



Paris for Virgins-No-More and for Paris Encore! Trip Notes December 5-15, 2016

Highlights

- Virgins No-More? A first trip out of country was Florence January 2015, then Rome November 2015, and now Paris for the first time. I think it covered Steve's bucket list.
- Steve and Nola are my hiking guides for many years, many trips, and now with their 4-year old company www.ParksPlusHiking.com.
- We had a luxury 3 bedroom, 3 ½ bath duplex apartment in the Palais Royal right across the street from the Louvre. The whole Palace had been built by Cardinal Richelieu as his residence. The panorama at the top is the Palace that faces the Louvre.
- This was my 4th stay in Paris in a year, and my 5th trip through Paris this year. I'm trying to find an open spot in my calendar to go again and soon.
- Christmas lights are usually worth the trip but this year hugely less.
- Another trip report? A shortened version since there are so many others and because the itinerary covers a lot.
- Richelle is an American/Parisian replanted from Mississippi who we met on another trip and who we keep up with as much as she'll let us. She joined us for a dinner in the apartment, we joined her for two walking tours, and we had lunch together in Montmartre. She's a delightful designer and historian willing to share Paris stories.



From Nola

I am glad to have shared in the trip with you, Tom, Steve, and to meet Richelle. Some of my highlights, not in any order, were:

- Enjoying the Xmas walk with you & Tom and then dinner with you.
- Food tour with you & Steve.
- The flyover tour with Steve and going up the Eiffel Tower even though it wasn't on my list.
- The trip to Versailles with you and Steve, especially when it was the three of us at lunch and then walking after. Loved the light in MA's farm. And... I felt human & not sick on Tuesday! 😊
- Wandering around the Musée d'Orsay
- The La Chapelle concert
- Getting more of a chance to visit with Tom also.
- I'm sure there's more.

There were many challenges in the city yet that doesn't stop me from doing things. I must say that I do get out of my comfort zone but it's kind of similar to you snorkeling. You did it anyway! ;)

Nola mentions “challenges” because we talk about her guiding me in the woods where she has NO fear of being out, camping alone, carrying bear spray, and finding her way whereas I’m more comfortable in a big city. But I’m not comfortable snorkeling like they got me to do ONE time only in Hawaii. Yet Nola keeps going back for more cities.

Picture is from Nola, the Eiffel Tower in the smog (more on that below).



From Steve

Received shortly after the trip in a holiday card relating to what we refer to as the 4 o’clock syndrome of jet lag: “What time is it? Why can’t I sleep? Why am I hungry again already? This is all your fault and we thank you for that!”

Weather

We go in the off-season for a few reasons, not the least is that the tourists are mostly gone and the prices are better. Steve and Nola are off work in the winter. We decided in Florence that we’d rather have rain than tourists; we kept that philosophy for Rome and now Paris. For this trip we only had a half day of drizzle but we did have some bone-chilling cold that made walking tours a challenge, especially for those with a cold.

Pollution

A surprise was the foggy look that turned out to be smog with air alerts. I didn’t feel or really notice it but others did. It created free metro rides for our first couple days. We’ve learned that Paris will be creating even more pedestrian-only streets and going to do away with diesel cars.

Protests/Strikes

I asked a guide why she thought the French had so many revolutions. She thought that was the only way they could get change. It’s not unusual to see street protests. We are advised to check the news before counting on 45 minute drive to the airport. We didn’t check, we got in a mess having to take a lot of back streets, but it worked out fine. Here’s a note from Steve whose driver spoke enough English to explain:

Taxi was 2 minutes late. Apparently the “unofficial” taxi drivers were staging some kind of strike/protest today according to our cabbie. There were about 15 vans on freeway headed in other direction (thank goodness) going about 20 mph blocking pretty much the whole road creating huge traffic jam. We made it to airport circa 9:45 am and had to wait for almost an hour for Icelandair check in to open. Short wait for security once we found correct line, now waiting yet again.

Museums

You’ll see within the itinerary that we had a private guided tour of the Louvre in order to simplify the finding of the highlights in this huge major world class museum. We more so enjoy the Muse d’Orsay with impressionist art as much because it’s smaller and more navigable on your own. Nola tried the Orangery with the 360 degree art of Monet when he was nearly blind, but the line was long and I didn’t think she missed much. The pictures are from Nola’s trip to Picasso Museum.

