

ESSENCE OF FRANCE 2014

When I think of France my mind always wanders to food! Those tasty dishes are always accompanied by lots of sauce which has been distilled down to a rich and silky essence. Hence, the name of this tour, “The Essence of France”, which distills the country down to my top destinations in and around Paris. We’ll begin (and end) with the very best of Paris and sandwiching in between, some of the best sites, food, wine, and experiences in the country: the vineyards and cathedrals of Burgundy, the Loire Valley's elegant châteaux, Brittany's quaint villages, Normandy's magnificent Mont St. Michel, and the D-Day battlefield beaches. Join me for my “Essence of France Tour” ... Your Adventure Starts Here!

Sunday, March 9: Welcome to Paris — Meet your Exploring Europe guide at 3:00 p.m. in your hotel lobby for introductions and a tour overview. Then, let’s focus on Paris' historical center surrounding our hotel neighborhood. On our short walking tour, you'll discover the wonder and history of the *Notre Dame Cathedral*, the opulence of the nearby *Ille St. Louis* and reflect on the atrocities of WWII at *La Mémorial des Martyrs de La Déportation*. Cap off your day with a dinner at one of David’s favorite restaurants and a sightseeing cruise on the Seine River. *Sleep 2 nights in Paris. [Dinner](#)*

Monday, March 10: Paris – Enjoy an ascent up the Eiffel Tower this morning for far-reaching vistas of the sprawling metropolis of Paris. Then we’ll head up to the artsy neighborhood of Montmartre to experience this quaint bohemian village and the nearby Sacré Coeur church. Enjoy a free afternoon and evening with the benefit of full access to the Hop-On-Hop-Off Paris Sightseeing Bus making your travels fun, educational, and stress-free. Your tour leader can suggest activities ranging from shopping, museums, the catacombs, church towers, and more.

Tuesday, March 11: Today we will leave Paris and head to Burgundy and Vézelay - a small hill town known for its Abby, a major starting point for pilgrims on the Way of St. James to Santiago de Compostela. After a little free time we will head through the vineyards and villages of Burgundy (which read like famous wine labels) and set up in Beaune for the evening. Following an orientation walk and a little independent time, we will meet for a grand feast featuring fresh specialties from Burgundy. *Sleep 1 night in Beaune. [Dinner](#)*

Wednesday, March 12: The Loire and Amboise – After a peaceful morning in town we will load up and head through the French countryside to the Loire River Valley. Once in Amboise you have time on your own for sightseeing and dinner. You can choose to visit Leonardo da Vinci's home, Clos Lucé, tour Amboise's castle or wander the cobbled pedestrian-friendly streets. *Sleep 2 night in Amboise.*

Thursday, March 13: Chateau Chenonceau and Amboise - This morning we'll visit the Château de Chenonceau, an elegant, river-straddling, 16th-century castle. After an audio-guided tour you'll have plenty of free time to roam through the gardens and pathways. Later, return to Amboise for a little free time to explore on your own before having dinner together. [Dinner.](#)

Friday, March 14: Brittany and Dinan – We will leave the Loire Valley this morning and head

directly to Brittany. Once in Dinan, enjoy a walk through town surrounded by half-timbered houses and learn about the Bretons' Celtic heritage. Enjoy a peaceful evening on your own. *Sleep 1 night in Dinan.*

Saturday, March 15: Brittany and Mont Saint Michel – We will do a little driving tour on the Breton peninsula, taking in some of the wild and scenic locales that make this such a contrasting destination from the rest of France. Then, on to Normandy and the Abby Mont St. Michel. We will arrive just in time to wave goodbye to all the tourist crowds, leaving the Mont for us to enjoy in relative peace. *Sleep 1 night on or near Mont St. Michel.*

Sunday, March 16: The D-Day Beaches of Normandy – Traveling directly to Caen, our first stop will be at the informative Mémorial de Caen, a museum and war memorial commemorating the Second World War and the Battle for Caen. Then experience a driving tour of the Normandy beaches where in June of 1944, the Allied D-Day landings took place by sea and air. We'll visit Pointe du Hoc, where Army Rangers scaled the cliffs in pre-dawn darkness, and the American Cemetery, where 10,000 stark white markers memorialize the Americans who gave their lives on the beaches below. Time permitting we will make a stop at Sainte Mère Eglise, the airborne drop site made famous by "The Longest Day" and "Band of Brothers." Enjoy a traditional Norman dinner tonight in Caen. *Sleep 1 night in Caen.* [Dinner](#)

Monday, March 17: Paris and the Louvre – We will get an early start for our journey back to Paris. After dropping our belongings at the hotel, enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at the Louvre museum to experience what some consider the world's best collection of art. Armed with my "Concise Guide to the Louvre", you will have several hours to explore the art, history, and wonder of this magnificent museum. Following the tour, stroll through the adjacent gardens ending on the famous Champs Elysées where you can enjoy the evening and dinner on your own. *Sleep 2 nights in Paris.*

Tuesday, March 18: Paris – Explore more of Paris on your own today. Your guide will be available to assist with sightseeing hints and suggestions such as museum entrances, shopping, and tours. We will meet later this evening at a farewell feast where we will recount our memories and toast our new friends. [Dinner.](#)

Wednesday, March 19: Tour over after breakfast - Paris' airports is well connected by a network of taxis, shuttles or public transportation. Your guide will help you with post-tour planning if needed. *Au revoir!*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Transportation by coach and minivan from your first hotel in Paris to your last hotel in Paris.

