



BETTER READ LITERARY TOURS

PARIS 2019

INFORMATION PACKAGE



TOUR OVERVIEW

With the buzz of a big city but the heart of a little village, Paris reveals its secrets to a select few. Remnants of Paris' literary past are scattered across the capital, providing endless opportunities for bibliophiles to pay homage to their literary icons. In this ten day tour, Better Read Than Dead presents an illuminating literary exploration of Paris, connecting the works of French authors to the first-hand landscapes and places they describe. Walk through the houses they lived in, explore the streets where their stories took place, and understand the culture that gave birth to their literary masterpieces. Led by our very own French-Australian Travel Director, Fabienne, Better Read Than Dead's Literary Paris Tour is guaranteed to reveal the very best of French culture; enlighten you to Paris' rich literary patrimony; and impart a unique, awe-inspiring experience that will no doubt stay with you for a very long time.



LAST YEAR IN A SNAPSHOT

The Paris Literary Tour 2018 was a dream come true for our worldly lovers of books and fine food! Over ten pleasantly warm spring days, our local French guides Fabienne, Martine, and Eglantine opened our eyes to the living library that is the City of Lights. Like Victor Hugo, we marvelled at the city's beauty and historical complexity; we people-watched with the critical eye of Michel Houellebecq; lounged in jazz bars like Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de

Beauvoir; explored the backstreets with the adventurous spirit of Daniel Pennac; engaged in some lively book debate like Rousseau and Voltaire; and indulged in some fine food and wine, like real Parisians! We were also lucky enough to take a day trip to Monet's verdant Giverny gardens as well as to the illustrious Palace of Versailles. If you would like to be a part of this inspiring and edifying trip, bookings are now open for 2019 so don't miss out!





ABOUT US

Better Read Than Dead, based in the heart of Newtown, is one of Sydney's most iconic and loved independent bookshops (and Lonely Planet's favourite Sydney store!) It is known for its enthusiastic involvement with authors as well as its engagement in and support of wide-ranging literary events. With over two decades of experience in the Australian market, Better Read Than Dead remains an active member of the Sydney literary community. With this extensive background behind it, both in the literary and business spheres. Better Read Than Dead has recently launched Better Read Tours in order to offer an extension of the reader immersion experience for its booklovers.

Following the recent acquisition of Bookshop Travel, Better Read Tours has been able to combine its wealth of bookworm knowledge with the expertise of this trusted educational tour company in order to provide you with a program of fully escorted tours each specially developed to enhance your understanding and appreciation of a specific literary genre.



HIGHLIGHTS

Marvel at the collection of literary wonders held at the **Bibliothèque nationale de France**, glimpsing its historic cradle, the Richelieu Louvois Library

Visit the **apartment of Victor Hugo** and learn about his life, political exile and writing during the Romantic Movement.

Discover the treasures of the **Palais Garnier**, from its Grand Stairway to its famous ceiling by Chagall; find out why it became associated with an urban myth after Gaston Leroux's 1910 novel *The Phantom of the Opera*

Explore the best-known and most spectacular castle in France... With origins that date back to the seventeenth century and over 800 hectares of splendor, **Le Château de Versailles will not disappoint!**

Dine in style at some of Paris's most iconic restaurants, such as **Le Train Bleu**, **Cafe Procope**, and the **Le Bateau Mouche** cruise boat!

Enjoy a special evening visit to world renowned art museum, **Le Louvre**, which is home to hundreds of thousands of classic and modern masterpieces (including the Mona Lisa)!

Wander through **Montmartre** and the **Latin Quarter** with local guides, retracing the steps of famous literary expats like Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

WHAT WE OFFER

SMALL GROUP SIGHTSEEING - Our exclusive small group tour is designed for an in-depth, intimate guided experience of Paris

LOCAL SPECIALISTS - Led by a French/Australian Travel Director, local Parisian guides and literary experts

CULTURAL INSIGHTS - Discover Paris on Parisian terms as your Travel Director reveals some of the hidden gems of the city's rich literary heritage. Including maps and daily activity suggestions.

