



Café Olé

Group Organizer: Mr. Mike Bichko III

Tour Includes

Departure Date

March 24, 2026

Overnights

Paris 3 • Biarritz 1 • Burgos 1 • Madrid 3

Accommodations

Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels. Rooming on a triple basis. Double rooms: \$320 per person.

Transportation

Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline. Deluxe touring motorcoach. Unlimited public transportation.

Meals

All breakfasts. All dinners.

Tour Director

Services of a specially-trained **passports** Tour Director throughout. Tipping is included in the Program Cost. Whisper headsets included.

Travel Protection

passports provides a complimentary Post-Departure Travel Protection Plan that includes coverage for Trip Interruption, Trip Delay, Medical Expenses, and more.

Investment

\$5077

Program Cost

\$5077

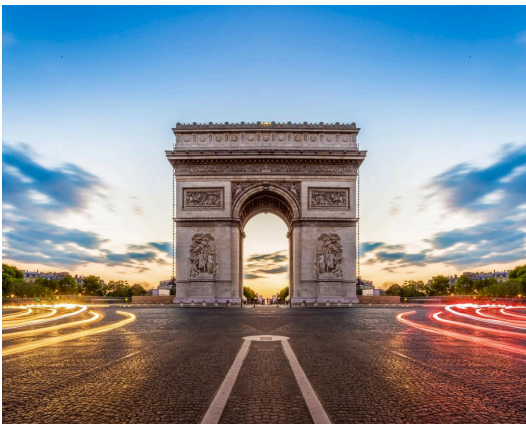
Tour cost is based on a minimum group size of 20 participants. Departure from Pittsburgh, PA. Adults 24 years or older are automatically charged for double rooms. With doubles, total price is \$5,397.

For More Information

- 1 Visit our website
passports.com
- 2 Enter Tour ID
MBICHKO2026

Café Olé

Departs: March 24, 2026



Days 1-2: Arrival Paris

Arrival Paris: Arrival transfer

Day 3: Paris

Paris City Sightseeing, Excursion to the Palace of Versailles, RER train to Paris: Paris City Sightseeing, Palace of Versailles State Apartments and Hall of Mirrors, Versailles Palace Gardens

Visit Notre-Dame Cathedral

Day 4: Paris

Visit to the Louvre Museum

Ascent to the second level of the Eiffel Tower

Seine River cruise

Day 5: Paris - Biarritz

Train to Biarritz: Departure transfer, TGV
Train Paris-Biarritz, Arrival transfer

Day 6: Biarritz - Burgos

Travel to Burgos, via Bilbao,: Guggenheim Museum, Guggenheim Museum
Audioguide, Bilbao Walking Tour

Day 7: Burgos - Madrid

Guided walking tour in Burgos: Burgos Guided Walking Tour, Headset receiver, Burgos Cathedral

Travel to Madrid

Day 8: Madrid

Excursion to El Escorial and the Valley of Cuelgamuros: Valley of Cuelgamuros, Visit to the Royal Monastery of El Escorial

Half-day city sightseeing: Guide, Prado headset, Prado Museum

Day 9: Madrid

Excursion to Toledo: Toledo Guided Walking Tour, Visit to Toledo Cathedral, Santo Tomé Church, Visit to a historic synagogue

Flamenco Show

Day 10: Departure

Depart Madrid: Departure transfer

To enroll or view full text itinerary, point your camera here:



Detailed Itinerary

Days 1-2: Arrival

Weeks, or even months of preparation come to fruition at last as you board your airplane bound for Europe and the glittering jewel at her heart, Paris. *Bienvenue!*

Settle into your hotel, then have a look at one of the world's most beautiful capital cities.

Time permitting, you may want to head to Montmartre, Paris' highest hill and its most celebrated bohemian district. Artists still flock to the charming *Place du Tertre*, as they did when Toulouse-Lautrec painted the French Cancan dancers at the famous *Moulin Rouge* cabaret. Visitors enjoy panoramic views of the city as they make their way to the *Sacré-Coeur*, the white-domed basilica that anchors the Parisian skyline.

