



# A FRANCE WONDER VOYAGE

**Team:** St. Martin's in the Fields  
**Dates:** July 16 - 22, 2016

**Location:** France  
**Director:** Laurel Coote

## Day 1 - Bienvenue en France! (Saturday, July 16)

---

Welcome to France, Europe's fabled land of good food, iconic landmarks and hidden landscapes. We will head straight into the heart of Paris to immerse you in your pilgrimage. We'll start at the world-famous Notre Dame. Look out for the gargoyles: they are always watching! After an early lunch at a local cafe we'll walk along the south bank of the Seine to take in the river that made Paris famous. In the evening, we'll see the city from the river as we cruise past iconic sites. Tonight you will settle in knowing a great adventure is afoot.

## Day 2 - Ah, Paris! (Sunday, July 17)

---

Ah, Paris! This Sunday morning we will partake of a Eucharist service at the American Cathedral. In the afternoon we visit the top of the Arc de Triomphe before giving you time to explore along Avenue de Champs Elysees. Next we visit the world's greatest art museum: the Louvre. More surprises await as we end our evening with a walk to Paris' most iconic spot. Pouvez-vous deviner où nous allons?

## Day 3 - Monastic Rhythms (Monday, July 18)

---

We'll pack up this morning and head to our second home in France, Bayeux-Joie St Benoit Monastery. This magnificent sacred space, typical of Normandy, will stun you with its quiet holiness radiating from the grounds and those who serve here. We will spend the afternoon exploring the local town of Bayeux and the monastery. The town holds a special place in French history, and its cathedral is nothing short of a wonder. We'll make sure you have time to explore and learn what it is like to live in a French town.

## Day 4 - Normandy (Tuesday, July 19)

---

On the morning of June 6, 1944, "Operation Overlord," history's largest military operation, commenced. 6000 ships and boats landed on Normandy's northern beaches and 135,000 soldiers from the USA, UK, Canada and elsewhere began to recapture French soil from the clutches of the Nazi occupation. History would record this as D-Day and as the beginning of the 76-day battle of Normandy, which would end with over 400,000 Allied, German and civilian casualties. We will learn about that fated day by visiting some of the beaches, such as Omaha and Utah. It is a day to contemplate sacrifice and the cost of freedom. We finish the day at Arromaches to take in a 360-degree view of the Norman coast.

## **Day 5 – Mont St-Michel (Wednesday, July 20)**

---

Today we visit the iconic and holy sanctuary of Mont St-Michel. This small mountain island was originally known in Celtic mythology as a sea tomb for the souls of Celtic heroes. In 708, Bishop Aubert of Avranches built a devotional chapel here after receiving a vision from the Archangel Michael. The Benedictines occupied the property in the 10th century and a hundred years later the ecclesiastical fortress was built. We will spend the day exploring this Unesco World Heritage site.

## **Day 6 – Coastal Wonders (Thursday, July 21)**

---

Our last full day in France is packed with fun. First we visit a hometown hero, then we shop for stones in a small village. We follow that with coastal wonders and a dip in the Normandy sea. After freshening up at the monastery we'll have a traditional French dinner. Finally, back at the retreat monastery, we will Pass the Candle and share our moments of wonder from the week.

## **Day 7 - Adieu chère France (Friday, July 22)**

---

The team from St. Martin's has engaged in the adventure of a lifetime. Our week in France has been a pilgrimage filled with wonder, laughter and love. We have learned about this amazing country, worshiped God in ancient sanctuaries, learned about sacrifice and visited world icons. Now it is back to our home, where the real pilgrimage of our faith has just begun.

### **A little about your Voyage Director: *Laurel Cooate***

A passion for exploration of both the world and her faith brought Laurel to Wonder Voyage. Laurel is founder of Pick My Brain Consulting, a company that provides event management, small business consulting and training services to the corporate and academic marketplaces. In addition, Laurel is a Certified Spiritual Director, and is currently in seminary, working on her Masters of Divinity degree. She is married, has a son, and loves to sing.



### **Your home away from home: *Adveniat Youth Hostel, Paris***

The *Advent Youth Hostel* is run by a Catholic religious congregation known as the Augustinians of the Assumption (*Assumptionists*). This hostel has a goal of promoting the formation of real community.



### ***Hotellerie La Joie Saint Benoit, Bayeux***

This *Hôtellerie Monastique* is a place of silence, prayer and hospitality, run by an order of Benedictine nuns.



### **Contact for families:**

Please contact St. Martin's if you need to get a hold of your family member. They can contact the Wonder Voyage office in case of an emergency. Please speak to Earle King if you have any other questions about contacting your family member during the trip.