We like this story of the Americans who donated their art collection to the Muse d’Orsay saying it belonged there: Bonnard/Vuillard. Donated by Zeïneb and Jean-Pierre Marcie-Rivière. I saw some of it on my last trip(s) but much more has been put on display now.



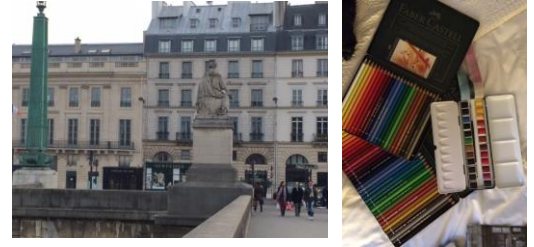
<http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/collections/bonnardvuillard-donated-by-zeineb-and-jean-pierre-marcie-riviere.html?cHash=1030a57d48>

Historical and Famous Art Shop

Where art and history intersect – per NPR:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5581725>

We shopped here for both Nola and Marie. It was just across 'our' bridge on the other side of the Louvre.



Not so historical but fun

Space Invaders: Delightful mosaics left by elusive Paris street artist

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/destinations/2016/03/31/invader-paris-street-art-mosaics/82442672/?csp=travel>

La Chapelle for a concert

Across from Notre Dame in the famous stained glass chapel created to house the Crown of Thorns, we enjoyed a Christmas concert complete with an opera type singer with huge lungs and a powerful voice. Then a dinner at The Deux Palais.



Food tour

We have liked www.ParisByMouth.com before and booked them again for a Latin Quarter tour over by Rue Mouffetard. Here's what we found as written by still another excellent tour guide, Sara, with an amazing bio (even studied sushi in Japan!)

Places we visited:

- Carl Marletti at 51 rue Censier (tart au citron, seasonal eclair: chestnut and cassis)
- Gregory Renard's Cacao et Macarons at 35 rue Daubenton (macarons)
- Aux Saveurs d'Auvergne at 48 rue Daubenton (no website) (paté de lapin, rosette de lyon, jambon d'auvergne)
- Androuet at 134 rue Mouffetard (cheese...see below)
- Le Fournil de Mouffetard at 123 rue Mouffetard (no website) (baguettes)
- Mococho at 89 rue Mouffetard (chocolates)
- Maison Claudel Vin & Whisky at 62 rue Monge ("Petit Fumé" Pouilly Fumé 100% Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire Valley Region followed by a Grenache, Syrah, Mouvedre blend from the Languedoc region, specifically the Fougères appellation)

Cheeses we ate:

- Morvan (goat, burgundy, 1- 2 weeks) Very young and silky, this cheese is fresh with hints of hazelnut.
- Sainte-Maure-de-Touraine AOC (goat, Loire Valley, 10-28 days) - with a long straw inserted to hold the fragile cheese together and ventilate its interior, this ash-covered cheese tastes fresh and salty with a hint of walnut.
- Trou du Crou (cow, Burgundy, 4 weeks) - washed with Marc de Bourgogne, this is basically a baby version of Epoisses - smaller in size and aged for less time. This recipe was based on Maroilles, the first washed rind cheese created around 960 AD. Monks were forbidden meat on fast days, and with more than 100 of these per year, not to mention compulsory fish on Fridays, cheese was an essential part of their diet. Washed with Marc de Bourgogne, a brandy made from

pressed grapes (like Grappa), the rind has a terracotta color and is sticky. The aroma is reminiscent of smelly socks and the taste is meaty, eggy, salty and rich with a long finish.

- Fleur du Maquis aux Herbes (sheep, Corsica, 1-3 months) - also known as Brin d'Amour, this soft textured sheep's milk cheese has a pronounced herbaceous flavor because of the wild herbs and chilis packed onto its rind.
- Brie de Melun AOC (cow, Ile-de-France, 7-8 weeks) - the coagulation of curds is slower (over 18 hours) than with Brie de Meaux because this cheese relies less on rennet and more on lactic fermentation. Flavor can vary wildly by the season, but it is usually more salty, meaty, savory and sometimes metallic and bitter when compared to Brie de Meaux.
- Ossau-Iraty (sheep, Basque Pyrénées, usually 8-17 months) - this crowd-pleaser is nutty and salty, becoming more compact and concentrated with age. A version produced by the Agour cooperative was awarded the title "meilleur fromage du monde" in the World Cheese Awards against 2700 competing cheeses.
- Roquefort AOC (sheep, Midi-Pyrénées, usually 3 months but can go up to 10 months) - this is a very old cheese, dating from before the Roman conquest of Gaul (2nd century BC). Ripened for at least three months in the Cambalou caves below Roquefort-sur-Soulzon. These natural caves are filled with *Penicillium roqueforti*. Made from sheep's milk from a defined region around the village. Some 3.3 million cheeses are cured every year in these caves. Round rye and wheat loaves are specially baked and left where the airflow is strong. After 6-8 weeks, the crust is discarded and the inside is dried. Cheeses after eight days of production are taken to the caves and pierced with needles. Carbon dioxide caused by fermentation in the pate escapes and the spore-laden air is introduced. Protected since 1411 when Charles the VI signed a charter granting the people of Roquefort-sur-Soulzon the right to make it, and in 1925 it was the first cheese to be granted AOC status. Carles is generally appreciated as the top producer, based on the criteria of balance (no over-salting) and complex raw milk flavor, bite without harshness, and soft buttery texture.