Day 3: Paris City Sightseeing, Excursion to Versailles, RER train to Paris, Notre-Dame Cathedral Photo Stop, Paris

Set out on a coach tour of the city in the company of a local guide. On the Right Bank of the River Seine, see Napoléon's *Arc de Triomphe*, the *Champs-Élysées*, the *Place de la Concorde*, and the exuberant *Opéra Garnier*. On the Left Bank, discover the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter and *Saint-Germain-des-Prés*.

Visit to the State Apartments and the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles
Enjoy a bit of relevant French history today at the palace where the Sun King, Madame de Pompadour and Queen Marie-Antoinette all come to life. In this ultimate example of Baroque architecture, you will marvel at the lavish decoration, abundant gilding and exuberant ornamentation, particularly in the Royal Apartments of Louis XIV and in the Hall of Mirrors. Imagine the sense of self-importance that must have inflated the ego of these kings and queens.

Versailles Palace Gardens

The main gardens, designed by the famous landscape architect André Le Nôtre, are an integral part of the palace's overall design, showcasing a harmonious blend of French formal gardens and Italian Renaissance influences. Covering approximately 800 hectares, the gardens boast intricate geometric patterns, magnificent fountains, and extensive parterres, all aligned with the palace's central axis, creating an awe-inspiring vista.

A walk through the main gardens of Versailles offers visitors a chance to witness the spectacular fountains, such as the grand Fountain of Apollo, which represents the Sun King himself riding a chariot drawn by four horses. Visitors can also explore the perfectly manicured lawns, the grand canal, and the numerous statues and sculptures that adorn the garden. The intricate groves, such as the enchanting Bosquet de la Salle de Bal, provide a sense of intimacy and a place for quiet contemplation amidst the grandiosity of the estate. A visit to Versailles' main gardens is a journey through history, offering a glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of the French royalty.

Return to Paris using the efficient RER transit system.

Visit Notre-Dame Cathedral

Visit *Notre-Dame de Paris*, gutted by the fire of April 15, 2019, but still standing, solemn and magnificent with its iconic towers miraculously preserved from destruction.

Begun in 1163 and completed in 1272, this cathedral has presided over centuries of glorious and somber French history, including its desecration during the French Revolution. In 1831, Victor Hugo launched a campaign of restoration with a novel he titled *Notre Dame de Paris*. Because he saw the cathedral as the main character, he strongly objected to the title of the

Tuesday 3/24 - Wednesday 3/25

Arrival Paris

Arrival Paris: Arrival transfer

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight: Paris

Thursday 3/26

Paris

Paris City Sightseeing, Excursion to the Palace of Versailles, RER train to Paris: Paris City Sightseeing, Palace of Versailles State Apartments and Hall of Mirrors, Versailles Palace Gardens

Visit Notre-Dame Cathedral

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Paris

English edition: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

Free time in Paris

The remainder of the day is free to plan as you wish.

Take a stroll along the glamorous *Avenue des Champs-Élysées*, which stretches for more than a mile from the *Place de la Concorde*, where Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette encountered Dr. Guillotin's invention and their fate. The obelisk at the center of the square was presented by Egypt to France in 1831 and dates back to the 13th century BC, a relic of Ramses II. In the vicinity stands the *Palais de l'Élysée*, built in 1718, which now serves as the residence of the President of the Republic. At the other end of the avenue, the *Arc de Triomphe* looms over the city's craziest rotary. (You may want to climb up to the monument's platform for a great overview of the area!)

Day 4: Louvre Museum, Paris, Eiffel Tower, Seine River Cruise

Enter the *Musée du Louvre* and walk along grand galleries filled with treasures. See Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, the *Vénus de Milo* sculpted between 130 and 100 BC, the 19th century painting depicting *The Coronation of Napoléon* among many other masterpieces.

Free time in Paris

The afternoon is unscheduled.

