



From Madrid to Paris

12 Days | Summer 2026

The experience of a lifetime is waiting for you. Every detail from the cities you'll stay in to the cultural discoveries you'll make have been customized by your teacher for your group. Take a look at your personal itinerary for a sneak peek of what's in store.

Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; project-based learning program, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily unless otherwise specified. Lunch on day 5.

Sightseeing: Madrid; Paris

Entrances: Palacio Real; Prado Museum; Flamenco show, Madrid; El Pilar Basilica, Pamplona; Monte Urgull; Chateau de Chambord; Pointe du Hoc; Utah Beach D-Day Museum; American Cemetery at Colleville; Seine River cruise; Musée d'Orsay; Montparnasse Tower; Sacré Coeur

Overnights: Madrid (2); Pamplona (1); Basque Coast (1); Bordeaux (1); Loire Valley (1); Normandy region (1); Paris (3)



Your Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Spain

Board your overnight flight to Madrid!

Day 2: Madrid

Arrive in Madrid

Welcome to Madrid! At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital, a hub for art-lovers, and home to one of the world's most famous soccer teams.

Walking tour of Madrid

Your Tour Director will introduce you to Madrid during a walking tour. Together, you might see the impressive Puerta del Sol, stand in Madrid's historic Plaza Mayor or stroll down the chic and trendy Gran Via.

Day 3: Madrid

Guided sightseeing of Madrid

Your expert local guide will introduce you to Madrid, the capital and largest city in Spain. Begin your tour with a panoramic bus tour. Then, get a taste of royal Madrid as you visit the extravagant Palacio Real, where you'll wander the fabulous palace interior that has over 2,000 rooms.

Visit the Prado Museum

Explore the Museo del Prado which houses an astonishing 3,000 paintings collected by Spanish royalty. This massive building is constantly expanding in order to accommodate its impressive catalogue of Velazquez and Goya. It also boasts fine pieces by El Greco, Botticelli and many Flemish artists.

Flamenco evening

The name itself evokes the emotions and traditions of Spain. Flamenco is a unique art form combining guitar playing, singing, chanting, dancing and hand-clapping. (Keep in mind that the guitar is a Spanish invention, dating back to the 1500's.) There are two main types of song: one lively and cheerful (cante chico) and the other sad and haunting (cante jondo). *(A beverage is included)*

Day 4: Madrid | Pamplona

Travel via Zaragoza to Pamplona

Visit the El Pilar Basilica

View the brightly colored domes of the Basilica del Pilar, whose central pillar is said to be a gift from the Virgin Mary to St. James.

Arrive in Pamplona

Welcome to Pamplona; both the town and its Fiesta de San Fermín (the dangerous, but annual, running of the bulls) were immortalized by Ernest Hemingway in *The Sun Also Rises*.

Day 5: Pamplona | Basque Coast

Walking tour of Pamplona

With your Tour Director take a moment to explore Pamplona, a town best known for its annual but dangerous Fiesta de San Fermín – the festival whose highlight is the running of the bulls. Ernest Hemingway set his novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, amidst the bullfights of Pamplona.

Travel via San Sebastián to Biarritz

Take in the beautiful scenery of San Sebastián, a town sandwiched between the mountains and the sea. With your Tour Director, stroll down Playa de la Concha and through the town's old quarter, where Isabel II spent her vacations. Napoleon III and Bismarck both spent time in San Sebastián as well. Then, take a walk up Monte Urgull, where you will have beautiful views of the town and the ocean.

Arrive in Biarritz

One of the most popular resorts in France, Biarritz mixes sandy beaches with a coast that allows for a variety of water sports. Historically a small fishing port, the town developed as a tourist attraction during the 19th century due largely to its popularity with the British - a tradition that continues today.

Lunch is included instead of dinner today.

Day 6: Basque Coast | Bordeaux

Walking tour of Biarritz

As your Tour Director introduces you to the town of Biarritz, enjoy views of the Atlantic and the town's sandy beaches. The area has been a favorite among international royalty since the early 19th century.

Travel via Arcachon to Bordeaux

En route to Bordeaux, stop and visit the coastal town of Arcachon. If the weather is nice, kick off your shoes and walk in the same sand that the bourgeoisie of Bordeaux walked many years ago. With your Tour Director, you will see La Dune de Pilat, Europe's largest sand dune.

Arrive in Bordeaux

Perhaps best known for its wine production, the Bordeaux region is one of the most alluring in all of France. The city itself has been the focal point for some of European history's most important events, such as the marriage of Edward I and Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1152, as well as the end of the Hundred Year's War in 1453.

Day 7: Bordeaux | Loire Valley

Travel to the Loire Valley

Travel to the area known as the 'playground of Kings.' Featuring some of the most impressive buildings of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the Loire was also home to some of the most influential women in European history. Eleanor of Aquitaine and Catherine de Medici resided here, while Joan of Arc rode to Chinon to convince Charles VII to fight for his throne.

