

The Virginia Ambassadors of Music American Celebration of Music in France, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy

July 5 – 19 2023 (13 nights/15 days)

Day 1 Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Depart via scheduled air service to Paris, France

Day 2 Thursday, July 6 Paris / Rouen / Caen (D)

Arrive in Paris

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Excursion to Rouen to see the Cathedral. In the Place de la Cathédrale stands the Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame, one of the largest and most magnificent in France. The most striking feature is the elaborately articulated west front which was several times painted by Claude Monet. Also see the sight of Joan of Arcs execution

Continue to Caen for late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

As the capital of Lower Normandy, Caen is a thriving university city with exceptional historical heritage. William the Conqueror lent the town his favor in the 11th century and commissioned many of the city's most famous sites including the Abbey aux Hommes and the Abbey aux Dames, where his wife Mathilde is buried. Caen was the center of some of the fiercest fighting in the Liberation of 1944. The peace memorial is unquestionably the greatest museum of World War II and a "must-see" for anyone who visits the city

Day 3 Friday, July 7 Coleville / Caen (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

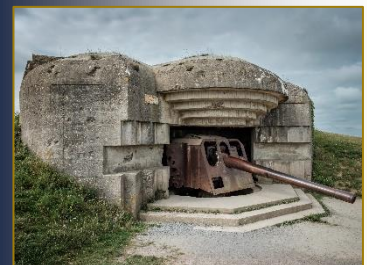
Morning visit and tour to the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial and the D-Day beaches – sites of the June 6th, 1944 Normandy Invasion. White marble crosses and Stars of David stretch off in seemingly endless rows at the Normandy American Cemetery, situated on a now-serene bluff overlooking the bitterly contested sands of Omaha Beach. Also visit and explore the visitor's center

Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery*

Lunch, on own

Visit the Les Braves Omaha Beach Memorial – a memorial that is located in the center of Omaha Beach and commemorates the fallen American soldiers of World War II who lost their lives on the beaches of Normandy, June 6th 1944. The memorial represents three elements: The Wings of Hope, The Rise of Freedom, and the Wings Of Fraternity. French sculptor Anilore Banon created the monument in 2004, commissioned by the French government to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy. Originally intended only as a temporary exhibit, this piece still stands today

Visit the Point du Hoc where you can see the World War II Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument. It was erected by the French to honor elements of the American Second Ranger Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James E. Rudder. During the American assault of Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, these elements scaled the 100-foot cliff and seized the German artillery



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pieces that could have fired on the American landing troops at Omaha Beach. At a high cost of life, they successfully defended against determined German counterattacks

Dinner included

Band Performance at the D-Day Museum Courtyard in Arromanches as part of the American Celebration of Music in France*

Overnight at the hotel

Day 4	Saturday, July 8	Paris	(B,D)
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Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Morning transfer to Paris

Lunch, on own

Afternoon guided tour of *Paris historique*. See the most historic parts of the city including seeing the Notre-Dame Cathedral during the restoration process after the devastating fire in 2019, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Place de la Concorde, Luxembourg Palace and Gardens, Latin Quarter, Place de la Bastille, Invalides Hospital, and other Parisian highlights

Dinner included, followed by Bateaux Mouches Cruise on the River Seine

Overnight at the hotel

With its grand boulevards, Streetside cafés, magnificent architecture, and river vistas, it takes little to understand why Paris is known as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. There is nothing more inspiring than walking the streets of Paris taking in the dynamic atmosphere. Paris is a place that breathes history and legend, a perfect combination of the modern and the ancient

Day 5	Sunday, July 9	Paris	(B,D)
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Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the largest and greatest art museum in the world, with more than 45,000 works of art displayed over 700,000 sq. ft. It's packed with enough artistic masterpieces to make the Mona Lisa weep. Rembrandt, Reubens, Botticelli, Ingres, and Michelangelo are all represented here; subjects range from the grandiose (Antoine-Jean Gros's gigantic Napoleon Bonaparte Visiting the Plague-Stricken in Jaffa) to the mundane (Vermeer's tiny, exquisite Lacemaker). You can gape at a diamond the size of a golf ball in the gilded Galerie d'Apollon or marvel over exquisite bronze figurines in the vast Egyptian section, there's something for everyone

Band Performance at the Plateau Joffre – Ecole Militaire in Paris as part of the American Celebration of Music in France*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 6	Monday, July 10	Paris	(B,D)
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Breakfast at the hotel

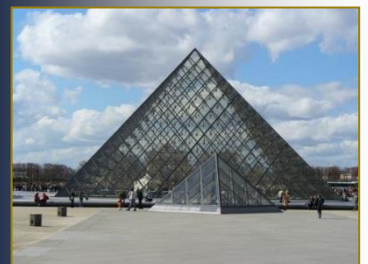
Day at leisure in Paris (*with Coach and Tour Manager at groups disposal*)

Lunch, on own

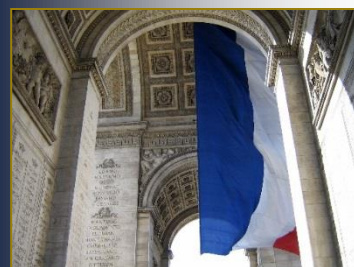
Dinner included

Evening visit to Montmartre, a large hill in Paris's 18th arrondissement, and home to the white-domed Basilica of the Sacré-Cœur on its summit. Enjoy time for souvenir shopping and visit one of the local restaurants that offers a variety of delicious dessert options

