



In Search of Literary France: A Book-Lover's Tour of Paris, Northern France & the Channel Islands

3 JUN – 24 JUN 2016

Code: 21616

Tour Leaders **Susannah Fullerton, Aurélie Casrouge**

Physical Ratings 

See France through the eyes of its great writers – Flaubert, Dumas, Balzac, Hugo, Colette, Proust. Enjoy great art and fine food in the lovely landscapes of Northern France and the Channel Islands.

Overview

Tour Highlights

- Lectures and site visits by [Susannah Fullerton](#), President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia. Susanna will be assisted by [Aurélie Casrouge](#), a French native born in Normandy, and currently one of ASA's tour coordinators.
- Learning about the racy lives and bad behaviour of many great French novelists - Dumas, Balzac, Zola, De Maupassant and more!
- An exploration of the lovely Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey and following the paths of the characters in *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*
- A visit to the medical museum in Rouen, Flaubert's childhood home, where he watched his father perform gruesome operations and see Flaubert's home there
- A tour of Gerald Durrell's zoo on Jersey, escorted by his widow, Lee Durrell
- Seeing the château where Balzac went to write (and escape his creditors) and staying the night in another gorgeous château
- Enjoying great art at the Rouen Museum of Fine Arts, the Musée d'art moderne André Malraux - MuMa in Le Havre, and the Bayeux tapestry
- A study of the tapestries immortalised by Tracy Chevalier in *The Lady and the Unicorn*
- Visits to an amazing variety of literary homes - Proust's, Alain-Fournier's, Dumas's Château de Monte Cristo, George Sand's and Collette's to learn about the lives of these writers
- Eating at gourmet restaurants frequented by great writers.

22-day Literary Tour of France & the Channel Islands

Overnight Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Paris (5 nights) • Villers-Cotterêts (2 nights) • Rouen (3 nights) • Bayeux (2 nights) • St Helier, Jersey (1 night) • St Peter Port, Guernsey (2 nights) • Saint-Malo (1 night) • Saumur (1 night) • Pouligny-Notre-Dame (2 nights) • Augerville-la-Rivière (2 nights).

Overview

France! The very name is full of magic! France is one of the most civilised countries on earth and French food and wines, French paintings, French cinema, French fashion, French villages, the glorious capital city of Paris, and the châteaux scattered through the lovely countryside are all justly famous. It is hardly surprising that France attracts more tourists than any other country.

Another of the great glories of France is its literature. Writers and intellectuals have traditionally enjoyed great prestige there. Many members of the Académie Française have been authors and have pronounced on public events and held high office in the land. Statues of famous writers can be found in so many public parks and squares, and streets have been named after the great novelists, poets and playwrights in hundreds of towns and cities. French novels and short stories are considered some of the greatest ever written, French plays are familiar to us through film and opera, French poets have broken new ground.

This tour offers you the opportunity to see France through the eyes of these great writers and their works. You will learn about their fascinating lives – the strings of mistresses, the debts, the scandals, the meals they enjoyed, their travels – and you will see the landscapes that inspired them and the places where they wrote. You will meet playwrights – Corneille, Molière and Victor Hugo; novelists such as Flaubert, Balzac, Dumas, Hugo, Proust, Alain-Fournier, Colette, George Sand and Zola; and the poets, Rimbaud and his lover Verlaine. You will see where they are buried, admire statues erected in their honour, wander through their homes and dine where they dined. Their characters have become part of our imaginative landscapes, but

now you will see the physical landscapes they inhabited as well – the provinces which stifled Madame Bovary, the town where Eugénie Grandet’s tragic history is played out, the château where Dumas’ musketeers attempt a daring rescue, and the bedroom where Proust’s narrator eats a little cake and experiences something extraordinary.

Over the centuries France has been a magnet to other writers. We will follow in the footsteps of the Americans – Thomas Jefferson, Longfellow, Hemingway, Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, Edith Wharton and Henry James (to name just a few); of the British – Robert Louis Stevenson, Trollope, Ruskin and Dickens; of the Irish - Oscar Wilde and James Joyce; and of many others such as New Zealand’s Katherine Mansfield and Russia’s Ivan Turgenev. You will learn how France shaped these men and women as writers, inspiring them and filling them with the longing to return again and again.

Writers in France have travelled around their country, experiencing so many facets of French life. This tour reflects that variety of experience. You will visit châteaux and humble cottages, elegant restaurants and simple cafes, catch ferries, stroll along grand boulevards and country lanes. You will go to school one day, and meet with a book club on another. There will be stunning cathedrals and rustic churches, water-mills, beautiful gardens and grand squares, a war memorial, forests, lakes, islands and beaches.

No French literary tour would be complete without an emphasis on food, for French writers have lovingly described meals, set scenes in cafes and used food endlessly in their works. In Parisian brasseries they have discoursed by the hour on their writings and philosophies. We will sample some of the delicacies they wrote of, sip the fine champagnes and wines they indulged in, and treat ourselves to fine cheeses just as the characters they created did on market days.

When the Impressionist painters first tried to display their works, they were met with ridicule from the art critics of the day. One man, however, was more discerning – the novelist Émile Zola. He championed their paintings at the risk of losing his own reputation, he put his friend Cézanne into one of his novels, and he sat as a model for both Cézanne and Manet. Literature and art connect often in France and on this tour we will have the pleasure of visiting many fine galleries, admiring sculptures of great writers, viewing tapestries that have intriguing historical stories to tell. We will walk through landscapes that inspired both the pen and the brush.

France is one of the largest countries in Europe and it is not possible to visit all its literary sites in 3 weeks. This tour concentrates on northern France (Picardy, Champagne, Normandy, the Loire), and Paris, with a delightful excursion to the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey included as well.

A reading and film list will be supplied and the more you read from that list, the more you will enjoy the tour. However, it is not essential to have a detailed knowledge of French literature in order to enjoy the journey. Susannah will narrate the stories of the authors themselves and inspire you to further reading. Local guides and hosts will join us along the way, to further add to your knowledge and enjoyment.

Flaubert once wrote that “pleasure is found first in anticipation, later in memory”. With this tour you will encounter both his sorts of pleasure, but you will also find pleasure in between the anticipation and the memory – the intense pleasure that comes from the actual experience of searching out and discovering the treasures and the personalities, the art and the architecture, the scenery and the sacred sites, of literary France.

[For Image Credits - please see gallery](#)

Leaders



Susannah Fullerton

President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Susannah has published several books on Jane Austen and has lectured extensively on famous authors, their lives and works both in Australia and overseas.

Susannah Fullerton majored in English Literature at the University of Auckland. She then completed a post-graduate degree in Victorian fiction and prose at the University of Edinburgh. For the past 19 years Susannah has been President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia. She has lectured extensively on Jane Austen in Australia and overseas and has published many articles about Jane Austen's works. She is the co-author of *Jane Austen - Antipodean Views* and published *Jane Austen and Crime* in 2004, and *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia* (Picador) in 2009. Susannah's latest books are *A Dance with Jane Austen* and *Happily Ever After: Celebrating Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*.

