

de Paris, built from the 12th to the 14th century, are instantly recognizable... The towers are 69 metres high while the spire, a 19th-century addition, soars to a height of 90 metres. Immortalized in Victor Hugo's novel The Hunchback of Notre Dame, the cathedral is a Gothic masterpiece enhanced by delicate stone filigree work. Some of the fine stained-glass windows date back to the Middle Ages. Don't forget to look up at the ghoulish gargoyles that adorn the roof gutters of the building.

Notre-Dame de Paris



8:00 am Breakfast at the Ibis hotel 9:00 am Luggage at the concierge

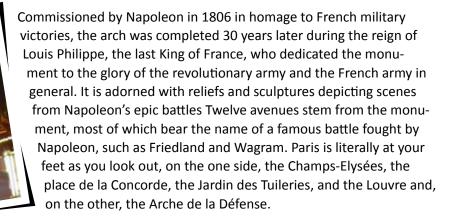
Give water bottles to everyone Subway to Arc de Triomphe

9:45 am Champs Élysées

9:15 am

10:45 am Optional visit to the Louvre - or Jardin des Tuileries noon Outdoor lunch at Jardin des Tuileries - Café Diane

Dress code: Casual (Jeans, shorts and T-shirts are fine)





Carried States

This was the first public garden in Paris. This 280 000 square meters green setting between Place de la Concorde and rue de Rivoli was designed by André le Nôtre in 1664. The French flower beds, clumps of trees, outdoor scluptures and little ponds are flanked by the Musée du Jeu de Paume and the Musée de l'Orangerie.

The Louvre, in its successive architectural metamorphoses, has dominated central Paris since the late 12th century. Built on the city's western edge, the original structure was gradually engulfed as the city grew. The dark fortress of the early days was transformed into the modernized dwelling of François I and, later, the sumptuous palace of the Sun King, Louis XIV. The Louvre is one of the French capital's most renowned sites. With its rich past and collections, it is one of the world's greatest museums. The best known of the Louvre's extensive art collection is undoubtedly its most often-visited and famous painting, Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, located in the Renaissance Italian Paintings section. The Winged Victory of Samothrace, the celebrated headless statue with outspread wings, and the Venus de Milo are two of the most frequently viewed Greek statues, while the Seated Scribe is one of the most emblematic pieces in the Egyptian Antiquities section.

July 30 Paris

Tower

12:45 pm Subway to Eiffel Tower

1:15 pm Visit Eiffel Tower

3:00 pm Batobus - Eiffel Tower - Louvre4:30 pm Subway to hotel to get luggage5:00 pm Leave on bus for Honfleur

7:30 pm Pick up by families in Honfleur - Gare routière

The Eiffel Tower turns 120 this year! On that occasion, a special exhibit is taking place on the first floor of the Tower. "Tales of the Eiffel Tower" invites people to discover the beginnings of the Tower, its successful image, its highlights, replicas and souvenirs and what goes on behind the scenes. It's on May 15, 1889 that the Eiffel Tower opened its door to the public, a few days after the inauguration of the Paris World's Fair. It became the uncontested attraction of the event. The Eiffel Tower, built in commemoration of the French Revolution, was the tallest building in the world when it was unveiled. Although it has been surpassed in height by nearly a dozen skyscrapers since then, Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel's chocolate-brown, 984-foot open-lattice wrought-iron tower remains one of the world's premiere tourist attractions. Eiffel's crew assembled the 18,000 pieces of iron in just 21 months, under budget and in time for the fair's opening day. With the completion of the Tower, Eiffel earned the nickname

"magician of iron." The Eiffel Tower was also one of the first tall structures in the world to contain passenger elevators, and tourists loved them. Elevator ticket sales in the Eiffel Tower regained almost the entire cost of the structure -- in just one year!

Batobus on the Seine



The Batobus boats offer a pleasant sightseeing ride along... the Seine, stopping at eight of the top Paris landmarks - the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Elysées, the Musée d'Orsay, the Louvre, St Germain des Prés, Notre-Dame, the Hôtel de Ville and the Jardin des Plantes.



