



# GARDENS OF France

MAY 28 - JUNE 11, 2022

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OF France

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This coming May, join us as we travel to France to see beautiful gardens, stunning scenery, and remarkable chateaux, plus four nights in the City of Lights--Paris!

Our adventure takes us from Paris to Normandy, to the Loire Valley, and back to Paris. Along the way we see lovely private gardens, extraordinary chateau gardens, the incredible Mont Saint Michel, the D-Day memorials, a world-class garden festival, the Louvre, Versailles, and so much more. We also visit a cidery and winery. It is two weeks of *magnifiques jardins à la française!*

**Cost: \$6250.00**

per person, double occupancy—airfare **included** from Washington, DC, to Paris and return

**Dates:** May 28 – June 11, 2022

**NEW!!! Deadline to Register: NOW!**

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# TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Versailles ♦ Vaux le Vicomte

Le Bois des Moutiers ♦ Jardin Plume ♦ Monet's Giverny

Amboise ♦ Honfleur ♦ D-Day Memorials ♦ Mont St Michel

Jardin de Miromesnil ♦ Le Vasterival ♦ Jardin Agapanthe

Chateaux: Ballue ♦ Brecy ♦ Villandry ♦ Chenonceau

Chaumont Garden Festival ♦ Four nights in Paris

**CLICK [HERE](#) TO WATCH A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT THE TOUR**

## TOUR AT A GLANCE

The tour begins at Washington Dulles International Airport and proceeds to Paris. From there we travel to Dieppe in Upper Normandy and Bayeux in Lower Normandy, followed by Amboise in the Loire Valley, and then back to Paris for our final 3 days.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Non-stop flight from Dulles Airport to Paris and return
- All entrance fees and all breakfasts, several lunches and dinners
- Transportation in a deluxe air-conditioned coach
- City-center first-class hotels—3 nights in Dieppe, 3 in Bayeux, 3 in Amboise, and 4 in Paris

## NOT INCLUDED

- Tips to driver, tour guides, hotel staff
- Meals not in the itinerary, and any other items not listed in the itinerary



Paris skyline

# GARDENS OF *France*

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# ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change.

Included meals: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner



Monet's Garden in Giverny



Parc du bois des Moutiers

## Day 1: Saturday, May 28

Our garden excursion to France begins with an evening non-stop flight from Washington Dulles to Paris.

## Day 2: Sunday, May 29

Arriving early in Paris, we travel to **Monet's garden in Giverny** which was planted by Monet to be the subject for his extraordinary paintings. Afterward, we visit a beautiful, airy garden created with the lightest touch—as its name, **Le Jardin Plume**—implies. We head to our hotel on the French coast for the next 3 nights where we have a get-acquainted dinner. **Lodging: Mercure La Présidence, Dieppe (L)(D)**

## Day 3: Monday, May 30

We travel first to **L'Etang de Launay**, a private garden created by Jean-Louis Dantec. There we find high-pruned specimen trees leading to a lake and ponds with extensive woodland planting beyond. Afterward, we have lunch at nearby **Restaurant le Colombier** in Offranville. Our first full day of gardens ends at **Vasterival**, the renowned creation of the late Princess Sturdza, known as the "Garden of the Four Seasons." **Lodging: Dieppe (B)(L)**



Parc et Jardin de Miromesnil

## Day 4: Tuesday, May 31

The morning is free to explore Dieppe on your own. In the afternoon, we depart for nearby **Parc du bois des Moutiers**, beautifully designed by the famous English duo of Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. Our final visit of the day is **Parc et Jardin de Miromesnil** with formal avenues and an elegant potager. **Lodging: Dieppe (B)**



The harbor in Honfleur

#### Day 5: Wednesday, June 1

Our day begins with a visit to the remarkable **Agapanthe Jardin**, owned and designed by the landscape architect, Alexandre Thomas. Here we explore a seemingly endless green living maze,



Château de Brécy

full of light and flowers. Leaving this region of Upper Normandy, we head south and stop for lunch in the beautiful seaport city of **Honfleur** before visiting the formal gardens of the exquisite **Château de Brécy**. **Lodging:** Hotel Le Bayeux, Bayeux (B)

