

CATHEDRALS OF FRANCE

A 6 night tour starting and ending in Paris designed to focus on the religious heritage of France which just happen to be in some of the greatest wine regions in the world. More wine visits can be included on request as can extensions to see the chateau of the Loire Valley. Ideal for those who like to tour in beautiful and distinct areas with short daily travel distances.



Day 1 – Paris

Arrive in Paris and meet your specialist tour guide at the airport before enjoying a panoramic coach tour of the iconic sights of Paris. After checking in to the hotel go to Montmartre area and visit the Sacre Coeur Basilica. Enjoy some free time relaxing in the area before meeting for dinner.

Overnight Paris

Day 2 – Reims

Spend the morning in Paris and enjoy a visit to the great cathedral, officially called Notre Dame de Paris which contains the relics of Jesus' thorn crown and a piece of the wooden. Leaving the city we travel to the Champagne region and visit the gothic cathedral in Reims with its amazing 2303 statues

Overnight Reims

Day 3 – Brienne le Chateau

After breakfast discover nearby Epernay and visit one of the famous Champagne houses. Travelling through the rolling chalk lands so distinctive of this area arrive in Chalons en Champagne. Just outside the town visit the basilica of Notre Dame de l'Epine. A flamboyant gothic World Heritage Site. The town itself is a great place for to explore and find lunch. Continuing south arrive in Brienne le Chateau and the 14th century church of St Pierre and St Paul. This small city was where Napoleon attended the local military college and is oddly famous for its sauerkraut having a dedicated festival to the "love it or hate it foodstuff".

Overnight Troyes

Day 4 – Burgundy & Chablis

Known as the City of Art this small city has 9 churches, 1 cathedral and has remarkably well preserved historical centre, ideal for exploring on foot. Just out of the city is the nearby village of Bar-sur-Seine where a visit is made to the pilgrimage site of Notre-dame-du-Chene with a nearby healing well. Known as Our Lady of the Oak to learn about the statue of the Virgin Mary and its repeated journeys. Travel through Burgundy vineyards towards Auxerre and the Chablis vineyards. Vineyards in both areas can be included but Chablis would be recommended. En-route a visit will be made to the divine spring at Tonnerre called The Fosse Dionne and the beautiful little church of St Pierre.



Overnight Auxerre

Day 5 – Charite sur Loire

The town was the centre of the wine industry when wine was transported by river. This is not the case now but the town and city are still pleasant to visit. We are now near one of the pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostella and we will see the Montjoie cross an important stop on the route of St Jacques. It is here because this was and is the pilgrim's first view of the Vezeley basilica.



This is now a World Heritage Site and is a must see site before we reach the glorious Loire Valley and the small town of Charite sur Loire. Important on the route de Santiago de Compostella and one of the few places to cross the Loire the whole town is a World Heritage Site. We too cross the Loire and visit Bourges and the Notre Dame de Bourg Cathedral, one of the largest in Europe. Nearby is the town of Nevers where a visit is made to Saint-Cyr Cathedral and the church associated with Saint Bernadette. Learn about the experiences of this 14 year old girl and the appearance the Virgin made to her.

Overnight Orleans

Day 6 – Orleans

Explore the city that was the birthplace of Joan of Arc and visit Saint-Croix Cathedral. This tour continues to Chartres Cathedral and back to Paris but some extend this tour to include some of the chateaux of the Loire Valley - Chambord and Blois are nearby.

Overnight Paris

Day 7 – Departure transfer to airport

Included Highlights

Accommodations:

6 Nights Hotel

Meals:

6 Breakfasts,6 dinners

Sightseeing:

Panoramic tour of Paris, Epernay, Notre Dame d L'Epine, Vineyards of Burgundy and Chablis, Notre Dame de Bourg Cathedral, Saint Cyr Cathedral, Saint Croix Cathedral and Chartres.

Also Included:

Airport-hotel transfers, hotel and local taxes, baggage handling, touring by deluxe private motorcoach, services of a professional tour manager, local specialist guides.