7:30 am Drop off by hosting families in Honfleur - Gare routière Sandwich lunches delivered to bus
7:35 am Drive to Restos du cœur's Distribution Centers in Caen and surroundings
9:30 am Morning of volunteer work at the Restos du cœur
11:30 am Pick up and drive back to Honfleur
12:00 pm Sandwich lunch
Free time to discover Honfleur and walk to museum
2:00 pm Érik Satie Museum - group 1
3:00 pm Érik Satie Museum - group 2
Free time to discover Honfleur
4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - Petit Grenier à sel (1h30)
6:30 pm Change to Heritage in Harmony polo shirts and navy blue pants
7:00 pm Reception at the Petit Grenier à sel - Hosting families join students
8:30 pm Performance on the Parvis of the City Hall - in Honfleur Harbour
9:30 pm Back to hosting families

Dress code: Casual (Jeans, shorts and T-shirts are fine). Bring Heritage in Harmony polo shirts and navy blue pants for evening.

Honfleur is a town surrounding a beautiful little 17th-century harbor in Normandy. Honfleur is especially known for its old, beautiful picturesque port, characterized by its houses with slate-covered frontages, painted many times by artists. Still active as a fishing port, and now a popular yacht harbour, the town has preserved its rich historic and artistic heritage with its picturesque streets, traditional buildings, museums, churches and monuments. The oldest, and most visited, part of Honfleur lies within the area of the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall), the deconsecrated church of Saint-Etienne, the remains of the old prison and the original 17th century Salt Halls (Greniers à Sel), now used for exhibitions and concerts. Sainte-Catherine's 15th and

16th century church was built by local shipbuilders as a temporary structure and

is the largest wooden church with a separate bell-tower in France. Its ceiling resembles the hulls of upside down ships. Built entirely of wood, even including wooden roof shingles, the church has a very peaceful, intimate atmosphere. The bell-tower, also largely built of wood, dates from the end of the 15th century. And of course, Honfleur is the port, from where Champlain launched his expeditions to New France.

A surrealist walk into Satie's music and wit. The composer Erik Satie was born in that Honfleur house in 1866. His life is told over free audio phones from room to room, with many anecdotes and music samples.

Founded by the famous French comedian Coluche, in 1985, les Restos du Coeur is a non-profit assocation, which goal it is to fight poverty by assisting people in need, especially with free meals, and helping them to get back on their feet socially and economically, and re-insert them into society. We will participate in a morning of activities at six of their local distribution centers.

Thanks to Wilhelm for the idea!



8:45 am Drop off by hosting families in Honfleur - Gare routière

Sandwich lunches delivered to bus

9:00 am Departure for Courseulles sur mer9:30 am Visit Juno Beach Center (Canadian)

10:45 am Drive to Arromanches - artificial Mulberry harbour

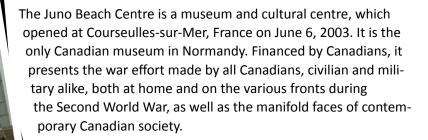
noon Picnic lunch in Arromanches 1:15 pm Drive to Colleville sur mer

1:45 pm Visit Omaha Beach: US military cemetery, museum and beach

3:45 pm Drive to the Batterie de Longues
4:15 pm Visit the Batterie de Longues
5:00 pm Drive back to Honfleur

7:00 pm Pick up by hosting families in Honfleur - Gare routière

Dress code: Casual (Jeans and T-shirts are fine; no shorts; sweat shirts/jackets)



Colleville sur mer US Cemetery

Batterie de

Longues

sur mer

Juno Beach Center

Normandy American Cemetery sits on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach. It is located on the site of the temporary American St. Laurent Cemetery, established by the U.S. First Army on June 8, 1944 and the first American cemetery on European soil in World War II. The cemetery site, at the north end of its ½ mile access road, covers 172.5 acres and contains the graves of 9,387 of US military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the D-Day landings and ensuing operations.

The Longues-sur-Mer battery was part of the German Atlantic Wall defences. Longues-sur-Mer overlooks the ocean from the top of a 65-metre high cliff, making it an ideal position for the Germans to install a battery of four 150 mm cannons, with a range of 19.5 kilometers. A firing post, barely finished by 6th June 1944, was installed alongside the cliff. It is one of the few still intact sites of the Atlantic Wall and the only battery which still has its cannons. Starting at 05:30 on 6th June 1944, several cruisers and a battle-ship bombarded the position. But when the landing fleet arrived offshore, the battery opened fire itself. Guns continued firing until 5:00 pm. The Longues-sur-Mer battery surrendered to the British the following day along with its garrison of 184 men.