Lots of this was put into a doggy-bag and sent home with us as we were the only ones with a refrigerator. Then a few days later Steve returned to the same area for some chocolates.

Walking and bus tours

Despite the cold and sometimes wind, we did plenty of touring. They are outlined in the itinerary and included an overview with bus tour, River Seine tour, and to the top of the Eiffel Tower; a walking tour of St Germain des Pres; a long and full day out to Versailles which included the Grand and Petite Trianon plus Marie Antoinette's hamlet; Steve to Normandy for the D-Day overview and museum; a walking tour of Montmartre; and surely more.



Entering Versailles, out in the garden, a lovely meal out by Marie Antoinette's hamlet which is still a working farm but the grape vines didn't do so well.

Health

Mr. Burton held up! Of all of us, he was the only one without an issue. Some big, some little, but issues. Two had colds. One had stress. Another had a sore chest from coughing and at the very last day stepped wrong and got a 'broken-knee' that will hopefully heal on its own.

Daily emails home

They just didn't happen. Maybe I was tired? Maybe I didn't want to dictate and bother my roommates. And my main-home-mate was with me. Here's the one and only report I sent and it was entitled Paris Day 1.

Paris - again?

Are we crazy? This was the fifth time through Paris in one year, and our fourth stay in Paris. (One trip was on our way to Normandy).

So one could say "we are where we are supposed to be." Our apartment is again in the Palais Royale just across the street from the Louvre. And you might remember that it was Cardinal Richelieu who built this complex as his home. Now it is home to many restaurants, arcades, and fortunately a series of renovated modern apartments.

We thought our three bedroom, 3 1/2 bath duplex was pretty special but we got a tour of a place in the same complex that costs about double. No thanks. By clicking on WWW.Parisvacationapartments.com you can find both three-bedroom apartment pictures and floor plans. The new luxury one was just taken over by PVA as it had been owned by a group who subscribes zillionaires to partake of the best around the world. They pay \$1 million fee and have rights to luxury apartments around the world. I guess not all zillionaire business deals work out. This one might have flopped because of the 2 to 1 employee ratio.

Arriving very early in the morning, we were pleased to be able to enter the apartment early. I went off to fill the refrigerator and coffers, and then when friends Steve and Nola arrived just after noon, we went for an initial walking tour. By dark we were giving them introduction to the metro system that we took to the Arc de Triomphe i.e. The Etoile. It was hard not to encourage them to walk under and around the Arch but walking home the 2 to 4 miles through the Christmas markets was plenty enough for us tired bodies. This main boulevard is famous not only for its crowds but for its heavily decorated atmosphere. Along the way we would indulge in hot chocolate to keep our cold fingers warm, mulled wine to warm our innards, and little marzipan almond goodies.

Having done the same walk and having plenty of pictures in Paris, I am not surprised that Tom didn't even bring his camera. Nola did so we will encourage the sending of pictures from her. Here are



some of the Christmas lights and windows in the Galleries Lafayette, famous for its internal dome and decorations.

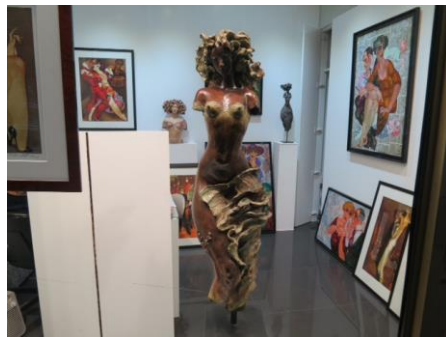
We remember seeing Paris through the eyes of Marie a couple years ago and it is equally fun to now see it through the eyes of first timers Steve and Nola. We were together in Florence early last year, then in Rome last November. It is fun to think through where we might take our fourth trip.