You may wish to visit the *Musée de la Parfumerie Fragonard* housed in the *Théâtre des Capucines*, a theater built in 1900 that was transformed into a museum in 1993. Its collections illustrate the history and manufacture of perfume. A mini-factory with a 19th-century copper distilling apparatus demonstrates the extraction of essences. Visitors also learn all about the esoteric artistry of the "Noses."

For a change of pace, go have a look at 21st-century Paris at the *Quartier de la Défense*, on the outskirts of the city. Admire *la Grande Arche*, a feat of modern architecture with its hollow cube large enough to contain *Notre-Dame*. See how it is situated in near-perfect alignment with the *Arc de Triomphe*, the *Place de la Concorde* and the *Louvre* (you may want to take the elevator to the top for a better perspective). Check out *Les Quatre Temps*, a huge shopping center located nearby.

Ascent to the second level of the Eiffel Tower

Take an elevator to the *deuxième étage* of the most famous cast iron structure ever built, *la Tour Eiffel*, for an unforgettable panorama of Paris.

Seine River cruise

See Paris transformed into a wonderland like no other during a cruise along the River Seine.

Day 5: Train to Biarritz

Hop on to the fastest train in the world, the *Train à Grande Vitesse*. Speed south to the seaside resort of Biarritz, located on the beautiful *Côte d'Argent*.

Biarritz is famous for having one of the longest stretches of sandy beach in Europe, dubbed "Beach of Queens and the Queen of Beaches" ever since Queen Victoria and Empress Eugénie of France vacationed there in the 19th century. In 1918, Pablo Picasso depicted this beach in his painting titled *Les Baigneuses*. Nowadays, Biarritz is popular with surfers from all over the world, thus earning the nickname of "California of France."

Friday 3/27

Paris

Visit to the Louvre Museum

Ascent to the second level of the Eiffel Tower

Dinner

Seine River cruise

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Paris

Saturday 3/28

Paris - Biarritz

Train to Biarritz: Departure transfer, TGV

Train Paris-Biarritz, Arrival transfer

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Biarritz

Sunday 3/29

Biarritz - Burgos

Travel to Burgos, via Bilbao,: Guggenheim Museum, Guggenheim Museum Audioguide, Bilbao Walking Tour

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Burgos

Monday 3/30

Burgos - Madrid

Guided walking tour in Burgos: Burgos Guided Walking Tour, Headset receiver, Burgos Cathedral

Travel to Madrid

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Madrid

Tuesday 3/31

Madrid

Excursion to El Escorial and the Valley of Cuelgamuros: Valley of Cuelgamuros, Visit to the Royal Monastery of El Escorial

Half-day city sightseeing: Guide, Prado headset, Prado Museum

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Madrid

Day 6: Biarritz, Bilbao, Burgos

Enjoy some free time this morning.

Travel to Bilbao

On to Spain today and Bilbao, the largest city in the Basque Autonomous Community. They say that the greatest building of the 21st century has already been built, and that it's in Bilbao!

This temple of modern art in the capital of the Spanish Basque region is one of Spain's top attractions, as you will see during a visit to its collections.

Guggenheim Museum Audioguide

Tour director-led walking tour in Bilbao

A walking tour will introduce landmarks that include the *Casco Viejo* (Old Quarter), the *Catedral de Santiago*, the arcaded *Plaza Nueva*, the riverside *Ayuntamiento* and the huge *Basílica de Begoña*, from which visitors may catch a stunning view of the city and its rust-colored river, the Nervion.

Travel to Burgos

Travel across the Castilian countryside to Burgos, long prominent among Spanish cities.

Day 7: Burgos Guided Walking Tour, Travel to Madrid

A walking tour along with a local guide will show you the sights of Burgos.

Guided walking tour in Burgos

A walking tour along with a local guide will show you the sights of Burgos.

