



01 THE LOUVRE MUSEUM

We will start our cruise with the largest monument in Paris, on your right - the Louvre Museum. It was originally used as a fortress in the 12th century, then as a royal palace, and was turned into a museum in 1793. It is now the second largest museum in the world after the Hermitage. Its collections consist of 35,000 works of art, which are displayed in about 16 kilometres of galleries. Inside the museum you can admire the Mona Lisa, the Wedding Feast at Cana, the Venus of Milo, the Victory of Samothrace and many others. Even if you only spent three seconds looking at each work of art, it would take you three months to see everything in the museum.

02 THE ROYAL BRIDGE

Paris has 37 bridges. In front of you now is one of the oldest bridges in the city - the Royal Bridge. It is called the Royal Bridge because it was a gift to the people from the Sun King, Louis the 14th, as he wanted to make up for the expensive building work of Versailles.

03 ORSAY MUSEUM

On the left, we can see the impressive facade of the old Orsay train station, which was built for the world fair in 1900. You can read the letters P and O, which stand for Paris and Orléans, the name of the train company which built the former station in 1900. It was turned into a museum in the 1980's in order to

house works of 19th century art. Inside the museum you can admire works by impressionists such as Renoir, Gauguin, Monet, Manet, Van Gogh and numerous others. At the top, you can see three large statues, which represent the three main French cities in the west of the country: Nantes, Toulouse and Bordeaux.

04 CONCORDE BRIDGE

Facing you now it is Concorde Bridge, a symbolic bridge because it was built with the stones from the Bastille prison after it was destroyed during the French Revolution in 1789. It leads on the left to the Bourbon Palace, which houses the French Parliament, and on the right is the Place de la Concorde, which we will talk about on the way back.

05 THE ALEXANDER THE THIRD BRIDGE

We are now facing the Alexander the Third bridge, often considered as the most beautiful bridge in Paris. It was built for the world fair in 1900. It celebrates Franco-Russian friendship, which is why you can see in the middle the gilded coat of arms of St Petersburg, flanked by two statues symbolizing the Russian river, the Neva.

06 THE INVALIDES HOTEL

On your left, at the end of the esplanade,

with the gilded dome it is the Hotel des Invalides. It houses the tomb of the Emperor Napoleon.

07 THE INVALIDES BRIDGE

In front of you now it is the Invalides Bridge, which celebrates the victories and the battles of Napoleon; the boat represents victories on the seas, the cannon victories on land.

08 THE ROAD & FLOATING GARDENS

On your left, this part of the riverbank was rebuilt as a road in the 1970's, and opened up to pedestrians in the 2010's. Don't miss taking a walk there and discovering plenty of family activities.

09 THE MODERN ALMA BRIDGE

This bridge was rebuilt in the 1970's, which is why it is now called the modern Bridge of Alma, but on its right-hand side the famous sculpture called the Zouave can still be seen. Parisians used to measure the level of the river by this statue; in 1910, during the great floods, the water reached its neck, while in June 2016 it came up to its belt!

10 THE EIFFEL TOWER

On the left it is the most famous monument in Paris, the star of the capital: the Eiffel Tower. It was presented at the world fair in 1889 to celebrate the centenary of the French Revolution. We owe this work of art to Gustave Eiffel. It is 1,000 feet high and weighs 10,000 tons. For a long time it was the highest monument in the world,

but nowadays there are monuments close to 1 km high. You can visit the Eiffel Tower every day, all year round, until 11:00 at night, and till midnight during summer. It is repainted every seven years - about 60 tons of paint are required and the restoration lasts for three years. An interesting fact is that Parisians didn't like it at all when it was built. They found it really ugly, and they were afraid the tower would collapse. Originally, the Eiffel Tower was built for 20 years but it was saved from demolition in 1906 when they put a radio and television antenna on the top. Classified as a historical monument, the Eiffel tower is now the best-known French symbol around the world.

11 THE TOKYO PALACE

On your left it is the Tokyo Palace, which was built for the world fair in 1937. It now houses the Modern Art Museum, with fantastic exhibition rooms and a night club.

12 THE GILDED FLAME OR FLAME OF LIBERTY

On your left, you can see the Gilded Flame, which is an exact copy of the flame from the Statue of Liberty in New York. It was a gift from the United States to France, symbolizing friendship between the two countries. But since the death of Lady Diana, most people think it's a memorial dedicated to her.

13 THE AMERICAN CHURCH

On your right you can see the green

steeple of the American Church, the first one built outside of the United States, in 1931. Its stained glass windows were created by Tiffany, the famous jeweller.

14 THE GRAND PALACE

On your left you can see the roof of the Grand Palace, which was built for the world fair in 1900. Don't miss its impressive glass roof - it weighs 8,500 tons, almost as much as the whole Eiffel Tower, which if you remember weighs 10,000 tons. They used to organize car and horse races inside; today they still organize horse races, together with major exhibitions and some of the shows in the fashion week.

15 THE ALEXANDER THE THIRD BRIDGE

We are back to the Alexander the Third Bridge. In the middle, you can see the coat of arms of Paris, with a statue on either side symbolizing the River Seine, on which we are sailing. The well-known Latin sentence "Fluctuat Nec Mergitur" means "It is tossed by the waves but does not sink".

16 THE PLACE DE LA CONCORDE

On your left it is the Place de la Concorde, the largest square in Paris. It covers over 8 hectares, more or less like 12 football fields. In its centre is the Obelisk of Luxor. At more than 33 centuries, it is the oldest monument in Paris. It was a gift from Egypt to France and it tells on its four sides the story of Pharaoh Ramses the Second. During the French revolution,

the guillotine was settled down here, and exactly 1,119 people were beheaded. Such as King Louis the 16th, his wife Queen Marie Antoinette and revolutionists such as Danton and Robespierre.