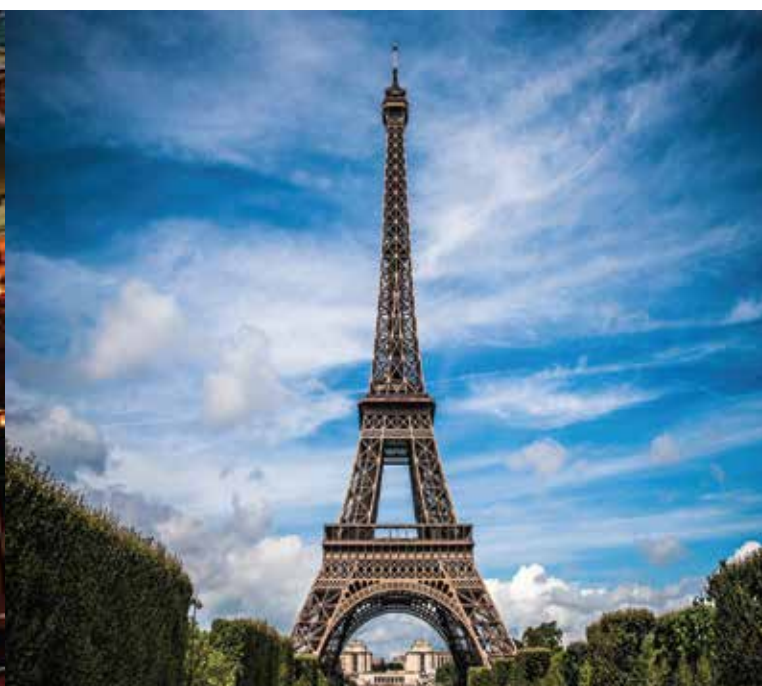
DATES AND PRICES

12-21 May, 2019

- **\$8650** single occupancy
- *\$1000 non-refundable deposit required at time of booking.*
- *Final payment due 90 days before departure*

Please note that payment plans are available and booking is now open!

Head to our website **betterreadtours.com** to register! For any enquiries, please contact **tours@betterread.com.au**.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

INCLUSIONS

- Tour hosts - local guides, scholars, National Monuments guides
- Tour Manager
- 9 nights at high standard central hotel
- Breakfast basket delivered on the first day
- Morning Coffee, Lunches and dinners as per itinerary
- English speaking guides
- Entry fees to venues as per itinerary

EXCLUSIONS

- **International/Australian Domestic airfares**
 - Costs of passport or visas
 - Travel insurance (required)
 - Additional charge(s) related to documentation regarding travel or visa arrangements.
 - Beverages during meals
 - Optional excursions
- Personal expenses and anything else not included in the tour inclusions

ENTRY AND EXIT

Australians do not need a visa to visit France. As a tourist France is party to the Schengen Treaty, which abolished border controls between most European countries, and Australians can enter the Schengen region without a visa so long as they stay as a tourist for no more than 90 days in any period of 180 days.

If you are not an Australian citizen, please check visa requirements for travel to France with your local embassy.



WEATHER IN MAY

Ah Spring time in Paris... The air is fresh, the gardens are in full bloom, and everyone is generally in high spirits! Nonetheless, the weather this time of year can be variable – it may linger on the brisk side some days (with temperatures of around 12-15°C), but there is also likely to be lots of sun. It's a great time to explore the many beautiful parks and gardens Paris has to offer – when it's not raining, that is!

Why not have a picnic at the Luxembourg Gardens or go for a promenade around the famed Père Lachaise Cemetery? With regards to packing, layering is always advisable incase any unseasonably warm or cold days sneak up on you. We recommend bringing some light shirts and pants or skirts, but also a few jumpers and a spring coat. Practical footwear is a must too, as there will be a fair amount of walking and exploring.



ACCOMMODATION

You will be staying in a light-filled studio in the heart of Paris – Citadines Les Halles – located at 4 rue des Innocents, 75001. The studios are all together in a central ‘apartment hotel’, which means that you will have both the like-minded company of your group whenever you choose but also your own private space should you wish. The seven floor building is located in the beautiful First Arrondissement. This is one of the oldest areas in Paris, on the right bank of Seine, and houses both the Louvre and the exquisite Jardins des Tuileries.

Your room will overlook either the delightful town square, Place Marguerite de Navarre, or the inner courtyard garden of the apartment building. You will have a double bed, desk, kitchenette, bathroom, dishwasher, hairdryer, coffee machine, and a high-speed wifi connection. The studios will be serviced once a week, with fresh sheets and towels available as need be on request. You will also have access to a washing machine and dryer, as well as 24 hour reception, and even an on-site gym!

You can view the apartments at the following link:

<https://www.citadines.com/france/paris/citadines-les-halles-paris/index.html>.



BREAKFAST

The Parisian breakfast is a rite of passage. You will have the thrill of getting to know your own local boulangerie as you buy your croissants and baguette each morning. However, if you feel like being looked after, there is a breakfast room downstairs in the hotel that can cater for you for an extra charge.



HELP, I DON'T SPEAK ANY FRENCH!

Vous ne parlez pas français? Not to worry! These days, so many Parisians speak functional English – especially in the touristy areas – so this shouldn't be a problem. Your Tour Manager and guides are all fluent in French anyway, so they will be able to handle any questions, bookings or French-speaking situations that arise.

However, it is a good idea to brush up on some basic greetings and polite expressions as, contrary to popular opinion, the French to appreciate manners! To aid you with this, we have attached a list of some useful travel phrases at the end of this brochure.