10 nights accommodation in traditional hotels, guesthouses, and B&B's. All rooms have private en-suite bathes.

All tips and gratuities to guides, drivers, restaurant and hotel staff.

A guaranteed **Super Duper Small Group** consisting of no more than 8 participants.

All breakfasts and five of your lunches or dinners.

Traditional and gourmet dining experiences at some of David's personal favorite restaurants. Eating well is a priority and you'll enjoy fine regional fare featuring the best the locale has to offer.

All tours and admissions at no extra cost: Seine River Cruise ▪ Eiffel Tower admission ▪ Louvre Museum entrance and printed guidebook ▪ Paris historic center walking tour ▪ Montmartre/Pigalle walking tour ▪ Hop-On-Hop-Off Sightseeing Bus Tour and transportation in Paris ▪ Champs Elysées orientation ▪ Vézelay orientation ▪ Beaune walking tour to the vineyards ▪ Chateau Chenonceau tour ▪ Dinan orientation ▪ Mont St. Michel orientation ▪ Mémorial de Caen entrance ▪ D-Day Beaches driving tour ▪ and much more (itinerary specifics are subject to change).

A fulltime Exploring Europe guide and local experts dedicated to bringing to life the art, history, and culture of the tour destinations.

David's **printed tour handouts** detailing each day's historical and cultural experiences.

Free luggage tags and David's custom designed drawstring backpacks.

Our Unconditional Tour Price Guarantee that once locked in, will never change.

Comprehensive Travel Insurance providing full coverage for emergency medical, baggage loss, and trip delay from the moment you depart for your tour.

\$50 Tour Alumni discount for each McGuffin tour you've taken prior to 2014.

\$100 discount if making all payments by check, cash or bank draft. The \$400 initial deposit may be made by credit card and still qualify for this discount.

Single rooms for solo travelers are available for an additional fee.

Please note – You are responsible for the cost of your drinks at all group dinners and for any additional costs incurred while sightseeing on your own.

David McGuffin established David McGuffin's Exploring Europe, Inc. in 2001 to formally offer European tours. Since then, he has taken several thousand satisfied customers on memorable and educational tours to Europe. This **Essence of France Tour** is a product of David's meticulous planning and time-tested travel strategies which ultimately produce a well-planned, fun, educational, and stress-free tour experience.

CONTRACT ITEMS

Airfare: This tour price does not include airfare.

Tour Price Guarantee: Because of unpredictable currency rates, the tour price is subject to change without notice. However, your price will be locked and guaranteed the moment we receive your deposit. Current tour prices may be found at davidmcguffin.com or, by giving us a call at 1-800-570-1351.

Tour price: \$3489 per person sharing a twin/double room.

Limited Single Supplements offered at \$1200 per person.

\$100 Discount if making all payments by check or cash.

\$50 Alumni Discount per previous McGuffin tour (see website for details).

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THIS TOUR:

Sightseeing tours led by an Exploring Europe guide and local guides when appropriate; admissions to sights seen as a group; all breakfasts and many dinners and/or lunches as noted in the specific tour itinerary (you will always pay for your own drinks at lunch or dinner); many traditional and gourmet dining experiences at David's personal favorite restaurants; accommodations each night in clean and safe European-style hotels with en-suite bath facilities, centrally located in the city or village (twin or double bedded rooms); all transportation from the first hotel to the last hotel of the tour (this does not include optional activities or independent travel); all tips to guides and drivers; David McGuffin's tour handouts and daily travel information (distributed daily on tour); a reasonable all-inclusive price and payment plan; an insurance plan which covers tour interruptions, emergency medical, and baggage lost/delay expenses occurring while on tour. Anything not listed above is not included in the cost of your tour.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND PROCESS

To reserve a seat on this tour you must agree to these Tour Conditions and provide us with a deposit of **\$400 per person**. We accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and PayPal for all tour deposits and payments. Additionally, we accept personal checks (US banks only), bank drafts, and money orders made payable to **David McGuffin's Exploring Europe** (in US dollars).

Your final tour payment is due in our office at least 90 days prior to the start of the tour. The due date is noted on your tour confirmation letter and invoice. Missing the final payment deadline may result in you being removed from the tour! If you sign up for a tour less than 90 days before its departure, the entire tour price must be paid, and the deposit portion (\$400) is non-refundable.

We offer a \$100 discount if all payments (beyond the initial \$400 deposit which may be paid with a credit card) are made by check, cash, bank draft, or money order.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Deposits for tours are refundable for two weeks from the date we receive it in our office. Deposits received in 2013 for any 2014 tour departing after April 15 are 100% refundable through January 5, 2014. After these dates, deposits are not refundable for any reason and will be forfeited if you cancel your tour reservation. All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations will be effective on the date the written notification is received by David McGuffin's Exploring Europe, Inc. by mail, e-mail, or fax.

DAVID MCGUFFIN'S EXPLORING EUROPE
4036 HIDDEN ACRES RD.
MIDDLEBURG, FLORIDA 32068

1-800-570-1351

david@davidmcguffin.com

<http://davidmcguffin.com>