



West Virginia University Alumni Band

10th European Tour

England - France- Andorra

Day 0 - July 7, 2026 (Tuesday)

Travel day from the United States



Day 1 - July 8, 2026 (Wednesday)

Arrive at London-Heathrow Airport - London, with hotel check-in, Embrace the pomp and pageantry of a city that marches to its very own vibrant tune – ours to explore as our adventure begins with a London motorcoach tour. See some of London's most famous landmarks as our local guide escorts the motorcoach around London's best loved attractions. Sit back and relax as our guide entertains us with fascinating information about Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, Piccadilly Circus, St. Paul's Cathedral and much more. Following the tour, we will enjoy our first European meal at our welcome dinner* on a Thames River dinner cruise. **NIGHT IN LONDON**



Day 2 - July 9, 2026 (Thursday)

Rehearsal Day – Following breakfast* at the hotel, our group will begin rehearsals for the tour. Rehearsals will be in the ballroom area of the hotel. Lunch will be on your own (OYO). Following afternoon rehearsal and dinner (OYO), we will attend a West End performance of the musical SIX. This is an appropriate as the theme of the musical deals with the six wives of English monarch Henry VIII. **NIGHT IN LONDON**



Day 3 - July 10, 2026 (Friday)

Explore London – Following breakfast* at the hotel, our group will make its way to Westminster. Experience special access to Buckingham Palace with a guided tour of its magnificent state rooms. With gilded ceilings and glittering chandeliers, the state rooms at Buckingham Palace provide a perfect setting for many of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection, including Sèvres porcelain, and some of the finest English and French furniture in the world. In addition, there will be an opportunity to experience the daily Changing of the Guard ceremony.



After Lunch, enjoy free time on the Thames to explore London on your own. Options include: Warner Bros. Studio Tour London the Making of Harry Potter, London Eye, Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Madame Tussauds, Kensington Palace, Tower Bridge, London Dungeon, British Museum and much more. Maybe just relax and ride a double decker bus, make a call in a red phone booth, take a taxi ride in a London black cab or do some exciting shopping in Notting Hill. Whatever your interests, the “City of Dreams” has something for everyone! Following a group Dinner*, we prepare for the first performance of the trip. The day will conclude with a concert at the American School of London. **NIGHT IN LONDON**



Day 4 - July 11, 2026 (Saturday)

Explore London – After breakfast* at the hotel, the group will again travel to Westminster by motorcoach to tour two of London’s most famous landmarks. Few landmarks epitomize central London as perfectly as Big Ben, the iconic clock tower of the Houses of Parliament that’s officially known as Elizabeth Tower, after the late Queen Elizabeth II. Heralding Great Britain's political nucleus in Westminster, Big Ben stands as the striking centerpiece of the Thames waterfront and features the historic Palace of Westminster, home to the Houses of Parliament.



Following Lunch (OYO), we depart central London and travel into open green spaces as the motorcoach arrives in the town of Windsor. Passing the statue of Queen Victoria we visit to majestic Windsor Castle. The Castle is the oldest and largest occupied in the world and has been home to 40 Monarchs. Marvel at the gold, see an original Van Dyck painting, discover life in miniature with Queen Mary’s Doll House and much more. Within the Castle grounds is St. George’s Chapel, a 500-year-old medieval marvel and the setting of numerous Royal weddings. It is also the final resting place for many Kings and Queens, including Henry VIII, Charles I and Queen Elizabeth II. After the tour of the castle area, enjoy some time on your own to amble around the cobbled streets of the historic market town. Following a group Dinner* in Windsor, we prepare for the second performance of the trip. The day will conclude with our 2nd concert at the New Windsor Community Association Hall. **NIGHT IN LONDON**



Day 5 – July 12, 2026 (Sunday)

Stratford-upon-Avon/Bath/Stonehenge – After Breakfast* at the hotel, we depart for Stratford-upon-Avon. Delve into the fascinating story of William Shakespeare's life at his birthplace and visitor center in Stratford-upon-Avon. Hear tales about his family life, marriage, and children with a close look at fascinating artifacts in a world-class collection assembled by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Also visit Anne Hathaway's cottage, the family home where the bard’s wife-to-be was born



and courted by young William. Built more than 500 years ago, much of the original structure remains.

