

SPRING BREAK TRIP: FRANCE-SPAIN

March 25-
April 3,
2011



Friday March 25 - Depart

Take an overnight flight from Denver to Paris.

Saturday March 26 - Arrive in Paris

Meet your Parisian Tour Director at the airport and transfer to the hotel. After settling in, take a walk through this majestic city. Watch its breezy boulevards, impressive monuments, and magic lights. Stroll along the river Seine stopping to browse through the chic shops, and sample the legendary cuisine.

Sunday March 27 - Paris

Take a guided tour of Paris. Start at the **Eiffel Tower**, the most visited site in the world and the symbol of France. Then on to the **Arc de Triomphe** one of the landmarks of Napoleon's imperial capital which offers an admirable perspective of Paris and the twelve avenues converging in a star shape. Walk along the **Champs-Élysées Boulevard** and see how Parisians relax and enjoy a beautiful morning on its many sidewalk cafes. Visit the **Notre Dame de Paris**, a symbol of Gothic art. Its harmonious layout seems to be the work of just one architect, yet dozens followed on from the 12th to the 19th century. In the afternoon take a guided tour of the **Musée d'Orsay** home to a vast collection of Impressionist art. In the evening take a ride on the **Bateaux-Mouche**



Monday March 28 – La Vallée de la Vézère-Sarlat



After breakfast take a train to Brive-la-Gaillarde in the Southwest of France and start your journey of the most magical, historical, and castle-rich part of France. People settled in this valley 400,000 years ago. Your coach bus will travel in the direction of the **Vallée de la Vézère**. Visit **Montignac**, the identical replica of the famous **Lascaux Cave**. This fresco is regarded as the "Sistine Chapel of Prehistory".

Next visit the **Maison Forte de Reignac** a fortified Manor House that has been built into the rock. The majority of its roof is the overhanging cliff that is above it. Its modest appearance on the

outside belies the scale of the building on the inside.

Your journey will continue to the **Roque Saint-Christophe**, five levels of natural caves which were used as dwelling space from prehistory through the Middle Ages. Some faint but authentic cave paintings are evidence of the prehistoric inhabitants, and the foundations of homes and other buildings remain from later residents.



Your final stop will be in **Sarlat**, a serene town set amid forested hills. Eat a traditional Perigord dinner in one of the many restaurants set in the traffic-free, golden cobblestoned, beautiful old town.



Tuesday March 29- La Vallée de la Dordogne – Sarlat

After breakfast prepare to visit another breathtaking tour of the region, this one through the Dordogne Valley. This rich valley was the scene of the one hundred years' war between the French and the British. The peaceful river of Dordogne separated the two. Visit the **Château de Castelnau**, a medieval fortress in the commune of Castelnau-La-Chapelle, overlooking the Dordogne River and its



rival, the **Château de Beynac**. Return to Sarlat for overnight and dinner.



Wednesday March 30 –Sarlat- Albi – Cordes Sur Ciel

Wednesday mornings are market days in Sarlat! Wake up early, have breakfast and visit the local merchants setting up their booths for this busy market that has been in existence since the middle Ages! Taste some of the local favorites such as Fois Gras and walnut pies.

After your visit, leave in the direction of **Albi**, a commune town in Southern France. This small town brings together some of the most famous and richest sites of prehistoric European history which earned the town the privilege of becoming a World Heritage of UNESCO. Albi is one of the main cities built in Languedoc-style red brick. Visit the **Sainte Cécile Cathedral**, a masterpiece of the



Southern Gothic style, built between the 13th and 15th centuries. Albi is also home to the **Toulouse-Lautrec Museum** which houses more than 1000 works of this famous artist. Take a tour of this museum and learn about the interesting life and struggles of Toulouse-Lautrec. After lunch, continue your journey to the medieval city of **Cordes sur Ciel**. Cordes on the Sky – so called officially since the twentieth century, because of the way it rises above low



lying mists on winter mornings.

After a short ascend by the petit- train, take a walk through the old town. Spend the night in Albi.



Thursday March 31 - Albi – Carcassonne – Figueres - Barcelona

In the morning leave Albi for **Carcassonne**, the greatest fortress city in Europe. The city was used as a backdrop to the movie Robin Hood. Walk through the Ville Basse (Lower City) and the medieval Cité. After visiting



depart to **Figueres** in Spain. This town which was the birthplace of artist Salvador Dali is home to his museum which was designed by Dali himself and houses his extravagant work. After the visit leave for Barcelona where you will be spending the

night.



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Friday April 1 - Barcelona

Today visit **Barcelona**, Spain, the most cosmopolitan city in Spain, the city of vivid colors and boundless energy. Tour this capital of Cataluña with its magnificent monuments on top of a touristic bus. Visit the grand boulevards, Gaudi's sacred Family church, **Sagrada Familia**, Parc Gruel and the Picasso Museum.

Saturday April 2 - Barcelona

In the morning take a walk through the Ramblas and the Gothic Neighborhood. Visit the open market and taste some fabulous local foods. In the afternoon visit the Golondrinas, the oldest nautical attraction in Barcelona. Take an enjoyable and pleasant ride along Barcelona seafront and harbor. In the evening watch a Flamenco show and eat Tapas!

Sunday April 3 - Departure

After breakfast transfer to the airport and take your flight back to Denver from Toulouse!

*Price \$3295***

Round Trip airfare

2 nights hotel in Paris including breakfast and dinners

2 nights hotel in Sarlat including breakfast and dinners

1 night hotel in Albi including breakfast and dinners

3 nights hotel in Barcelona including breakfast and dinners

All transfers to and from the airports and train stations

Transportation on coach bus as per program

Public transportation in Paris and Barcelona

All entrances, guided Visits & special attractions in the program

Travel insurance including health, trip delay and luggage loss/delay

****Adult price \$3395 based on double occupancy**

\$3745 Based on Single occupancy