

WALKS FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS IN PARIS

KINGS' QUEST

DURATION: 2 hours

PRICE: private: €170



While strolling around Paris, it is impossible not to admire and marvel at its elegant and intriguing buildings, decorated in amazing sculptures and symbols. On this two-hour family orientation, our quest is to seek out some of these statues and symbols, scattered on monuments, bridges, and sometimes, even on the ground, to uncover the mysteries they contain and to unfold the fascinating history of Paris and some of its key historical figures – mainly kings, queens and emperors.

A discovery of Paris through its symbols and emblems

We will embark on our quest at Point Zero, which is considered the true center of Paris, and is used to measure all distances from the city. This is a great place to start, as it is located right in front of Notre Dame, a building of immense importance to Paris. On its magnificent façade, we will identify our first royal figures and discover the story of this impressive cathedral and a little about life in Paris during the middle ages. Looking more carefully, we will observe that the cathedral not only recounts biblical passages, it also depicts historical characters along with some curious less-human creatures and animals.

Our hunt for symbols will continue around the Ile de la Cite, perhaps stopping at the Conciergerie or the Prefecture, as we track the history of Paris and the regal figures which influenced its evolution over the centuries. Traversing the River Seine to the right bank, we will discover other symbols at Chatelet Square. Both Napoleon 1 and Napoleon III played integral roles in the development of Paris, and we will discuss their impact on the city, as we search for the clues they left behind.

Moving along the Seine, we may find some other symbols along the way before reaching the Louvre, the former palace of the French royalty. While searching for symbols and icons on the exterior walls, we will discuss how the Louvre changed from fortress, to a chateau, and finally a museum, and learn more about its many royal and imperial inhabitants. At the end we will tally up how many characters we have found and your family will be well-prepared to continue its discovery of the city.

Doorways, Ltd. ~ 900 County Line Road ~ Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3105
(610) 520-0806 ~ (800) 261-4460 ~ fax: 610-520-0807 ~ info@doorwaysltd.com
www.villavacations.com

LOUVRE CRASH COURSE

DURATION: 3 hours

PRICE: private: from €270



No visit to Paris is complete without a stop at the Louvre. This three-hour walk, in the company of an art historian who will lead your family through the most significant collections, weaving a timeline of art and history along the way. (Adult travelers without kids are encouraged to consider one of our other, thematic walks of the Louvre.)

We begin this walk in the courtyard of the building with an introduction of its history as fortress and, later, palace. Entering through a side entrance with pre-purchased tickets, we'll head directly to the antiquities section, famous for, among other things, its stunning collection of Egyptian works.

Depending on the interests of the group, we'll move on to what, for many, is the heart of the Louvre: the grand galleries of European painting where we'll encounter some of the greatest works of art in the western world.

Your docent for this experience will be an art historian drawn from our network who is gifted with children. For groups with children under 12, we normally organize some kind of an activity: a treasure hunt for details or symbols in artworks, a drawing workshop, or a thematic exploration (finding all the works with lions, is a favorite.). For groups with children over 13 the docent will develop themes and ideas appropriate for a high school seminar, designed to whet their interest for art, culture, and western civilization.

As this is a private tour, the itinerary and focus can be varied slightly to accommodate the particular interests of your group. If you have any specific requests pertaining to your walk, please let us know. We will use this to match you with the best docent in our network.

This walk is limited to groups of 5. Generally, we find that groups of 6 are the ideal size: the Louvre, however, is an exception due to its extreme popularity and high volume of foot traffic. We may try to accommodate your request by dividing your group and placing you with two docents.

Please note that you will be charged € 10 per person for tickets. These tickets allow you to skip the long entry lines to the museum. Your docent will have these with him/her on the day of the walk. Please let us know if anyone in your party has a Paris Museum Pass or is younger than 18 years old, as entrance is free in these cases and we will adjust your order accordingly. If you notify us after we've charged your order that you're purchasing Museum Passes and won't need us to supply tickets, we will only be able to refund you 85% of the ticket price.

The Louvre is closed on Tuesdays and certain galleries are closed periodically throughout the week due to a lack of staff. We will do our best to accommodate your specific requests to see certain items and rooms, and will make suitable substitutions should those rooms be closed.