HEALTH AND FITNESS

For this tour, you will need to be healthy enough to withstand the long flight to Paris. In addition, there will be lots of walking so be prepared for an active 10 days!

With regards to transport, the metro is a very user-friendly system, but please be aware that there are often many steps in frequent stops, to and from the station.

Unfortunately, Paris does not cater too well for those with limited mobility so please take this into consideration if this applies to you.

CONTACTS

FABIENNE NICOLAS TOUR DIRECTOR

Not only a French native but a lover of books as well, Fabienne is your delightful and friendly Tour Director. As the former floor manager of Better Read Than Dead and co-founder of Better Read Tours, she is well equipped for all aspects of this trip and ready to answer any questions you may have!

MARTINE HAMEL

Martine, a born and bred Parisian, is one of the most learned and charismatic people you will ever meet! After completing a humanities course in Latin, ancient greek, English, Philosophy and History, she then studied antiquities and archaeology at the Louvre. But this wasn't enough for Martine!

Deciding to further her classical education, she then undertook Linguistics and English at the Sorbonne. As a child, Martine used to accompany her father - also a history buff- as he roamed the streets of Paris. She now collates information and documents from history books, essays and biographies into dossiers.

Having spent 12 years in the United States, Martine is no stranger to travel. Her quirky personality and infectious energy make for an unforgettable tour experience!

EGLANTINE OUTTERS

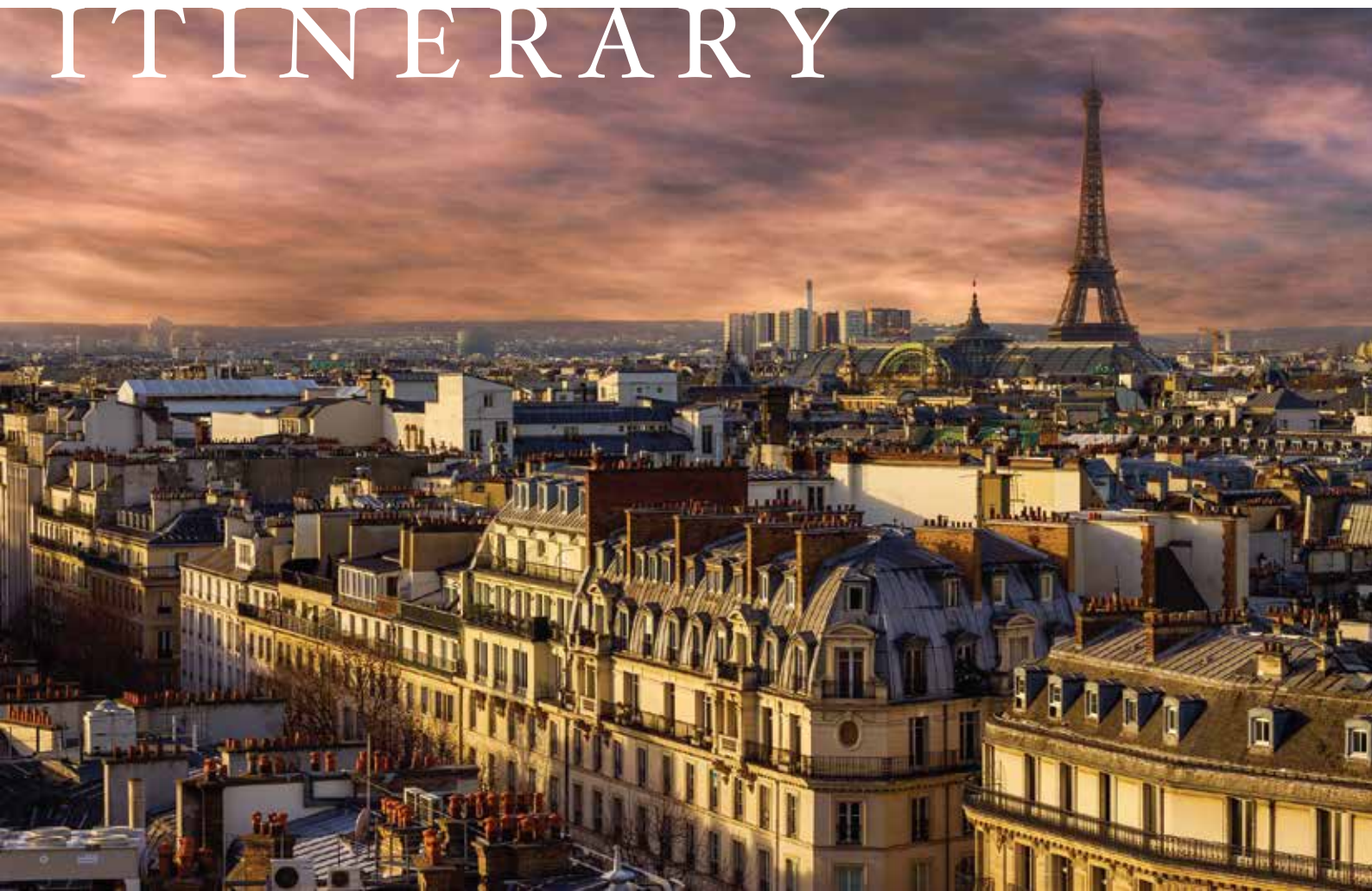
Eglantine is your enthusiastic and fully qualified tour guide, approved by the French Ministry of Culture. After training in Italian and Art History at the Sorbonne University, Eglantine had the chance to work as a professional guide in Rome, where her love for enabling tourists to discover the hidden jewels of a city blossomed.