Visit the Château de Chambord

Visit this 16th-century chateau, which was completed as a hunting lodge for the counts of Blois in just fifteen years by up to 1,800 workmen. Featuring four towers and a system of smaller towers that formulate the intricate roof, Chambord is known as one of the most grandiose of the Renaissance projects.

Day 8: Loire Valley | Normandy region

Travel to Normandy

Welcome to the Normandy region, the location of many of the battles that turned the course of World War II. See why Normandy is not only known for its connection with major military events, but for its scenic beauty, elegant landscapes and patchwork fields, as well.

Visit Arromanches

Visit the seaside town of Arromanches, whose coastline hosted some of the D-Day landings in 1944. As part of the designated 'Gold Beach' area, British troops landed here. Arromanches was also important in WWII as one of the chosen sites for the Mulberry Harbours built by the British forces to aid in the allied invasion of Normandy. The massive concrete blocks can still be seen today.

See La Pointe du Hoc

The Pointe du Hoc was a vital position on the Atlantic Wall because it contained guns capable of firing on Omaha and Utah Beaches. It was one of the strongholds in the German fortifications. Colonel Rudder's "Rangers" battled the German observation post on the edge of the Point and the monument commemorates their courage on the morning of June 6th.

Visit the Utah Beach D-Day Museum

See the site of the US landing on the 6th of June 1944. The Allies needed a deep water harbor in order to bring supplies to the troops ashore. Therefore, the prime objective of the US troops stationed at Utah Beach was to capture the port of Cherbourg, which became the world's biggest port used for military purposes. Utah Beach was one of the two American landing beaches used during the Normandy Invasion of June 1944.

Your Itinerary

Day 9: Normandy region | Paris

Visit the American Cemetery

Visit the final resting place of 9,386 American military soldiers, most of whom gave their lives during the landings and ensuing operations of World War II. The site also includes a memorial commemorating the soldiers and a chapel bearing the poignant words: "These endured all and gave all that justice among nations might prevail and that mankind might enjoy freedom and inherit peace."

Walking tour of Paris

Join your Tour Director on a walking tour that will introduce you to Paris. Together, you might see the chic, boutique-filled Opéra district, city's largest square at the Place de la Concorde, and the geometric Tuileries gardens.

Visit Notre-Dame Cathedral

Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose window and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings. *(Please note, due to a devastating fire in April 2019, the Notre Dame Cathedral remains closed to all visitors for repairs until further notice. If the Cathedral is not re-opened to visitors at the time of travel, your group will see it from the outside).*

Day 10: Paris

Guided sightseeing of Paris

Discover the city on the Seine during your panoramic bus tour. An expert local guide will accompany you as you drive through Paris' lively Latin Quarter. Nearby, see Notre-Dame Cathedral, standing tall at the center of the city. You will also drive down the elegant, tree-lined Champs-Élysées. Finally, be sure to snap a photo at the magnificent Eiffel Tower, an unmistakable and controversial symbol of Paris since its appearance at the 1889 World's Fair.

Exploration time in Paris

Enjoy time to explore Paris on your own. You may wish to visit one of Paris' many museums, or stroll through one of its iconic neighborhoods, like Le Marais.

Seine River cruise

This afternoon, take a narrated river cruise along the Seine. As your boat glides from one graceful bridge to the next, sit back and gaze at the illuminated landmarks of Paris as they pan into view.

Day 11: Paris

Visit the Musée d'Orsay

Part of this museum's draw is the building itself, not just the artwork that adorns its walls. Built for the 1900 Universal Exposition, the Gare d'Orsay functioned as a train station until 1939 and was converted into a museum in 1986. The high, arching ceiling and enormous wall clocks hint at the days when trains zipped in and out of the spacious structure. The museum is noted for its collection of Impressionist paintings—a walk through the upper gallery will reveal works by Monet, Renoir, Degas, Sisley, Pissarro, and countless others.

Exploration time in Paris

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Visit the Montparnasse Tower

As one of the tallest buildings in central Paris, the Montparnasse Tower gives you panoramic views of the entire city from a bird's eye perspective.

Evening walking tour of Montmartre

This evening, get to know Montmartre during your Tour Director-led walking tour. Together you will visit the spectacular Sacré-Coeur, a Catholic basilica built atop the Montmartre hill. From here enjoy some of the most breathtaking views of the City of Light before heading to the cafés and shops that line the small and quaint streets. Relax at the Place du Tertre and watch talented artists at work or choose to have your own portrait done. Montmartre was once home to many struggling artists, including Picasso, Monet, and Renoir.

Day 12: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.

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My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.

—CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER



Tour review

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