



Tailor-Made Itinerary – Michel



TRIP OVERVIEW

Weather

15-25°C - Mild weather with fewer crowds

Budget

€1,400 / person

Safety

Low Risk - Stay aware of your surroundings in crowded areas.



Introduction

Bonjour Michel! Thank you for your interest in exploring France as a couple. This preliminary program has been crafted by a senior travel designer with deep local expertise, tailored to your request for inspiration, budget-friendly accommodations, and authentic experiences. As your exact travel dates are still TBD, this itinerary is designed for maximum flexibility and can be easily adjusted to your preferred season or region.

- **Traveler Profile:** 2 adults, traveling as a couple
- **Duration:** 1 week (7 days/6 nights)
- **Budget:** Approx. €700 per person (excluding international flights)
- **Accommodation:** Budget hotels & guesthouses
- **Interests:** Open to ideas, seeking authentic French experiences
- **Travel Dates:** TBD (can be adapted to your preferred period)

Why France?

France offers a perfect blend of history, gastronomy, landscapes, and romance—ideal for couples seeking both adventure and relaxation. With its efficient rail network, charming towns, and world-class cuisine, you can enjoy a rich variety of experiences even on a moderate budget. This program focuses on Paris and the Loire Valley, balancing iconic highlights with off-the-beaten-path discoveries, all accessible via public transport or

short drives.

TIP: April–June and September–October are the best periods for mild weather and fewer crowds. Paris and the Loire Valley are both easily explored by train and bike, supporting a low-impact, sustainable trip.

✦ Custom Program – 7 Days in France

📍 Day 1: Arrival in Paris



● **Morning:** Arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle or Orly Airport (arrival time

TBD). Transfer to your hotel in central Paris (approx. 45–60 min by RER/train or airport shuttle).

- **Afternoon:** Settle in and enjoy a gentle stroll through the historic Marais district—boutiques, cafés, Place des Vosges.
- **Evening:** Dinner at a local bistro (recommendations: Chez Janou, Café des Musées).
- **Highlight:** Evening walk along the Seine, Notre-Dame illuminated.
- **Accommodation Options:**
 - **Hôtel de la Porte Dorée** (budget eco-hotel) – Paris 12e. Family-run, vintage décor, strong eco-policy (energy-efficient lighting, waste sorting, refillable toiletries). Near Bois de Vincennes and Metro Porte Dorée (Line 8). From €110–140/night.
 - **Eklo Paris Porte de Versailles** (budget eco-hotel) – Southwest Paris. Simple, contemporary rooms, eco-materials, shared kitchens, communal spaces. Near Parc des Expositions. From €70–110/night.
 - **Mob Hotel Paris Les Puces** (budget, creative eco-hotel) – Saint-Ouen. Social ecology concept, organic restaurant, rooftop garden, cultural events. Near Puces de Saint-Ouen flea market and Metro Line 13. From €100–140/night.
- **[To Customize]:** Early check-in, airport transfer preference.

TIP: Paris tap water is safe—bring a reusable bottle. Consider a Navigo Easy or week-pass for unlimited metro/bus travel.

TIP: Many museums are free or reduced on the first Sunday of the month.

Day 2: Paris Essentials



- **Morning:** Visit the Eiffel Tower (pre-book tickets for best rates). Walk through the Champ de Mars.
- **Afternoon:** Explore Montmartre—Sacré-Cœur, Place du Tertre, artists' studios.
- **Evening:** Optional Seine river cruise (look for electric/hybrid boats, ~€15–20/person) or picnic in the Luxembourg Gardens.
- **Highlight:** Sunset from Montmartre's steps.

- **Accommodation Options:** Same hotel options as Day 1.
- **Experiences:**
 - **Tootbus Paris** – Open-top electric bus tour. 24-hour pass, €40/adult. Sustainable, hop-on hop-off at major landmarks.
 - **O’Bicycle Guided Bike Tour** – Small-group guided tour through central and lesser-known Paris neighborhoods. ~3 hours, €40–50/person incl. bike rental.
 - **Albert Kahn Gardens** – Visit world gardens in Boulogne-Billancourt. Entry €8–10/adult, 1.5–3 hours. Accessible by metro.
- **[To Customize]:** Museum passes, guided walking tour.