Doorways, Ltd. ~ 900 County Line Road ~ Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3105
(610) 520-0806 ~ (800) 261-4460 ~ fax: 610-520-0807 ~ info@doorwaysltd.com
www.villavacations.com

YOUNG CHEFS IN PARIS

DURATION: 2.5 hours

PRICE: €360 per group



This 2.5 hour walk at a traditional Parisian market is a hands-on introduction for families to the fascinating world of French cuisine. In the company of one of our food docents, we will shop in the market and learn how to make a simple and tasty French dish.

A family discovery of French food

Children will be given the task of searching out a list of selected ingredients needed to later prepare their specialty. Depending on the season and always with a focus on fresh produce, recipes can go from a Nicoise salad to a savory cake, stuffed vegetables, carpaccios of meat or fish, or even a fun bento box. With the help of your docent (a chef, food writer or Parisian epicure) we will walk through the Marché Aligre, a colorful and vibrant neighborhood market, stopping along the way to pick and taste various seasonal delicacies and learn about French culinary customs. Once we have found our necessary ingredients we will continue our walk to the nearby la Cocotte, culinary bookshop and food lab. located on one of the most "gastronomically oriented" street in Paris. Here we will sit down and assemble our dish of the day, according to the recipe.

Upon completion, we will enjoy our creations and a beverage (hot chocolate in winter, juice in summer) while discussing any other food related questions which may have come up over the course of our gastronomic experiment.

Ingredients for the recipe making are included in the price of this walk. If you so wish to make additional purchases, you may want to bring a sturdy bag or shopping basket or trolley.

Doorways, Ltd. ~ 900 County Line Road ~ Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3105
(610) 520-0806 ~ (800) 261-4460 ~ fax: 610-520-0807 ~ info@doorwaysltd.com
www.villavacations.com

MONTMARTRE FOR FAMILIES

DURATION: 2.5 hours

PRICE: €275 per group



Montmartre, the last village to amalgamate with Paris, still retains its eternal charm. Its winding cobbled streets, curious buildings, shops and churches provide the perfect backdrop for a family exploration of Paris. On our 2.5-hour walk, in the company of a docent particularly gifted with children, we will discover many of the places and characters that have made Montmartre one of the most intriguing areas of Paris.

According to legend, its name comes from Mont des Martyrs, site of the martyrdom of St-Denis who picked up his severed head, washed it off and carried it all the way to the present site of the Cathedral of St-Denis, to the north of the city. Montmartre remained an important religious site through to the Revolution. Our starting point of our walk, Place des Abbesses, where an important abbey once stood, harks back to this influence.

Our walk could take us in a many directions. Along the way Saint Denis and the Abbesses will reappear but we will see the artistic and bohemian side of the area. From the mid-1800s with the newly modernized central Paris becoming an expensive place to live, many artists, writers and musicians made their home in the more economical Montmartre. We will stop to have a look at some of the favorite haunts of such figures as Picasso, Van Gogh, Renoir, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Apollinaire and Berlioz.

The maze of streets will takes us by the the cabaret Le Lapin Agile once frequented by Toulouse-Lautrec, and see the only remaining vineyard and one of the remaining windmills. We will also pass the birthplace of cubism: the Bateau-Lavoir where Picasso had his studio. We will admire today's artists in the Place du Tertre, and learn about the beautiful basilica of the Sacré-Coeur, from where we have a spectacular view of the city.

Doorways, Ltd. ~ 900 County Line Road ~ Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3105
(610) 520-0806 ~ (800) 261-4460 ~ fax: 610-520-0807 ~ info@doorwaysltd.com
www.villavacations.com

GOTHIC PARIS FOR FAMILIES

DURATION: 2.5 hours

PRICE: private: €275 (excl tix)



Gargoyles, stained glass, flying buttresses-- nothing symbolizes the Gothic mystery of Paris like Notre Dame, which is brought to life by one of our scholars. Paris' mother church symbolizes the dark, mysterious medieval era like no other--evoking Arthurian legends, castles, and a seemingly mythical past. That past, however, is very real. And there are few better places to learn about the Gothic than on Paris' Ile de la Cite--the small island in the city's center that is home not only to Notre Dame, but several other Gothic masterpieces. The goal of this walk is to bring gothic to life vividly for young people.