Susannah is very well known on the Australian speakers' circuit as a literary lecturer. She gives talks on famous authors, their lives and works, and on the history of England, at the Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of NSW, ADFAS, WEA, schools and for a great variety of clubs and societies. Susannah uses her training in drama to delight her audiences with dramatic readings from novels and poems. Her interest in literature is wide ranging. She is a member of the Dylan Thomas Society of Australia, the Australian Brontë Association, the NSW Dickens Society and she is Patron of the Kipling Society of Australia. She has worked on literary prize committees, organised literary conferences and is a most experienced lecturer and group leader. To discover more about Susannah's activities visit www.susannahfullerton.com.au

- Media coverage of recent tour to the Southern States: <https://msgr.smugmug.com/Australians-tour-Putnam/>



Aurélie Casrouge

French native, with a special interest in French language and literature, Aurélie worked in publishing and as a French tutor before joining the ASA team as a tour coordinator.

From Normandy, Aurélie was raised in North West France before moving to Paris in 2006. Aurélie graduated with a Bachelor degree in French Literature at Paris-IV Sorbonne focusing her studies on the 19th century Realism Movement. She wrote her dissertation on Émile Zola's workers portrait. She pursued her education with a Masters Degree in Book Publishing in Paris-Nord University, Villetaneuse. Following her tertiary education, she worked for several publishers in Paris and for Thames & Hudson in London. She moved to Melbourne in 2012 where she currently teaches French and most recently joined the ASA team as

a tour coordinator and a tour leader. Aurélie enjoys sharing her passion for literature, French culture and gastronomy.

Combine this tour with

Turkey Beyond the Euphrates: Discovering the Eastern Frontier
13 MAY – 1 JUN 2016



Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of site visits which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but some require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. Furthermore a number of the sites have not confirmed their opening hours for 2016. Therefore the daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight/ferry schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunch and evening meals as indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=evening meal.

Paris - 5 nights

Day 1: Friday 3 June, Paris – Passy – Paris

- Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris
- Shakespeare and Co. (optional)
- Short Coach Tour of Paris
- Maison de Balzac, Passy
- Welcome Evening Meal at Restaurant Le Procopé

Participants travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight will be transferred from the Charles de Gaulle Airport to the [Citadines Apart'hotel](#) located in Saint-Germain-des-Prés. For travellers arriving independently, private transfers may be arranged on request.

After an early morning arrival we begin our tour of Paris, "the city of cities" as Victor Hugo called it. It is hard to imagine Paris without the cathedral of Notre-Dame, standing proud and beautiful on the Ile de la Cité. But when Victor Hugo sat down to write a novel in 1829 the building was rapidly becoming a crumbling ruin. Gothic cathedrals were out of fashion in France and no-one cared to spend time or money repairing the desecration wrought by the French Revolution. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* was published in 1831, but its tale of Quasimodo and the lovely gypsy Esmeralda is set in 1482. The cathedral is

Quasimodo's home: "the cathedral was not only company for him, it was the universe; nay, more, it was Nature itself. He never dreamed that there were other hedgerows than the stained-glass windows in perpetual bloom; other shade than that of the stone foliage always budding... other mountains than the colossal towers of the church; or other oceans than Paris roaring at their feet." Hugo's novel was a best-seller, and it saved the cathedral by igniting a movement for the preservation of historic buildings. You will have free time in the afternoon to explore the cathedral or climb to the top to admire the gargoyles, and see the views from the towers that Quasimodo enjoyed and hear the bells that he rang daily.

You might also like to make a stop at Shakespeare and Co., which began as a bookshop on the Left Bank in 1919. Run by Sylvia Beach, an American, it soon became a popular gathering place for literary ex-pats. Sylvia lent books and money, allowed impoverished writers to stay, and promoted their works. James Joyce's *Ulysses* was published by her in 1922. Henry Miller called the shop "a wonderland of books", Hemingway wrote of it fondly in *A Moveable Feast* and Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Lawrence Durrell and Anaïs Nin dropped in often. Sylvia's original bookshop closed in 1940, but the right to use the name and idea was given to George Whitman (great grandson of Walt). Today the shop is run by his daughter Sylvia. We will join the lists of literary visitors who call in to check out the latest English language books for sale.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, we embark on a short coach orientation tour of Paris which takes us to Passy in the 16th arrondissement, on the Right Bank. Balzac bought a house on a hilltop in Passy, and worked there, wearing the robe of a monk, on his *Human Comedy*. In the museum we will see Balzac's desk which caves-in in the centre from the constant pressure of his heavy arm, his splendid turquoise cane, his coffee pot and other items. You can look out the window from one great writer's home to a spot tragically associated with another of the French 'Greats'. Across the road is what was once the residence of Dr Blanche, the doctor who took in Guy de Maupassant, gone quite mad from tertiary syphilis and in need of confinement in a straight-jacket. Surely a fine literary vantage point with which to end our day?

We say 'Bienvenue' over dinner at one of the most literary of all Parisian restaurants, Le Procope. First opened in 1686, it is one of the oldest dining establishments in the world. It is said to have introduced coffee to the Parisians and is famed for its sorbet. Voltaire's regular table is on display (he drank 40 cups of coffee a day), but other regulars included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin (said to have revised the US Constitution at one of its tables), Rousseau, Beaumarchais, Diderot, Longfellow, Hugo, Oscar Wilde, Balzac, George Sand, as well as leaders of the Revolution, Robespierre, Danton and Marat.'

English novelist, William Makepeace Thackeray, loved to dine in Paris and wrote a poem about returning to the same cafe to eat bouillabaisse:

"I wonder if the house still there is?
Yes, here the lamp is, as before;
The smiling red-cheeked écaillere is
Still opening oysters at the door.
Is Terré still alive and able?
I recollect his droll grimace:
He'd come and smile before your table
And hoped you liked your Bouillabaisse."
(Overnight Paris) D

Day 2: Saturday 4 June, Paris – Villebon – Illiers-Combray – Chartres – Paris

- Château de Villebon

- La Maison de Tante Léonie, Illiers-Combray
- The Pré-Catelan Garden, Illiers-Combray
- Chartres Cathedral

Marcel Proust was a novelist, critic and essayist, best known for his monumental *In Search of Lost Time*, a seven volume novel of over 3000 pages and with more than 2000 characters. It is a book about the rediscovery of the past through random stimulations in the present. Its style recreates the psychological processes of memory. Today we follow Proust to his birthplace of Illiers-Combray to see the landscapes and houses which inspired this great work.

