

Tour Itinerary

Maritime Community Ensemble

Version 2024-05-16



France Tour - Strasbourg, Colmar & Paris

10 Days – July 21 to 30, 2025

2025

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

Day 1 – Monday, July 21

TRAVEL

Meal Inclusions: N/A

Afternoon Travel to the Halifax airport for your flight to Paris

Evening Overnight transatlantic flight to the Paris-Charles De Gaulle Airport (CDG)

Day 2 – Tuesday, July 22

ARRIVAL PARIS WELCOME DINNER IN STRASBOURG

Meal Inclusions: D

Morning Arrival at **Paris-Charles De Gaulle Airport**; meet your bilingual Tour Manager and Coach Driver (deluxe motor coach) for your tour.
Board the coach and transfer to Gare de L'Est.
Take the TGV high speed train to Strasbourg.

The TGV is a high-speed train that operates all over France and beyond. Like most high-speed trains in Europe, TGVs also travel on conventional tracks, at the normal maximum speed for those lines, up to 220 km/h (137 mph). Photo of three TGVs in Paris Gare de L'Est



Afternoon Lunch on your own. (location to be determined based on transportation schedules)

Check in to your centrally located 4-star hotel in **Strasbourg**.

Welcome to Strasbourg - the capital city of the Grand Est region, formerly Alsace, in northeastern France. It plays a major role as a business, commercial, and cultural centre. Strasbourg is also the seat of a number of European institutions and bodies including the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and the European Court of Human Rights.



Have an orientation meeting with the tour manager(s).

Evening Enjoy a **Welcome Dinner** and then free time for rest and relaxation

Overnight in Strasbourg.

Day 3 – Wednesday, July 23

GUIDED WALKING TOUR STRASBOURG, REHEARSAL

Meal Inclusions: B, D

Morning Enjoy breakfast at your accommodation.

Go for a **Guided Walking Tour of Strasbourg.**

Strasbourg sits near the German border, with culture and architecture blending German and French influences. Its Gothic Cathédrale Notre-Dame features daily shows from its astronomical clock and sweeping views of the Rhine River from partway up its 142m spire.



Afternoon Lunch on your own.

Free Time to explore the city
The group will have a **Late Afternoon REHEARSAL.**

Evening **Group Dinner** at a local restaurant.
Overnight in Strasbourg.

Day 4 – Thursday, July 24

FREE TIME, CATHEDRAL CLOCK & CONCERT #1

Meal Inclusions: B, D

Morning Breakfast at accommodation.

Free Time with suggestions from Tour Managers.

Then visit the **Astronomical Clock** in the **Cathédrale Notre-Dame**

THE THIRD OF ITS KIND to stand in the spot, the Strasbourg Astronomical Clock is a wonder of 1800's engineering, but what is even more remarkable is that equally wondrous contraptions have existed at the site since the 14th century.



Afternoon Lunch on your own.

AFTERNOON CONCERT #1 in Strasbourg

Evening Enjoy a post-concert **Group Dinner.**
Overnight in Strasbourg.

Day 5 – Friday, July 25

Meal Inclusions: B, D

HEIDELBERG CASTLE & CONCERT AT MARKTPLATZ

Morning Breakfast at accommodation.

Transfer to **Heidelberg – Germany** and enjoy a **Guided Visit** that will include the grounds of the **Heidelberg Castle**.

Heidelberg is particularly well known for its castle ruins. You can see the castle from miles away – it presides over the city like a king on his throne. The castle ruins are among the most important Renaissance structures north of the Alps. The earliest castle structure was built before 1214 and later expanded into two castles circa 1294; however, in 1537, a lightning bolt destroyed the upper castle. The present structures had been expanded by 1650, before damage by later wars and fires. In 1764, another lightning bolt caused a fire which destroyed some rebuilt sections.



Afternoon Lunch and time to visit the **Microbrewery Culture Brauerei**

CONCERT #2 - 6:00 PM concert at the **Marktplatz**

Market Square (Marktplatz), Heidelberg's main square, buzzes with activity and is a favorite among locals and tourists alike. Stroll through the platz, soak up the atmosphere, and admire some of its most important buildings, such as the Church of the Holy Ghost and the town hall. Pop into some of the small shops that line the square to pick up local crafts as souvenirs. Grab a seat at a terraced restaurant or bar, sample a hefeweizen beer, and people-watch.



Evening **Group Dinner** in Heidelberg.

Transfer back to Strasbourg

Overnight in Strasbourg

Day 6 – Saturday, July 26

CHEESE FARM, WALKING TOUR OF COLMAR

Meal Inclusions: B, L, D

Morning Breakfast at accommodation; check out and load coach.

Transfer to **Colmar**.

Afternoon **Lunch at a Cheese Farm** in Munster (en route) for a taste of some truly artisanal cheeses.

Do you know what munster is? It is an Alsatian cheese with quite a strong taste. As its name indicates, it comes from the Valley of Munster. Still to this day, it can only be produced in some parts of the East of France (in the massif of the Vosges mainly).



Arrive in **Colmar**, France's Fairytale Town, for a **Walking Tour** of the city.

Colmar was apparently the inspiration for the village in the Disney film Beauty and the Beast, and it's not hard to see why. Walking through its streets is like seeing childhood fairy stories come to life.

