

Spring Break in France

April 4-13, 2025

The Center for Gifted Studies at WKU offers spring break and fall break travel/study programs for 8th grade and high school honors students and interested adults.

Learn more about these opportunities and more for students, families, and educators online at wku.edu/gifted.

Spring Break in France

This program is an opportunity for eighth grade and high school honors students and interested adults to spend eight days learning about the history, culture, and people of France. Sponsored by The Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University, the program provides a carefully structured experience. Twenty-five qualified applicants will be accompanied by the program director.

Application

All travelers must be able to participate in everyday physical activities. Student applicants also must meet the following criteria:

- Enrollment in 8th-12th grade;
- Involvement in high school honors or gifted services; and
- A recommendation from a teacher, counselor, principal, or gifted and talented coordinator if traveling without an adult.

Apply at wku.edu/gifted/travel or scan the QR code at right.

A nonrefundable \$500 deposit and a copy of your passport information page must be included with the application. Passport expiration must not be within 6 months of travel. The deposit is not refundable.



Cost

The program cost of \$5,100 includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from Nashville, TN;
- Accommodations in double rooms (an adult may request a single room for an additional charge);
- Breakfast each day at the hotel;
- Admission to historic sites, museums, and other points of interest listed on the itinerary; and
- Travel by motor coach, train, and metro for excursions.

NOTE: Cost is subject to change should there be changes in airfares, monetary exchange rates, or service costs. The itinerary is subject to minor changes in daily activities.

Payment schedule

- \$500 deposit and a passport-sized photo are due with application
- \$2,300 due December 1, 2024
- \$2,300 due February 1, 2025

NOTE: The group is capped at 25; eligible participants will be admitted in the order in which applications are received. The deposit will be returned if the tour reaches capacity.



Itinerary

Friday, April 4

Depart Nashville for Paris.

Saturday, April 5

Arrive in Paris and meet our guide. Travel by private motor coach to Caen. En route go to **Giverny** to visit Monet's home on the Siene River. Monet lived in Giverny for the last 40 years of his life, and many of his paintings are of his garden and lily pond. Continue on to Caen and check into the hotel.

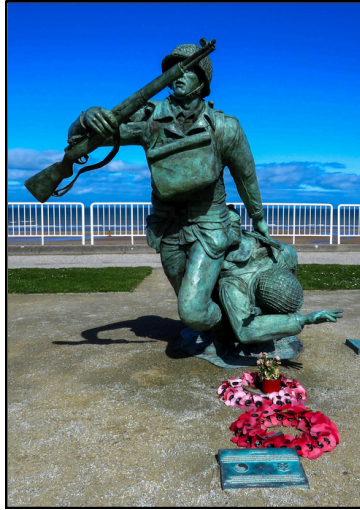
Sunday, April 6

Depart Caen for an all-day excursion to **Mont-Saint-Michel** to visit the town and the impressive Gothic cathedral built on a rocky island off the Normandy coast. On the way back to Caen, visit the

town of Bayeux to view the **Bayeux Tapestry** that tells the story of the Norman Conquest of England.

Monday, April 7

Travel down the D-Day beaches to visit **Pointe du Hoc** and the **American Cemetery and Museum** at Colleville-sur-Mer overlooking Omaha Beach. Continue on to **Arromanches** to see the remains of the artificial harbor constructed to support the D-Day landings. Visit the museum and have lunch. Leave Arromanches for Paris. Arrive in Paris in the early evening and check into the hotel.



Tuesday, April 8

In the morning, travel by the Metro to visit the **Eiffel Tower** for a breathtaking view of Paris. Then walk to the **Hotel des Invalides**, a hospital for veterans, and visit the **Dome Church**, the burial place of French military leaders and Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. In the afternoon, tour the **Musee d'Orsay** on the Seine to view the extensive collection of Impressionist art.

Wednesday, April 9

Travel by train to **Versailles** to visit the famous palace and grounds. Built by Louis XIV, this palace is the largest in Europe and is noted for its extensive gardens. Have lunch in Versailles and then return to Paris to visit the **Marmottan Monet Museum**. This small suburban museum houses a marvelous collection of paintings by Monet.

Thursday, April 10

In the morning, visit the **Louvre Museum**. This magnificent building, once the palace of French kings, now houses one of the largest collections of art in the world. Have lunch at the Louvre. In the afternoon, visit the **Orangerie Museum** to view Monet's paintings of water lilies, "Grand Nymphéas" and then stroll through the Tuileries Gardens to the **Place de la Concorde**. Walk up the famous Champs Elysées to the **Arch of Triumph**. Climb to the top for another great view of Paris.

Friday, April 11

Leave Paris for an all-day excursion to the Loire River Valley, stopping at **Chartres** to



tour the massive Gothic cathedral famous for its beautiful medieval stained glass windows. Travel on to Amboise for lunch and to visit **Chateau du Clos Luce**, where Leonardo da Vinci lived the last three years of his life. From Amboise, return to Paris. En route, visit **Chateau de Chambord**, the magnificent castle built by Francois I in 1519.

Saturday, April 12

Start the day in the old city of Paris on the Ile de la Cité, an island in the Siene River, to see **Notre Dame Cathedral, Sainte-Chapelle**, and the **Conciergerie**. Have lunch in the Latin Quarter. In the afternoon tour **Montmartre**, the area renowned for its artist colony and the beautiful **Sacré-Coeur (Church of the Sacred Heart)**.

Sunday, April 13

Depart Paris and return to Nashville.