Back in her native Paris, she is excited to welcome you to her city and take you through its rich 2000 year history.

MAISIE FIESCHI

Maisie is an Australian who has been living in Paris for the last 6 years. She fell in love with the city on her first trip in 2011 – six months later, she quit her job as editor at Random House and moved by herself from Sydney to Paris with just one suitcase and some high school French! Today, she speaks the language fluently and is very experienced at welcoming visitors to her beloved city. She will be on hand with her local knowledge to assist you with suggestions for outings, or any other daily life issues you may have. Maisie's care and attention will make this a more personal experience. She is on 24-hour call during your time in Paris.

ITINERARY



ITINERARY MAY 2019

Inclusions:

MC: Morning Coffee
L: Lunch
D: Dinner

Sunday 12th May 2019

Day 1

BIENVENUE A PARIS

D

"He who contemplates the depths of Paris is seized with vertigo. Nothing is more fantastic. Nothing is more tragic. Nothing is more sublime."- Victor Hugo

Welcome to Paris in springtime! After checking into your centrally located studios, you will have some time to settle in, soak up your new surroundings, and stroll around the local *quartier*. Your Tour Coordinator, Maisie will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. She will also meet with you each morning at your accommodation for a daily briefing.

In the evening Maisie and Fabienne, our very own French/Australian Travel Director, and Maisie will join you and your fellow literary enthusiasts at the studios. You will then head out together for an evening drink, *un apéro*, followed by a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Dinner included.

Monday 13th May 2019

Day 2

LE MARAIS, LITERARY SALONS AND GEORGES SIMENON

MC / L

Today you will have your first rendez-vous with the vivacious Martine, one of your local French guides. The day starts at a traditional café in the fashionable, literature-steeped neighbourhood. While you sip on your morning coffee, Martine will present an hour-long introduction to the rich history of Paris, using maps and photos to bring the story of its evolution to life.

Martine will then lead a walking tour of the district, entertaining and informing you with her signature passion and humour. You will be transported back to a Paris of literary salons, and Madame de Sévigné, whose letters detailing life (and death by guillotine) in the 17th century are studied by all French schoolchildren to this day. You will also visit the Place des Vosges, a picturesque square that was home to Victor Hugo and Georges Simenon (the writer of *Inspector Maigret*.)

Lunch will be at a traditional *brasserie*, after which you will have the afternoon free to continue to explore the area (and do your best not to be distracted by the myriad of boutiques and specialty bookshops).

Tuesday 14th May 2019

Day 3

VICTOR HUGO'S NOTRE DAME, SHAKESPEARE AND COMPANY, AND BAUDELAIRE

MC / L

Today's adventures begin with Martine at a café just outside Notre Dame Cathedral, home of the legendary hunchback from Victor Hugo's celebrated novel. There, by this spectacular gothic monument, Martine will transport you back in time with tales of this medieval area, Île de la Cité. She will also give a short presentation on Victor Hugo, his writing and his political involvement.

Afterwards, you will be free to step inside the cathedral if you wish and marvel at the beauty and terror that so inspired Hugo. From there, it is a short stroll to world-famous English-language bookshop Shakespeare and Company. Maisie will give a short presentation on the bookstore's history and patrons, which include Allen Ginsberg and William S. Burroughs (the latter of whom legend has it, researched sections of his *Naked Lunch* in the bookshop's medical section!).

Lunch is at one of the oldest restaurants in Paris, le brasserie Procope. Established in 1686, it was the meeting place of the intellectual establishment and local haunt of philosophers such as Rousseau and Voltaire (the latter of whom was known to drink 40 cups of coffee a day!) After lunch, Martine will take us on a guided tour of the lavish upstairs rooms of the restaurant and its innumerable literary artefacts, after which you will have free time for the rest of the afternoon.

