

# American Celebration of Music in France

## Tour #3 (7 nights / 9 days)

### Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Paris, France

### Day 2

Paris / Chartres / Tours (D)

Arrive in Paris

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Tours

Time permitting, stop enroute at Chartres for a tour of the magnificent cathedral. Pilgrims have now been coming for almost eight centuries to admire the 175 representations of the Virgin Mary. The 25,000 square feet of stained glass (mostly from the 12th century) depicting 5,000 figures is considered the greatest achievement of this art form in the world

Continue to Tours for late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Tours was an important center of trade and administration under the Romans, but is presently most famous for its location in the heart of the Chateaux Country of France — also known as the "garden of France." Kings and courtiers and magnates built famous Renaissance chateaux such as Blois, Chambord, Chenonceaux, Azay-le-Rideau in this gentle valley*

### Day 3

Tours (Loire Valley) (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a guided tour of the Loire Valley, including entrance to one of the most famous Chateaux. *Chateau Chenonceau* is perhaps the finest of all of the castles in the region. It straddles a river and was constructed in the 1520's, once the home of Diane de Poitiers, Catherine de Medici and other luminaries

Lunch, on own

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***

Evening dinner and overnight

### Day 4

Tours / Mont St. Michel (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

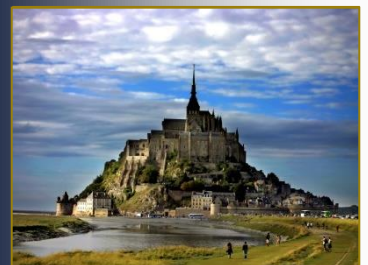
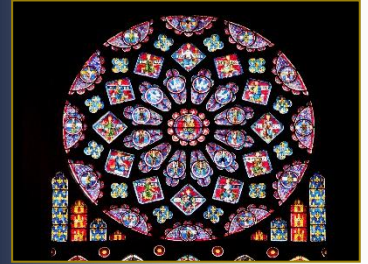
Morning transfer to Mont St-Michael

Lunch, on own

Half-day sightseeing includes entrance to the Abbey, La Merveille (the incredible grouping of buildings on the north side of the Mount), the Abbey Gardens and the Refectory

Evening dinner and overnight

*Mont St-Michel is one of the most striking sights that France has to offer. Perched on its rocky islet and surrounded by walls and bastions, this old abbey has the appearance of a fortified castle*



**Day 5****Mont St. Michel / Coleville / Caen (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Caen via Coleville

***Perform a short memorial recital at the American Cemetery***

Participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach

Lunch, on own

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***

Evening dinner and overnight

*As the capital of Lower Normandy, Caen is a thriving university city with exceptional historical heritage. William the Conqueror lent the town his favor in the 11th century and commissioned many of the city's most famous sites including the Abbey aux Hommes and the Abbey aux Dames, where his wife Mathilde is buried. Caen was the center of some of the fiercest fighting in the Liberation of 1944. The peace memorial is unquestionably the greatest museum of World War II and a "must-see" for anyone who visits the city*

**Day 6****Caen / Paris (B,D)**

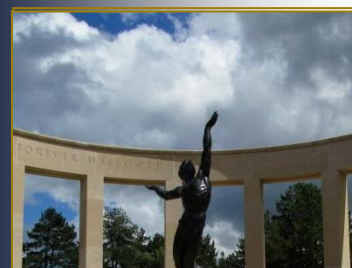
Breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided tour of Caen, including a visit to the Peace Memorial. The Memorial, to the northwest of the town center, is a modern Peace Museum. Its themes are the two world wars and the means of ensuring and preserving peace. Also pass the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, built by William the Conqueror

Lunch, on own

Afternoon transfer to Paris for evening dinner and overnight

*With its grand boulevards, Streetside cafés, magnificent architecture, and river vistas, it takes little to understand why Paris is known as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. There is nothing more inspiring than walking the streets of Paris taking in the dynamic atmosphere. Paris is a place that breathes history and legend, a perfect combination of the modern and the ancient*

**Day 7****Paris (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of *Paris historique*, including seeing the Notre-Dame Cathedral during the restoration process after the devastating fire in 2019, Champs Elysees, Luxembourg Palace and Gardens, Place de la Bastille, and other highlights

Lunch, on own

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***

Evening dinner and overnight

**Day 8****Paris (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

***For choirs only: Late morning performance in a local church***

Lunch on own

Enjoy an afternoon tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the largest and greatest art museum in the world

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 9

Depart for home

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to the Paris Airport for return flight

***This is a very flexible itinerary.*** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

© Music Celebrations International