TIP: Walking and cycling are often faster than taxis in central Paris.

Consider a guided bike tour for a unique, sustainable perspective.

Day 3: Paris – Day Trip to Versailles



- **Morning:** RER C train to Versailles (35–45 min). Visit the Palace & Gardens (Palace ticket ~€19–21/adult; gardens free on some days).
- **Afternoon:** Picnic in the gardens (buy from local bakeries/markets) or stroll through the town of Versailles.
- **Evening:** Return to Paris. Dinner in Saint-Germain-des-Prés.
- **Highlight:** Fountains show (seasonal, check dates).
- **Accommodation Options:** Same hotel options as Day 1.
- **Experiences:**
 - **Versailles by Train + Picnic** – RER round-trip €7–9/person. Sustainable, car-free transfer. Picnicking in gardens is

encouraged (bring your own tote/containers).

- **Bike Rental in Versailles** – Explore the Grand Canal area.
~€10–15 for a few hours.

- **[To Customize]:** Skip-the-line tickets, cycling in Versailles gardens.

TIP: Using public transport and picnicking reduces your carbon footprint and supports local businesses.

📍 **Day 4: Paris to Loire Valley (Amboise)**



- **Morning:** TGV train from Paris Montparnasse to Tours (~1h15), then

local train to Amboise (25–30 min). Total travel time: 1.5–2 hours plus transfer.

- **Afternoon:** Visit Château d'Amboise and Clos Lucé (Leonardo da Vinci's residence).
- **Evening:** Dinner at a riverside restaurant, sample local wines.
- **Highlight:** Evening walk by the Loire River.
- **Accommodation Options:**
 - **Hôtel Bellevue** (budget, eco-friendly) – Heart of Amboise, near Loire riverfront and Château. Historic building, walkable to all sights. From €90–130/night.
 - **Local Eco B&Bs / Chambres d'hôtes** – Amboise. Look for solar panels, organic breakfast, restored traditional houses. From €80–120/night incl. breakfast (see Ecobnb or SecretPlaces).
- **Experiences:**
 - **Market visit + picnic** – Visit Amboise market (Fri/Sun), buy local cheese, bread, fruits, and picnic by the Loire. ~€10–15/person.
- **[To Customize]:** Luggage transfer, wine tasting.

TIP: Base yourself in Amboise for 3 nights to avoid frequent hotel moves and maximize relaxation.

Day 5: Loire Valley – Castles & Villages



- **Morning:** Visit Château de Chenonceau (regional train Amboise–Chenonceaux: ~20 min, €5–7 each way; or rent bikes for a scenic ride, ~30 km).
- **Afternoon:** Explore local markets or rent bikes for a riverside ride (Loire à Vélo route).
- **Evening:** Dinner in Amboise or picnic by the river.
- **Highlight:** Sunset over the Loire vineyards.
- **Accommodation Options:** Same hotel options as Day 4.
- **Experiences:**
 - **Loire à Vélo Cycling** – Rent regular or e-bikes for a half- or

full-day ride along the river and vineyards. ~€20–35/day per person.

- **Château de Chenonceau by train or bike** – Entrance €15–17/adult. Sustainable access by train or bike.
- **Local wine tasting** – Small producers in Vouvray or Montlouis. 1–2 hours, some tastings free (expectation of purchase), others €5–15/person.
- **[To Customize]:** Guided castle tour, e-bike rental.

TIP: Many Loire winemakers practice organic viticulture. Opt for tastings accessible by bike or local bus.

