lighting, prints, maps, vintage clothing, jewelry, bags - it goes on and on with thousands of stalls. If you need help with negotiating or having your items packed and exported, our guide can take care of it all for you. You'll learn about the history of the market too. To revive you, the visit includes a hot chocolate, coffee or infusion at the famous and colorful cabaret cafe Chez Louise with an Edith Piaf style singer, accordion player and the atmosphere of retro Paris. This will be one market visit you will never forget !

he market was officially created in 1885. It structured itself gradually to become today a worldwide reference for bric-a-brac shop. Now, with 1 700 merchants including 1 400 antique dealers.

Lido de Paris - Dinner and First Show You may share a table with others. 4 hours \$205 Per Person

Enjoy an unforgettable evening at the world renowned Lido Show. You will be served a delightful three course dinner meal and will have the opportunity to select the dishes of your choice from the menu on the spot. The menu includes half a bottle of champagne or half a bottle of wine. By selecting an evening at Lido Show, you will appreciate an authentic cuisine full of flavour while enjoying your dinner you will be seized by the unique Parisian spirit. When making your booking, you can choose between 3 menus : Menu Elysees - Menu Etoile - Menu Triomphe having a selection of different starters, main dishes and desserts.

Includes: A seat at the Lido Show, a three course dinner meal and half a bottle of champagne or half a bottle of wine.





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Dinner Cruise Bateaux Parisiens

**\$125 Per Person Etoile/\$179 Elegance/\$214 Privilege
\$281 Premier Fri/Sat Only 2.5 Hours**

Step on board for a magical cruise on the 'Bateaux Parisiens' and admire Paris from the Seine. The Bateaux Parisiens cruises are renowned for being some of the most sophisticated and luxurious cruises on the River Seine. Whilst gliding past the sights, enjoy the delights of French cuisine freshly prepared by Chef Yves Gras, a member of the Academy Culinaire de France, while an orchestra and singer add a romantic touch to this candlelight dinner. You will have a choice between 4 types of service depending where you would like to seat. You can enjoy your dinner seating at the front of the boat (Service Premier), at a window seat (Service Privilege), from a panoramic seat in the middle of the boat (Service Elegance) and if you have no specific wish you can select Service Etoile, you will be allocated a seat depending on frequency on the boat. The boat is made of glass so wherever you seat, you will enjoy a great view of Paris. Each menu includes a glass of champagne (except for Service Etoile, a kir). You will have a choice of 4 starters, a choice 4 main courses and a choice 4 desserts from the 'A La Carte' menu as well as mineral water, a coffee and wine selection.

Includes: Cruise on the River Seine, aperitif, 3 course dinner, mineral water, coffee, 1/4 bottle of white wine, 1/4 bottle of red wine.



Skip the Line: Musee d'Orsay Highlights

Small Group 20

\$55 Per Person 2 hours

The Orsay is first and foremost a French museum, and many of its most famous works are by French and Paris-based artists, or depicting scenes throughout France. Even though Van Gogh was certainly Dutch, we'll see his famous Starry Night over the Rhone: a representation of the French city of Arles.

Loire Valley Castles & Wine Tasting Day Trip from Paris Small Group 25 \$196 Per Person Tue/Thur/Sat Only 12 Hours

After leaving Paris in a comfortable air-conditioned coach, our tour heads straight into the Loire Valley towards Chateau de Chambord. Building on this beautiful chateau was started in 1519 by King Francis I who used it as a hunting lodge. Considering its spectacular architecture and astounding staircases, however (one of which is said to have been designed by Leonardo da Vinci), Chambord is every bit the castle. As you enter the more than 52 square kilometers of lands, be sure to keep an eye out for the wild boar and red deer that call this place home. By now it must be time for lunch so it's back to the bus and on to our next stop, an exclusive visit to Chateau de Nitray private castle and vineyards. Here you will enjoy a great home-cooked lunch made from local produce and sample some of the region's best wines, including a crisp Sauvignon Blanc and a full-bodied Cabernet Franc, guided by one of the family members who own the chateau. Finally, you will end your visit with a tour of the grounds. Our last stop is a tour of Chateau de Chenonceau, an elegant 16th century castle that is sure to steal your heart at first sight with its smooth white stone and intricate painted wooden door. Inside this castle (which itself is built in the middle of a river) are the well-maintained original stone carvings, immense tapestries, and an intimate chapel.