Return to the hotel for overnight



Day 7	Tuesday, July 11	Crans-Montana	(B,D)
Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out Transfer to Crans-Montana Lunch, on own Dinner included, and overnight			
Day 8	Wednesday, July 12	Matterhorn / Crans-Montana	(B,D)
Breakfast at the hotel Full day excursion to the Matterhorn, one of the tallest mountains in the Alps and Europe with a summit that reaches 14,692 feet. The Matterhorn overlooks the Swiss town of Zermatt. Just east of the Matterhorn is Theodul Pass, the main passage between the two valleys on its north and south sides, and a trade route since the Roman Era Lunch on own on the Sunnegga sun deck, or in Zermatt Return to Crans-Montana Folklore Dinner Show included, and overnight			
Day 9	Thursday, July 13	Crans-Montana / Montreux	(B,D)
Breakfast at the hotel Morning time at leisure in Crans, followed by a visit to Chillon Castle. Enjoy a guided visit to the island Castle located on Lake Geneva Lunch, on own in Montreux Return to Crans-Montana <i>Performance in Crans-Montana as part of the American Celebration of Music in Switzerland*</i> Dinner included, and overnight			
Day 10	Friday, July 14	Seefeld	(B,D)
Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out Transfer to Seefeld Lunch, on own Dinner included, and overnight			
Day 11	Saturday, July 15	Salzburg / Seefeld	(B,D)
Breakfast at the hotel Excursion to Salzburg. Enjoy a guided tour of Salzburg including Mirabell Palace and Gardens, Mozart Square, the Dom (cathedral), University Church, entrance to the Mozarthaus (Mozart's birthplace) and a cable car ride up to the Fortress (for an unparalleled view of the city below) Lunch, on own Return to Seefeld Dinner included, and overnight <i>Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace, is a delight from the first sight of the outline of the Hohensalzburg Fortress, the symbol of the power of the prince-archbishops. The city's picturesque streets with their wrought-iron signs, its spacious squares with sculptured fountains and the noble architecture of its buildings inspired by bishops with a passion for construction, leave memories which linger for years</i>			
Day 12	Sunday, July 16	Innsbruck / Verona	(B,D)
Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out Transfer to Verona via Innsbruck to visit downtown Lunch, on own			



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Continue to Verona
Dinner included, and overnight

Innsbruck, venue of the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics, is one of the most beautiful towns of its size (100,000). This 800-year-old university city is bounded on the north by the shimmering wall of the Nordkette Range of the Alps, on the south by the Tuxer Range rising to heights of 10,000 feet. The Empress Maria Theresa loved the Tyrol and Innsbruck, like her ancestor Emperor Maximilian I which accounts for the city's many beautiful buildings



Day 13	Monday, July 17	Verona	(B,D)
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Breakfast at the hotel

Guided tour in Verona (of Romeo and Juliet fame) that includes the Casa di Giulietta (Juliet's House) with its famous Balcony in the inner courtyard. Also visit and tour the Verona Arena – the famous Roman amphitheater, built in the first century that is still in use today and is internationally famous for the large-scale opera performances given there. It is the world's best preserved ancient structures of its kind and in ancient times, the arena's capacity was over 30,000 people. The Verona Arena will be used as the closing ceremony for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan

Lunch, on own

Afternoon time at leisure for shopping and sightseeing

*Performance at the Piazza delle Erbe in Verona as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy**

Dinner included, and overnight



Day 14	Tuesday, July 18	Venice / Verona	(B,D)
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Breakfast at the hotel

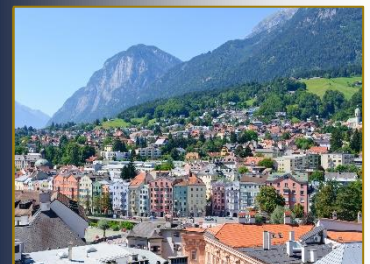
Transfer to the main island of San Marco via public boat. A walking tour includes St. Mark's Square, with entrance to the Basilica of St. Mark and Doge's Palace where the powerful and prosperous dukes of Venice ruled their far-flung empire during the 15th century. Also visit the Santa Maria della Pietà Church – Vivaldi's Church, where a large number of Antonio Vivaldi's works were premiered

Lunch, on own

Return to Verona

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Venice is eternally preoccupied with the contemplation of its own beauty. Founded on marshes, it rose to dominate the Adriatic and hold the gorgeous East in fee. At the height of her power in the 16th century, Venice was a wealthy city-republic glorying in feasts and pageants, reveling in the splendor of her painting, sculpture and architecture. Those days of glory are gone, but her art survives and the grace and refinement remain. A visit to Venice will fill your soul



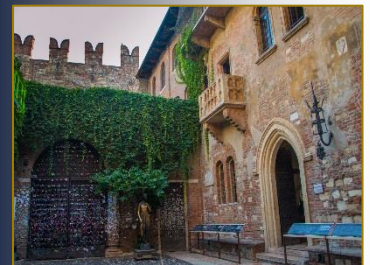
Day 15	Wednesday, July 19	Depart for home	(B)
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Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Airport for return flight home

**Subject to confirmation*

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable.

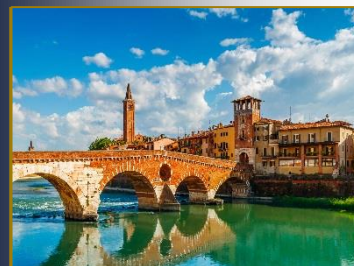


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In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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