Fabienne's suggestions for the afternoon:

- Follow in Charles Baudelaire's footsteps by promenading through the charming streets of Île Saint-Louis, where he had a small studio.
- Meander along the banks of the Seine where the bouquinistes ply their trade, selling used and antiquarian books.
- Call in at the Flower Markets on Île de la Cité.
- Visit the Conciergerie, a Royal palace turned notorious prison of the Reign of Terror! Marie Antoinette, Danton, and Robespierre all awaited execution here.

In the evening, we will again convene at Shakespeare and Company to attend one of the bookstore's famous literary soirees, of which recent speakers have included Sebastian Faulks, Etgar Keret and Zadie Smith.

Lunch included.

Wednesday 15th May 2019

Day 4

LE PALAIS ROYAL, MOLIERE, COLETTE, COCTEAU AND DUMAS' LOUVRE

MC / D

The morning begins at a café overlooking the French national theatre, the Comédie Française, where the armchair Molière was carried home in after his fatal heart-attack is displayed. At the café, Martine will give a presentation on the literary history of the theatre and the adjoining Palais Royal, the beautiful apartments and gardens where 20th-century French writers Colette and Jean Cocteau both lived and a young Napoleon wooed his Josephine. The gardens and its libertine inhabitants appear frequently in Balzac's *Comédie Humaine*.

After exploring the gardens, Martine will guide you through the hidden passages of antique shops to the magnificent Richelieu-Louvois Library, originally the royal library of France. Here, you will be able to catch a glimpse of the famous Oval room, with its ornate ceilings and dark oak interiors.

We will split up for lunch and you will have some free time in the afternoon. There are many fabulous restaurants in the area from which to choose - you will be spoilt for choice! You will have free time in the afternoon.

Fabienne's suggestions for the afternoon:

- If you are feeling extravagant, you might want to book for lunch at the two-Michelin-starred Le Grand Vefour in the Palais Royal. This grand restaurant has drawings by Cocteau on its menus, and ashtrays modelled on the writer George Sand's hands. Its regular patrons have included Napoleon Bonaparte, Victor Hugo, Louis Aragon, Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir.
- Explore the shopping arcades of the Galerie Vivienne and Galerie Colbert, with their elaborately mosaic floors and neo-classical Pompeian décor.
- Stroll around the nearby Place Vendôme, where you will find the Ritz Hotel, a favourite haunt of Marcel Proust, and Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald (who were most often to be found in the bar, of course). Number 16 Place Vendôme was the home of Obelisk Press in the 1930s, the first publisher of salacious literature that couldn't be published in Britain or America. Some of these scandalous works including Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* and Anaïs Nin's *The House of Incest*.
- Stop in for a drink at Harry's New York Bar, where Ernest Hemmingway claimed the Bloody Mary was invented especially for him. Noël Coward and Ian Fleming would drink here, too and George Gershwin composed *An American in Paris* on the bar's downstairs piano.

Dinner will be at a local restaurant. This will be followed by a presentation of on Alexandre Dumas' *Three Musketeers* given by Maisie, we will see that many scenes of this famous work take place at the nearby Louvre museum, then the palace of King Louis XIII. We will then take a magical nocturnal visit to the exterior of the Louvre and its illuminated glass pyramid. Afterwards, visit the museum, which is open until 9.45pm.

Thursday 16th May 2019

Day 5

GASTON LEROUX'S PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

MC / L

We will start today with a book club convened by Fabienne on serialised novels of the 19th century, we will be focusing on Gaston Leroux's thrilling *The Phantom of the Opera*. Afterwards, you will visit the celebrated Opera Garnier where Leroux's novel is set. As you enjoy a guided tour of the lavish interiors (with minimal interference from the Opera Ghost we hope, look out for the stunning chandelier and the ceiling painted by Chagall.

Lunch is at Bouillon Chartier, a vast belle époque brasserie that has retained its traditional décor and menu. You will then have the afternoon free.

Fabienne's suggestions for the afternoon:

- Indulge in some shopping at the Grands Magasins of Galleries Lafayette and Printemps; these are some of the oldest department stores in the world, with glorious glass-domed ceilings reminiscent of Émile Zola's novel *Ladies' Delight*. Why not visit the 360-degree-view rooftop café of the Galleries Lafayette and have a glass of wine in the sun?
- Pop into the grand Société Générale bank on Boulevard Haussman and marvel at its historic vault and art nouveau ceilings.
- Visit the Jacquemart-André museum of paintings, an 1875 mansion that belonged to a wealthy banking family before it was bequeathed to the Institute of France. Fans of the 1958 film *Gigi* (based on Colette's novel) will recognise the forecourt and salon.
Lunch included.

