The Cultural History of Gardens in Paris and the Ile de France



3 – 12 September 2018

A 10 day tour of gardens and their image in art, literature and science.



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The Cultural History of Gardens

There is no better way to explore the fascinating history of Paris, its rulers, politics and culture than by studying the evolution of its gardens.

We will begin with the rise of scientific interest in plants with Louis XIII's Jardin du Roi developed by the botanists Jussieu and Buffon. At the Chateau de Vaux le Vicomte we will see the triumph of Le Notre's formal French aesthetic contrasting with the royal hunting forests of Fontainebleau. In the Marais the 17th century aristocrats sought refuge from court life in charming private gardens which can be experienced during visits of these mansions. Rose gardens were favoured by French royalty such as Marie Antoinette and Marie de Medici as can be seen at the Bagatelle and Luxembourg, while Napoleon's Josephine cultivated her own varieties at the Chateau de Malmaison.

In the 19th century, Napoleon III wanted to imitate the greenery of London and created numerous cleverly landscaped "squares" and parcs such as Monceau for the bourgeoisie and open parks such as the Buttes de Chaumont for the workers.

We will of course visit the Impressionist garden of Monet at Giverny and Albert Kahn's Japanese and English gardens near Sevres. The Parc Citröen and the Passage Plantée near the Bastille show 21st century garden innovation.

At the Musée d'Orsay and the Orangerie we

will see gardens in art and at Dumas' Chateau de Monte Cristo, a garden based on literature.

Travels Through Time will take a group of 15–18 people to explore the hidden green spaces of Paris, from Monceau to the little lanes and mediaeval courtyards of the old Latin Quarter. Several coach trips will take us outside Paris to Chateaux and Impressionist Gardens.

The tour will be led by Sylvia Sagona, specialist in 19th century French art and history, who has been taking lecture tours to Europe for the past fifteen years.

Tour Price Includes

- 9 nights accommodation in an Art Deco hotel in the Champs Elysées district, including full breakfast
- All museum and garden entrances
- Guided tours and lectures including a pre-tour briefing
- Coach transport and unlimited Metro pass for travel in Paris
- · Night cruise down the Seine
- Tour materials and maps

Price

\$5600 per person (double/twin) \$1950 single supplement



Note: The prices listed above are for land content only and do not include transfers to and from the airport.