We begin with the Château de Villebon, residence of his character the Duc de Guermantes (Proust calls it Château de Guermantes). It was built in 1391 and is a medieval jewel of a castle, with crenulated towers, a moat and working drawbridge, and lovely formal gardens. It is privately owned, but the owners will show us around.

There is a local delicacy called a *Madeleine*. Shaped like a scallop shell, this little cake was originally made for pilgrims on the route to Compostela. However, *Madeleines* are now one of the most famous 'literary' foods of all time, thanks to Proust. At the beginning of *Swann's Way* (the opening novel of *In Search of Lost Time*) the narrator eats a *madeleine* dipped into lime tea: "And all at once the memory appeared to me ... The taste was that of the little piece of *madeleine* which on Sunday morning in Combray my aunt Léonie would give to me after dipping it in her tea." We will visit the 'Maison de Tante Léonie', restored to exactly as described in those famous opening pages. Fiction has shaped its present reality. We will also sample *madeleines* and, as we do so, create wonderful new memories for ourselves! The nearby Pré-Catalan Garden is the Parc de Tonsonville of the novel. It was designed by Proust's uncle who was a horticulturist – we shall enjoy a stroll in this romantic spot.

In the late afternoon we return to Paris, making a brief stop to visit Chartres Cathedral, considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture and displaying an exceptional array of original 13th century stained glass windows. Since at least the 12th century the cathedral has been an important destination for travellers – and remains so to this day, attracting large numbers of Christian pilgrims, many of whom come to venerate its famous relic, the *Sancta Camisa*, said to be the tunic worn by the Virgin Mary at Christ's birth. (Overnight Paris) BL

Day 3: Sunday 5 June, Paris – Le Port-Marly – Saint-Germain-en-Laye – Paris

- Château de Monte-Cristo, Le Port-Marly
- Lunch at Pavillon Henri IV, Saint-Germain-en-laye

Our tour began with Alexandre Dumas, a man who shamelessly plagiarised and borrowed and paid collaborators to write his books for him. On encountering his son in a Paris street one day, Dumas senior asked Dumas junior, "Have you read my latest book?, to which his son replied, "No, have you?" Yet none of his collaborators ever made it on their own. Dumas always added his own special magic and his brilliance as a story-teller. He also added magic to his house, the Château de Monte-Cristo, named after his best-selling book. It was his "paradise on earth" and he spent a fortune on it. Too big a fortune, for only 2 years later he had to sell it to pay the debts. Here he wrote *Adventures with my Pets* which includes tales about his pet vulture; here he began his monumental *Grand Dictionary of Cuisine*; here he entertained Hugo, George Sand and his many mistresses (who he sometimes shared with his son).

We then enjoy lunch with a panoramic view over Paris at the regal Pavillon Henri IV in nearby Saint-Germain-en-Laye. The Sun King Louis XIV was born in one of the salons of the Pavillon and it has long been a favorite

meeting place for aristocrats, artists and writers as well as important financial and political figures. Famous guests of the Pavillon Henri IV, which was converted into a hotel-restaurant in the mid 19th century, include Georges Sand, Victor Hugo, Emile Zola and Alphonse Daudet. Here, Dumas wrote *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and Offenbach composed some of the music to his famous operettas.

The remain of the afternoon will be at leisure. (Overnight Paris) BL

Day 4: Monday 6 June, Paris

- Musée du Moyen Age – Hôtel de Cluny
- In the steps of Hemingway: walking tour
- Panthéon: tomb of Emile Zola, Victor Hugo and Alexandre Dumas
- Jardin du Luxembourg: statue of George Sand
- Time at leisure

We begin our day with a visit to the Cluny Museum of the Middle Ages. The museum houses six tapestries which are considered some of the finest works of art from the medieval period. These feature a lady and a unicorn and are the subject of modern American novelist Tracy Chevalier's delightful book *The Lady and the Unicorn*. The tapestries have been interpreted in many ways – we will discuss our own interpretations when we go to see them.

"If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast", wrote Hemingway in his memoir *A Moveable Feast* about his years there in the 1920s. Hemingway describes Paris's bars and cafes, its literary visitors such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Dos Passos, Ezra Pound and James Joyce. We will walk in his footsteps to see his favourite places in the city where, according to Oscar Wilde, good Americans go when they die. We also visit the Panthéon, in the heart of the Latin Quarter, and pay our respects to the tombs of France's illustrious philosophers and writers, from Voltaire and Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Alexandre Dumas, Victor Hugo and Emile Zola.

Our morning's program concludes with a short stop at the Jardin du Luxembourg to view the lovely statue of writer George Sand by French sculptor François-Léon Sicard (1862-1934). Nearby are also Rodin's bust of Stendhal and a bust of Flaubert by French sculptor and painter Jean-Baptiste Clesinger (1814-1883). The rest of the day is at leisure. (Overnight Paris) B

Day 5: Tuesday 7 June, Paris

- Walking tour: Palais Royal and La Comédie-Française
- Afternoon at leisure

This morning we explore the charming Palais Royal area with its lovely covered arcades, secluded gardens and elegant royal square. The Palais Royal was originally known as the Palais Cardinal for it was the residence of Cardinal Richelieu, Louis XIII's prime minister, and in the 1640s it briefly housed a young Louis XIV. Nowadays, the Palais Royal shelters numerous designer fashion shops, art galleries and antique shops.

Our walk takes in the Comédie-Française, founded in 1680 during the reign of Louis XIV and the world's oldest national theatre. The Comédie-Française bases its repertoire around the works of the classic playwrights such as Molière, Racine and Corneille, though contemporary and even non French works have been staged here in recent years. Molière in fact never played in this theater, having died before it was built, but because the Comédie-Française was an outgrowth of his old troupe and his plays have always

been the most frequently performed, it is known as the House of Molière. The armchair in which he was carried home after his fatal attack in 1673 is displayed in a glass case in the upper lobby. Molière's last home was at 40 Rue de Richelieu.

On our walk we shall also hear of Henry James, Colette, who lived at No. 9 rue de Beaujolais, Jean Cocteau, who at the end of 1940 moved to No. 36 rue de Montpensier, around the corner from his friend Colette, and Rachel, the great actress of the Comédie-Française.