Day 6: Loire Valley – Tours & Gastronomy



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- **Morning:** Train to Tours (25–30 min). Explore the medieval old town, Saint-Gatien Cathedral.
- **Afternoon:** Food tour or cooking class focused on Loire products (3–4 hours, €60–90/person).
- **Evening:** Return to Amboise or overnight in Tours (optional).
- **Highlight:** Sampling Loire Valley cheeses and wines.
- **Accommodation Options:**
 - **Hôtel Colbert** (budget, eco-friendly) – Historic centre of Tours, near Rue Colbert. Independently managed, walking distance to all sights. From €80–110/night.

- **Eco-oriented B&Bs** – Tours. Renewable energy, waste separation, local produce for breakfast. From €80–120/night incl. breakfast.
- Or, return to Amboise for the night (see Day 4 options).
- **Experiences:**
 - **Walking tour of Tours old town** – Guided or self-guided. 1.5–2 hours, €12–20/person for guided tour.
 - **Self-guided heritage walk** – Visit Saint-Gatien Cathedral, Place Plumereau, half-timbered houses. 2–3 hours, mostly free.
- **[To Customize]:** Cooking class, market visit.

TIP: Many restaurants in Tours highlight local, seasonal products. Look for “fait maison” on menus.

Day 7: Return to Paris & Departure



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Morning: Train from Tours/Amboise to Paris (1h15–2h). Time for last-minute shopping or café break.

- **Afternoon:** Transfer to airport/train station for departure (timing TBD).
- **Evening:** End of program.
- **Highlight:** Farewell coffee in a Parisian café.
- **[To Customize]:** Luggage storage, late check-out.

TIP: All return transfers are under 3 hours, giving you ample buffer for connections.

✦ Customizable Options

- Upgrade to boutique hotels or romantic B&Bs (from +€30/night/person)
- Private guided tours in Paris or Loire Valley (+€100–150 per tour)
- Cooking class or wine tasting experience (+€50–90 per person)
- Car rental for more flexibility in the Loire (+€40/day, manual transmission)
- Pre-booked museum/castle passes for skip-the-line access (+€20–30 per person)
- Evening river cruise or show tickets in Paris (+€15–60 per person)

TIP: Choose picnics and simple bistros often to stay within budget and enjoy authentic local flavors.

✦ Alternative Options

- **Slower Pace:** Spend the full week in Paris with more day trips (Giverny, Fontainebleau, Reims).
- **Different Region:** Replace Loire Valley with Provence (Avignon, Arles, lavender fields – similar logistics, TGV from Paris).
- **Budget Focus:** More hostel stays, self-catering, and free walking tours to maximize savings.

TIP: If you want a night in nature, consider Folie Barbizon (eco-friendly,

arty hotel near Fontainebleau, ~1h15 from Paris by train + bus/taxi, from €130–180/night).

✦ Practical Info & Budget

- **Best Seasons:** April–June and September–October (mild weather, fewer crowds). July–August is lively but busier; winter is cheaper but colder.
- **Comfort:** All proposed hotels have private bathrooms and Wi-Fi; guesthouses offer local charm.
- **Health/Visa:** No visa required for EU/Schengen citizens; otherwise, check requirements. Tap water is safe; standard European plugs.
- **Budget Rule:** Most museums/castles offer youth or couple discounts. Paris transport passes save money for multiple days.

Item	Estimated Cost (per person)
Accommodations (6 nights, avg. €60–70/night shared double)	€210–270
Meals (picnics, bistros, 7 days @ €20–30/day)	€140–210
Transport (trains, metro, RER, bike rental)	€100–150
Activities/entrances (Eiffel Tower,	€90–150

Versailles, castles, bike tour, food
tour)

Total Estimated Cost


€540–780


TIP: You'll remain within your budget if you use public transport, enjoy picnics, and select one or two paid highlight experiences.


Next Steps


Please let us know your preferred travel dates, interests (art, food, nature, history), and any must-see places or experiences. We'll refine the program, check real-time availability, and provide a detailed quote. Ready to make France your next adventure? Reply with your thoughts or questions!

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