**Aug. 2** Free day with hosting families

Aug. 3

9:15 am Drop off by hosting families in Honfleur - Gare routière

Give water bottles to everyone

9:30 am Discover Honfleur - walk and quiz (prizes for winners)

noon Lunch at L'Alcyone 1:30 pm Bus to Trouville beach

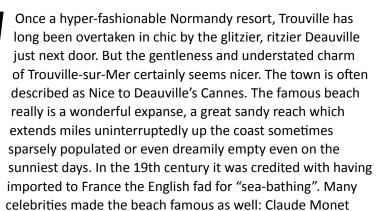
2:15 pm Beach time

5:45 pm Pick up by hosting families in Trouville - Place du casino - Voyages Fournier

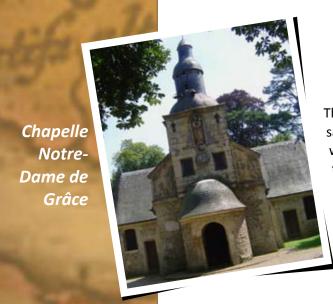
7:00 pm Farewell dinner with hosting families - Chapelle Notre Dame de Grâce

Dress code: Casual (Jeans, shorts and T-shirts are fine).

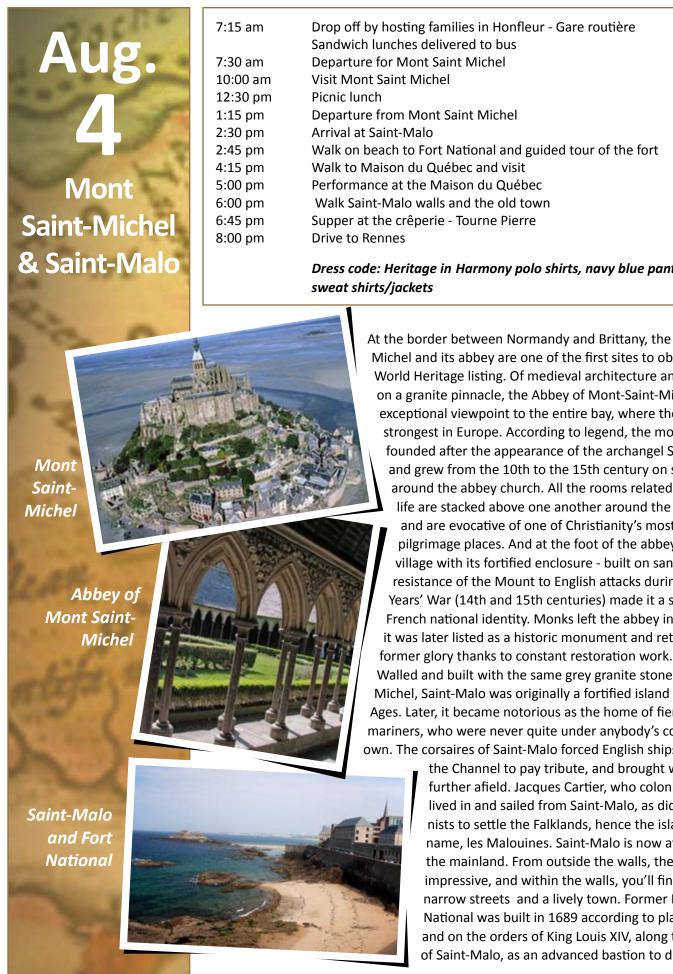
Don't forget bathing suit and towel.



and Eugène Boudin both painted it; it is also where the young Gustave Flaubert fell in love in 1836, walking behind a beautiful married woman, Elisa Schlesinger, and gallantly picking up her cape which had fallen on to the sand; Marcel Proust stayed in one of the villas overlooking the beach, making it the model for La Raspelière in Remembrance Of Things Past, and stayed also in the Hotel Des Roches Noires, whose breezy glamour Monet also painted.



The Notre Dame de Grâce Chapel is one of the region's oldest sanctuary chapels. It's a charming little chapel adorned with model wooden boats of every kind. You can also see plaques telling the tales of New France's explorers who left from Honfleur, including, of course, Samuel de Champlain. The chapel was founded by Richard II and rebuilt between 1600 and 1615. It offers beautiful views on Honfleur and on the Seine.