After Lunch* in Stratford-upon-Avon, our journey continues to Bath and it's many Roman sites. Along the way, we will pass through and view the Cotswolds and Burton-on-the-Water. Once in Bath, take a leisurely stroll with our guide to visit the Roman Baths. Walk in the footsteps of the Romans and explore one of the finest spas of the ancient world. Located below street level you will descend to the site of the Sacred Spring. Naturally hot water of up to 115 degrees rises here every day, as it has for over 2000 years. You can't miss the gilt bronze head of the Goddess Minerva – one of the most important finds of Roman Britain. Following our departure from the Roman Baths, enjoy a guided walking tour of Bath with our guide including the Royal Crescent, Pulteney Bridge, the Holburne Museum, Sydney Gardens and more. Our day concludes with a visit to mysterious Stonehenge. Stonehenge is a must see symbol of Britain and one of the true wonders of the world. Our tour allows you time to not only visit the monument but enjoy the visitor center and its many historic artifacts that give a clue to their ancient past. Dinner* in nearby Salisbury.



NIGHT IN LONDON

Day 6 – July 13, 2026 (Monday)

Transfer to Paris/Explore Paris – Following Breakfast* at the hotel, the group will load the bus trailer as we will be sending the motorcoach ahead of the group to Paris. The motorcoach will depart for Paris while the group will have morning free time to explore London one last time on your own. After Lunch (OYO), we will meet at St. Pancras station and depart London (via the Eurostar train) for Paris. Upon arrival at Gare du Nord station in Paris, we will meet our local Paris guide and be picked up by the motorcoach. See some of your favorite Paris landmarks as our guide escorts the motorcoach around Paris' best loved attractions. From the Louvre to Montmartre to the Eiffel Tower, to the grand Champs-Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe, few cities compare to Paris's combination of elegance and history. It has created some of the world's best art, as well as defined the essence of romance for locals and visitors alike. Dinner* at the hotel. **NIGHT IN PARIS**



Day 7 – July 14, 2026 (Tuesday)

Explore Paris – After breakfast* at the hotel, our day begins with an audio-guided visit to the Louvre. Explore one of the world's most important museums, and one of Paris' most iconic landmarks. The Louvre is home to over 38,000 works of art, including what is considered to be the most famous painting ever created... Da Vinci's Mona Lisa. As if its collection wasn't impressive enough, millions of visitors flock here every year to admire the museum's unique pyramid and glass structure.



After Lunch (OYO), we'll board one of the famous Bateaux Parisiens for a one-hour cruise along the Seine River with narration in English. From the boat, you'll enjoy a different view of various landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Assemblée Nationale, Musée d'Orsay, Institut de France, Panthéon, Notre Dame, Conciergerie and more. The icing on the cake will be the visit to the Eiffel Tower, where we will skip the queues and walk straight in and take an elevator to its second-level observation deck at 500 feet. You'll admire breath-taking views over Paris. Then, discover this monument at your own leisure. The evening is yours as our Parisian experience continues on your own. Dinner (OYO) **NIGHT IN PARIS**



Day 8 - July 15, 2026 (Wednesday)

Versailles/Explore Paris – Following breakfast* at the hotel, we will depart Paris for the Château de Versailles. The Château (palace) covers an area of over 721,000 square feet and has over 700 rooms. Our local guide will lead us to see the palace's most beautiful rooms: the King's Grand Apartments, with seven rooms each dedicated to a different god (Apollo, Mars, Venus, etc.) and the Queen's Grand Apartments, mirroring those of the king, including the Coronation Room and the Queen's Bedroom, once occupied by Marie Antoinette, among others. Also, admire the spectacular Hall of Mirrors. Almost 240 feet-long, the room was created to dazzle visitors to the Sun King, Louis XIV; it is lit by 17 windows (350 mirrors) and overlooks the palace's breath-taking gardens.



After Lunch* near Versailles, we head back to Paris for an afternoon outdoor concert (our 3rd) at Jardin du Luxembourg. Situated on the border between Saint-Germain-des-Prés and the Latin Quarter, the Luxembourg Gardens, inspired by the Boboli Gardens in Florence, were created upon the initiative of Queen Marie de Medici in 1612. The gardens, which cover 25 hectares of land, are split into French gardens and English gardens. Following the concert, you will have free time to enjoy your last night in the “City of Lights”. Dinner (OYO)

NIGHT IN PARIS

Day 9 – July 16, 2026 (Thursday)

Normandy/Omaha Beach – After breakfast* at the hotel, we say goodbye to Paris as we work our way to the French countryside. Over the next few hours, we will travel to the channel coast and visit Normandy. Delve into World War II history alongside a war historian. Gain insights on the Allied invasion of Normandy and examine and handle wartime relics such as vintage weapons, uniforms, and maps at a local museum. Following lunch (OYO) in Caen, we board our motorcoach and head to Secqueville-en-Bessin War Cemetery to learn about the significance of poppies—the ultimate emblem of military sacrifice. Later in the afternoon, conjure scenes of the D-Day landing at notable Normandy sites including Omaha Beach, the cratered cliff-top at