The afternoon is at leisure. You may wish to explore the nearby Musée d'Orsay, housed in a former railway station and best known for its collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art. One painting in the collection, *Lola de Valence* by Manet has lines by poet Charles Baudelaire engraved into its frame. Baudelaire and Manet were both infatuated with Lola, a tavern dancer. (Overnight Paris) B

Villers-Cotterêts - 2 nights

Day 6: Wednesday 8 June, Paris – Père Lachaise – Château-Thierry – Villers-Cotterêts

- Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris
- In the steps of Dumas: walking tour of Villers-Cotterêts incl. the Musée Alexandre Dumas
- Musée Jean de la Fontaine, Château-Thierry

This morning we depart Paris to see one of the most famous cemeteries in the world. Père Lachaise is the resting place of scores of great writers. Mark Twain described it as "a solemn city of winding streets and miniature marble temples and mansions of the dead gleaming white from a wilderness of foliage and fresh flowers. Not every city is so well peopled as this". The site takes its name from Père François de la Chaise, confessor to Louis IV, who lived in a house on the site of the chapel. We will search out the graves of Oscar Wilde, Balzac, Proust, American novelist Richard Wright, Beaumarchais (whose plays are best known today as the operas *The Barber of Seville* and *The Marriage of Figaro*), Sarah Bernhardt, Nerval, Jean de Brunhoff (creator of *Babar the Elephant*), Colette, Daudet, La Fontaine, Molière, Alfred de Musset, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, and medieval lovers Abélard and Héloïse. Famous artists are also buried there (Delacroix, Géricault, Seurat, Ingres, Pissarro, Doré), and there are composers, singers, dancers and a great roll call of France's famous sons and daughters.

We begin our afternoon tour by getting to know one of the most colourful personalities of French literature – Alexandre Dumas. He was born in 1802 in the village of Villers-Cotterêts. The village was also his penultimate resting place – his body was later moved to the Panthéon in Paris. The Dumas Museum there, which we will visit, covers not only the famous author of *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*, but also his father General Dumas (whose legendary strength inspired Porthos, one of the musketeers) and his son, Alexandre Dumas Fils, author of *The Lady of the Camellias* (later turned into the popular opera *La Traviata*). Dumas manuscripts, letters, portraits and first editions are on display.

In nearby Château-Thierry, in the Champagne district, is a museum for Jean de la Fontaine, writer of fables, who was born there in 1621. His study, where he wrote fables based on Aesop and with talking animals as the main characters, is on display, along with multiple readings of his fables through paintings and drawings. There is also a charming 18th century garden.

Dumas loved food and actually wrote a cookbook, so we will enjoy a group evening meal in his honour in Villers-Cotterêts. (Overnight Villers-Cotterêts) BD

Day 7: Thursday 9 June, Villers-Cotterêts – Charleville-Mézières – Juniville – Villers-Cotterêts

- Musée Arthur Rimbaud and Maison des Ailleurs, Charleville-Mézières
- Rimbaud's Grave, Charleville-Mézières
- Musée Verlaine, Juniville

Arthur Rimbaud is the bad-boy genius of French poetry. He wrote stunningly inventive poems and remains one of the most discussed and influential of all French poets, but he wrote all his poems before turning 21, then walked away from literature for good. He was born in Charleville and is buried there. We will visit the Rimbaud Museum, learn about his scandalous affair with Paul Verlaine (who tried to shoot him!), and see the statue the town has erected in his honour. Rimbaud rarely bathed and delighted in flicking the lice from his hair at passing priests, however, the town has now forgiven him his unruly behaviour. The museum is housed in a delightful water-mill and we will also visit Rimbaud's childhood home, the place which inspired his greatest poem *Le Bateau Ivre*.

When Paul Verlaine fell in love with Rimbaud, he left his wife and son to follow his lover in a life of wandering and drinking. After two years in prison for trying to shoot his lover, Verlaine moved to Juniville where he worked as a teacher. Today the museum there records his life as a symbolist poet, an absinthe drinker and his important work as an editor. Verlaine's life might have been out of control, but his poetry is unsurpassed in its ability to capture moods and nuances of perception. (Overnight Villers-Cotterêts) BD

Rouen - 3 nights

Day 8: Friday 10 June, Villers-Cotterêts – Villers-Bretonneux – Amiens – Rouen

- Musée Franco-Australien and WWI Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux
- Walking tour of Amiens and cathedral
- Maison de Jules Verne, Amiens

This part of France will forever be associated with the horrors of World War I, so graphically evoked by war poets Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Rupert Brooke and Edward Thomas. The little village of Villers-Bretonneux became famous when it was captured by the Germans in 1918, then recaptured by Australian troops the following day. We will visit the Australian Memorial Museum there, as we remember the poets inspired by similar battles.

Jules Verne, author of *Around the World in Eighty Days* and *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, lived for nearly two decades in Amiens, "a sober civilized town whose society is cordial and cultured". There is a museum in his former home which recreates his study and holds a huge collection of his books. His couch once provided comfort for many famous 'derrières' – among them, those of Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas and Georges Sand (who helped inspire one of his novels). Verne is buried in the local cemetery.

Amiens, the delightful capital of Picardy, has a cathedral which art critic John Ruskin called "unsurpassable" and which inspired Proust. It is the birthplace of Choderlos de Laclos who wrote the best-selling *Dangerous Liaisons*. We will enjoy a walking tour of the city and cathedral.

We will spend the next few nights in Rouen, another wonderful cathedral city. (Overnight Rouen) BD

Day 9: Saturday 11 June, Rouen

- Walking tour of Rouen
- Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen
- Musée Flaubert et d'Histoire de la Médecine, Rouen

This morning we take a walking tour of Rouen, a city packed with historical and literary sites. Joan of Arc was burned there by the English (as Jane Austen wrote, "they shouldn't have done it, but they did"), diarist John Evelyn visited and described its bridge and cathedral, Guy de Maupassant wrote of it in his brilliant story *Ball of Fat*, Shakespeare set part of *Henry V* there, and it was the birthplace in 1606 of Pierre Corneille, founder of French dramatic tragedy.

We also visit Rouen's Musée des Beaux-Arts, established in 1801 by Napoléon and holding one of the largest art collections in France. Its Impressionist collection is particularly impressive. This art movement, originally denigrated by the critics, was publicly supported by novelist Émile Zola, who was a close friend of Cézanne and Manet. Géricault was a native of Rouen, and we see some of his works there, along with those of Fragonard, Boucher, Monet, David, Degas, Renoir and Sisley.

The man many regard as the greatest French novelist, Gustave Flaubert, was also born in Rouen. His father was surgeon at the Rouen Hospital and the family lived in an apartment attached to the hospital, now a Museum of Flaubert and Medical History, which we will visit this afternoon. Young Gustave loved to see the corpses in the morgue, or climb a tree so he could watch his father amputate limbs and listen to the screams of the poor patients. Medical details fill his novels, so he clearly never forgot these experiences. Flaubert's statue stands in the town – we will see this and the cathedral, setting of a memorable scene when Madame Bovary meets her lover there, and inspiration for his story *The Legend of St Julien the Hospitaller*. (Overnight Rouen) BD

Day 10: Sunday 12 June, Rouen – Varengeville-sur-Mer – Croisset – Petit Couronne – Rouen

- Le Bois des Moutiers, Varengeville-sur-Mer
- Church & Sailors' Cemetery, Varengeville-sur-Mer
- Flaubert Pavilion, Croisset
- Musée Pierre Corneille, Petit Couronne

Le Bois des Moutiers has been in the hands of the Mallet family since 1898. They asked young architect Edwin Lutyens (later Sir Edwin) to modify the house. The gardens are the work of Gertrude Jekyll, author of over 15 books on gardening (and whose surname was used in *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* – her brother was a friend of Robert Louis Stevenson). There are lovely rare trees, superb rhododendrons and magnolias, and a fascinating bog garden. In the house there is a Burne-Jones tapestry to admire.