Friday 17th May 2019

Day 6

THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES, DUMAS, DE LA FONTAINE, MITFORD AND WHARTON

L

Today we venture out of Paris by train to the magnificent Palais de Versailles Palace. The Palace was constructed by Louis XIV, "the Sun King" and great patron of the arts. Eglantine will be our guide, a classically educated Versailles local from a traditional French family (she is one of eight children!). As you take your private tour of the Palace and its gardens, you will soon understand why this breathtaking location has inspired so many writers, not least of whom include Nancy Mitford and Alexander Dumas. Jean de la Fontaine, France's great 17th-century fabulist and a favourite of the Sun King, was the first to write about the Palace, setting his romantic poem "*Cupid and Psyche*" in the gardens.

Lunch will be at a charming French restaurant, La Flottille, situated in the palace grounds and overlooking the canal. The tour will then continue with a visit of the Petit Trianon Palace (the Sun King's country retreat,) as well as the private estate and pleasure palace of Queen Marie-Antoinette. The estate became her own kingdom, and free from official etiquette, Marie-Antoinette created a private world that suited her personality and the fashions of the time. The Trianon Palaces are such a symbol of opulence that Edith Wharton had her Fifth Avenue social climbers reference them in *The House of Mirth*. At the conclusion of the tour you will return to Paris with Fabienne.

Saturday 18th May 2019

Day 7

LE QUARTIER LATIN: VOLTAIRE, ROUSSEAU, CAMUS, SARTRE AND DE BEAUVOIR

L

The day begins on the rive gauche, the Left Bank, where you will meet again with Eglantine for a tour of the Quartier Latin. The Latin Quarter has been a cultural and intellectual centre since the Middle Ages when academic institutions started to establish themselves here, attracting students from all over Europe to the many universities, including the Sorbonne. To this day, it remains the centre of student life, littered with cafes, cinemas, bookstores and lively debate.

Eglantine will take you on a private tour of the Panthéon, a neoclassical church turned burial place of the *grand hommes* of France, including Dumas, Hugo, Zola, Louis Braille and Marie Curie. In the crypt, statues of Voltaire and Rousseau eye each other imposingly in the main hall, you will have a chance to see Foucault's pendulum, which continues to swing from the immense domed roof.

Lunch will be at the Café de Flore, one of the most fashionable and literary cafés in the world. It is here that Dadaism and Surrealism are said to have been 'invented' by poets Guillaume Apollinaire, André Breton and Louis Aragon. It is also where Raymond Queneau, author of *Zazie in the Metro*, was often to be found.

After lunch, Maisie will give a presentation on the post-WWII Existentialist movement, whose leading members include Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Albert Camus, all of whom frequented many cafés and bars in the area. You will have the rest of the afternoon free to explore.

Fabienne's suggestions for the afternoon:

- Sit and read in the charming Jardin du Luxembourg, where the Senate building can be found, and where Cosette first meets Sorbonne student Marius in *Les Misérables*.
- Stop in at Le Deux Magots, where Oscar Wilde drowned his sorrows and James Joyce downed Swiss white wine.

- Visit the Cluny, a museum of the Middle Ages that also hosts Roman thermal baths. The Cluny left a lasting impression on Herman Melville when he visited Paris in 1849, so much so that in *Moby Dick* he writes of it as being symbolic of superficial greatness (the external structure) but masking hidden depths beneath the baths.
- Wander the medieval cobblestone streets of the Latin Quarter, where all manner of bookstores can be found, including several branches of France's renowned Gibert Joseph booksellers.
- See the Fontaine Saint-Michel, a historical monument of the Renaissance depicting Saint Michael crushing the Devil.

We will meet again in the evening for a jazz night in the Latin Quarter. It was here in the night-clubs of Saint-Germain-des-Prés that Boris Vian performed and met with his close friends Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir - both of whom feature in his most famous novel, *Froth on the Daydream*.

Lunch included.

Sunday 19th May 2019

Day 8

WILDE, BALZAC AND MOLIÈRE IN THE PÈRE LACHAISE CEMETERY: VOLTAIRE AND MARQUIS DE SADE IN BASTILLE L

We will begin our day by meeting Eglantine outside the picturesque Père Lachaise Cemetery. Eglantine will then deftly guide us through the panoply of graves to find the resting places and hear the wild tales of Oscar Wilde, Balzac, Molière and Apollinaire, among many others. However it is not only famous writers that are buried within the 44 hectares; many renowned composers and musicians are also laid to rest here – icons such as Georges Bizet, Eugène Delacroix, Frédéric Chopin and Jim Morrison.

Lunch is at a nearby popular spot for locals. Eglantine will take us on a tour of the nearby Bastille area. Nowadays, it is a lively hipster district but it was once home to the infamous Bastille prison that counted Voltaire, the Marquis de Sade and the Man in the Iron Mask amongst its inmates. Eglantine will bring Bastille's turbulent revolutionary past to life, leading you through hidden back passages that hint at the industrial working-class roots of the last century. You will have the rest of the evening free to explore the neighbourhood.