#### Day 6: Thursday, June 2

The morning begins just a short walk from our hotel with a walking tour of the village of Bayeux including a visit to see the incredible **Bayeux Tapestry**. Then our afternoon is spent

exploring various sites and **memorials of the D-Day** invasion, including **Pont du Hoc** where U.S. Army Rangers attacked and captured it after scaling the cliffs. **Lodging:** Bayeux (B)

#### Day 7: Friday, June 3

An elegant country chateau, **Le Chateau de La Ballue**, is our first stop today to visit the gardens and enjoy a cup of tea. This 17th century chateau boasts beautiful gardens and a setting that is not only authentic, but very charming. Here the art of topiary takes on new meaning. Later in the day, we make our way to **Mont-Saint-Michel**, the massive island fortress and Christian pilgrimage site where we visit the cathedral and cloister garden. **Lodging:** Bayeux (B)(T)



Mont-Saint-Michel



Chateau Chenonceau on the River Cher

#### Day 8: Saturday, June 4

Leaving Normandy en route to Amboise, we stop at the *Cidrerie Traditionnelle du Perche* for a tour of the farm, a light lunch, and tastings of their wonderful cider. Before arriving at our hotel in Amboise, we visit one of France's most famous chateaux, *Chenonceau*. It is serenely perched

across the River Cher with gardens dedicated to two famous French women: Diane de Portiers, Henry II's favorite mistress and Catherine de Medici, who was married to the monarch. It was given to Diane until Henry's untimely death, whereupon Catherine took possession. Our next three days are spent in the *Loire River Valley*, a land of vineyards, flowers and rolling green hills dotted with chateaux. [Lodging: Le Clos d'Amboise, Amboise \(B\)\(L\)\(D\)](#)



Chateau Villandry

#### Day 9: Sunday, June 5

Our day begins at another of France's famous chateaux. The third most visited garden in France, *Villandry*, boasts the largest and most impressive kitchen garden in all of Europe. Originally a very formal French garden, it was transformed into an English landscape park in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was purchased in



The Loire River at Amboise



Chateau Chaumont Garden Festival

1906 and returned to its former glory by the Spanish doctor, Joaquín Carvallo. The afternoon is free to explore beautiful Amboise on your own. [Lodging: Amboise \(B\)](#)

### Day 10: Monday, June 6

What better way to start a new day than with a wine tasting at a local Loire winery? *Les Caves Duhard* will host our group in their extraordinary 16th century wine cellars. Next, we follow the Loire upstream to enjoy the *Chaumont Garden Festival*, set on the grounds of the beautiful *Chateau Chaumont* which overlooks the Loire River. [Lodging: Amboise \(B\)](#)

### Day 11: Tuesday, June 7

Departing Amboise, our first stop is a strolling garden in Orleans called *Parc Floral de la Source*. A former Floriade site, we enjoy the gardens and some lunch before traveling north to a breathtaking palace called *Vaux le Vicomte*. Designed by Andre le Notre and home to Louis XIV's finance minister, Vaux is also home to one of the more intriguing scandals in French history. Nicolas Fouquet, Louis' finance minister and not a man of great means, built a huge palace that rivaled anything in the land. At the elaborate fête to celebrate its completion, the young king had Fouquet thrown in jail. Not to be outdone, Louis had his own monumental palace and gardens built by the very same designers Fouquet employed. The result was Versailles. At the end of our visit, we escape to Paris, with an evening guided tour of the '*City of Light*' in an open-top double-decker bus. [Lodging: Renaissance Paris Republique, Paris \(B\)](#)



Parc Floral de la Source



Vaux le Vicomte



Promenade Plantée

### Day 12: Wednesday, June 8

"Très magnifique!" describes our morning at the *Louvre*, the finest art museum in the world. After a visit to the *Tuileries* nearby, the remainder of the day in Paris is spent enjoying other lovely gardens, including the elegant *Parc Monceau*, designed in the English landscape style, and the *Promenade Plantée* the predecessor to NYC's High Line Park. *Lodging: Paris (B)*



Parc Monceau

### Day 13: Thursday, June 9

In 1682, Louis XIV moved the royal court from the Louvre Palace in Paris to the countryside at his freshly completed *Palace of Versailles* which quickly became the zenith of royal dwelling places and was visited from all over to pay homage to its splendor. Today, we make the same journey to see the inside of this iconic palace, but more importantly we go to experience the extensive gardens. Afterward, we take another historic excursion to see the incomparable *Chartres Cathedral*, for a tour of the finest example of French gothic architecture. *Lodging: Paris (B)*

### Day 14: Friday, June 10

Today, our final full day in France, is free for you to explore Paris at your leisure. This evening we celebrate our two weeks together with a farewell dinner. *Lodging: Paris (B)(D)*

### Day 1: Saturday, June 11

Our memorable time in France ends today as we board our flight back to Washington. (B)



Versailles looking across the Garden of the Orangery and toward the Swiss Lake



*Please note that this tour requires a considerable amount of walking and since most of the sites we visit are not wheelchair accessible, participants must be able to walk on rocky paths with steps. Participants must also be able to manage their own luggage.*

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### **Cost:**

\$6250.00 Total cost per person (double/twin occupancy, airfare included)

\$1200.00 Single room supplemental fee

**While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee. The maximum number of participants is 35.**

**Method of Payment:** by check only, payable to: MCDUFFTOURS LLC

#### **Included in the Cost**

The cost of this tour includes lodging, entrance fees, guides, ground transportation, all breakfasts, bottled water, and several dinners, lunches, and teas outlined in the Itinerary. Also included is the cost of airfare from Washington Dulles Airport to Paris and return. While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee.

### **Not included in the Cost**

Costs of obtaining passports, visas, excess/overweight baggage charges, items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone and optional tours are not included. All meals except those included in the tour are not included. Trip insurance is not included as well as tips to driver/guides and any foreign departure taxes. Transportation from home to Washington Dulles International Airport is not included. It is strongly recommended that you purchase Travel Insurance to protect your tour investment against covered unforeseeable circumstances.

### **TOUR CONDITIONS:**

MCDUFFTOURS LLC acts only as agents for the passengers with respect to transportation, hotels and restaurants, and exercise every care possible. MCDUFFTOURS LLC assumes no responsibility to any person or entity for liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, breakdown, disruption of advertised schedules, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any ship, ferry, airplane, train, automobile, motorcoach, carriage, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept responsibility for losses or additional expense due to delay, refusal of visa, or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, violent acts, quarantine, acts of God, or any other causes beyond our control. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to the itinerary or accommodations as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the tour. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. The price of the program is based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on October 26, 2021, and is subject to adjustment in the event of change in tariffs, taxes or exchange rates. Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. The acceptance of any service provided as part of tour or any ticket or voucher shall be deemed to be acceptance of, and consent by the tour member to these conditions. Services are subject to the laws of the country where services are provided. For a more detailed Term and Conditions statement from MCDUFFTOURS, please click here: <https://new.mcdufftours.com/T&C.pdf>

*I understand and accept these terms and conditions.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cancellation and Refund Policy: All fees are fully refundable until March 9, 2022. After March 9 and until April 20, \$900 of the deposit will be refunded. After February 18, the \$1000 deposit plus actual expenses incurred in airline and hotel arrangements will be retained and the remainder will be refunded.

*MCDUFFTOURS LLC is a travel company founded by Nancy and Robert McDuffie, both former professors at Virginia Tech. Nancy taught in the Department of Music as a vocal coach and instructor. Robert is a Landscape Architect and was Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture as well as Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden. After establishing the first group VT Horticulture Study Abroad program 24 years ago, they now take garden lovers of all ages around the world. Over 1400 people have traveled with them to visit gardens in 25 countries on five continents.*



# REGISTRATION FORM

Please print – each participant must complete this form

Full Legal Name (as on passport) \_\_\_\_\_

First name for NAME TAG \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Passport# \_\_\_\_\_ Place of issue \_\_\_\_\_

Date of issue \_\_\_\_\_ Date of expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Special food requirements or allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of preferred roommate \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Tour Fee is \$6250.00 (double occupancy, per person)**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.00 Deposit due: March 9, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5250.00 Final payment of the balance due: April 20, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1200.00 Supplemental Fee for Single due: April 20, 2022

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total payment enclosed**

**Method of Payment: by check only, payable to: MCDUFFTOURS LLC**

Questions? Contact: Robert McDuffie - 540 818 0154 - [mcdufftours@yahoo.com](mailto:mcdufftours@yahoo.com)

**Please mail your completed reservation form, a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions form, and a deposit check by March 9, 2022 to:**

**MCDUFFTOURS LLC**  
4810 Susannah Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Office Use	Received _____
	AMT: _____
	CHK#: _____
	DATE: _____