Headset receiver

Visit to Burgos Cathedral

Enter the magnificent *Catedral de Santa María de Burgos*, begun in 1221 and completed in 1567. It once was an important pilgrims' station on the traditional Way of St. James, the path followed through the centuries by pilgrims converging from all over Europe on their walk to Santiago de Compostela. El Cid, the 11th-century warrior who became a legend, is buried in this cathedral.

Travel to Madrid

Head south, crossing the *Sierra de Guadarrama* on your way to Madrid.

Get settled in your *madrileño* hotel and explore your surroundings.

Day 8: Excursion to El Escorial and the Valley of the Fallen, Madrid City Sightseeing

Excursion to El Escorial and the Valley of Cuelgamuros

Set out for the wooded slopes of Mt. Abantos, watershed of the Guadarrama River, where Spanish royalty retreated from the summer heat and from the bustle of the capital city.

Visit to the Valley of Cuelgamuros

Stop at the *Valley of Cuelgamuros*, a wooded belvedere nestled in the Guadarrama Mountains that features the world's largest monumental cross. It's also the site of an underground basilica that General Franco ordered carved inside a hill of solid granite by prisoners of war from the Republican side. It once housed his tomb but was removed to avoid public veneration of his dictatorship. Make your way across the vast esplanade for a panoramic view of valleys and mountains.

Wednesday 4/1

Madrid

Excursion to Toledo: Toledo Guided Walking Tour, Visit to Toledo Cathedral, Santo Tomé Church, Visit to a historic synagogue

Dinner

Flamenco Show

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Madrid

Thursday 4/2

Departure

Depart Madrid: Departure transfer

Meals included: Breakfast

Visit to the Royal Monastery of El Escorial

At the palatial religious retreat of King Philip II, *El Escorial*, you will see the Royal Pantheon where the kings are buried, the Crypt of the Royal Children, the Apartments of King Philip, the Basilica with Titian's fresco depicting the martyrdom of St. Lawrence, and the lavish library, which contains 40,000 rare manuscripts, including the diary of St. Teresa of Ávila.

On a tour of the city, you will be introduced to the sights and the city grand squares: *Plaza Mayor*, *Puerta del Sol*, *Plaza de España* with the Cervantes Monument, *Gran Vía*, *Calle Alcalá*, *Plaza de Colón*, and *Plaza de Cibeles* with its fountains.

Guide

A half-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Madrid and its surroundings, will accompany your group.

Prado headset

Visit to the Prado Museum

View world-famous paintings by El Greco, Goya, and Velázquez, and much, much more, at the magnificent *Museo del Prado*.

Day 9: Excursion to Toledo, Flamenco Show

Guided walking tour in Toledo

Your guided walking tour starts at the main square, *Plaza de Zocodover*.

Toledo is surrounded on three sides by the Río Tajo, which has cut a deep gorge out of the encircling mountains. Christianity, Judaism and Islam coexist on the tiny streets of this ancient city, which was once the capital of Spain. Indeed, the entire panorama of Spanish history is embodied in its churches, synagogues, Moorish mosques and fortifications.

Visit to Toledo Cathedral

Visit one of the most impressive Spanish cathedrals, completed in 1492, after nearly 300 years. Its treasury contains an impressive display of gold and silver vessels and alabaster sculpture.

Visit to the Church of Santo Tomé (El Greco's painting)

Visit the Church of St. Thomas to view El Greco's *Burial of the Count of Orgaz*, a fresco commissioned in honor of a Spanish nobleman who was known for his generosity and charitable deeds.

Visit to a historic synagogue

Enjoy a visit to one of the city's two remaining medieval synagogues.

Flamenco Show

Enjoy an evening of traditional entertainment, *flamenco*! The poet Federico García Lorca called it "the most gigantic creation of the Spanish people." You will long remember the complex and insistent rhythms, the castanets, guitars, and clacking heels as the highlight of your trip to Spain.

Day 10: Departure

¡Adios España! Madrid's airport recedes and you're 500 miles closer to home with each hour in the air. Race the sun westward, arriving home later today, eager to share your experiences with family and friends.