

AUTHOR TRAVEL AGENCY

GO TO STAR

PARIS





About travel

Go to Star author travel agency invites you to Paris.

A weekend in Paris in May is different for everyone. It's enjoying the city early in the morning with the sounds from an open window. It's the thrill of seeing magnolia blooming against the backdrop of a luxurious mansion. It's an elegantly dressed Parisian with a cigarette on a French balcony. It's champagne bubbles swirling around your head on a rooftop bar overlooking the Eiffel Tower. It's the first croissant on the square since morning. It's the music that resounds in the stone of Paris' architecture.

On the Go to Star author tour, you'll have the opportunity to see 19th century Paris in all its splendor, sip rare French champagne at the city's most party bar and then spend a beautiful evening at the Giselle ballet at the Grand Opera House. The most delicious and hard-to-find restaurants, traditional eateries and the best croissant bakeries that open early in the morning when the city wakes up are already booked and waiting for us.

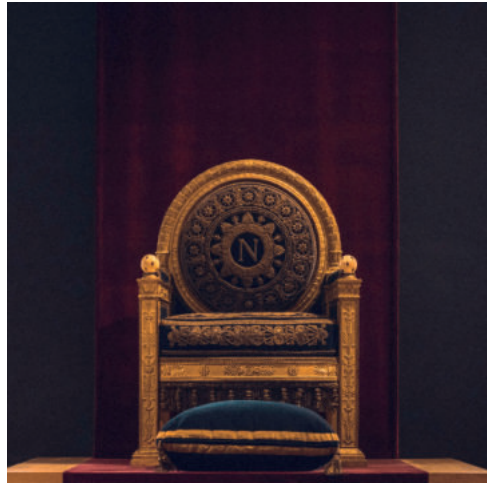
A guide to the past of Europe's most romantic city will be Polina Fomina, a famous historian from St. Petersburg who emigrated to France long ago. Polina is the host of a podcast about Paris, specializing in atmospheric walks around Paris and excursions about art and culture of different eras. We will walk along secret paths inaccessible to ordinary tourists, find out what the bohemians of the 19th and 20th centuries really lived, and how Diaghilev achieved such success. We will go to a concert in a jazz club, enjoy the classics in one of the oldest theaters of opera and ballet. Over a cup of morning coffee we will listen to the hum of the market and find a little more harmony.

This trip will not only give new knowledge and impressions, but will change each of us.

Paris



Paris



Day 1

Paris of the Belle Époque. A walking tour of the right bank of 19th century Paris: passages, steam trains, opera, Impressionists and the shopping that shaped this city. Aperitif lecture on the courtesans of the Belle Époque.



Day 4

Breakfast walk with champagne bubbles to the market, interesting stories over a cup of coffee. Afterwards, a hunt on the "flea" for something you always wanted to buy but couldn't get your hands on. Free time in the afternoon and final dinner.



Day 2

First morning in Paris. And first coffee at the coffee shop around the corner. Le Paris de la modernité exhibition at the Petit Palais, featuring the finest examples of French painting from 1900–1925. A walk through Montparnasse with a story about bohemian life in Paris. At dinner, a short lecture about the "real life" in Paris of the most famous rock musicians. After dinner a concert in a jazz bar.



Day 5

Flight home.



Day 3

Trip to Versailles. The most dramatic stories from the 17th and 18th centuries. Visit to the Grand Opera House (dress code is elegant): a glass of champagne at the trendy rooftop bar overlooking the Eiffel Tower and the ballet Giselle.



Paris



The exhibition "Paris of Modernity"

From the Belle Époque to the 1920s, Paris continues to attract artists from all over the world: it is both the capital of progress and a hotbed of cultural heritage. The exhibition at the Petit Palais covers all areas of art from 1905–1925: fashion, cinema, photography, painting, sculpture, dance, architecture and even industry. Here you can see the works of Pablo Picasso, cubist Fernand Léger, Robert Delaunay, one of the founders of "Orphism", Marcel Duchamp, who shocked the world with his sculpture "The Fountain" and many others. Here you can see the outfits of the great couturiers Paul Poiret and Jeanne Lanvin, Cartier jewelry and even an airplane from the Museum of Air and Space.



The Belle Époque

The Belle Époque, or “the beautiful era”, for Paris is the historical period from 1871 to 1914, from the beginning of the Third French Republic to the First World War. It is the time of the country's heyday, when Paris was the capital of the world, the Eiffel Tower was built, the Paris Metro was built, and the Grand Opera House was completed. The universal expositions of 1878, 1889 and 1900, where art objects and technological innovations were demonstrated, attracted millions of people from different countries, and the international prestige of France was at its height. It was during this era that the world's first motion picture was shown in Paris, Diaghilev brought Russian ballets, and Impressionists and Cubists worked in studios.