Our walk is designed with kids (and their enthusiastic parents) in mind. Especially gifted with children, our docents will cater the walk to suit the age of the participants, getting a little more sophisticated with children above 12, talking about the birth of Gothic, and the many changes the cathedral has undergone through many historical events, including the French revolution and the restoration that made it what we see today. Saint-Chapelle, a masterpiece of gothic art, comes in handy, providing the backdrop for a discussion of how stained glass was made, gothic symbolism, and the relationship between religion, politics, and the common person during the Middle Ages. (Don't worry, we make it fun and interesting.)

This kids-focused itinerary is always designed around your children's needs. Although we confine the walk to the Ile de la Cite, in addition to visits to Notre Dame and Sainte Chapelle we may spend time at the Conciergerie, the residence of France's early Kings that later became an infamous prison during the Revolution (Marie-Antoinette was detained here prior to her execution), or the excavated Roman ruins beneath Notre Dame. Regardless of how it unfolds, our focus remains on the learning experience of the children in the group.

As this is a private tour, the itinerary and focus can be varied to accommodate the particular interests of the kids in your group. Please take the opportunity to tell us as much as possible about their learning style and interest.

Entrance tickets are not included in the price of this walk. Your docent will help you purchase the joint Sainte-Chapelle/Conciergie (12.50 adults, free under 18). Please expect a security check line to enter the Sainte-Chapelle. This walk is best done in the mornings during the week, as Notre Dame and Sainte-Chapelle can be quite busy at other times.

Doorways, Ltd. ~ 900 County Line Road ~ Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3105
(610) 520-0806 ~ (800) 261-4460 ~ fax: 610-520-0807 ~ info@doorwaysltd.com
www.villavacations.com

PARIS BY RIVERBOAT

DURATION: 2 hours, morning or afternoon

PRICE: group: €35 per person / private: €170



Paris was born over 2000 years ago as a humble fishing village on the banks of the Seine, and throughout the centuries depended on the river for everything from washing and drinking water to trade and transportation. Even the city's municipal coat of arms, dating back to the 12th-century River Merchants' Guild, features a boat motif. Today, the river still serves as the heart of the modern capital, and the ultimate reference point for the Left Bank and Right Bank distinction. On this two-hour walk, we'll learn about the layout of the city from the perspective of the Seine. This is a perfect orientation for those looking to get an overview of the city at a slower pace, anyone with mobility issues or even families (see our family program).

We'll start our tour on foot, at the oldest part of the city and its geographical center, the Ile de la Cite (the City Island), home to many medieval monuments including Notre Dame Cathedral. Here, we will explore how the city grew and expanded from this central point onto either side of the Seine. We will also look at the importance of Notre Dame and talk a little about its history and architecture.

After this initial introduction to the City of Light, we will board the Batobus, an efficient municipal boat service used by commuting Parisians that allows us to see some of the most beautiful monuments built on the river's edge. One of the first sites we will cruise by is the Louvre Museum, from this vantage point we can truly grasp the immensity and splendor of the former palace.

We will then start to pass by the structures built for the various World's Fair held in the city. These were built close to the river as visitors commuted between the venues by boat, just as we are doing today. These elegant buildings span a period of over 50 years, the different styles apparent in such buildings as the Musee d'Orsay the Grand Palais, the Palais de Tokyo and of course the Eiffel Tower. We will do an almost full loop on the boat, finishing back around Notre Dame.

As we float along the river and under some of the cities unique 37 bridges, you can also use your time with your docent to ask them any questions you may have about Paris. This tour should give you a good introduction to Paris and prep you for a more in-depth discovery of your personal points of interest.

Please note that your tickets for the Batobus are not included in the price of this tour. Your docent will assist you in buying your boat tickets directly at the dock. Each ticket is 12 Euro, and is valid for the whole day.

Doorways, Ltd. ~ 900 County Line Road ~ Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3105
(610) 520-0806 ~ (800) 261-4460 ~ fax: 610-520-0807 ~ info@doorwaysltd.com
www.villavacations.com