

7 Day Christmas in Paris and the Loire Valley



Get into the festive spirit with this magical 7 day tour of Paris and the Loire Valley. Visit markets to shop for unique Christmas gifts, try local seasonal cuisine and see the Châteaux light up for the festive season.

Begin with 2 nights in Paris to see the city's sights adorned with decorations and a smattering of fresh white snow. Then head into the Loire Valley to experience the regions illuminated Châteaux and enjoy the variety of seasonal activities on offer.

Itinerary

Day 1	Arrive in Paris
Day 2	Paris Christmas Markets - City Tour
Day 3	Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte - Blois
Day 4	Château de Chambord - Max Vauché Chocolatier
Day 5	Château de Chenonceaux
Day 6	Château de Villandry - Lavardin
Day 7	Vendôme - Departure from Paris

Highlights

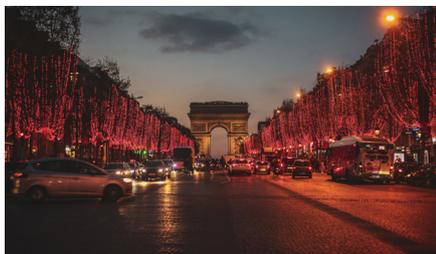
- Paris Christmas markets
- Dinner on the Seine or at opera experience restaurant Bel Canto
- Paris sightseeing tour
- Option to go ice skating or on a festive sleigh ride in Blois
- Variety of decorated Châteaux
- Royal Château de Blois festive themed Sound & Light show
- Max Vauché chocolate factory
- Wine tasting at Maison Monmousseau
- Saint-Genest priory and church in Lavardin
- Vendôme, a city of Arts & History

Full Itinerary



Day 1: Arrive in Paris

Arrive in Paris and check in to your hotel. Take the afternoon to explore the local neighbourhood or 'arrondissement'. This evening, you can choose a dinner cruise on the Seine where you will enjoy delicious local cuisine while drifting past the festive sights of the French capital. Alternatively, experience an ode to opera at Bel Canto where a gourmet menu is on offer alongside world-class opera singers and classical music. Overnight in Paris.



Day 2: Paris Christmas Markets - City Tour

Today, visit one of the Christmas markets. Our favourites include the Notre-Dame which is best for locally made artisan crafts and La Magie de Noël at Tuileries Garden for the themed carnival rides and sweet treats. Enjoy lunch at Parisian institution Brasserie Lipp then head to Galeries Lafayette for their festive window displays and taste the delicious praline brioche from the master chocolate maker Pralus. End the day with a sightseeing tour where you will see the city illuminated for Christmas. Overnight in Paris.



Day 3: Chateau de Vaux-le-Vicomte - Blois

Visit Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte, the inspiration for playwright Molière, where you will find decorations, banquet tables, chocolate sculptures and toast marshmallows. Enjoy lunch at Le Relais de l'Ecureuil before heading to Blois. The Winter Lyres festival provides visitors with illuminations and attractions such as ice skating and sleigh rides or experience the House of Magic! See an exhibition at the Royal Château de Blois before ending to the courtyard for their festive themed Sound & Light show. Overnight in Tours.



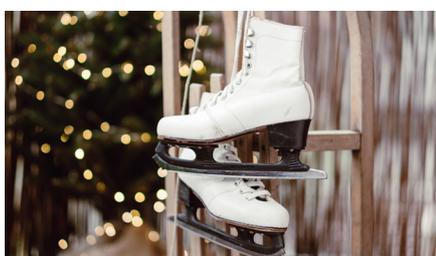
Day 4: Chateau de Chambord - Max Vauché Chocolatier

Head to the spectacular Chateau de Chambord. Every winter it is decorated from the furnished apartments to the French gardens! On Rue de la Place Saint-Louis, you will find restaurants offering local specialities for lunch. This afternoon, visit the chocolate factory of Master Craftsman Max Vauché where you will learn the story of this noble product and of course taste. The last activity of the day is at Maison Monmousseau where you will visit the cellars and enjoy a glass of prestigious wine. Overnight in Tours.



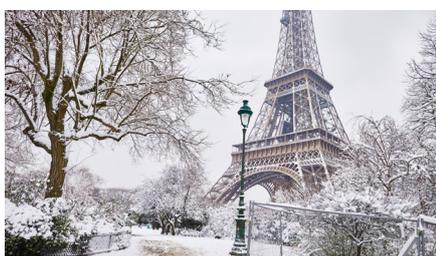
Day 5: Chateau de Chenonceaux

Today, see Chateau de Chenonceaux transform as it is adorned with festive floral arrangements designed by Jean François Boucher who holds the title of 'Best Artisan in France' - look for a forest table, with moss, mushrooms and foliage and in the kitchen, an "all chocolate" table and table garnished with Panettone. Take part in a workshop such as oenology or floral design. Afterwards, purchase local wines at the Cave des Dômes and head into the town to try one of the local creperies. Overnight in Tours.



Day 6: Château de Villandry - Lavardin

At Château de Villandry, known for its spectacular gardens, nature invites itself inside. In the attic, discover an "enchanted forest" where trees, shrubs, foliage, forest animals and birds create a fairy-tale atmosphere. Next, head to the picturesque village of Lavardin with its Gothic style stone bridge and Medieval ruined castle. Enjoy lunch at Bistro "Chez Arti" where Lavardinois chef Thierry, concocts small festive dishes. Visit the Saint-Genest priory for inspiration and gifts for your festive tablescape and outside the priory, discover the Romanesque church of Saint-Genest. Overnight in Tours.



Day 7: Departure from Paris

If time permits, begin your final day in Vendôme, a city of Arts & History. Go ice skating in the Le Cloître de l'Abbaye de la Trinité and see the lights and decorations in Rochambeau district, next to the Louis Vuitton manufacturer. While you're there, why not do a bit of shopping? The wild fish terrines of the Loire will be a hit on toasted bread and in the bakeries you will find a local Yule Log, the Tourangelle, yum! Travel back to Paris for your flight home to share both your amazing gifts and Christmas experience in France!