A small, and I question that word small, glitch was finding the apartment's hot water heater was not working. We didn't figure that out until late at night when a bunch of very tired bods needed washed. Tired and grumpy for having been up traveling all night then pushing to stay up and moving all day so as to get into the current time zone. (No it doesn't work but it's a better method than napping).

Pictures include our apartment kitchen area, the Ferris wheel at Concorde, the Cartier building dressed up, and out our balcony to the inner courtyard.



Tom's collection as sent around

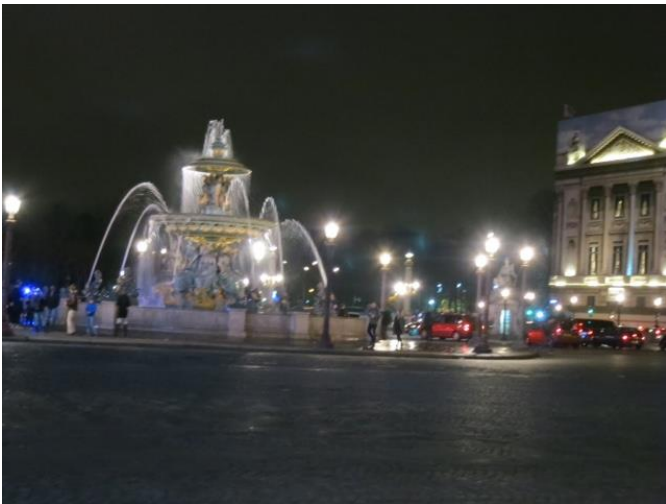


Our place for 10 days in the Palais Royal. Then taken in the artsy Place de Vosges. Cartier.





Ferris Wheel in Concorde instead of the Guillotine. Gold flakes in your bubbly??? Totally bubbly. These were taken on our Walking Tour of Christmas Lights.



Concorde again with the Eiffel Tower all aglow in the background. On the hour the lights of the Eiffel Tower twinkle.

Two lovely and unique pictures from Nola – The French and some of us thought the statue with bird on it represented how the American voters were feeling.



One man's life - found in the Asian museum

We have enjoyed this museum at the Park Monceau before but didn't much appreciate this artist's work except for his posters of "firsts" which I totally reprint here it was so amusing.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parc_Monceau

Walasse Ting by Walasse Ting

1 year old first time sing song
2 years old first time stand up
3 years old first time catch grasshopper
4 years old first time fly kite
5 years old first time draw dragonfly
6 years old first time smell flower
7 years old first time piss under rain
8 years old first time see fire burn house
9 years old first time eat honey
10 years old first time see locomotive
11 years old first time see man and woman make love
12 years old first time see grandfather die
13 years old first time masturbate in bed
14 years old first time dance in ballroom
15 years old first time write love letter
16 years old first time falling in love
17 years old first time make love in the dark
18 years old first time leave china
19 years old first time sold watercolor
20 years old first time make love with prostitute
21 years old first time one man show
22 years old first time take big boat to paris...

23 years old first time make love with white girl
24 years old first time drink champagne
25 years old first time feel melancholy
26 years old first time feel lovesick and homesick
27 years old first time first borrow money
28 years old first time not believe in anything
29 years old first time write a poem
30 years old first time come to America
31 years old first time make love with black girl
32 years old first time eat hot dog
33 years old first time get married
34 years old first time grow mustache
35 years old first time wash dishes
36 years old first time worrying pay rent
37 years old first time have daughter
38 years old first time buy color television
39 years old first time buy life insurance
40 years old first time have son
41 years old first time naked in rain
42 years old first time wake up in rain
43 years old first time hear mother drop dead
44 years old first time see father sleep inside coffin
45 years old first time time become U.S. citizen
46 years old first time smell money like bullshit
47 years old first time see sun is square...