Varengeville-sur-Mer is a commune perched atop limestone cliffs on the Normandy coast. Surrealist writers André Breton and Louis Aragon both spent time writing in Varengeville. The views and scenery also attracted many artists – Monet often painted in the area and Georges Braque designed the stained-glass windows in the local sailor's church. This part of the coast was well known to Oscar Wilde, Aubrey Beardsley and Ernest Dowson, and Alexandre Dumas died in nearby Dieppe which we can see from the sailor's cemetery which we visit.

In the afternoon we drive to the village of Croisset, on the outskirts of Rouen, where we find Flaubert's pavilion, the only surviving part of his country residence. According to legend, Abbé Prévost wrote *Manon Lescaut* in the Benedictine house that was once on the site. Flaubert didn't write in the pavilion, but he entertained friends Turgenev, Zola and De Maupassant there and, in the 'shouting ground' next to it, he declaimed the words he found so hard to write, to see if they sounded good. He loved to watch the moonlight on the Seine from this spot. This little pavilion is now a museum, containing his stuffed parrot (the one that features in his story *A Simple Heart* and which inspired Julian Barnes' novel *Flaubert's Parrot*).

Nearby in Petit Couronne we visit the weekend home of Corneille, bought by his father in 1608. Although

the house has been extensively restored, it still faithfully evokes life in a country house in 17th century France.

From Petit Couronne we transfer back to Rouen where the evening is at leisure. (Overnight Rouen) BL

Bayeux - 2 nights

Day 11: Monday 13 June, Rouen – Le Havre – Honfleur – Bayeux

- Musée d'Art Moderne André Malraux, Le Havre
- Walking tour of Old Honfleur, incl. Old Harbour and St Catherine Church

It was trains that made it possible for artists to travel easily to the coasts of France, and the first portable tubes of paint which made it possible for them to spend hours painting 'en plein-air' when they got there. At the harbours and beaches of Normandy and Brittany they could paint gorgeous pictures of women under parasols, children playing, boats and waves. These works, unappreciated at the time, are now amongst the most treasured paintings in the world.

This morning we leave Rouen for Le Havre situated on the right bank of the estuary of the river Seine on the English Channel. Here we visit the André Malraux Modern Art Museum which contains the second most extensive collection of Impressionist paintings in France. There are paintings by Monet and other artists who lived and worked in Normandy including Corot, Boudin (with the largest collection of his works in the world), Delacroix, Courbet, Degas, Manet, Renoir, Gauguin, Sisley, Pissarro, Sérusier and Vuillard. More modern art is also well represented with works by artists such as Matisse, Marquet, Dufy, Van Dongen, Léger, Von Jawlensky and De Staël.

Honfleur was a major defensive port in the 15th century and today is one of Normandy's most appealing harbours. Charles Baudelaire, the radical French poet who wrote of loneliness and decay, was very happy in Honfleur when he lived there in 1859 with his mother. Proust drew on the place, and other harbour towns along the coast, to create his fictional Balbec for *In Search of Lost Time*. The seascape painter Eugène Boudin was born in Honfleur in 1824 and is renowned not only for his lovely paintings of sea and sky, but also for having 'discovered' the young Monet. We will take a guided walk around this charming harbour town before going on to Bayeux. (Overnight Bayeux) B

Day 12: Tuesday 14 June, Bayeux – D-Day landing sites – Bayeux

- Juno Beach
- The Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches
- Omaha Beach US Sector
- Tilly-sur-Seulles Cemetery
- Bayeux Tapestry Museum
- Walking tour of Bayeux, incl. the Cathedral and the Old Town

This morning, accompanied by our local guide, we tour the coast and beaches that were the sites of the Normandy Invasion landings of World War II. We visit Juno Beach, one of the five designated landing areas of the Normandy Invasion, which was assaulted and taken from defending German troops on June 6, 1944 by units of the Canadian 3rd Infantry Division, and Omaha Beach, where thousands of Americans were killed during the invasion's first day.

We also drive to Arromanches, where the remnants of the prefabricated 'Mulberry' harbour, a remarkable

feat of engineering and ingenuity, can still be seen.

These sites were vitally important in changing the course of the war. They are also sites of literary importance. Great and minor poets fought and died at the French beaches, and tried to write of the horrors they saw there and around the French countryside in two terrible wars. We will read some of their writings as we visit the sites of the famous landings.

Bayeux was the first town to be liberated by the Allies in 1944. Today it is most famous for its tapestry, an extraordinary piece of story-telling in comic strip form. The 230 foot long piece, commissioned by Bishop Odo of Bayeux, was inspired by manuscript scrolls. It tells the story of King Harold's defeat at the Battle of Hastings. Wry comments on its borders, Latin inscriptions and vivid illustrations from one end to the other, make the tapestry a most entertaining 'read'. We will also enjoy a guided walking tour of the town, with stops at a lace-making academy and at the cathedral. Novelist Muriel Barbery, author of *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* was born in Bayeux. (Overnight Bayeux) B

St Helier, Jersey - 1 night

Day 13: Wednesday 15 June, Bayeux – Saint-Malo – Jersey

- Saint-Malo Remparts
- Ferry Saint-Malo – Jersey
- Group dinner with guest lecturer Rod McLoughlin, Pomme d'Or Hotel, Jersey

Saint-Malo has named a street after the writer and diplomat, Vicomte de Chateaubriand, founder of the French Romantic Movement, who was born in the town in 1768. He spent his childhood happily exploring the port and later left from that same port for America in 1791, the first of his major voyages. Chateaubriand wanted St Malo to be his final resting place and was buried on a small island just off the coast (which can now be reached by causeway). His grave attracted Victor Hugo, Stendhal and Flaubert, all wanting to pay homage. After arriving in Saint-Malo, via a photo-stop at Mont Saint-Michel, time-permitting we will tour the ramparts & enjoy lunch in the old city, before catching our ferry to Jersey.

Jersey, the largest of the Channel Islands, was once under the control of Brittany. Today it is a dependency of the British Crown, but not part of the United Kingdom. It was the birthplace of the 'Jersey Lily', Lily Langtry – Oscar Wilde once said he would rather have discovered Lily Langtry than have discovered America! Anthony Trollope visited Jersey to investigate postal delivery problems there. To solve the problem of erratic mail-boats, Trollope suggested that a 'letter receiving pillar' could be useful, and so the pillar post-box was born. George Eliot also visited, as did John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and Thomas Hardy. Victor Hugo went there in 1851 to begin his long exile from France.

