



## France High School March 2023

Travel Dates: March 11, 2023 - March 19, 2023

### March 11<sup>th</sup> - Fly overnight to Paris

### March 12<sup>th</sup>

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport
- Take a walking tour of the Latin Quarter, so named because the language was once commonly spoken by the Sorbonne students that populated the area
- See Notre-Dame Cathedral, known for its sculptured facade, stained-glass rose windows, and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings, and see the progress of its restoration following the 2019 fire which damaged much of the building
- Enjoy dinner in the Latin Quarter

### March 13<sup>th</sup>

- Guided learning: Take a guided tour of Paris
- With your expert local guide, you will see:
  - Place de la Concorde, a major public square
  - Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques
  - Arc de Triomphe, a monument honoring those who fought for France in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars
  - Eiffel Tower, built for the 1889 World's Fair and an iconic symbol of Paris
  - Hôtel des Invalides, a grand hospital commissioned by Louis XIV
- Take a guided tour of Versailles, where Louis XIV hosted his royal court to reign in their power and prevent their political rise
- With your expert local guide, you will see:
  - State Apartments of the King and Queen
  - The lavish Hall of Mirrors which depicts political successes on its vaulted-ceiling murals
  - Meticulously landscaped gardens and dozens of ornate fountains

### March 14<sup>th</sup>

- Travel via Chartres and Chambord to the Loire Valley

- Visit Chartres Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that looks almost exactly as it did centuries ago
- Take a photo stop at the Château de Chambord and admire the Renaissance-style architecture of this 16th century marvel where the *Mona Lisa* and *Venus de Milo* were stored for safe keeping during World War II

### March 15<sup>th</sup>

- Take a guided excursion to the Loire Valley
- Visit the Château de Chenonceau, a breathtaking architectural marvel that actually extends across the River Cher, supported by submerged pillars that form a pattern of arches on the water's surface
- Visit the majestic gardens of Amboise, a Renaissance-style château
- ♦ Cultural engagement: Visit a wine cellar: A popular export for the country.
- Visit and dine at a troglodyte cave dwelling, a subterranean grotto still used today as chapels, bakeries, wine cellars, and more

### March 16<sup>th</sup>

- ♦ Cultural engagement: Visit the Mont Saint Michel Abbey, a commune and abbey perched on granite that has attracted pilgrims for more than a thousand years
- Visit St. Vincent Cathedral to see the tomb of Jacques Cartier, who is credited with discovering Canada
- ♦ Guided learning: Tour Saint-Malo with your Tour Director, an ancient walled city almost totally destroyed during World War II and now one of the most popular destinations in France

### March 17<sup>th</sup>

- Visit the beaches of Normandy to see where the campaign that eventually liberated mainland Europe from Nazi's was launched
- See Pointe du Hoc, another important location of WWII
- See the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial and pay tribute to WWII soldiers
- Visit the Caen Memorial, dedicated to reminding visitors of the fragility of peace
- Enjoy dinner in the Normandy region

### March 18<sup>th</sup>

- Travel to Paris, the City of Light
- Explore art from around the world at the Louvre, home to over 35,000 objects including Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, the *Mona Lisa*

### March 19<sup>th</sup>

- Depart to Tampa