



## *College Study Tours*

# AMSTERDAM & PARIS





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A short walk through the beautiful Dutch capital, and you'll know that it was the River Amstel that inspired the softness of Rembrandt's brushstrokes and the vibrancy of Van Gogh's. It winds through the city's cobblestoned streets in a series of World Heritage Site-worthy tributaries, offering dozens of natural settings for informal lectures in the evening.

Three hundred miles downstream, it's the serpentine River Seine that winds wildly through France to give Paris its charm. This massive waterway has inspired many classic works of art—most notably Georges Seurat's parasol-laden painting that immortalizes the carefree banks in soft pastels. See for yourself and revel in the cities, galleries and discussions inspired by it all.



#### Day 1: Fly to the Netherlands

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Amsterdam.

#### Day 2: Amsterdam

**Arrive in Amsterdam:** Welcome to Amsterdam, the largest city and the capital of the Netherlands. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

**Explore Amsterdam:** With 1,200 bridges crisscrossing 160 canals, Amsterdam is one of Europe's most charming capitals. On your walking tour, pass by the 13th-century dam built to prevent the Zuiderzee sea from flooding the city. See the Begijnhof, a lovely 14th-century sanctuary for the Catholic sisterhood of Begijnhofites, before making your way to the city square of Waterlooplein.

#### Day 3: Amsterdam

**Sightseeing tour of Amsterdam:** A local guide will show you the Westerkerk (West Church), where Rembrandt is buried. Pass by the flower markets—Amsterdam is known for its colorful tulips. See the Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace), once the home of the Dutch Royal Family before continuing to Rembrandtplein, a bustling square that comes alive at night.

**Anne Frank House:** Visit the Anne Frank House, where the young girl hid with her family from 1942 to 1944. This is also the site where she penned her poignant diary, which has been translated into dozens of languages worldwide.

➦ **Volendam and Zaanse Schans:** Venture a half-hour north of the city for an optional excursion that begins in the fishing village of Volendam, where many residents still wear traditional Dutch clothing. Then, continue on to Zaanse Schans, which features a collection of well-preserved houses and windmills that date as far back as the 15th century.

#### Day 4: Amsterdam

**Free day in Amsterdam:** Explore Amsterdam at your own pace today and see why it's known as one of Europe's best walking cities. You might choose to experience the works of Van Gogh and Rembrandt at their respective museums or take a boat ride through the city's charming canals.

#### Day 5: Paris

**Travel to Paris:** This morning, travel to the City of Light. Later, get excited for the days ahead over dinner in the Latin Quarter.

#### Day 6: Paris

**Sightseeing tour of Paris:** Ride down the famous Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques. Pass the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe and strike a pose in front of the Eiffel Tower. Your guide shares insight into Parisian culture and stories of the city's military history when you continue past Les Invalides.

➦ **Versailles:** On your excursion to this lavish estate, explore the State Apartments and the magnificent Hall of Mirrors. Walk through the meticulously landscaped gardens and marvel at dozens of ornate fountains. Louis XIV hosted his royal court here to rein in their power and prevent their political rise. Those who do not go to Versailles will enjoy free time in Paris.

#### Day 7: Paris

**Louvre:** Enter by I. M. Pei's glass pyramid, and discover the Greek, Roman and Asian antiquities, as well as precious objects from the Middle Ages, that await inside. The Louvre's massive halls are home to more than 35,000 objects; among them is Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, the Mona Lisa. Get an up-close look at her beguiling smile.

**Notre Dame Cathedral:** Admire Notre Dame's sculptured façade, stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

**Explore Paris:** On your walking tour, head to the Latin Quarter, named because the language was once commonly spoken by the Sorbonne students that populate the area.

#### Day 8: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

#### ➦ 2-DAY: TOUR EXTENSION

#### Day 8: London

**Travel to London:** Board a Eurostar train bound for the cosmopolitan city of London.

**Sightseeing tour of London:** From Big Ben to the Houses of Parliament, Great Britain's royal tradition and rich history greet you at every turn. Behold the Baroque domes and spires of St. Paul's Cathedral, the 17th-century church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Check out the lively five-way intersection at Piccadilly Circus. Cap off your tour with a stop at Westminster Abbey, followed by a fish and chips dinner.

#### Day 9: London

**Tower of London:** Enter through thick defensive walls and take a look behind the Tower of London's imposing stony façade. Henry VIII banished two of his wives to this former prison, where Guy Fawkes also spent his final days. But the Tower's most famous occupant—the Crown Jewels—still resides here today. On your tour, behold this jaw-dropping collection of ornate rings, scepters, swords and royal vestments.

#### Day 10: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

### INCLUDED ON TOUR:



Round-trip flights on major carriers



Full-time Tour Director



Land transportation



Hotels with private bathrooms



Light breakfast daily; 2 local dinners or 3 with extension



**Sightseeing tours**

Amsterdam; Paris; *With extension: London*



**Entrances**

Anne Frank House; Louvre; Notre-Dame; *With extension: Tower of London*



**Optional**

Volendam and Zaanse Schans; Versailles



— the easiest ways to —

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