

STUDENT TRAVEL SOCIETY INC.

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France Tour 2012

Prepared for PSB & Interplay Dance Group

Day 1: Saturday June 30: Toronto – Paris

Depart from Toronto on an overnight flight to Paris.

Day 2: Sunday July 1: Paris (D)

Arrive Paris. After clearing immigration and customs, you will be met and assisted to your awaiting coach. Paris is a city of perfume and charm, everlastingly beautiful and unchanged. No other city possesses night-time attractions as varied or as numerous. No other city lavished such energy and attention upon its music-halls and cabarets: such names as "Opéra Comique", "Folies Bergère" and "Casino de Paris" are famous around the world. The twenty arrondissements (districts) of Paris are in the form of a clockwise spiral around the Hôtel de Ville. There are very few places in Paris which are further than 400 metres from a Métro station.

Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of this unique city: see the Tour Eiffel, Les Grands Boulevards, l'Opéra, Place de la Concorde, Les Champs Elysées, l'Arc de Triomphe, Les Invalides, and visit Notre Dame Cathedral.

After lunch, tour the Louvre Museum with your guide. This former Royal Palace, transformed by the Revolution into a museum, lays claim to the title of "Most beautiful museum in the world". You will enter through I.M.Pei's pyramids, highlights of the major modernization program; in the course of their construction the medieval foundations were unearthed and are displayed as an integral part of the museum's collection. Containing over 200,000 works of art in 225 galleries, it is impossible to view them all so you must be very selective. Some of the most famous exhibits are: Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, the soaring 3rd century BC statue Victory of Somathrace, the celebrated Vénus de Milo (2nd century BC) and the realistic Egyptian Seated Scribe.

Dinner and overnight in Paris.

Day 3: Monday July 2: Paris (B/D)

This morning meet your tour guide at the hotel and travel by Metro (1-Day Metro Travel Card provided) to the Eiffel Tower.

This 121 year old landmark was built by Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 Exposition Universelle, which was to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the French Revolution. Its construction in 2 years, 2 months and 5 days was a veritable technical and architectural achievement. "Utopia achieved", a symbol of technological prowess, at the end of the 19th Century it was a demonstration of French engineering personified by Gustave Eiffel, and a defining moment of the industrial era. It was met immediately with tremendous success.

Next, make your way to *Musée d' Orsay* where you will enjoy a guided tour.

The famous Musée d' Orsay is housed in a former railway station located on the left bank of the Seine. The museum holds mainly French art dating from 1848 to 1915, including paintings sculptures, photography and furniture. It also houses and extensive collection of impressionist masterpieces by Monet, Degas, Renoir and Cezanne.

This afternoon you will go on a **guided tour of the Paris Sewers** (Quai d'Orsay at Pont de l'Alma). *The Paris Sewers conjures up Les Miserables and Jean Valjean making good his escape. Victor Hugo knew a sewer inspector, so he wrote accurately about the sewers in Paris. The guided tour takes you through tunnels and walk over gratings where you'll see the sewer water flowing right under your feet. Along the way, you'll find out about the fascinating history of the water system in Paris (e.g. how is the sewage transported under the Seine) It doesn't really smell in the sewers, but is a little dank, so don't wear your best shoes.*

This evening, take a journey along the Seine on the Bateaux Mouches. You will see a floodlit Paris from the river (Bateaux Mouches tickets provided but group will have to make their own way to and from Bateaux Mouches).

Day 4: Tuesday July 3: Paris – Bordeaux (B/D)

*Today's excursion takes you to Versailles, the creation of the French monarchy at the moment of its greatest splendour. Consisting of the great palace, the gardens and the Trianons, it is a wonderful harmonious composition of building and landscape, a unique expression of the vitality of French art during the 17th-18th century. Between 1682 and 1789, Versailles was the seat of government and France's political capital. Today the chateau of Versailles seems outrageously large, but in 1682 when Louis XIV took up residence it housed about 15,000 noblemen, servants, and hangers-on who moved in with Louis. Built between 1662 and 1690 it took 26,000 labourers and soldiers to construct. **Your guided tour is highlighted by the Grand Appartement, Hall of Mirrors, King's and Queen's suites, as well as many other sights.***

After the tour of Versailles Palace, return to Paris. Transfer directly to Paris Montparnasse station to catch the train to Bordeaux arriving in the early evening.

Upon arrival at Bordeaux St. Jean station, you will be met and assisted to your centrally located hotel. Dinner and overnight in Bordeaux.