Jersey's Cultural Development Officer Rod McLoughlin will join us for dinner to tell us about the allure the island has had for writers over the centuries. (Overnight Jersey) BD

St Peter Port, Guernsey - 2 nights

Day 14: Thursday 16 June, Jersey – Guernsey

- Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey
- Literary tour of Jersey
- Flight Jersey – Guernsey

Gerald Durrell, renowned naturalist and author, founded the Jersey Zoo in 1959, so that rare animals could

be bred and returned to the wild. Durrell introduced himself to readers in *My Family and Other Animals*, published in 1956, and went on to write tales of his animal collecting expeditions in *The Drunken Forest*, *A Zoo in my Luggage* and a number of other books. He wrote of Jersey Zoo in *The Stationary Ark*. We will visit the zoo, now the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, and meet with conservationist Dr Lee Durrell, the author's widow and co-author of *The Amateur Naturalist*.

After a literary coach tour around parts of the island, we leave for Guernsey, representative of the last remnants of the medieval Duchy of Normandy. (Overnight Guernsey) BL

Day 15: Friday 17 June, Guernsey

- Literary tour of Guernsey: sites associated with *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*
- Guernsey Book Club

Guernsey is smaller than Jersey, but has attracted its share of writers too. Desmond Bagley, thriller writer, was a resident there, and Victor Hugo spent 15 years in exile there (with his mistress). Local poet Georges Métiévier wrote in the island's Norman language, Guernesiais; Henry and Francis Fowler, of *Fowler's Modern English Usage* lived in Guernsey; and G. B. Edwards' *The Book of Ebenezer le Page* gives insights into Guernsey life in the 20th century. But today we concentrate on the popular *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer. The book is set during the Nazi occupation of the island and our tour will take in St Peter's Port, the cliffs where Elizabeth walked with her German lover, a German bunker and the parish of St Martins where many of the characters lived. We will also have the chance to meet with local residents in a book club to discuss the novel and the joys of reading in general. (Overnight Guernsey) BD

Saint-Malo - 1 night

Day 16: Saturday 18 June, Guernsey – Saint-Malo

- Hauteville House, Guernsey
- Ferry Guernsey – Saint-Malo

His exile began on Jersey, but most of his banishment from his beloved France was spent by Victor Hugo on Guernsey. In 1856 he purchased Hauteville House, overlooking the sea. Hugo put his boundless imagination to work on the house, converting, furnishing and improving. We can admire his sumptuous wall coverings, figurines, mirrors and antiques. Hugo's son Charles called the home "a veritable three-story autograph, a poem in several rooms". It was in this house that Hugo wrote poetry, his masterpiece *Les Misérables*, and also *Toilers of the Sea* which he dedicated to "this corner of old Norman land where resides the noble little people of the sea, to the Island of Guernsey, severe and yet gentle." Even when exile was finally over, Hugo still returned for visits. There is a Victor Hugo Trail which highlights 40 sites on the island connected with his time there.

In the early afternoon, we catch the ferry back to France and enjoy dinner together this evening in Saint-Malo. (Overnight Saint-Malo) BD

Saumur - 1 night

Day 17: Sunday 19 June, Saint-Malo – Saumur

- Walking tour of Saumur
- Time at leisure

This morning we drive to Saumur, the home of Eugénie Grandet, heroine of Balzac's novel of that name. Balzac himself only visited the town once, but after he set his story there, a tourist industry grew up around the novel, with quotes in guidebooks and a 'house of Eugénie Grandet' being shown to visitors. Balzac portrays the inhabitants as obsessed with money – "everyone knew to a sou just how much profit a sunbeam or a timely shower would bring him", and creates one of literature's greatest portrayals of a miser in Monsieur Grandet. In spite of Balzac's negativity about the place, Saumur has many charms – a fairytale chateau, handsome townhouses, a famous cavalry museum, and the best sparkling wines outside of Champagne. We will explore Eugénie's town at leisure. (Overnight Saumur) BD

Pouligny-Notre-Dame - 2 nights

Day 18: Monday 20 June, Saumur – Saché – Epineuil-le-Fleuriel – Pouligny-Notre-Dame

- Château de Saché
- Maison-École Alain Fournier, Epineuil-le-Fleuriel

The Château de Saché in the Indres Valley, was the property of Jean de Margonne, lover of Balzac's mother and father of her son Henri. De Margonne welcomed young Honoré to the delightful chateau whenever he wanted to visit, and the place became the setting for several of the novels in Balzac's majestic *Human Comedy*, his collection of about 100 linked stories and novels which attempts to reflect every aspect of French society of the time. He often returned to stay as an adult, to "replenish' his brain, escape the debt collectors who regularly came to call, and to write novels. *Le Père Goriot* and *Le Lys dans la Vallée* were both written at Saché. "I grew to love its silence, its great wizened trees, and that mysterious aura that pervades its solitary vale", he wrote.

Today the building contains an excellent museum to Balzac, displaying the writing desk on which so many tormented characters were created, and his simple bed (which did not give him much rest – he wrote for about 16 hours per day!).

After lunch, we drive to Épeneuil-le-Fleuriel and go to school. This is no ordinary school, but the school attended by novelist Alain-Fournier, whose book *Le Grand Meaulnes*, published in 1913, is a haunting tale of the passage from adolescence to adulthood of two schoolfriends. Rich in evocation of rural life and landscape, this novel has been highly influential, inspiring John Fowles' *The Magus*, several movie versions, a popsong, and a symphony. (Overnight Pouligny-Notre-Dame) BLD

Day 19: Tuesday 21 June, Pouligny-Notre-Dame – Nohant – Gargilesse – Pouligny-Notre-Dame

- Maison de George Sand, Nohant
- Château de Sarzay (exterior)
- Gargilesse village, incl George Sand's Cottage
- Piano concert by Mr. Cyril Huvé at his private concert hall in Chassignoles (*to be confirmed 2016*)

George Sand (Amandine Aurore Dupin) is the most celebrated French female novelist of the 19thC. She was famed not only for her writings, but for her love affairs (with poet Alfred de Musset, and with the composer Chopin) and for her radical political ideas. Today we visit her beloved Nohant, and explore the small chateau she inherited from her grandmother where she did most of her writing. Here she entertained literary and artistic friends, Balzac, Flaubert, Turgenev, Liszt and Delacroix. The local community loved her for her good works, and she loved the place in return, using it as a setting in her works, putting on plays in the theatre she had specially built, and eventually being placed to rest in the local cemetery.

George Sand's many literary admirers have visited Nohant in her honour. Edith Wharton came with Henry James on their Motor-Flight through France and named their car 'George' after her. Matthew Arnold visited to research an essay on her.