The expression Belle Époque came into use after World War I as a nostalgic reminder of a time full of optimism, sophistication, and art.







Russian emigrants

Europe's acquaintance with Russian culture began in Paris. Since the 19th century, Russian aristocrats came here to party in the Palais-Royal, Russian poets, writers and artists emigrated, Stravinsky and Nabokov ordered real borscht in the Russian restaurant "In the City of Petrograd", and young Leo Tolstoy rented an apartment in an elegant building under the arcades on the Rue de Rivoli. Hand embroidery inspired Chanel's "Russian style" in fashion, and the name of entrepreneur Sergei Diaghilev was known in every corner of Paris.

It was he who brought to Paris the famous opera and ballet "Russian Seasons", which began in 1907 with historic concerts featuring Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninoff, Glazunov and Chaliapin. Diaghilev's friend artist Alexandre Benois wrote: "Not Chaliapin, not Roerich, not Diaghilev were triumphant in Paris, but the whole Russian culture, the whole peculiarity of Russian art". The streets of the former capital of the world forever bear the traces of Russian emigrants, who played a huge role in the development of French culture.



Grand Opera House

The Paris Opera, one of the oldest opera and ballet theaters, delights with everything: baroque and gothic, labyrinthine corridors and myths about the Phantom of the Opera, and most importantly, amazing acoustics. Here the immortal classic sounds in a special way, transporting viewers centuries ago.

Our program includes a beautiful evening at the Paris Opera. Wearing elegant dresses and drinking champagne at the rooftop bar overlooking the Eiffel Tower, we will go to see Giselle. Transparent tutus, pointe shoes, snow-white gauze chiffon and tulle — this great romantic ballet by Adolphe Adam, first presented in Paris in 1841, remains one of the most famous in the world today.





Paris



Montparnasse

One of Paris' most famous neighborhoods is tucked away in a corner of the 14th arrondissement, where the Luxembourg Gardens meets the wide Boulevard Raspail on the left bank of the Seine. If Paris in the XIX century was the artistic capital of the world, then Montparnasse is one of the favorite places of the masters of that era, although before the Belle Epoque it was an ordinary neighborhood on the outskirts. But then émigré artists began to move here in search of inexpensive housing, as opposed to Manet, Degas and Zola, who lived in Montmartre, a more affluent neighborhood.

Marc Chagall described the neighborhood as follows: "I wanted to see with my own eyes what I had heard so much about. This revolution of the eye, the rotation of colors that suddenly and unexpectedly mix with other colors and turn into a stream of lines. There was nothing like this in my city." To explore the streets of Montparnasse is to walk in the footsteps of Ernest Hemingway, famous painters, aristocrats who partied in the local cabarets, and even Lenin, Trotsky and Petliura.

Paris





The market as a lifestyle

Markets in Paris are not just a place where you can buy meat for dinner or an antique brooch, but also a part of culture and a form of leisure, an indicator of the quality of life. Rows with the freshest meat, fruits and cheeses, where smiling farmers work for generations, beautiful people with wicker baskets, the hum and music of the colorful market, cozy coffee shops — both Parisians and tourists come here for this atmosphere, it is a kind of ritual.

Another type of market is the flea market, where antiques are sold, such as the 7-hectare Paris Saint Ouen Flea market. Sometimes here you can find real treasures for nothing — famous decorators willingly take advantage of this. But if the goal is not to buy a porcelain cup of the XVIII century for a hundred euros, it is still worth a visit: feel the atmosphere of another era, try on vintage jackets and dresses, buy as a gift decor, watches or handmade furniture made a century ago.





French cuisine

French gastronomy is one of the hallmarks of Paris. It includes haute cuisine in Michelin-starred restaurants, a huge creamy croissant and coffee for breakfast, and the famous onion soup and grape snails accompanied by champagne or Burgundy grand cru.

Dinner in a French restaurant or bar is not without oysters. Historian Polina Fomina calls them an ancient French amusement park since the XVI century. Fleshy oysters sprinkled with lemon are eaten both at home and in restaurants. In some places they are served in unlimited quantities for a fixed amount — and the French are eager to take advantage of this: Balzac wrote that in the XVIII–XIX centuries it was customary to serve up to 12 dozen oysters per person, that is, almost a hundred and fifty. By the way, Balzac himself liked to dine in the still existing Au Rocher de Cancale, which just specialized in oysters — and there also marked a good half of the characters of "The Human Comedy".





Journey cost

5 100 EUR per person for
a group of 8 people

The price includes:

- accommodation throughout the route in 5* hotels (double room);
- transportation according to the program;
- sightseeing program and activities;
- professional certified guide.

Additional expenses:

- international flight;
- meals, alcohol;
- any change of program involving expenses;
- tips for the guide team.



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