Day 5: Wednesday July 4: Bordeaux (B/D)

Begin your day with a **guided sightseeing tour of the newly classified UNESCO historical city of Bordeaux.** During this tour you will get to admire the most important monuments of the city: The Grand Theatre, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Place des Quinconces, Pey Berland tower and much more.

In the afternoon you visit the **Great Dune of Pyla** (or Pilat) located in La Teste-de-Buch of the Arcachon Bay area. This natural wonder of immense beauty reaches a height of 107 m (highest dune in Europe) with spectacular views of the Atlantic coast. Enjoy the afternoon at the beach!

Return to Bordeaux for dinner and overnight.

Day 6: Thursday July 5: Bordeaux – St. Emilion – Bordeaux (B/D)

Meet your driver/guide at the hotel and travel to **St Emilion** (UNESCO World Heritage Site), a medieval village with fascinating Romanesque churches and ruins stretching all along steep and narrow streets. The Romans planted vineyards in what was to become Saint-Émilion as early as the 2nd century AD. In the 4th century, the Latin poet Ausonius lauded the fruit of the bountiful vine. The town was named after the monk Émilion, a travelling confessor, who settled in a hermitage carved into the rock there in the 8th century. It was the monks who followed him that started up the commercial wine production in the area.

Following an independent lunch, a visit and wine tasting session follows in a cellar in the village. You will have free time for personal exploration before returning to Bordeaux.

Day 7: Friday July 6: Bordeaux – Marseille (B)

Walk to the train station to catch the train to Marseille. **Arrive Marseille at approximately 4:00pm and transfer to your accommodations arranged by PSB Dance Academy and Interplay.**

Day 8: Saturday July 7: Marseille / Les Baux-de-Provence / Bonnieux / Marseille

Full day self-guided excursion to Les Baux and Bonnieux. Depart early this morning and make your way to Les Baux-de-Provence where you will spend the first part of today's excursion. After lunch you will continue on to Bonnieux. Explore this lovely town on your own. In the late afternoon, make your way back to Marseille.

Day 9: Sunday July 8: Marseille – Cassis – Marseille

Depart early this morning to Cassis. Cassis is a small fishing port with a beautiful harbour where you see many yachts and tourists visiting the Calanques. The *calanques* are deep narrow inlets, sort of Provencal fiords, in the rocky cliffs along the coast between Cassis and Marseille. Return to Marseille for overnight.

Day 10: Monday July 9: Marseille

Dance Camp organized by PSB and Interplay Dance.

*****No services required of STS until Sunday July 15.*****

Day 11: Tuesday July 10: Marseille

Dance Camp organized by PSB and Interplay Dance.

Day 12: Wednesday July 11: Marseille

Dance Camp organized by PSB and Interplay Dance.

Day 13: Thursday July 12: Marseille

Dance Camp organized by PSB and Interplay Dance.

Day 14: Friday July 13: Marseille

Dance Camp organized by PSB and Interplay Dance.

Day 15: Saturday July 14: Marseille

Dance Camp organized by PSB and Interplay Dance.

Day 16: Sunday July 15: Marseille – Gorge du Verdon – Lac de St. Croix – Marseille

Today's self-guided excursion takes you to *Gorge du Verdon*, known as "The Grand Canyon" of France. This gorge, a 21km long winding corridor, varies from 6-100 metres wide at the bottom and 200-1500 metres wide at the top, cuts through the limestone plateau of Haute-Provence. Travelling along the sublime cornice you will see impressive ravines, the views down the canyon are superb with immense horizons opening up it finishes at *Lac de St Croix*. With the construction of the dam, the lake was enlarged to cover over 6000 acres. Return to Marseille in the late afternoon.

Day 17: Monday July 16: Marseille – Aix en Provence – Marseille

Transfer this morning to Aix en Provence. This charming town is rich in culture, colourful markets, architecture and monuments. *Following a guided tour*, you will have the opportunity to further explore these treasures by simply walking around town. Transfer back to Marseille in the late afternoon.

Day 18: Tuesday July 17: Marseille – Paris – Toronto

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to Toronto via Paris.