48 years old first time know life is round
49 years old first time bought a crystal peach
50 years old first time eat green snake
51 years old first time bought a letter by Gauguin
52 years old first time go to Tahiti
53 years old first time drive a blue Rolls-Royce
54 years old first time have a cat
55 years old first time rainbow for breakfast
56 years old first time shower with symphony
57 years old first time cry wife died
58 years old first time discover look like panda
59 years old first time buy bottle perfume
60 years old first time make love with virgin
61 years old first time falling in love with red hair girl
62 years old first time bought whole truckload roses
63 years old first time lost love
64 years old first time feel death
65 years old first time see sun rising
66 years old first time breathe fresh air
67 years old first time fishing in sea
68 years old first time paint a whale
69 years old first time buy a white Buddha
70 years old first time buy 2 shooting stars

The museum also featured Lebadang which had been a favorite of mine for years with two originals in my office during my tenure at Hanson PLC, then the subsidiaries, then lost when the company was

sold. I'd never realized he was Leb A Dang, a Vietnamese. Coincidental since we'd lived in Viet Nam.

Palais Royal courtyard and gardens as taken from one of our balconies.

History of the Palais Royal: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palais-Royal>



I'm sorry that this is The End. But only for this trip. I am desperately seeking a spot in my calendar to return to Paris and will surely make it happen.

Itinerary

Mon Dec 5 – Tom and Diana

6:20pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#57

Mon Dec 5 – Steve and Nola

4:15pm Depart Denver DEN via Icelandair #670

Tue Dec 6 – Tom and Diana

7:45am Arrive Paris Charles de Gaulle airport CDG

Taxi airport to apartment.

Apartment 30 rue Montpensier, 1st, Paris 75001 in the Palais Royal

Tele in apt: 01 84 06 15 48 – free local and to land lines (NO cell phone numbers) in US

Renting agent: Paris Vacation Apartments www.parisvacationapartments.com

Tele of office 011 33 1 42 64 20 03 email: pva2rent@gmail.com

Cell of Clara: 06-63-60-67-14 who is scheduled to meet us; clara.pva1995@gmail.com

Back-ups: Fanny 06 24 41 22 84 or Fred 06 11 23 29 98

<http://www.parisvacationapartments.com/our-apartments/three-bedroom/palais-royal-luxury-three-bedroom-duplex/>

D grocery shop (list in file), fill the liquor cabinet, rest, be in the apartment for S & N arrival

Tue Dec 6 – Steve and Nola

6:35am Arrive Keflavik KEF for plane change

7:40am Depart Keflavik KEF via Icelandair #542

12:00noon Arrive Paris Charles de Gaulle CDG

At airport: Walk through baggage, follow taxi signs to end of terminal, avoid unofficial taxi solicitations, and expect to pay 50-60 Euros. There is a set price so no meters are used. (I think it was 55 and a total of 60 makes the driver very happy.) Public transport is doable but when tired

If public transport, take free monorail CRGVAL to train terminal. Kiosks to purchase ticket. Try to get the express. Watch valuables. Then Metro to Palais Royal and use iPhone GPS (Download Google Maps onto iPhone for Paris) to walk 2-3 blocks to apartment. Caution – expect stairs.

PM S & N rest, short walk, and intro to the local neighborhood and how to use the metro. If restaurant desired, suggest local Le Grand Colbert but will have sufficient snack food in apartment. Tom suggests Metro first to Etoile and then walk back Champs d'Elysee through Concorde and Christmas markets to apartment.

Wed, Dec 7 – S & N

9:00am Bus tour: overview of Paris, a Seine river cruise, and the second level of Eiffel Tower. Grayline/Paris City Vision for about four hours. Conf#58956348 for 2. (I hate these fly overs but it is probably best to get an overview and get it over with first and this is a cheap and quick way to get it done.)

Tour ends at Eiffel Tower area. Can walk to Trocadero through gardens. Suggest Café du Trocadero or Chez Frances at 7, Place de l'Alma, either with view of Eiffel Tower.

Richelle is a Paris-Walks tour guide who also does the suggested Montmartre tour on Wednesday December 14. We will invite her to the apartment for snacks and drinks, as she's always wanted to see inside a Palais Royal apartment, we like her a lot, and will try for this evening first, then any others that work if not. Optional for S & N.

6:30pm Richelle Tele: 06 86 79 94 43

Thu, Dec 8 – S & N & D?

10:30am Walking tour of St Germain-des-Prés starting at St Sulpice church.
www.Paris-Walks.com - €15 per person for about 2 1/2 hours. No reservations needed.

From www.Paris-Walks.com - Saint Germain-des-Prés - This tour captures the essence of Paris on the Left Bank: the old abbey church of St Germain, charming streets lined with bookstores and literary cafés, old squares, artists' studios, the famous Paris Fine Arts School, the hotel where Oscar Wilde died, and the beautiful St Sulpice church, mentioned in the Da Vinci Code. Meet in front of the Church of St Sulpice (near metro St Sulpice)

Add on - lots of possibilities in this area.

