

## PARIS & NORTHWEST FRANCE

Experience the beauty of Paris before discovering the majestic castles of Northwest France. Witness the seaside charm of Mont-Saint-Michel, practice your French at local markets, and enjoy world-famous cuisine in the Loire Valley.

### *Why Brightspark?*

#### **Safety And Security**

We regularly conduct strict audits of our vendors, ensuring they act in accordance with safety, security, and quality standards.

#### **Our Tour Directors**

You deserve the best, so we only use experienced and enthusiastic Tour Directors who are experts on their destinations.

#### **Quality, Custom Tours**

Our programs are designed for you, by you. From STEM-based DC tours to performance trips to some of our country's top music cities, we have a destination for every budget and every passion.

#### **Industry Experience**

With over 50 years of experience providing custom tours, Brightspark is a leader in student travel.

#### **Travel Protection & Incident Coverage**

With our 24/7 emergency hotline and comprehensive travel insurance options, we've got you covered at home and abroad.



# PARIS & NORTHWEST FRANCE

### Day 1: Board your flight to France.

### Day 2: Honfleur & Deauville

- Meet with your Tour Director at **Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport**.
- Board your private motor coach and discover the high cliffs of **Étretat**. Take a stroll along a hiking trail leading you to the **gate of Aval**.
- Hop back on the motor coach and continue towards **Deauville**.
- Stop at the port city of **Honfleur**, known for its timber-framed houses and pedestrian streets. Don't miss **Sainte-Catherine Church**: its wooden aisles look like the hulls of overturned boats.
- Arrive in the 19<sup>th</sup> century twin cities of **Deauville - Trouville**. Observe the villas and walk along the **Promenade des Planches**.

### Day 3: Mont-Saint-Michel & Saint-Malo

- Board your private motor coach and depart to **Mont-Saint-Michel**, an architectural marvel in the middle of a bay. Enjoy a tour of the ramparts, the **Grande-Rue**, and the **Abbey**.
- Travel to **Saint Malo**. Take a guided tour of the fortified city, also called "La Cité Corsaire." Stroll along small alleys and ramparts and learn more about the city's history (it was home to the famous explorer Jacques Cartier, who discovered Canada).

### Day 4: Bretagne & Loire Valley

- Board your private motor coach and travel to **Rennes**, the capital of Bretagne.
- Walk through the town's historical center and admire its medieval streets.
- Continue to the **Loire Valley**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Explore the iconic **troglodyte homes of Rochemenier**. These cave dwellings date back more than 100 million years. During your journey, you will spot neighborhoods of caves – some have been abandoned, and others are well-adapted to modern luxuries.
- Travel to **Tours** and settle into your hotel before dinner.
- Enjoy an amazing projection on the façade of **Saint-Gatien Cathedral**, where colorful lights and sounds are combined.

### Day 5: Tours & Paris

- Board your private motor coach to the **Château de Chenonceau**, one of the most astonishing castles in the Loire Valley, built directly over the River Cher.
- Travel to Paris and depart on a **panoramic sightseeing tour** with a local guide. Get an initial glimpse of all the marvels you'll discover during the next few days.

### Day 6: Paris

- Explore the **Musée Louvre**! Formerly a royal palace, it houses masterpieces like the **Venus de Milo** and the **Mona Lisa**. Mixing classic and modern, a Nintendo 3DS guides you through the many collections.
- Travel back to ancient times at the ruins of a **Gallo-Roman Arena** in the heart of the **Latin Quarter**. Live like a local playing **pétanque**, a traditional bowling game, and practicing French!
- Unwind and take a stroll in the charming **Montmartre** district, overlooking Paris from its highest hill. Admire the architecture of the **Basilique du Sacré-Coeur** and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of **Place Pigalle** and the **Moulin Rouge**.

### Day 7: Versailles & Paris

- Board the train and travel to your guided tour of the **Palace of Versailles**, including the **King's Apartments** and the **Hall of Mirrors**. While touring the castle grounds, you will see the **Ballroom**, the **Colonnade**, and the **Enceladus fountain**.
- Discover the sumptuous gardens of Versailles with a musical attraction at "**Les Grandes Eaux Musicales**."
- Enjoy lunch at the town's local open-air market.
- Walk along the **Champs-Élysées**, from the **Arc de Triomphe** to the fashionable **Avenue Montaigne**.
- Stroll along the Seine to the **garden of the Tuileries**.

### Day 8: Paris

- Enjoy a light breakfast at **Le Ciel de Paris** restaurant and take in the stunning views from the 56<sup>th</sup> floor of **Montparnasse Tower**.
- Explore the **Île Saint-Louis** and the **Île de la Cité** and walk across **Pont Neuf**, one of the oldest bridges of Paris. Go past the **Conciergerie** or stroll the **Square du Vert-Galant** to get a better view of the **Pont des Arts** and the Louvre.
- Free time for lunch near **Les Halles**, where you can visit the **Centre Pompidou** and explore the charming **Rue Montorgueil**.
- Walk along the **Grand Boulevards** or shop on **Boulevard Haussmann**.
- Head to the iconic **Eiffel Tower**. You may even get to see Paris from a new point of view.
- Take a cruise on the Seine aboard a **bateau-mouche**, an open-air excursion boat.

### Day 9: Depart to the airport for your flight home.