Drop off by hosting families in Honfleur - Gare routière Sandwich lunches delivered to bus Departure for Mont Saint Michel Visit Mont Saint Michel Departure from Mont Saint Michel Walk on beach to Fort National and guided tour of the fort Walk to Maison du Québec and visit Performance at the Maison du Québec Walk Saint-Malo walls and the old town Supper at the crêperie - Tourne Pierre

Dress code: Heritage in Harmony polo shirts, navy blue pants and

At the border between Normandy and Brittany, the Mont-Saint-Michel and its abbey are one of the first sites to obtain UNESCO World Heritage listing. Of medieval architecture and constructed on a granite pinnacle, the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel is an exceptional viewpoint to the entire bay, where the tides are the strongest in Europe. According to legend, the monastery was founded after the appearance of the archangel Saint Michael, and grew from the 10th to the 15th century on several floors around the abbey church. All the rooms related to monastic life are stacked above one another around the top of the rock and are evocative of one of Christianity's most important pilgrimage places. And at the foot of the abbey stands the village with its fortified enclosure - built on sand! The heroic resistance of the Mount to English attacks during the Hundred Years' War (14th and 15th centuries) made it a symbol of the French national identity. Monks left the abbey in 1790, and it was later listed as a historic monument and returned to its

Walled and built with the same grey granite stone as Mont Saint-Michel, Saint-Malo was originally a fortified island in the Middle Ages. Later, it became notorious as the home of fierce piratemariners, who were never quite under anybody's control but their own. The corsaires of Saint-Malo forced English ships passing up

> the Channel to pay tribute, and brought wealth from further afield. Jacques Cartier, who colonized Canada, lived in and sailed from Saint-Malo, as did the first colonists to settle the Falklands, hence the islands' French name, les Malouines. Saint-Malo is now attached to the mainland. From outside the walls, the old city looks impressive, and within the walls, you'll find charming narrow streets and a lively town. Former Fort Royal, Fort National was built in 1689 according to plans by Vauban and on the orders of King Louis XIV, along the ramparts of Saint-Malo, as an advanced bastion to defend the city.



Breakfast at the Ibis hotel Drive to La Rochelle Lunch at Cafe Aquarium - marina les Minimes Walk to the Towers and the New France exhibit - optional Free time in La Rochelle to wander around Drive to Rochefort Drop off luggage at Hotel des Remparts Supper at Le Galion Street animations Free time in Brouage

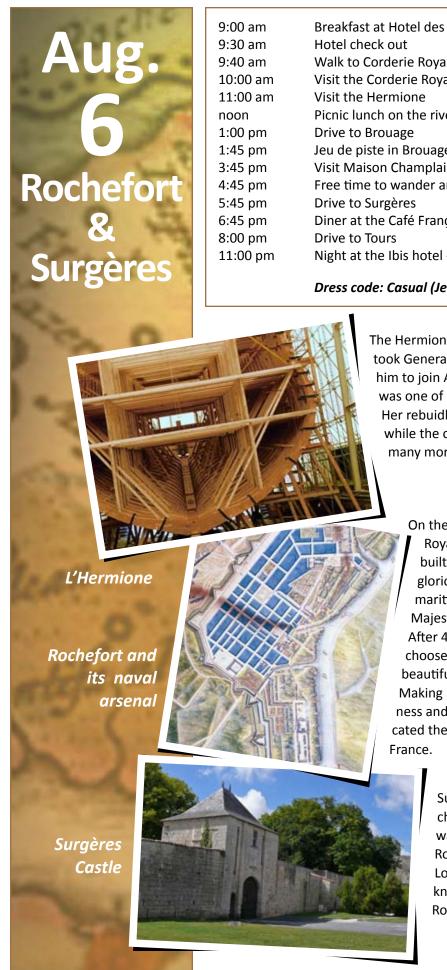
Dress code: Casual (Jeans, shorts and T-shirts are fine); sweat shirt/jacket

La Rochelle was founded in the 10th century as a fishing village which began to expand in the 12th century to reach its apogee in the following century through the wine and salt trade. In the 18th century, sea trade especially the regular interchange with New France and the West Indies kept the city prosperous. Anchored to the Atlantic coast, near the Islands of Ré and Oléron, La Rochelle is now well known for its various ports: the Old Port in the city centre, the marina at les Minimes, the Commercial port of La Pallice, and the fishing port of

heritage, with its two Towers guarding the Old Port; but also its churches, its secret roads lined with arcades, its old wooden and aristocratic houses, and its stately residences.

