Pre Christmas Cruise
Paris & The Loire Valley
Renaissance Travel: Go with Lynda

November 27, Friday PARIS

On arrival in Paris, a private coach & driver will take you into the city of lights where you will check in to stay 4 nights at **Hotel Monge,** a beautiful four star hotel in the Latin Quarter on the lively left bank of the Seine

After checking in, take a gentle stroll (12-15 minutes) to the Notre Dame Cathedral from the exterior and along the Seine – a perfect first glimpse of Paris' iconic architecture & festive ambience.

This evening, you will board the beautiful La Calife boat and enjoy a dinner cruise along the Seine River. During your cruise you will float past the illuminated monuments while dinning and celebrating your first night together! *Dinner & drinks are included – one way transfer is included, after the cruise you are welcome to stay on board for a night cap or take a taxi back to your hotel*

November 28, Saturday PARIS

At 10:00 AM, meet Ramon & Friends out front of your hotel for a fun exploration of the city in a few vintage cars! A guide will join you and take you for a few beautiful stops for views & photos and of course to tastes some of the delicious offers Paris has to offer! This fun tour will last about 3 hours and ends at the Eiffel Tower where we include tickets for tour to the summit and enjoy a flute of champagne.

After time at the Eiffel Tower, you can head back towards the hotel or you can instead head to Hotel de Villa Christmas Market. If you head back towards your hotel, we highly recommend dinner at Allard, not too far from your hotel.

November 29, Sunday MUSEUMS

This morning you will meet a guide at the Musee d'Orsay who will take you through the impressive museum including skip the line tickets. We will include lunch reservations here after your tour. YES!!!

This afternoon, we include entrance tickets for the Grand Palais & Petite Palais (ONLY IF THEY ARE FREE!)

- Like the neighboring Petit Palais and Pont Alexandre III, the Grand Palais was created for the 1900 World's Fair. Instantly recognizable for its colossal nave and immense glass roof, the versatile venue has hosted a wide range of events, from the Olympic Games to Chanel fashion shows. Today, locals and visitors alike come to explore its art exhibitions, educational activities for children, and dining and social spaces, all incorporated into its elegant Beaux-Arts architecture.

- The smaller companion to the neighboring Grand Palais, the aptly named Petit Palais is both an art venue and an architectural landmark. Like the Grand Palais, the Petit Palais was initially built for the 1900 World's Fair. Today, it houses the Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris (the Fine Arts Museum of the City of Paris), which contains thousands of works that span from ancient times to the present day.

After your exploration of the city, you can head back to the hotel OR to the Champs-Elysees Christmas Market (not far from the Palais) where you will be able to shop the many stalls full of Christmas delights!

November 30, Monday PARIS

One the best ways to discover Paris is through sampling the food on offer! Once you have met your local guide just in front of the Moulin Rouge, you will be taken on a private food tour in the most famous bohemian neighborhood ("la butte Montmartre")

Located in the 18th arrondissement Montmartre boasts a magnificent panoramic view of Paris. With its narrow, winding streets, peppered with steep stairways and charming lampposts, and its cobbled squares filled with watercolor painters and sketch artists, it has become a picture postcard of Paris.

Stroll with your guide through the sinuous streets of the tallest hill of the capital, just like the artists have done since the end of the 19th century – Picasso, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec and Utrillo. Taste, and learn everything you've ever wanted to know about French gastronomy: among a great selection of food stores, we'll take you to the best bakery of the hill, you'll enjoy the finest chocolate candies and also a great assortment of cheese, wine and charcuterie a few meters away from Le Sacré Coeur.

Basilica Sacré Coeur, world famous Romano-Byzantine inspired construction, said to symbolize 'making amends for the crimes of the Commune' or to 'honor those who died during the Franco-Prussian war', either way it's a magnificent monument. The first foundation stones being laid in 1875 and the construction being finished in 1914. S

We include tickets for the Moulin Rouge this evening at 9:00 PM. Champagne included!

December 1, Tuesday AMBOISE

After breakfast, a coach will collect you in Paris and take you into the stunning Loire Valley arriving in Amboise around 1:00 PM

We will include a lunch reservation on arrival and check in to stay 2 nights in a beautiful mansion in the heart of the old town at **Hotel Le Clos d'Amboise** is surrounded by a 3 000sqm landscaped garden. Totally refurbished inn 2011 you will discover the new decoration in its 19 charming rooms and suites designed for your ultimate comfort.

This afternoon, we include tickets for you to visit the Chateu Amboise. Imagine a palace on a promontory above the Loire, and imagine the hanging gardens between heaven and earth … Amboise was one of the favorite sites of the kings of France when they transformed their country during the Renaissance period. Anne de Bretagne, François Ier or Léonard de Vinci (buried in the chapel of the castle), are familiar faces here which we rediscover through the HistoPad. A living castle open to nature, a haven of peace for more than 90 species of birds, Amboise also offers a 360 ° view of landscapes listed as World Heritage by UNESCO

December 2, Wednesday LOIRE VALLEY WINE & CHATEAU

Meet a coach, driver & guide for a full day tour of the Loire Valley, focusing on the stunning chateau & delicious wine that make this region a dream to visit.

This is the primary region of France's most beautiful chateaux (castles). Be sure to visit magnificent Chambord, the impressive undertaking of

Francois 1st and Chenonceau, called the "ladies castle" elegantly set over the Cher River. Amboise Castle is a French Renaissance chateau, given life by Leonardo da Vinci. If you like you can visit CLos Luce, Leonardo da Vinci's residence for the last years of his life. Chateau Cheverny is a private property that has kept is 17th century furniture. At Villandry you can visit the castle and its beautiful formal garden. There are over 400 chateaux nestled along the long length of the Loire!

Dinner is included at your hotel this evening.

December 3, Thursday PARIS / STRASBOURG

This morning, you will depart Amboise and head to Paris Rail Station. This transfer will take you about 3 hours.

In Paris, board the train to Strasbourg using your included 1st class tickets & reserved seats for the 1 ¾ hour rail journey.

On arrival in Strasbourg, a driver will take you to the port for your 4:00 PM boarding

Note: Many hotels in Europe are now required to collect a room tax. This new tax cannot be prepaid and must be collected direct at check out.

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- **Hotels –** 6 nights in hotels as stated, including VAT and service
- **Meals** - 6 breakfast + 2 dinners
- **Private Transfers –**
    - Paris Airport to Hotel
    - Paris Hotel to Dinner Cruise (one way only)
    - Paris Hotel to Amboise Hotel

    - Amboise Hotel to Paris Rail Station
    - Strasbourg Rail Station to Port
- **Private Touring –**
    - Panoramic Paris Tour in Vintage cars, including tasting fees
    - Guided tour of Musee d'Orsay, including entrance fees
    - Foodie Walking tour in Montmartre
    - Full day with coach, driver & guide for Loire Valley sightseeing
- **Rail Tickets –** 1st class tickets & reserved seats
    - Pairs – Strasbourg
- **Other –**
    - Eiffel Tower Summit/Champagne Tickets
    - Champagne & Show Tickets for Moulin Rouge
    - Tickets for Amboise Chateau

PACKAGE EXCLUDES:

International Air transportation; passports; visas; tips; all personal items and anything not specifically mentioned as included above.

We strongly recommend the purchase of TRAVEL INSURANCE.

Renaissance
TRAVEL