Day 1: Flight to Paris
Your trip begins with an overnight flight to Paris.

Day 2: Welcome to Paris
Welcome to Paris. After clearing customs and collecting your luggage, a shuttle service will transfer you to your hotel (details will be sent to you prior to your departure). The rest of the day is free to begin your exploration of the City of Light before tonight’s welcome dinner.
Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 3: Guided Sightseeing of Paris
On this panoramic sightseeing tour, move past the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame, Louvre, Place de la Concorde and much more. This afternoon, consider joining our optional excursion to the iconic Louvre Museum and the extravagant Tuileries Garden. Considered one of the world’s largest (and most visited) art museums, the Louvre holds famous, familiar pieces such as the Mona Lisa and Liberty Leading the People. After the tour, feel free to explore on your own—your all-day ticket allows you to reenter the museum at any time during the day.
Included meal: breakfast

Day 4: Free Time in Paris
Today is free to explore Paris on your own. Immerse yourself in one of Paris’ many museums. Delve into the works of Picasso and Rodin at museums dedicated to each man, or peruse the Impressionist masterpieces at the d’Orsay. This morning, consider joining an optional excursion to Versailles. Located a short drive from the center of Paris, Versailles was the gilded vision of Louis XIV, a grand experiment in both urban planning and royal excess. You’ll tour the State Apartment where Louis and his royal retinue lived, the glittering Hall of Mirrors and Versailles’ enormous gardens. Tonight, cap off your time in Paris with our optional Evening in Paris excursion. Start the evening with a meal in one of Paris’ fine restaurants and end with a boat cruise down the Seine, passing by the shimmering Eiffel Tower as you go.
Included meal: breakfast

Day 5: Transfer to Rome
This morning, travel to the airport for your flight to Rome. After checking in at your hotel, you’re free to explore the Eternal City. This evening, indulge in food and opera at our Dinner with Tenors optional excursion.
Included meal: breakfast

Suggested Reading List
Paris to the Moon
Adam Gopnick

Paris Out of Hand
Karen Elizabeth Gordon

Between Meals: An Appetite for Paris
A.J. Liebling

A Concise History of French Painting
Edward Lucie-Smith

As the Romans Do: The Delights, Dramas and Daily Diversions of Life in the Eternal City
Alan Epstein

City Secrets Rome
Robert Kahn

Inside the Vatican
Bart McDowell

The Architecture of Italian Renaissance
Peter Murray
**Day 6: Guided Sightseeing of Rome**

This morning, follow in the footsteps of Caesar during your guided sightseeing tour of Rome. Highlights include a visit to the Colosseum, where 50,000 spectators cheered their favorite gladiators to victory, and a stop at the ruins of the Roman Forum, from which the emperors ruled their vast empire. This afternoon, opt to join our optional tour of the Roman catacombs. In the days before Christianity became the official religion of Rome, early Christians were persecuted for their faith. Rather than renounce their religion, they burrowed into the rock upon which Rome was built, creating networks of tunnels and chambers we know as the catacombs. This tour concludes at the Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls.

Included meal: breakfast

Included entrance: Colosseum

**Day 7: Free Day in Rome**

Today is another free day in Rome. Art lovers can find the treasures of the Renaissance at the Capitoline Museums and the Galleria Borghese. Architecture fans can gaze up at the dome of the Pantheon, while others might wish to order up a cappuccino and spend the day watching the city go past from a cafe in Piazza Navona. Alternatively, consider joining this morning’s journey to the world’s smallest state, Vatican City. You’ll visit St. Peter’s Basilica, the heart of Christendom, and Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel. Tonight, rehash your memories with your fellow travelers at an included farewell dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

**Day 8: Departure**

This morning, a Go Ahead representative escorts you to the airport for your return flight home.

Included meal: breakfast

(In the case of early morning departures, breakfast may not be provided.)
Travel Pace: 1

Travel pace is based on criteria such as length of tour, number of cities visited, number of included activities, as well as length of flights and land transfers.

1 - leisurely  3 - active
2 - comfortable  4 - challenging

Walking on Tour

Most sightseeing is conducted by private motor coach. For some included visits and optional excursions, be prepared for some walking through elaborate monuments and museums with steps. On your guided tour on Day 6, you’ll encounter some mildly uneven and rocky terrain while exploring the Roman Forum.

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Climate

The following guide provides the average temperatures for a sampling of the regions on your itinerary.

