



## 1. PARIS

Start off by staying in the "City of Lights", known for its tempting pastry shops. From chocolate croissants and eclairs to napoleons and macaroons, you'll be set. Take a 3-hour cooking class, where you will learn to make delicious macaroons.



## 2. LOIRE VALLEY

Next, visit the "Garden of France", where castles and fairytale landscapes exist. Rolling hills give way to fragrant vineyards and lush lawns are peppered with chateaux. Explore many of the wineries around the valley before settling in for the night in a romantic Chateau.

## 3. BORDEAUX

End your trip in the world-renowned vineyards of Bordeaux. Begin on the right bank region for an intimate wine tasting, then take a walking tour of Old World town, where you can explore Romanesque ruins and local wineries. End with a sampling of wine in one of the village cellars.





### Expected Weather

### Currency

°F

Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
44°	57°	65°	46°





## 1. Verdun

The forested fields of Verdun hide the memories of one of World War I's longest battles. Fought for more than 300 days, it was here that the French resistance was cemented and the region held, but at a terrible cost. Retrace the steps of the Great War across the French countryside before ending your day at the nearby city of Reims.



## 2. Somme

The Battle of Somme was the first great offensive of World War I and its most harrowing. The cemeteries and monuments that dot this historic region reflect the great cost that was paid by France and her Allies in this bloodiest of battles.

### 3. Normandy

World War II is etched across a 50-mile stretch of sand on Normandy's coast. From the D-Day landing site to Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc to the enemy camps along Utah Beach, this historic region reveals poignant stories you'll never forget.



### 4. Mont St.-Michel

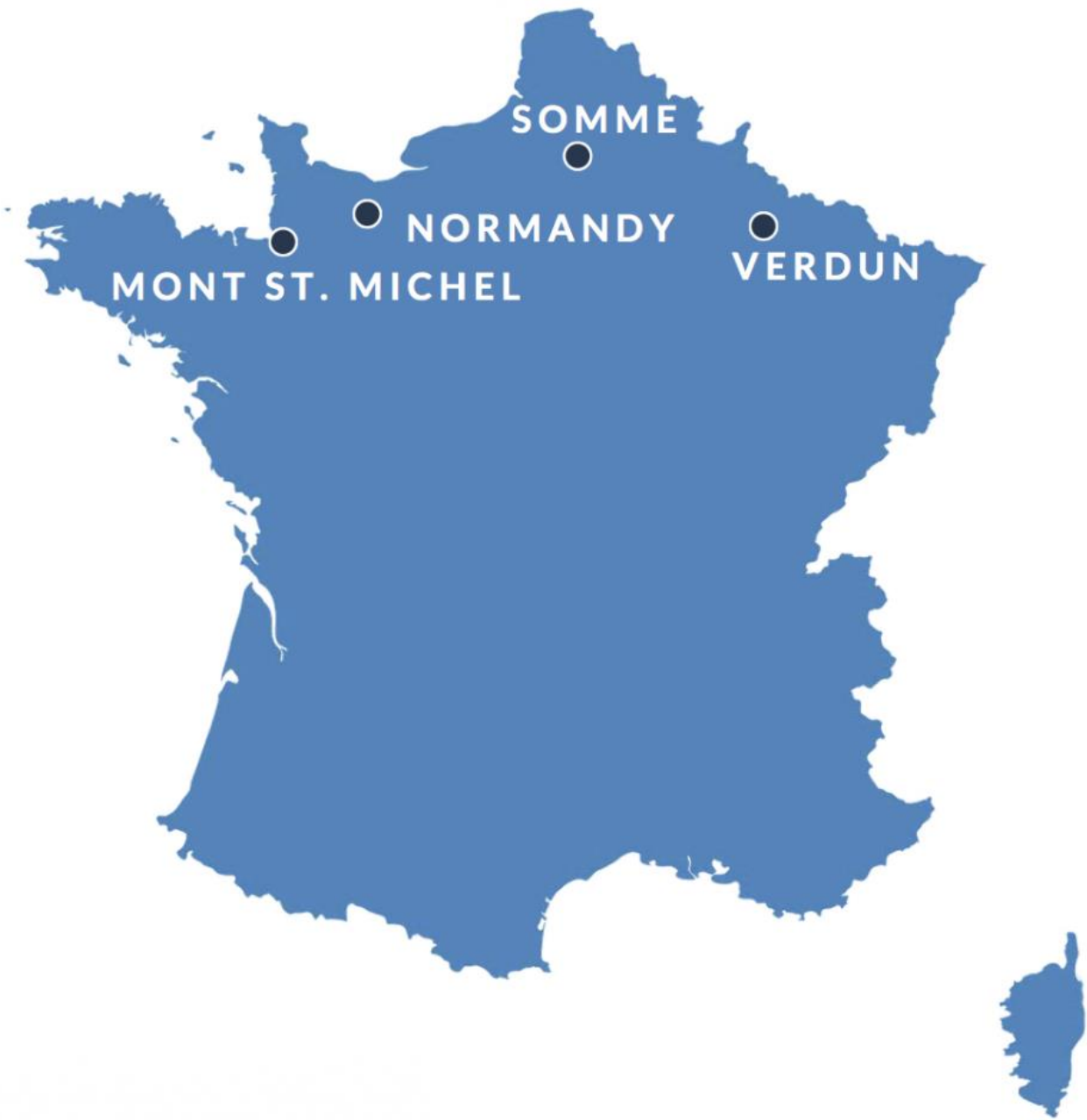
The end of your historic trek takes you to a magical monastery that rises from the waves. Mont-St.-Michel is an ancient Benedictine abbey which has been the lure of pilgrims, a center for learning and even a prison. Just be sure to have your camera ready -- nothing can prepare you for the first glimpse of the mist-covered island enshrouded by the sea.