We will spend the day following in her footsteps in this lovely part of France – we visit the local church, see the enchanting Château de Sarzay, one of the most photographed medieval castles in the country and setting for Sand's novel *Le Meunier d'Angibault*. Then we go on to Gargilesse, another of the 'most beautiful villages of France' and the location of a house bought for George Sand by her lover Alexandre Manceau. She often spent time there so as to have privacy, long walks in the countryside and inspiration. She wrote of it in 1859 in *Walks Around a Village*. Restored by her daughter, it still has its "two small bleached rooms with lime, ceiled out of rough wood, furnished with beds of wild cherry tree and large chairs braided with straw" that she loved. It is now a small museum.

Our day ends with a special visit to renowned French pianist Cyril Huvé's private concert hall, where he will perform a piece by Chopin for us. (Overnight Pouligny-Notre-Dame) BLD

Augerville-la-Rivière - 2 nights

Day 20: Wednesday 22 June, Pouligny-Notre-Dame – Aubigny-sur-Nère – Saint-Sauveur-en-Puisaye – Augerville-la-Rivière

- Aubigny-sur-Nère
- Château-Musée Colette, Saint-Sauveur-en-Puisaye

This morning, we depart George Sand's country and travel to Aubigny-sur-Nère, where we stop for lunch and a chance to stroll around this charming town of half-timbered houses, also known as the "City of Stuart" for its historic links to Scotland.

This afternoon we visit another birthplace, but of a very different sort of writer. Colette was one of the most popular French novelists of the early 20th century. She began as the respectable daughter of a tax collector, but later she broke away from conventionality and appeared virtually nude on stage, mixed with poets and transvestites, took many lovers and described Bohemian Paris in her novels. She was born in 1873 in the village of Château de St-Sauveur and there is a museum there about her life and works. She re-names the village Montigny-en-Fresnois in her *Claudine* novels.

We will dine and stay the night in Château d'Augerville, once residence to King Charles VII's finance minister. (Overnight Augerville-la-Rivière) BLD

Day 21: Thursday 23 June, Augerville-la-Rivière – Vaux-le-Vicomte – Grez-sur-Loing – Augerville-la-Rivière

- Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte
- Hotel Chevillon, Grez-sur-Loing
- Evening Farewell Meal

Fouquet, chief finance minister to Louis IV, challenged his architect to create the most sumptuous palace of the day. The result, Château Vaux-le-Vicomte, is one of the greatest of the French chateaux, and its gardens, designed by Le Nôtre, are superb. Writers such as De la Fontaine, Corneille and dramatist Paul Scarron were entertained there, and one of Molière's plays had its premiere in the private theatre. But the estate led to Fouquet's downfall. He was arrested by a captain of the Musketeers named D'Artagnan, and the king confiscated the magnificent place for himself. Fouquet's trial lasted three years and ended with his

imprisonment. In prison Eustache Dauger, the man now identified as 'The Man in the Iron Mask', acted as his manservant. Fouquet is a pivotal character in Alexandre Dumas' novel *The Vicomte of Bragelonne*, and Dumas portrays the mysterious man in the iron mask as the King's twin brother.

Next, we travel through Fontainebleau's spectacular forest the setting of which has attracted artists over the years. These are now known as the 'Barbizon School of Painters' and include Corot, Rousseau, Millet and Daubigny. We will drive through the forest that inspired them, and call in at Grez-sur-Loing.

In 1876 a young Scot came to stay there at the local Chevillon Inn. Ever impulsive, he could not wait to go round by the door, but instead leaped through a French window, and there encountered a woman called Fanny Osborne. The man was Robert Louis Stevenson, and after a long courtship (and her divorce), he was finally able to make her his wife. Stevenson loved France and travelled its rivers in a canoe, the subject of his *An Inland Voyage* (he moored the canoe at the bottom of the garden in Grez), then through its mountains on a donkey which resulted in *Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes*. The Hotel Chevillon still attracts artists today and we hope to enjoy afternoon tea, just as Stevenson and Fanny did. (Overnight Augerville-la-Rivière) BD

Day 22: Friday 24 June, Augerville-la-Rivière – Paris CDG

- Transfer to Paris CDG airport

All good things must come to an end! Our tour ends with a coach transfer to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport where we must all say "Au Revoir". B

Accommodation

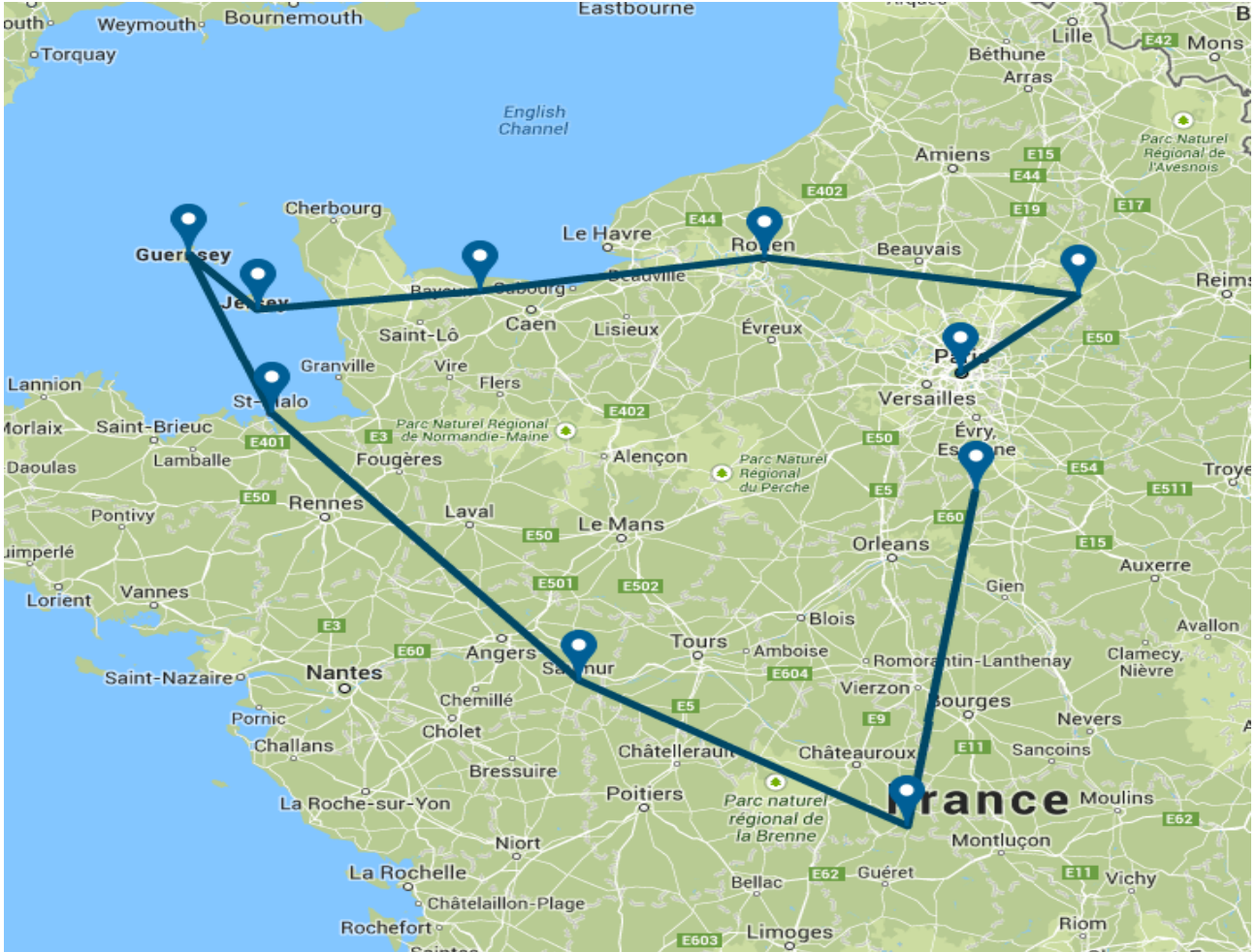
22 days in Paris, Northern France & the Channel Islands