Add on - pay up for a stop at one of the famous literary restaurants, Le Deux Magots, Café de Flore or Procope

Add on – lunch of coq au vin at famous Procope

6:00pm Concert at La Chapelle including dinner – for all 4. Dinner either before or after. Arrive for concert at 5:15pm for security line.

Dinner at Le Deux Palais, at 3 Boulevard du Palais, 75004 (across the street to entrance) for 2-course dinner either pre or post-concert.

Fri, Dec 9 for S & N & D

10:00am Taste of Latin Quarter with
www.ParisbyMouth.com.

Meet: We will meet on the sidewalk in front of Cave de la Bourgogne at 144 Rue Mouffetard, 75005

Marie guide: cell: **06 50 35 53 26** (that's [+33 6 50 35 53 26](tel:+33650355326) if dialing from a foreign phone). (Sara filled in for an ill Marie.)

The closest metro is Censier - Daubenton on the line 7 (pink line).

About this tour: Throughout its long history, the Latin Quarter has hosted the city's most prestigious educational institutions, along with an eclectic mix of students. More recently, and more in keeping with our gluttonous aims, the area has seen the arrival of prize-winning cheese-mongers, sweet shops and other food artisans.

What we'll taste: Dessert lovers, this is the tour for you. In addition to sampling savory charcuterie and cheeses from one of the most historic cheese affineurs in town along with bread and wine, we'll be sharing a wide array of treats along the sweet spectrum. That includes our favorite small production macarons in the city, chocolates from the hand of a Meilleur Ouvrier de France (an MOF – the highest rank for a French chocolatier), and many more surprises. Although we will be sampling a bit along the way, the bulk of our tasting and discussion will take place while seated in a comfortable



wine shop where we can select and pair different wines to enjoy with the wonderful items we've collected during our walk.

Practical info: Our tours are all conducted in English and last approximately three hours. This tour will finish with a seated tasting that includes wine, but we'll be on our feet and moving for at least two hours throughout the tour. We'll send you the exact meeting point upon booking, but you can plan to begin near the Maubert-Mutualité métro stop and finish near the Odéon métro stop. We maintain very small group sizes and are unable to add guests to tours that don't have enough available tickets.

4:00pm Louvre tour by www.Paris-Walks.com - 2 hour skip the line Louvre tour; then Louvre stays open until 9:45pm; Paid 40 Euros each, with 15 Euros entry fee due at start. Email: paris@paris-walks.com

From www.Paris-Walks.com – Small Group Louvre Highlights Tour, paintings, sculptures, Mona Lisa, Venus de Milo, Winged Victory, Coronation of Napoleon, the history of the Louvre as a royal palace with the remains of the medieval castle, a sumptuous ballroom and some secrets away from the crowds. Limited to group of 6 people. Met at statue of Louis XIV outside Louvre pyramid.

Sat, Dec 10

10:30am Walking tour of the Marais District starting at Metro St. Paul. www.Paris-Walks.com - €15 for about 2 1/2 hours. No reservation needed. (didn't happen)

Add on - walk into Bastille area and the canal district. Lunch at Bofinger brasserie in Bastille or eat on Place de Voges

Add on - the Picasso museum in the area.

Add on - walk home via Les Halles with the Pompidou Center

Sun, Dec 11 - S

7:00am Normandy and D-Day beaches for 14 ½ hours. Grayline/Paris City Vision Conf #58956351

5:30pm Paris at Christmas walk – no reservation needed.

From www.Paris-Walks.com – Enjoy the festive atmosphere of Paris and learn about this elegant central quarter, its history and French traditions. We see the lights and decorations of Paris, the Opera house, place Vendome, the Madeleine, the flower market, luxury food shops, famous cafes and stores decked out with special Christmas displays for which Paris is renowned. Meet at main entrance to Madeleine Church, at top of steps, facing rue Royale. Nearest metro Madeleine.

Mon, Dec 12

10:30am Walking tour of Isle de la Cite and Notre Dame starting at metro Cite www.Paris-Walks.com - €15 for about 2 ½ hours. No reservation needed

Add on - climb to the top of Notre Dame

Add on - the bird market, Shakespeare and Company book store, and the art store on Quai Voltaire at Pont des Arts – note that art store has odd hours

Tue, Dec 13 – S & N & D

8:45am Versailles Day trip for 9 hours including lunch

Wed, Dec 14 S & N

10:30am Walking tour of the village of Montmartre and Sacre Cour meeting at Metro Abbesses
www.Paris-Walks.com for about 2 1/2 hours at €15 with guide Richelle. No reservation needed.