Fabienne's suggestions for the afternoon:

- Pick up fresh produce at the Marché d'Aligre, a vibrant and bustling local farmer's market.
- Have a drink at the Baron Rouge, a lively bar where local wine is served cheap and straight from the barrel.
- Picnic on the Promenade Plantée, an old elevated railway line that has now been turned into a 4.5km-long planted garden, reminiscent of New York's High Line.

Lunch included.

Monday 20th May 2019

Day 9

BOHEMIAN MONTMARTRE; APOLLINAIRE, PREVERT AND CÉLINE

MC / C / D

The famous Welper brasserie is where we will meet Martine this morning. Fans of Truffaut's films are sure to recognise this iconic setting in Place de Clichés. After a morning coffee, Martine will lead you through the hills of Montmartre, where she used to live. Montmartre is a bohemian village that was the epicentre of artistic life at the beginning of the 20th century. Manet, Picasso, Dali and Van Gogh lived here, as did the poets Apollinaire and Jacques Prévert, as well as controversial novelist Céline. Martine will take you off the beaten track to discover the true hidden gems concealed in the village of old. You will also have a chance to look out over one of the best views in Paris from the Sacré Coeur Basilica.

After some free time for lunch we will meet in the garden café of the Musée de Montmartre, which was studio of the famous painter, Renoir. The gardens have been cultivated in the style of Renoir's paintings, so be sure to have a look. You will have the rest of the afternoon free.

Fabienne's suggestions for the afternoon:

- Tour the Musée de Montmartre, which contains paintings, photographs, posters and manuscripts depicting the history of the bohemian, cabaret-filled neighbourhood. The famous Le Cabaret du Chat Noir is on display, as are several works by Toulouse-Lautrec.
- Stop for coffee at the Deux Moulins café, made famous by the 2001 movie *Amélie*.
- Ride the funicular railway, which opened in 1900, from the Sacré Coeur down to the foothills of Montmartre.

In the evening, we will reconvene for a departure dinner at a place - fittingly of many departures: the Gare de Lyon. Here we will dine at the chic Le Train Bleu, a lavish neo-baroque restaurant whose walls are painted with frescos depicting different regions in France serviced by trains from the station.

Tuesday 21st May 2019

Day 10

FAREWELL

Alas, it's time to say goodbye to Paris. Fabienne and Maisie will be on hand to help you with your departure home - or, if you're staying on, your transfer to your next adventure! We hope your Parisian literary tour has been for-mi-da-ble! Thank you for travelling with Better Read Tours, and we wish you all a very safe and enjoyable return home!

"To know Paris is to know a great deal." - Henry Miller



BOOK CLUB READING LIST

RECOMMENDED READING

Each of these books relates to the tour itinerary, in a distinct way and will be discussed along our travels. As such familiarity with the texts would help but it is by no means compulsory.

The Belly of Paris - Emile Zola

To enter Les Halles, where you will be staying, is to enter into the belly of Paris. Here stood the city's original marketplace, overflowing with fresh produce, through which every parisian in the 1850s passed which Zola describes vividly in his book.

The Letters of Madame de Sévigné to Her Daughter and Friends - Madame de Sévigné

Madame de Sévigné (1626-96) paints an extraordinarily vivid picture of France at the time of Louis XIV, in eloquent letters written throughout her life to family and friends. We will discuss this amazing text on day 2.

The Autobiography of Alice B. Tokias – Gertrude Stein

This work provides fascinating insight into the Parisian art scene of the 20s, as well as simply being a fantastic read. We will discuss this on day 3.

Les Misérables – Victor Hugo

Considered one of the greatest novels of the 19th century, *Les Misérables* chronicles the history of the French revolution. Hugo's classic literary work will be discussed on Day 3 of the tour.

Phantom of the Opera – Gaston Leroux

This mélange of historical and fictional events will animate our discussion on the morning of Day 5.

At the Existentialist Café – Sarah Bakewell

This elucidating work is an all-encompassing yet accessible introduction to Existentialism. It paints the portrait of mid-20th century Paris and the fascinating characters of Sartre, de Beauvoir, Camus, and their philosophical circle. We will discuss this on day 7.

A Moveable Feast – Ernest Hemingway

"Wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast."

Hemingway's personal accounts, observations, and stories about the City of Lights will inform our discussion during our farewell dinner on Day 9.