PARIS
Jan–Feb  34°–44°F / 1°–7°C
Mar  38°–54°F / 3°–12°C
Apr  43°–60°F / 6°–16°C
May  49°–67°F / 9°–19°C
June  55°–73°F / 13°–23°C
July–Aug  58°–75°F / 14°–24°C
Sep  53°–70°F / 12°–21°C
Oct  46°–60°F / 8°–16°C
Nov  40°–50°F / 4°–10°C
Dec  36°–44°F / 2°–7°C

Rome
Jan  39°–55°F / 9°–13°C
Feb  40°–56°F / 4°–13°C
Mar  43°–59°F / 6°–15°C
Apr  47°–63°F / 8°–17°C
May  54°–71°F / 12°–22°C
June  61°–77°F / 16°–25°C
July–Aug  66°–83°F / 19°–28°C
Sep  62°–79°F / 17°–26°C
Oct  56°–71°F / 13°–22°C
Nov  46°–62°F / 8°–17°C
Dec  42°–57°F / 6°–14°C
Pre-departure information for your tour

**Passport and Visa Requirements**
This tour includes the following countries: France and Italy. In order to enter these countries, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport. The expiration date must extend at least six months beyond the date of your return home. No visa is required for U.S. or Canadian citizens. If you’re not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each country’s consulate for your specific entry requirements.

**Airport and Departure Taxes**
All airport and departure taxes for this tour are included in the total trip cost printed on your invoice.

**Baggage Allowance**
Airlines have varying weight restrictions on luggage. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline’s checked baggage policies. Be sure in mind that your luggage will probably weigh more on your return trip due to souvenir shopping. We allow only one suitcase per person. One carry-on bag is also permitted, provided that it does not exceed 45 inches (length + width + height). There may be times when you will have to handle your own bags, and you’ll find that lightweight luggage provides a distinct advantage. Make sure you label your baggage and carry valuables, medication and documents in your carry-on luggage.

**Clothing and Packing Tips**
To ensure you’re comfortable while out exploring, we recommend packing lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that can be easily layered. For sightseeing, we suggest bringing a sturdy pair of walking shoes or sneakers, as well as a lightweight sports jacket or rainwear. If you’re planning a visit to a high-end restaurant or performance, you may also want to bring dressier attire. Also, please remember that it’s preferable to avoid showing bare legs or shoulders during visits to churches or other religious sites (entrance may be denied on this basis).

**Health**
There are no major health risks associated with traveling to France or Italy. Be sure to check with your doctor or healthcare provider for the latest updates and travel requirements.

**Cuisine**
Throughout Paris, you’ll find endless opportunities to sample wonderful food. For a casual snack or picnic, stop at a small grocery store for cheeses, pâtés, cured meats, fresh-baked bread and fruit. Sidewalk vendors are known for their steaming crêpes, filled with cheese, ham, fruit or chocolate. Flaky pastries and hot café au lait beckon from the cafes. At restaurants, opt for the prix fixe option, which offers a set three- or four-course menu for a good price.

Most of the staples of the Italian diet have already become favorites in America, but on your tour, be sure to try those less familiar pasta sauces and the vast range of cured hams, cheeses, rustic breads and desserts. Rome has especially good gelato—authentic Italian ice cream.

**Transportation**
Flights arrive in Paris and depart from Rome. After clearing customs and collecting your luggage, a shuttle service will transfer you to your hotel (details will be sent to you prior to your departure). This tour includes a flight from Paris to Rome. All other transportation is by private motor coach. In your free time, you may wish to explore the three cities by public transportation.

Paris’ massive Métro is world-class, easy to navigate and efficient. Make sure to take time and look for the best deal on travel passes. Ask your Tour Director which one might work best. Often the daily passes are not actually the best deal. Rome has a very efficient transportation system, serving all the major attractions from the Roman ruins to Vatican City. Tickets can be purchased separately or in bulk and also cover bus and tram travel.

**Electricity**
France and Italy operate on the European standard 220 volts.

**Time Zones**
Both Paris and Rome are one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and six hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST). When it’s noon in New York, it’s 6 p.m. in Paris and Rome.

**Currency**
The euro (in both France and Italy) is the currency you’ll use on tour. Better rates of exchange are usually available in your destination countries, although it’s worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive. We advise that you take a combination of bank/ATM cards and credit cards, as needed. We suggest that you inform your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so that they won’t confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges.

**Tipping**
At the conclusion of your tour, it’s customary to offer your Tour Director and driver a gratuity. We recommend tipping in your tour country’s currency, the equivalent of $3USD/CAD per person per day for your driver and $6USD/CAD to $9USD/CAD per person per day for your Tour Director. If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of $2USD/CAD per local guide. Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping.

**Purchasing Optional Excursions on Tour**
If you have not yet purchased your optional excursions, you may be able to do so while on your tour. Your Tour Director will only accept cash (in USD only), Visa, MasterCard or American Express as payment for optional excursions. Please be advised that if you pay for an excursion by credit card while on tour, it may take up to three months for your card to be charged. Some optional excursions may only be purchased in advance. See the separate “Optional Excursions” sheet for more information.

International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary without advanced notice to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to our website for terms & conditions, dates and prices.