Add on – meet D & T for lunch at a favorite place near Montmartre: La Mascotte on rue Abbesses.

Add on - Climb to the top of Sacre Cour

Add on - walk down the hill to Galleries Lafayette, Printemps, the Opera (where you can do the 2:30pm afternoon guided tour in English), the Madeleine area, then back to apartment.

Thu Dec 15 – Tom and Diana

6:15am? Depart apartment via taxi -- PVA can assist in setting up
United in Terminal 1 at Hall 3

9:45am Depart Paris Charles de Gaulle CDG via UA#56

11:55am Arrive Newark EWR

Thu Dec 15 – Steve and Nola

9:15am Depart apartment via taxi

1:20pm Depart Paris Charles De Gaulle CDG via Icelandair #543

3:50pm Arrive Keflavik KEF for plane change

5:00pm Depart Keflavik KEF via Icelandair #671

5:55pm Arrive Denver DEN

To fill in - afternoons

- Muse d'Orsay and a meal in their restaurant (vs Cafeteria)
- Palais Garnier Opera House Tour offered in English at 11am and at 2:30pm at 15.50 Euros for 1 ½ hours
- Climb to top of Arc de Triomphe
- Galleries Lafayette interior and Christmas lights.
- Christmas markets in particular the one on the Champs de Elysee
- There is a Grayline Illuminations in open top bus for 1 ½ hours in evening at \$30
- Pere la Chaise cemetery.
- Rodin museum
- Orangery Museum – other than a huge Monet, it's somewhat limited. Yet it's close by the apartment in the Tuilleries Garden.
- Invalids with Napoleons tomb, gardens, and military museums (lower priority and museums not well done)
- Luxembourg Gardens and museum (probably later choice and only if in area). Rue Cler market nearby.

Emergency info – print x4 and carry with Passport & Euros:

American Embassy and Consulate

2, avenue Gabriel - Paris 8th Tele: 01 43 12 22 22 (American Nationals) Metro: Champs-Elysées

Apartment: 01 84 06 15 48 at 30 rue Montpensier 75001

Apt Managers: www.pva2rent@gmail.com Clara cell phone- 06-63-60-67-14

Overall contact point if needed is Carl Greeson cell 573-999-2119

Pre-registered (all 4 of us) with State Department in case of emergency - <https://step.state.gov>

Emergency numbers

Jim & Janice Musick, aunt and uncle of Nola in Moberly, tele: (660) 263-2019

Carl & Beverly Greeson, BIL and sister of Diana in Columbia, tele of Carl: (573) 999 2119

Sue Ann Ng-Martinez, has Pandora, tele (732) 236 1644

Packing notes

- Apartment has umbrellas (not foldable), big terry robes, hair dryers, lots of tour guides
- Apartment does not have bar soap or washcloths.
- Download Google Maps to your iPhone, then set it to Airplane Mode BEFORE you depart the U.S.

Things to do? Previously sent to Steve and Nola

Off the top of our head, for planning purposes, what would you do in Paris?