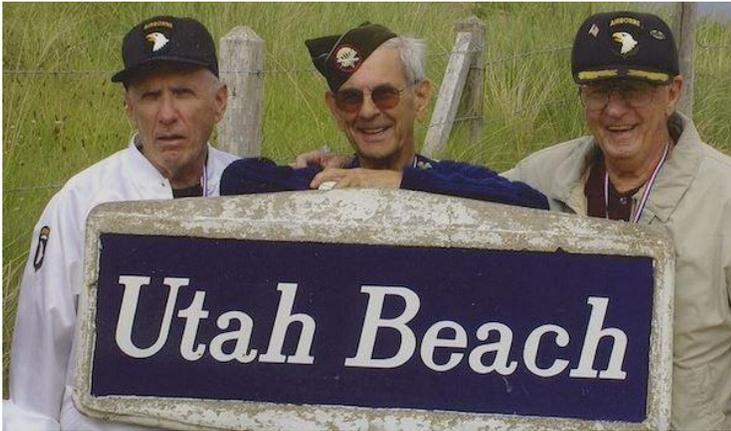
Includes: Expert, English-speaking guide; Small groups of 25 people; Entrance ticket and reservation fee for all sites visited; Headsets when appropriate, air-conditioned coach; Lunch, including wine.





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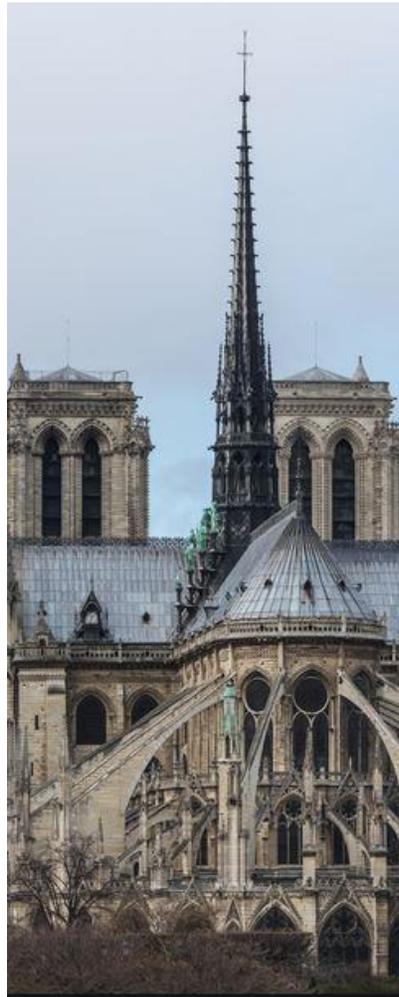
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Normandy U.S. D-Day Beaches Day Trip from Paris with Lunch and Cider Tasting Small Group 23 \$202 Per Person - 14 hours Wed/Fri Only

We'll first arrive at the exceptional Utah Beach Museum. The museum offers unparalleled views over Utah beach and is home to one of the only six remaining B-26 airplanes left in the world. We'll stop for a brief visit in a traditional Norman cider-making 17th century barn. We'll with a typical Norman-style lunch, freshly prepared for us with only seasonal ingredients. After lunch we will travel to Pointe du Hoc, a German defense situated on the cliff tops and heroically taken by US Rangers. This cliff overlooking the English Channel today remains very much as it was left over half a century ago by the Rangers. Many of the original German fortifications have been left in place and the area is still scarred by bomb craters. We'll also have the opportunity to pay our respects to the fallen at the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. Our stop in the area includes a visit to the Omaha Beach Visitor Centre, where we'll learn that despite meticulous planning of the Omaha Beach landings, very little went as planned.

Includes: Expert, English-speaking tour guide; Small groups of 23 people or fewer; Entrance ticket and reservation fee for all sites visited; Headsets when appropriate, so you can always hear your guide; All transfers in an air-conditioned coach; Lunch, including one glass of cider.



Notre Dame & Sainte Chapelle

Small Group 20 \$84 Per Person Wed/Sat Only 2.5 Hours

Your guide will unfold the histories and mysteries forever captured within these walls, from days of antiquity to the present. Once you've explored the interior of the impressive edifice, the tour will continue to nearby Sainte Chapelle where you'll be whisked past the crowds with Skip-the-Line access and straight into this hidden wonder of Paris. Another gothic masterpiece, this former chapel of King Louis IX, also known as Saint Louis, was built in 1248. It is home to over 6,500 square feet of 13th century stained glass, two-thirds of which are recently-restored originals.

Includes: tour guide; Small groups of 20 people or fewer; Entrance ticket and Skip the Line access to Sainte Chapelle; Headsets when appropriate, so you can always hear your guide.

VIP Private Fashion Shopping Tour

Max of 4 People - \$416 total

This privately arranged 3 hour fashion and style treat in the very heart of Paris, the world's Fashion Capital can be booked as a private and exclusive treat for you alone or with a small group. Your own private Fashion Counsellor will plan for you a personalized programmer according to the fashion survey we ask you to complete before arrival. Before leaving Paris, we will ask you what interests you in the world of fashion. Your local Paris Fashionista will meet you at your hotel and take you on a custom made journey through the heart of the best fashion areas of Paris. You'll be in the hands of an expert and you'll pick up style tips, ideas and some fabulous items for a chic Parisian look to make you the envy of your friends back home.