Brouage was founded in 1555 on the Bay of Biscay facing the Atlantic Ocean. Its economy was based on salt and access to the sea. The town was fortified between 1630 and 1640 according to plans by Vauban and on the orders of Cardinal Richelieu as a Catholic bastion in order to fight against the sieged Protestant town of La Rochelle. After 10

years of construction, the town could maintain a 6000men garnison and became the best fortified town on the Atlantic Coast. Its fortifications are of a square shape with sides of 500 meters long and 7 towers. However, at the end of the 17th century, the founding of Rochefort and the re-establishment of La Rochelle deprived Brouage of its military importance. Gradually the harbour silted up leaving the town stranded and useless as a port. It fell into ruin. As we know, Samuel de Champlain was born in Brouage between 1567 and 1570, in a Protestant family.



Breakfast at Hotel des Remparts Walk to Corderie Royale Visit the Corderie Royale Picnic lunch on the river shores Jeu de piste in Brouage (walk and quiz - prizes for winners) Visit Maison Champlain Free time to wander around Brouage Diner at the Café Français - Surgères Night at the Ibis hotel - Tours

Dress code: Casual (Jeans, shorts and T-shirts are fine)

The Hermione was a 12-pounder frigate of the French Navy. She took General La Fayette to the United States in 1780 to allow him to join Americans in the American Revolutionary War. She was one of a series of four similar frigates built in Rochefort. Her rebuilling started in 1997 and is expected to take 10 years, while the original one was built in less than one year, but with many more workers.

On the shores of the Charente river, stands the Corderie Royale, the 17th century Royal Rope Making Factory, built by Colbert at the request of Louis XIV. In 1662, the glorious Sun King asks Jean-Baptiste Colbert to build a maritime arsenal on the Atlantic Coast, "worthy of his Majesty, his reign and of the greatness of his royal armies". After 4 years of searching for the ideal location, Colbert chooses Rochefort as its site and builds "the biggest, most beautiful [arsenal] there is in the world". The Royal Rope Making Factory was a brilliant expression of Louis XIV's greatness and a pre-industrial, architectural masterpiece. It fabricated the ropes which were required by the sail warships of

> Surgères is a small village with a beautiful Roman church and a Middle-Age castle, with 600 meters of walls and 20 towers. It used to be the residence of La Rochefoucauld in the 17th century and has welcomed Louis XIII and Richelieu as guests. Hélène de Fonsèque, known as Hélène of Surgères, muse of the famous poet Ronsard, has made the little town famous.



étoiles

8:00 am
Breakfast at the Ibis hotel
Check out
8:30 am
Drive to Versailles
noon
Lunch at Arche - Versailles
2:30 pm
Guided tour of Versailles
5:30 pm
Drive to Ibis Bastille Opéra
6:30 pm
Arrival at hotel
7:30 pm
Diner, evaluation session, prizes and disc jockey - Passage vers les étoiles
midnight
Bus back to hotel
00:15 am
Night at the Ibis

Dress code: Casual (Jeans, shorts and T-shirts are fine); Dress up for the evening if desired.

The Château de Versailles is one of the most beautiful achievements of 18th-century French art. It was Louis XIV who chose the site to build the palace we know today, the symbol of royal absolutism and embodiment of classical French art. Louis XIV moved the court and government of France to the Château de Versailles in 1682 and it remained the seat of power until 1789.

The grounds, known generally as *le parc* were designed by André Le Nôtre who "raise[d] the art of garden-craft to a height it has never attained since, and of course had never been reached previously." Although the inspiration for the

gardens came from the Italian renaissance, the gardens of Versailles are in a league all their own.

Interestingly, the Château de Versailles emerged from very humble beginnings. The word *versailles* itself comes is of uncertain origin but seems to be from the Latin *versare* meaning "to keep turning over" and was used in medieval times in the agricultural context of plowed land. It bears a resemblance to the French *semailles* which means "sown seeds". This etymology is interesting because Versailles is associated with splendor and absolute power, and yet its very name brings it back to its original state of being a neglected piece of land. Louis XIII had a small hunting lodge on the site, but it was Louis XIV who began to restructure the location into an icon of absolute power and timeless domination.

Close to the Ibis Bastille-Opéra and a few blocks from Père Lachaise famous cemetery, the *Passage vers les étoiles* has the right name to host our farewell dinner. In an extravagant decor of marble and ceramics, we'll have our own private room for an evening of food and music.



8:45 am Breakfast at the Ibis hotel

9:30 am Hotel check out

French students - Bus leaves for Honfleur

9:45 am Drive to Roissy Charles de Gaulle

11:00 am Drop off at Terminal 1, transfert to Terminal 2A and check in

Pick up of French students by their family - Gare routière

1:30 pm Flight AA147 to Boston - Terminal 2A

Dress code: Casual (Jeans, shorts and T-shirts are fine)