Pointe du Hoc, and the American cemetery and memorial. Visit the moving memorials and beaches and learn about the impact this event had on the direction of the Second World War. The Battle of Normandy Historical Area is considered an open-air museum and includes all the sites, museums and memorials associated with D-Day and the invasion. Old army bunkers and war relics still exist along the five beaches: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword, while museums and memorials throughout the region stand as forceful reminders of this decisive period of WWII. Dinner (OYO) in Rennes, the beautiful capital of Brittany. **NIGHT IN RENNES**

Day 10 - July 17, 2026, (Friday)

Mont Saint-Michel/Rennes – Following breakfast* at the hotel, we'll make our way to the magnificent Mont Saint-Michel. This UNESCO World Heritage site located on an islet off the coast is pure magic. As we approach the causeway that links Mont Saint-Michel to the mainland, you'll be in awe of the beauty of the Benedictine Abbey, erected in 966, that rises high above the islet. We'll enjoy a guided tour of the abbey before enjoying some free time for Lunch (OYO). Upon our arrival back in



Rennes, we'll embark on a guided city walking tour of Rennes passing by the Palais du Parlement de Bretagne, the former parliament of Brittany. Our tour will take us through the streets of Rennes as we pass by quintessentially French architecture and the city's medieval Old Town before visiting the Rennes Cathedral. Following the tour, feel free to continue to explore Rennes Old Town with Dinner (OYO). **NIGHT IN RENNES**

Day 11 – July 18, 2026 (Saturday)

Traveling Day/La Rochelle/Bordeaux – After breakfast* at the hotel, we have a long distance traveling day to Bordeaux. Along the way, we will stop for a seaside Lunch and a little free time in La Rochelle. Known as La Ville Blanche (the White City), La Rochelle's luminous limestone facades glow in the bright coastal sunlight. One of France's foremost seaports from the 14th to 17th centuries, the city has arcaded walkways, half-timbered houses protected from the salt air by slate tiles, ghoulish gargoyles and a fabulous collection of lighthouses – all rich reminders of its magnificent seafaring heritage. The early French settlers of Canada, including the founders of Montreal, set sail from here in the 17th century. The motorcoach will continue on to Bordeaux, arriving in late afternoon. En-route, we will tour a winery with a wine and cheese tasting. Following our hotel check-in, Dinner (OYO) in Bordeaux. **NIGHT IN BORDEAUX**



Following our hotel check-in, Dinner (OYO) in Bordeaux. **NIGHT IN BORDEAUX**

Day 12 - July 19, 2026 (Sunday)

Carcassonne – Following breakfast* at the hotel, we will depart for southwest France and the magical city of Carcassonne (la Cité Médiévale). Enjoy a guided tour of this fortified medieval city. From the ramparts (and 52 towers) to the exterior of the Basilica of St Nazaire, via the Château Comtal from the outside only, delve into the heart of this great city, unique in Occitanie. After Lunch (OYO) and some free time to



explore inside La Cite', the group will give its 4th tour concert in the outdoor amphitheater inside the fortress city. Leaving Carcassonne, we will depart for Toulouse and our hotel. Upon arrival, the group will have some free time in Toulouse to explore and have Dinner (OYO).

NIGHT IN TOULOUSE

Day 13 - July 20, 2026 (Monday)

Andorra – After breakfast* at the hotel, we will continue our southern France journey through the Pyrenees Mountains to our BONUS destination... the country of Andorra. Andorra is a small, mountainous country in the Pyrenees between France and Spain. Full of beautiful mountains and many charming old villages, Andorra thrives on tourism, mainly visitors from nearby countries who come for shopping, skiing and hiking. Following a brief stop at the scenic overlook at Mirador del Roc del Quer, we will arrive in Andorra la Vella for Lunch (OYO) and free time to explore. In the afternoon, the group will give it's 5th and final tour concert in Andorra la Vella. We end our exciting day with Farewell Dinner* at La Taverna d'Excalibur Medieval Restaurant.



NIGHT IN TOULOUSE

Day 14 - July 21, 2026 (Tuesday)

Au Revoir – After our final Breakfast* at the hotel, the group will be transferred from the hotel to Toulouse-Blagnac Airport for the return flight home