FURTHER READING SUGGESTIONS

The following selection of classic works will not be explicitly discussed on the tour but is highly recommended for those seeking to extend their cultural and literacy knowledge. The following list features prominent works by some of the greatest French authors. Not only will they transport you to the streets of Paris but they will also enhance your understanding and appreciation of certain elements of the tour. Many of these texts (and more!) will be discussed at Better Read Than Dead's French literature book club *Joie de Lire* in the lead-up to the tour, so feel free to attend the sessions. They are held at the bookshop (265 King St, Newtown) on the 4th Tuesday of every month from 6.30pm. There is no cost to attend and there is wine and cheese! Meetings simply consist of sharing ideas and thoughts about the nominated book in a relaxed setting.

For details and the reading list, see:

<https://www.betterreadevents.com/product-page/joie-de-lire-book-club>.

Ladies Delight – Emile Zola

Zola brings to pulsating life the glittering and chic department store Le Bon Marché. Designed by Gustav Eiffel, it is still thriving today.

Madame Bovary – Gustave Flaubert

This adulterous tale is the French Anna Karenina, and provides much important social commentary.

Froth on the Daydream – Boris Vian

Vian's most famous Surrealist novel features his close friends, Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir.

Zazie in the Metro – Raymond Queneau

The linguistic ingenuity of this comical novel was referred to as “Zazie speak” in France and was all the rage in the 60s.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog – Muriel Barbery

This contemporary work seamlessly blends philosophy, social commentary, and a heart-wrenching story, creating an absolute sensation when it was first published in France in 2005 by Philosophy professor Muriel Barbery.

Flowers of Evil – Charles Baudelaire

Scandalous upon publication (six poems were banned until 1949), this collection of verse is still relevant for travelers seeking to understand the seductive nature of Paris.

Journey to the End of the Night – Louis-Ferdinand Céline

Céline's epic novel influenced French literature considerably, and by 1933 it was a common topic of conversation at Parisian dinner parties.

Selected Poems of Paul Verlaine – Paul Verlaine

Verlaine is considered one of the greatest representatives of fin de siècle poetry – not only in the Francophone world but also internationally.

Candide – Voltaire

Candide is a French satire first published in 1759 by renowned Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire. With its sharp wit and insightful portrayal of the human condition, this book is among the most frequently taught works of French literature.

At the Existentialist Café – Sarah Bakewell

This elucidating work is an all-encompassing yet accessible introduction to Existentialism. It paints the portrait of mid-20th century Paris and the fascinating characters of Sartre, de Beauvoir, Camus, and their philosophical circle.

A Parisian Affair and Other Stories – Guy de Maupassant

As the master of the modern short story, de Maupassant depicts human lives and social forces with hard-hitting honesty in this ingenious and varied collection of tales. Despite characteristic disillusion and pessimism, these stories also portray the human condition and its full hypocrisy with empathy. For full disclosure, de Maupassant is Fabienne's favourite author.

Down and Out of Paris and London – George Orwell

This British-oriented text provides a far less romantic perspective of Paris than that of Hemingway's expat experience in *A Moveable Feast*. Focusing on the city's impoverished and subversive underculture, it provides an important holistic and sobering view of a city that is well-loved.

Paris Peasant – Louis Aragon

This book remains one of the seminal works of Surrealism. It contains some truly beautiful passages of prose poetry interspersed with quasi-philosophical and theological opinion.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame – Victor Hugo

The cathedral itself is the most significant aspect of this mythic novel. Hugo wanted his readers to be more aware of the value of Gothic architecture, which was often neglected and instead replaced by new buildings or partial refurbishments in a more modern style. The main goal of Hugo's acclaimed novel was to encourage a revival of Gothic architecture, and it did indeed lead to major renovations of Notre-Dame in the 19th century,





USEFUL TRAVEL PHRASES

Bonjour/Bonsoir

Salut

Oui/non

S'il vous plaît/merci

Au revoir/à toute à l'heure

Excusez-moi (de vous déranger)

Parlez-vous anglais ?

Désolé, je ne parle pas français.

Je ne comprends pas.

Je suis Australien/ne

L'adresse de mon hôtel est...

Non, merci. Je regarde pour l'instant.

Je me sens malade.

J'ai mal à la tête/ventre/jambe

Où est le... (guichet) ?

Ça coute combien?

Pour aller à la...?

Je cherche le bus/train/métro.

Où est l'arrêt le plus près?

Pouvez-vous parler un peu plus lentement s'il vous plait?

Goodmorning/goodevening

Hi (less formal greeting)

Yes/no

Please/thank you

Goodbye/see you later

Excuse me (for bothering you)

Do you speak English?

Sorry, I don't speak French.

I don't understand.

I am Australian (masc/fem.)

The address of my hotel is...

No thanks, I'm just browsing.

I feel sick.

I've got a headache/stomach ache/hurt leg

Where is the... (ticket window)?

How much is it/does it cost?

How do I get to...?

I'm looking for the bus/train/metro.

Where is the nearest stop?

Could you please speak a bit slower?