#### Expected Avg. Weather °F

Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
40°	52°	63°	46°

#### Currency





SOMME

NORMANDY

MONT ST. MICHEL

VERDUN



## 1. Paris

You'll begin your romantic journey where everyone does, in "The City of Light" where couples kiss beneath the glow of the Eiffel Tower and along the shores of the Seine. Picture a romantic dinner by candlelight, the tolling of the bells of Notre Dame toll and strolling a bridge where love could be locked away for the ages.



## 2. Annecy

After a stay in a beautiful chateau, you're off to the Alpine village of Annecy. Encircled by the French Alps this Medieval town is straight from a storybook with meandering canals and a turreted chateau, cobblestone streets and flower-covered bridges.

### 3. Grenoble

The Alps are for more than just winter, they're also a favorite summer playground as well. Let a cable car whisk you high above the city for a panoramic view or visit the local museums. Search for wildlife in the spectacular nature reserves that flank Grenoble or hit the trails for mountain biking along the surrounding peaks.



### 4. Nice

The French Riviera is a sun-kissed stretch of glorious beaches and fashionable coastline. Begin in Nice where you can explore the pastel architecture and contemporary art, sun-lit gardens and freshly-caught seafood. If the season is right, make sure to witness the thrill of Carnival and the beauty of the Battle of the Flowers.

#### Expected Avg. Weather °F

Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
35°	58°	61°	38°

#### Currency

EURO





PARIS

ANNECY

GRENOBLE

NICE



## FRANCE ITINERARY

### 1. Amboise

In the Loire Valley sits Amboise a small town with narrow streets and small shops. Above the main square stands Chateau d'Amboise an impressive and extravagant castle that became styled and enlarged by each King that lived there. Then, we'll visit a gothic chapel from 1491 that rises above other fortifications and holds the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci. Next, we'll explore the nearby official residence of Leonardo, the Château of Clos Lucé. Here, Leonardo spent the last three years of his life working for the king of France.



### 2. Luynes

Through the vineyards of the Loire Valley sits Luynes, our base to explore the local towns around the region. Fall into an enchanting atmosphere with the 12th century Luynes Castle and the surrounding UNESCO World Heritage sites. Being off-the-beaten path, but close to fantastic historical highlights, will make your guests feel like locals without heavy crowds and lines. Nearby we'll explore Tours, with its' medieval center; perfect for shoppers looking to capture French delicacies in covered market stalls. Then, admire masterpieces by other Italian artists like Rembrandt and Mantegna in the Museum of Fine Arts.

### 3. Paris

What is a visit to France without a stop under the 'City of Lights'? Romantics, art lovers, and any one that suffers from a degree of wanderlust; can't steer away from the pleasures of Paris. At the top of the agenda, we enter the glass-domed Louvre Museum to see da Vinci's artwork up close. Examine and determine for yourself, is Mona Lisa is smiling or frowning? Next, see the first painting Leonard is known to have painted in Milan, The Virgin of the Rocks. After the guided tour of the Louvre, you can choose between free time or more guided visits throughout Paris.



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#### HOTEL SUGGESTIONS

##### Luynes

Domaine de Beauvois



##### Paris

Regina Hotel



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44°	57°	65°	46°

Currency

EURO





PARIS

LUYNES

AMBOISE



## 1. Compiègne

In Compiègne we'll visit the Armistice Museum, where a French Cannon and FT17 Tank lie out front. The remains of the Armistice Wagon, where Armistice was signed, can be found here as well. The museum boasts images from infantrymen and items used during the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Then it's onto the Château de Compiègne, a royal residence remodeled by Napoleon I as it was a surprise for his wife, Marie-Louise. The Château has a vast collection of items from World War I, including a replica of Marshall Foch's car and an image series of a soldier's life in the trenches.



## 2. Somme

The Battle of Somme in 1916 was the initial great offensive of World War I. After the first day of battle, the British lost 58,000 troops, a third of its troops at the time. Ultimately, 1.5 million Australian, German, French and South African men lost their lives in the battle. The battlefields now serve as a memorial, along with the Lochnagar Mine Crater and Thiepval memorial, which is dedicated to missing soldiers.

### 3. Arras

Next, we walk the grounds where the major offensive by the British Army, the Battle of Arras, took place. To not arouse suspicion, New Zealand miners created tunnels under Arras so the French could take the Germans by surprise. Visit the limestone tunnels at the Memorial to the Battle of Arras: Wellington Tunnels, to see where over 20,000 troops hid. The Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery is also a solemn reminder of the tragedy that took place with nearly 36,000 graves from the battle.



### 4. Verdun

Our last destination held one of the costliest battles of war, the Battle of Verdun. There were over a million casualties, from both sides, that devastated the region. The Verdun Battlefield is a moving experience that is well maintained and enlightening. On site sits Fort Douaumont, Bayonet Trench and the Verdun Memorial. Of the 9 small villages destroyed in the area, you can wander through what is left of the village of Fleury. Inhabitants, mostly farmers, had to abandon their homes and the risk of explosions prevented the rebuilding of the villages. We recommend spending a full day on the Verdun Battlefield, as there is much to see and learn.

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41°	55°	64°	46°

#### Currency

EURO