17 THE LEGION OF HONOUR PALACE

After the footbridge on your right, with its green dome, you can see the Legion of Honour palace. Nowadays it houses the Legion of Honour museum - the Legion of Honour is the highest French distinction and was created by the Emperor Napoleon the First. Now take a closer look at it, and tell me if it reminds you of another famous "House" ... It looks like the White House of course, which is 7 times larger, but it was built on the model of this Palace.

18 THE VOLTAIRE BANK

On your right is Voltaire's bank. I have a little game for you: on this bank there is the smallest house in Paris, between a red house and a yellow house. I will let you try and find it! ... It is just here on your right between the last two trees.

19 THE ARTS FOOTBRIDGE & THE FRENCH INSTITUTE

In front of you now is the Arts footbridge, the first iron bridge built in France. It leads on the right to the French Institute, with its grey and gilded dome. Composed of five academies, the most famous is the French Academy. Its 40 members are called the "immortals" and they have to review and produce the French Dictionary every year.

20 THE CITY ISLAND

We are now passing by the City Island. This is considered as the cradle of Paris, because 3 centuries before Christ, the first inhabitants settled down there. They were called the Parisii, hence the name of the Parisian people.

21 THE NEW BRIDGE

Facing you now is the Pont Neuf or New Bridge. In spite of its name, it is the oldest bridge in Paris, built in the 17th century. So why is it called the New Bridge? The reason is that it was the first one people could walk and enjoy a view over on the Seine. Indeed, at that time houses were built all along bridges, because they thought it was better for the foundations. A pedestrian bridge was something very new, hence the name, the New Bridge.

22 THE ORFÈVRES BANK

On your left is the Orfèvres Bank, which is well-known for its criminal investigations. Just behind, the Law Court, which houses the Sainte-Chapelle.

23 THE SAINT-MICHEL BRIDGE

Facing you now is the Saint-Michel Bridge, built under the empire of Napoleon the Third, which explains the two "Ns" on the pillars. It leads on the right to the Latin quarter, which took its name in the Middle Ages when they used to teach in Latin at the famous Sorbonne College.

24 NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL

Facing you now is the gothic jewel of Paris: Notre Dame Cathedral. It took almost 2 centuries to build. Between the 12th and the 14th Notre-Dame Cathedral is famous for its statues, its gargoyles, its stained glass windows, and also for its large rose window, just here on your left. It measures thirteen metres across, and is made of 32,000 pieces of glass. It is on the south side because the entire cathedral is lit up inside through this window.

25 THE TOURNELLE BRIDGE

We are now facing the Tournelle Bridge - this leads on the right to the famous restaurant called La Tour d'Argent, or in English the Silver Tower. The story goes that it was inside that restaurant where King Henry the Third and his mother Catherine de Médicis ate for the first time with a table fork. And something for the kids - the Disney cartoon movie "Ratatouille" used the kitchen of this restaurant as a model! A model for the kitchen, that is, not the rat!

26 THE STATUE OF SAINTE GENEVIÈVE

At the end of the bridge on the right, you can see the great statue of Sainte Genevieve, sainte patroness of Paris. She is carrying a child in her arms, which represents the people of Paris.

27 THE ARABIAN WORLD INSTITUTE

On the right-hand side of the Sully Bridge, you can see the Arabian World Institute, which was opened in 1987. It houses a museum, some large exhibition rooms and a library. You can enjoy a wonderful view of Paris from the terrace on the top floor.

28 THE SAINT-BERNARD BANK

On your right now is the Saint-Bernard Bank. This former wine harbour was transformed into an open-air museum in the 1970's for modern sculptures. You can see an example of this sculpture, on your right, called "The Samurai's belt".

29 SAINT-LOUIS ISLAND

We are now opposite Saint-Louis Island, the smartest and quietest area in Paris, but also the most expensive. There is no subway on

this island, but if you take a walk there you will discover several beautiful mansions dating from the 17th century.

30 THE MARY BRIDGE

Facing you now it is the Mary Bridge, the most romantic bridge in Paris. Legend has it that if you pass under the bridge for the first time, you have to make a wish, and once you are under the bridge you have to close your eyes and kiss your neighbour, and then your wish will come true.

31 THE CITY HALL

On your right is the City Hall of Paris. It used to be the main square where executions took place. It now holds concerts, music festivals and there is even an ice-skating rink in winter.

32 THE HOTEL-DIEU

On your left, you can see the famous Hotel-Dieu, which was the first public hospital. It was built in the 7th century and it is still in use.

33 THE CLOCK TOWER

On the left of the next bridge is the clock tower - the oldest public clock in Paris, dating from the 14th century.

34 THE CONCIERGERIE

On your left it is the Conciergerie. It was initially a Royal Palace and was turned into a jail in the 14th century. Queen Marie Antoinette spent the two last months of her life here before she was beheaded in the Place de la Concorde.

35 THE NEW BRIDGE

We have now come back to the New Bridge. You can see faces all along it - known as the Mascarons. They represent the friends and the ministers of King Henry the Fourth who didn't believe the bridge was solid enough to stand. To make fun of them, the king decided to portray them with those funny and ugly faces

*Ladies and Gentlemen,
we are back to the Vedettes du
Pont Neuf on the City Island,
our cruise is now over.
Thank you for your attention.
We hope you enjoyed the time
spent with us and we wish you
a very pleasant stay in Paris*