In real life, Colmar is a town (70,000 residents) in the Grand Est region of northeastern France, near the border with Germany. Its old town has cobblestone streets lined with half-timbered medieval and early Renaissance buildings. The Gothic 13th-century, Eglise Saint-Martin church stands on central Place de la Cathédrale. The city is on the Alsace Wine Route, and local vineyards specialize in Riesling and Gewürztraminer wines.



Evening **Welcome to Colmar Dinner.**

Overnight in Colmar.

Day 7 – Sunday, July 27

RIQUEWIHR, WINERY TOUR & CONCERT #3

Meal Inclusions: B, L, D

Morning Breakfast at accommodation.

Board the coach and transfer to the picturesque town of **Riquewihr** where you will first visit a **Local Winery** for a **Tour** and perhaps some tastings.

Afternoon **Group Lunch** at a local restaurant.

Now it's time for a **Guided Tour** of the town.

A popular tourist attraction for its historical architecture, Riquewihr is also known for the Riesling and other wines produced in the village. Riquewihr looks today more or less as it did in the 16th century. It is located on the Route des Vins (The Wines Road), close to Colmar.



Return to Colmar for some time to explore or relax in your hotel.

CONCERT # 3 in the Main Square in Colmar.



Evening **Group Dinner** at a local restaurant.
Overnight in Colmar

Day 8 – Monday, July 28

TRAVEL, GUIDED TOUR PARIS

Meal Inclusions: B

Morning Breakfast at accommodation.
 Depart for Paris by TGV high speed train.
 Own arrangements for Lunch

Afternoon **Panoramic Guided Tour** of the city with stops for photo ops.
 France's capital is a major European city and a global center for art, fashion, gastronomy and culture. Its 19th-century cityscape is crisscrossed by wide boulevards and the River Seine. Beyond such landmarks as the Eiffel Tower and the 12th-century, Gothic Notre-Dame cathedral, the city is known for its cafe culture and designer boutiques along the Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré.



Check into your hotel.

Free time for well-deserved rest or a walk-about the city.

Evening Dinner on your own and an evening in **Paris**.

Overnight in Paris

Day 9 – Tuesday, July 29

**MONTMARTRE, CONCERT #4, DINNER
CRUISE ON THE SEINE**

Meal Inclusions: B, D

Morning Have breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Montmartre

Montmartre is an historic hilltop district in Paris, known for its bohemian atmosphere and artistic heritage. The iconic Basilique du Sacré-Coeur sits atop the hill, offering stunning panoramic views of the city. Montmartre has long been a hub for artists, including Picasso and Van Gogh, and its cobblestone streets exude a charming blend of creativity and French culture

Afternoon Lunch on your own in Montmartre

Hop on Le Petit Train de Montmartre

Enjoy a guided visit to the historic hilltop on the train, starting at **Le Moulin Rouge**

Enjoy some free time.

CONCERT #4 at Luxembourg Garden (TBC)

The Jardin du Luxembourg, colloquially referred to as the Jardin du Sénat (Senate Garden), is in the 6th arrondissement of Paris, France. It was created beginning in 1612 by Marie de' Medici, the widow of King Henry IV, for a new residence she constructed, the Luxembourg Palace. The garden today is owned by the French Senate, which meets in the Palace. It covers 23 hectares (56.8 acres) and is known for its lawns, tree-lined promenades, tennis courts, flowerbeds, model sailboats on its octagonal Grand Bassin, as well as picturesque Medici Fountain, built in 1620.



Evening **Dinner Cruise on the Seine** departing at the base of the **Eiffel Tower**.

Sail along the most beautiful avenue in Paris...and perhaps even in the world, discovering its monuments and bridges from an angle only possible from the Seine, all illuminated in the evening. From the Louvre Museum to Notre-Dame Cathedral, departing from the Eiffel Tower.



Return to the hotel for your last night in Paris.

Day 10 – Wednesday, July 30

TRAVEL TO CANADA

Meal Inclusions: B

Morning Breakfast at the hotel. Check out of the hotel and load coach.
Transfer to CDG Airport for the flight home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

General

- Flights – Halifax to Paris return including 1 checked bag (estimated)
- 8 Nights' Accommodations
 - 4 nights in 3/4-star hotel in Central Strasbourg
 - 2 nights in 4-star hotel in Central Colmar
 - 2 nights in 3/4-star hotel in Paris
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- SOT Tour Manager & 24/7 Local Bilingual Tour Manager in France

Meals

Included meals marked each day as B, L, D (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

- Buffet breakfast daily
- 2 Lunches
 - Cheese lunch in Munster
 - Lunch in Riquewhir
- 5 Group Dinners
- 1 Welcome Dinner with wine
- 1 Farewell Dinner with wine

Attractions Included

- 1 guided walking tour of Strasbourg
- 1 guided tour of Heidelberg Germany
- Access to the Heidelberg Castle grounds
- 1 guided tour Riquewhir and vineyard
- 1 guided tour of Colmar
- Visit Microbeer Culture Brauerei or similar in Heidelberg.
- TGV High-Speed Train
- 1 panoramic bus tour of Paris (three hours) with multiple stops for photo's
- 1 Farewell Dinner Cruise on the Seine River
- 1 Rehearsal
- 4 Concerts with promotion
- 1 souvenir poster for all participants

NOT INCLUDED

Airfare estimate DOES NOT INCLUDE extra flight baggage fees for instruments.