- Arc de Triomphe you can climb up and not have to wait in line. Or pay for an elevator. It is one of the best views short of Eiffel Tower which requires long lines even in season.
- www.Paris-walks.com gives you area by area, one or two tours day, inexpensive walking tours.
- Food tours are given by area and there are a number of different areas.
- Walk down the Champs d'Elysee to the Louvre through the Tuilleries garden. Stop by the Orangerie impressionist exhibit.
- In the Louvre there are guided visits that are inexpensive. You could spend two weeks there. Plus you can eat there reasonably.
- The Latin Quarter, known as the student quarter, could take a day of wandering the little back streets. Stop by the famous Shakespeare and Company bookstore. This is the area of the Sorbonne and the Pantheon.
- The Museum d'Orsay which is a converted train station is worthy of one or two days. Nice restaurant.
- Go to the Trocadero and walk down through the champs de Mars and underneath the Tour Eiffel.
- The Bateaux Mouche boat tour is equally good during the day and or especially the night.
- The oldest quarter is known as the Marais and the square known as the Place de Vogue is said to be one of the most beautiful in Europe. In the same area is the Swiss Institute, our favorite museum of Paris called the Carnavalet, and the Picasso museum. It is near to the Place Bastille and the canal quarters.
- The Quarter of the Pompidou center is one that Tom avoids and I go to see as it is nearly unbelievable. Pompidou Center has a lot of free exhibits .
- Some people would want to take a day trip to Versailles which is difficult and long lines unless you pay up for a guided tour.
- Some people make a day trip to Brussels. It seems a little far out but the Grande Place there is pretty special.
- There is a hop-on and hop-off bus tour.
- One of the most beautiful chapels in the world is Saint Chapelle and next-door is the Concierge where Marie Antoinette and others were imprisoned. Saint Chapelle has a long line which can be somewhat avoided by purchasing the €42 2-day museum pass. This is only one of many places where you can go to a concert.
- Nearby is Notre Dame where you can spend 30 minutes or hours. Some people climb to the top, you can visit the treasury, or you can just look up. Close by is Hotel Dieu the oldest known hospital, and next to it is the market known for Sunday's Bird Market.
- Not to be missed is a trip up to Montmartre where the artist quarters are. www.Paris-walks.com has a lovely walking tour of the area which goes into Pigalle area and by the Moulin Rouge. On the very top of the Montmartre hill is the church called SacreCour with one of the best use of the city. There too you can climb the narrow stairways to the top.
- Some people like to go to Montparnasse which is the highest building and there will never be another one. They learned their lesson. Nearby is the Montparnasse Cemetery which has a guided tour. There are also guided tours of the Pierre LaChaise cemetery which is well worth the trip and an afternoon. Both have markets nearby.
- Markets abound for every reason you can think of. There are streets that are famous for their food and worthy of the trips. Rue Cler is the most famous.
- Invalides and Napoleons Tomb. Museum itself is confusing.
- Rodin Museum is newly renovated. Highly rated.
- Performance at the Opera Garnier or at least the tourist tour; Comedie Francais at Palais Royal.
- There are "Paris Greeters" available free but I've not used them.

I can go on and on but this is probably enough for you to realize that you can fill up a few weeks.

Reading for Paris trip:

Paris tourist books: DK EyeWitness, The Little Black Book of Paris, Rick Steves Pocket; AAA Spiral. A series of magazine articles I'd saved plus "People Watching in Paris" by National Geographic's Traveler.

Smithsonian's new magazine called "Journeys: Seeing the World in a New Light" and the first issue was all on Paris.

Paris Letters by Janice MacLeod

A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway

The Fires of Autumn by Irene Nemirovsky (author of Suite Francaise)

One Evening in Paris (about an old theatre) by Nicholas Barreau

The Paris Architect by Charles Belfoure – book and NOOK form and finally will read it in book form

The Sweet Life in Paris: Delicious Adventures in the world's most glorious – and perplexing city by David Lebovitz

Paris to the Moon by Adam Gopnik

Paris Confidential (a tour book with stories) by Elizabeth Reichert

French Toast: An American in Paris Celebrates the Maddening Mysteries of the French by Harriet Welty Rochefort

The Flaneur: A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris by Edmund White (sent to Ellen)

Paris: The Novel by Edward Rutherford

Napoleon by Paul Johnson

Sylvia Beach and the Lost Generation: A History of Literary Paris in the Twenties & Thirties by Noel Riley Fitch

The Hotel on Place Vendome (Ritz) by Tilar J. Mazzeo

Favorites:

Paris: The Secret History by Andrew Hussey

The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris by David McCullough

A Paris Apartment by Michelle Gable

The Paris Wife (about Hemmingway) by Paula McLain

The House I Loved by Tatiana de Rosnay

Paris, Paris: Journey into the City of Light by David Downie

Talk to the Snail by Stephen Clarke (The Paul West series by Clarke on living in Paris were super – maybe 3-4 books including Merde)

Links:

Cultural tours: <http://theculturetrip.com/europe/france/paris/articles/the-best-cultural-tours-in-paris-unique-views-of-the-city-of-lights/>

www.LaCuisine paris.com with cook

Paris Greeters free

Art supply store Magasin Sennelier: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5581725>

Coffee shops: <https://bonjourparis.com/10-best-cafes-for-specialty-coffee-in-paris/>

Chocolate walks: <http://www.chocoparis.com/chocolate-walks/>

How to visit Paris on the cheap: Do's and don'ts for budget-minded families - The Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/how-to-visit-paris-on-the-cheap-dos-and-donts-for-budget-minded-families/2016/08/30/46a8a11c-6489-11e6-8b27-bb8ba39497a2_story.html?wpisrc=nl_travel&wpm=1