ASA has selected a range of 3 to 5-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with private facilities. Single rooms may be requested – and are subject to availability and payment of the single supplement. A hotel list will be given to all participants prior to departure, in the meantime a summary is given below:

- Paris (5 nights): 4-star Citadines Saint-Germain-des-Prés - located on the 'Left Bank' of the River Seine, opposite the Pont Neuf. Accommodation is provided in 'studio' rooms which are all en-suite and come equipped with a kitchen area, including stove, microwave/grill, dishwasher and fridge. www2.citadines.com
- Villers-Cotterêts (2 nights): 3-star Hôtel et Résidence Le Régent, V - housed in a former 18th century inn, located in the heart of Villers-Cotterêts, birthplace of Alexandre Dumas. www.hotel-leregent.com
- Rouen (3 nights): 4-star Hôtel Mercure Centre Cathedrale - located close to the cathedral in the town's medieval centre. www.mercure.com
- Bayeux (2 nights): 4-star Hôtel Villa Lara - opened in 2012, located on a pedestrian street in the heart of old Bayeux, just a few steps from the famous Tapestry Museum and the Cathedral. www.hotel-villalara.com
- St Helier, Jersey (1 night): 4-star Pomme d'Or Hotel - located in the heart of St Helier within easy walking distance to cafes, restaurants, the marina and other sites in town. www.seymourhotels.com
- St Peter Port, Guernsey (2 nights): 5-star The Old Government House Hotel & Spa - OGH as it is affectionately known, is the leading hotel in Guernsey. The hotel dates back to 1796 when it was the official Governor's residence for the island and the Bailiwick. www.theoghhotel.com
- Saint-Malo (1 night): 4-star Hôtel Oceania - a modern hotel overlooking the sea, located on the Chaussée du Sillon (Sillon Causeway) within walking distance from the the walled city. www.oceaniahotels.com
- Saumur (1 night): 3-star Hôtel Anne d'Anjou - a charming hotel housed in a former 18th century family home. Its magnificent stairwell below a *trompe l'oeil* ceiling has been designated a historic monument. www.hotel-anneanjou.com
- Pouligny-Notre-Dame (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Les Dryades Golf & Spa - a modern hotel located just outside the village of La Châtre, 300m from the Church of Pouligny Notre Dame. www.les-dryades.fr
- Augerville-la-Rivière (2 nights): 4-star Château d'Augerville - set on a 110 hectare estate, the château was built on the site of a feudal castle on the banks of the river Essonne. Accommodation will be in the hotel's beautifully renovated outbuildings. www.chateau-augerville.com

Note: Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$11980.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2550.00 Double (as single) Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3 to 5-star hotels
- Breakfast daily, lunches and evening meals as indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=evening meal.
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation as outlined in the tour itinerary by air-conditioned coach
- Flight/ferry transfers St Malo - Jersey (Day 13), Jersey - Guernsey (Day 14), Guernsey - St Malo (Day 16)
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the 'ASA' designated flights
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports or ferry terminals)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour Handbook
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets for site excursions
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia - Paris; Paris - Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance.



Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, six to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 22-day tour involves:

- A daily schedule generally involving an early-morning departure (between 8.00–8.30am), concluding in the late afternoon (5.30–6.30pm)
- 2-3 site visits most days involving up to 1-2 hours of walking at each (sometimes on uneven terrain, cobbled streets, and steep slopes) and/or standing, interspersed with coach travel
- 4 days in Paris with extensive walking
- Extensive coach travel - often on minor roads
- **Note:** this tour includes the use of audio headsets which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to wander freely during site visits without missing any information.

Other considerations:

- 3 to 5-star hotels with nine hotel changes, several hotels are housed in historic buildings and some do not have elevators or in-room air-conditioning
- Tour includes internal flight/ferry transfers to the Channel Islands
- You must be able to carry your own hand-luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person. Portage is not included at airports or ferry terminals.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers see: www.smarttraveller.gov.au

Booking Conditions

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

Double (as single) Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double room for single use throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single use is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ GENDER Male Female

Passport Number _____ Expiry date ____ / ____ / ____ Nationality _____

Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed I'm renewing my passport ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Travel Plans

I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options. Business Class Economy Class

I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date ____ / ____ / ____

I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Frequent Flyer _____ Name of Airline _____ Airline Seat preference _____
Membership # _____ (please note request only)

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish poultry red meat dairy products

eggs pork nuts

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Other _____

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____

Address _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at www.asatours.com.au
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel: 1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO

 If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO

 If yes, please specify

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?
 If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen?

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?
 If yes, please specify

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO

 If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?
 Are you insulin dependent?
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness?
 Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.



Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services provided for the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of travelling to, on and from any tour.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Indemnity applies with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
 - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
 - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
 - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally.
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of my continued participation on a tour for whatever reason (refund conditions in ASA's Booking Conditions excepted).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products or services. If a service provider does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (eg. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any such service provider however caused (contingencies). You must take out adequate travel insurance against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour will be limited to the refund of amounts received from you less all non-refundable costs and charges and the costs of any substituted event or alternate services provided. The terms and conditions of the relevant service provider from time to time comprise the sole agreement between you and that service provider.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

- More than 75 days before departure: \$500*
- 75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due
- 45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due
- 30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due
- 14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

*This amount may be **credited** to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. If an ASA tour is forced to cancel you will get a full refund of all tour monies paid. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to daily itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

- I accept the conditions on this booking form I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature _____

Print Full Name _____

Dated _____

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- Intention to Travel Tour Deposit
 Balance of Payment Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
 Travel Insurance Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
 Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
 Swift Code ANZBAU3M
 BSB 013-423
 Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred _____

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard & Visa 1.95%
 American Express 2.80%

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) _____

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

Postcode _____

State _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature _____