

The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association  
*Presents*



# *Paris in the Springtime*

**May 3 - 12, 2018**

**\$3,445 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago**



*This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association*



## Day by Day Itinerary

### Thursday, May 3 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this evening by scheduled service of United Airlines on the transatlantic flight to Paris, France.

### Friday, May 4 – PARIS (Montmartre) (I,L)

As the sun begins to rise on the French countryside we arrive in Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport where we'll meet our local Tour Guide who will introduce us to France's storied capital, one of the world's most captivating cities. Leaving the airport, we'll travel to the officially designated historic district of Montmartre, one of the most colorful neighborhoods in Paris. Here we'll visit the Romano-Byzantine Sacre-Coeur built as a memorial to the 58,000 French soldiers killed during the Franco-Prussian war. One of the most photographed images of the city, the spectacular white basilica of Sacre-Coeur watches over Paris from its highest point. Following lunch, we'll explore cozy Place du Tertre, a throw-back to the days when the world's best artists lived in Montmartre forging a name for themselves in the world of art. Afterward, we'll make our way to the hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

### Saturday, May 5 – PARIS (B,L)

Our day will begin with an introductory tour of Paris as we start in the Tuileries Quarter where we'll pass the royal Place Vendome before reaching the historic Place de la Concorde, one of Europe's most magnificent squares. From here, we'll travel past the formal Tuileries Gardens to see the 18th century Royal Palace, then along the eastern façade of the Louvre Museum, home to one of the most important art collections in the world. Next, we'll cross the Pont Neuf to the Ile de la Cite, the island in the Seine River that is the original birthplace of Paris, where we'll see Notre-Dame Cathedral, a superb example of French medieval architecture. Just when you think we've seen it all, we'll travel along the Champs-Elysees, the most famous avenue in the world, and stop at Place de l'Etoile to see the Arc de Triomphe, and the Palais de Chaillot for a panoramic view of the Eiffel Tower. Our tour will come to an end with a visit to the Eiffel Tower, Paris's best-known monument, where we'll enjoy a quintessential Parisian dining experience at 58 Tour Eiffel, so named for its location 58 meters above Paris, with a stunning view of the city.

### Sunday, May 6 – PARIS (B)

The day is at leisure allowing you to choose if you'd like to browse the fashion houses, contemplate art in one of over 90 museums, or relax and people watch at the

sidewalk cafes. As you'll soon find out, Paris offers a compact network of neighborhoods where the streets are sprinkled with trendy cafes, bars and restaurants.

### Monday, May 7 – PARIS (Loire Valley) (B,L)

A full day tour will take us from Paris to the lush Loire Valley, famous for its beautiful chateaux and wine. Our first visit of the day will take us to romantic Chateau de Chenonceau. Built over a bridge spanning the Cher River, Chenonceau Castle is like no other in France, and probably like no other in the world. This exquisite Renaissance château is the most visited heritage site in France still in private hands, and as we'll soon find out, not only remarkable for its architecture and history, but also for the fine quality of its collections. This afternoon we'll travel to Chateau de Chambord, the largest château in the Loire Valley. We'll begin our visit with a wine tasting at Maison des Vins a Chambord, dedicated to the sale of wines from the Cheverny. Afterward, we'll visit the château that was constructed by King Francis I of France, which began as a hunting lodge in the Foret de Boulogne. As the château was never intended to provide any form of defense from enemies, the Chateau de Chambord became one of the most recognizable in the world because of its very distinctive French Renaissance architecture.

### Tuesday, May 8 thru Thursday, May 10 – PARIS (B)

For all it offers, Paris is relatively small and most major sights and museums are easily reached by metro or on foot. From Notre-Dame Cathedral to the Eiffel Tower, Paris holds some of the world's most famous sights. Be sure to visit the Musee du Louvre, marvel at the Gothic masterpiece of Sainte-Chapelle, and spend time browsing the expansive Galleries Lafayette and unique Flower and Bird Markets on the Ile de la Cite. Whatever you choose to do, Paris has something for everyone! In addition, the following *optional* tours will be made available for those interested in visiting: the charming village of Barbizon and the historic castle of Fontainebleau, a 40,000-acre estate where Marie Antoinette, Catherine de Medici, and Napoleon all lived; the Normandy coast to explore the American landing sector of the D-Day beaches of World War II, where in the early hours of June 6, 1944 forces began landing on the shores of Normandy; and the Atlantic Coast to visit Mont-Saint-Michel – shrouded by mist, engulfed by sea and soaring proudly above glistening sands, the silhouette of Mont-Saint-Michel has been one of the most famous pilgrimage centers since the Middle Ages. Note that these *optional* group tours will be at the traveler's own expense.



### **Friday, May 11 – PARIS (Versailles) (B,RD)**

Today we travel to Versailles, the capital of France in the 17th and 18th centuries, for a visit to the magnificent Palace of Versailles, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A visit to the grand chateau of King Louis XIV will reveal the grandeur of classical French architecture as we view the State Apartments, richly decorated with countless works of art, the Royal Chapel, and the famed Hall of Mirrors that was the scene of the signing of the 1919 Peace Treaty. Afterward, we'll have an opportunity to stroll through the formal gardens, the largest open-air sculpture museum in the world, adorned with marble,

bronze and lead statues and fountains, built for the entertaining of palace guests, accompanied by the sound of baroque music.

### **Saturday, May 12 – PARIS / CHICAGO (B,I)**

This morning we say, 'au revoir' to Paris and travel to Charles de Gaulle Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Paris in the Springtime* vacation that will last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way.

**\*\*\* Welcome Home \*\*\***

### **Visit [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) to make your reservation.**

#### **The Tour Price Includes:**

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- Accommodations at the Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotel.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$430 per person.**

**The Tour Price Does Not Include:** Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Escort, and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; meals other than those stated above; and optional group tours.

## TOUR CONDITIONS

**Tour Deposit and Payment:** Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Guide, and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

**Tour Pricing:** This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

## RESPONSIBILITY

**THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

**For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) to make your reservation.**

*\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.*

**Alumni Association  
Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115**