INCLUSIONS:

- Roundtrip airfare: Toronto – Paris – Toronto
- Airfare: Marseille – Paris
- Assistance and transfer upon arrival
- 2 Nights accommodation in Paris
- 3 Nights accommodation in Bordeaux
- Students in triple/quad bedded rooms & adults in twin bedded rooms
- 5 Continental breakfasts
- 5 Dinners
- Guided tour of Paris including Notre Dame Cathedral
- Guided tour of the Louvre Museum
- 1-Day Metro Travel Card
- Full day guide on Day 3
- Eiffel Tower entrance fee to 2nd level
- Entrance and guided tour of Musee d' Orsay
- Guided tour of Paris Sewers
- Coach and guide for tour of Versailles
- Reservation and entrance fees to Versailles and Louvre
- Bateaux Mouches tickets
- Transfer to Paris Montparnasse station
- 2nd class train/TGV Paris-Bordeaux July 3
- Assistance from Bordeaux station to hotel
- Half-day guided city tour of Bordeaux including the Grand Theatre and St. Andrews Cathedral
- Half-day excursion to the Dunes of Pyla
- Full day guided excursion to St. Emilion
- Visit and wine tasting session (St. Emilion)
- 2nd class train/TGV Bordeaux-Marseille July 6
- **Excursion to Gorge du Verdon, Lac de St Croix, Les Baux-de-Provence, Bonnieux, Cassis and Aix-en-Provence**
- Half-day guided tour of Aix en Provence
- Transfer to Marseille Airport
- Local taxes and service charges

Cost based on 17-20 paying passengers sharing in triple/quad occupancy:

\$3085 package cost (excluding tax)

EXCLUSIONS:

- **Air/Departure Tax: \$480** (subject to change and cannot be guaranteed until tickets are issued)
- **All Inclusive Travel Insurance for 18 Days: \$180** (students up to 29 years of age)
- **Trip cancellation/Interruption Insurance: \$140** (students up to 29 years of age)
- **Single Occupancy Supplement: \$360**
- **Adult / Twin Occupancy Supplement: \$100**
- Any meals not listed above
- Drinks with meals
- Any attractions not listed above
- Tips and gratuities for guides, drivers and tour escort

- **Insurance Coverage for adults as follows:**

ALL-INCLUSIVE (cancellation/interruption/medical insurance)

Insurance Premium for 18 Day Tour	30-59 years	60-64 years	65-69 years
Sum Insured \$3700 (twin occupancy)	\$245	\$310	\$370
Sum Insured \$3900 (single occupancy)	\$255	\$320	\$380

SEMI-INCLUSIVE (non-medical)

Insurance Premium for 18 Day Tour	30-59 years	60-64 years	65-69 years
Sum Insured \$3700 (twin occupancy)	\$205	\$230	\$260
Sum Insured \$3900 (single occupancy)	\$215	\$240	\$270

TRIP CANCELLATION/INTERRUPTION

Insurance Premium for 18 Day Tour	30-59 years	60-64 years	65-69 years
Sum Insured \$3700 (twin occupancy)	\$180	\$210	\$235
Sum Insured \$3900 (single occupancy)	\$190	\$220	\$245

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Please make cheques payable to Student Travel Society Inc. as follows:

** If you choose to use Credit (Visa only), a 3% surcharge will apply

- **\$500 + Applicable insurance with application form due July 1st , 2011**
- **\$1000 Post-dated for September 28, 2011**
- **\$1000 Post-dated for January 27, 2012 (If single or twin supplement applies, please include with this payment)**
- **Balance due April 27, 2012**

Returned Cheque: A fee of \$30 will be charged if cheque returned by bank N.S.F.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Once deposit is received this tour is guaranteed. Any cancellation made must be submitted **IN WRITING** to this office. Penalties for any cancellation are to be assessed according to the date of receipt of such cancellation as follows:

- Outside 120 days prior to departure: \$500 + cost of insurance non-refundable
- Between 119 – 60 days prior to departure: 50% + cost of insurance, if any
- Between 59 – 30 days prior to departure: 75% + cost of insurance, if any
- 29 days or less: 100% Non Refundable

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Special requests, for example, in-flight meal requirements, in-flight seating requirements, dietary/allergic meal requirements cannot be guaranteed by S.T.S. TOURS. While S.T.S. TOURS will attempt to accommodate such special requests, S.T.S. TOURS will not be held responsible if such special requests cannot be fulfilled.

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS: Flight times, hotel telephone numbers, etc., will be sent out about 2 weeks prior to departure.

PROGRAM : This program is subject to change mainly in the order of events.

A VALID PASSPORT IS ESSENTIAL AND MUST BE VALID FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS BEYOND THE INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY.

TRAVEL REGISTRATION NO: 2659042

October 28, 2011