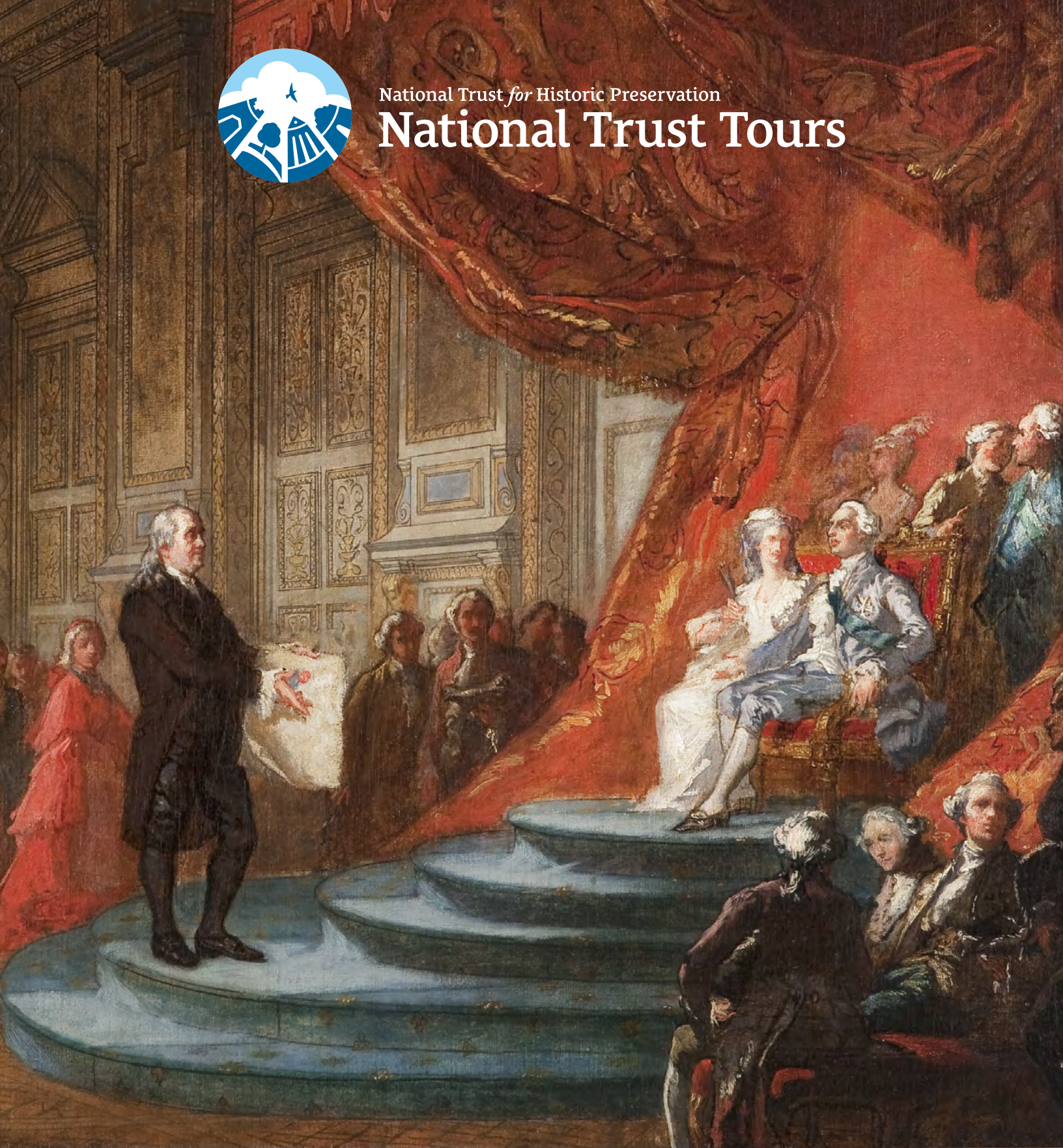




National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



America's Founding Fathers in Paris

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

April 14 – 21, 2026



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

FOLLOW the footsteps of America's Founding Fathers in **Paris**, exploring the city's influence in U.S. history on an exclusive six-night journey marking the **250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence** in 2026

DISCOVER the Parisian homes of the Founding Fathers during an expert-led walking tour of **Saint-Germain-des-Prés** and a scenic drive along the **Champs-Élysées**, seeing where Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, and Paine lived and worked

STAND at the exact spot where American independence was formally recognized at the former site of **Hôtel d'York**, where the 1783 Treaty of Paris was signed, marked today by a commemorative plaque

GAIN exclusive entrance to the **King's Private Apartments at Versailles**, closed to general visitors, revealing the personal spaces where three generations of French monarchs conducted their private business

TAKE a guided look at the **Bibliothèque Municipale de Versailles**, once Louis XVI's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where Jefferson and Franklin negotiated French support critical to American independence

DINE at **Le Procope**, Paris's oldest café established in 1686, where Franklin, Jefferson, and later French revolutionaries once gathered beneath the same crystal chandeliers that still hang today

PAY respects at **Cimetière de Picpus**, where the Marquis de Lafayette rests beneath the only American flag authorized to permanently fly on foreign soil, and later toast his legacy during a farewell dinner at his former townhouse

EXPERIENCE the **Louvre with priority access** and a personalized welcome from senior museum staff, bypassing crowds to view 18th-century paintings Thomas Jefferson would have admired on his visits here

WANDER through magnificent French gardens with experts, from the formal splendor of Versailles and Jardin du Luxembourg to **Claude Monet's** flower-filled paradise at **Giverny** during peak spring bloom



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Dear National Trust Traveler,

The year 2026 marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed. It feels like the perfect time to visit **Paris**—yes, Paris!—to celebrate this milestone. While Philadelphia gets all the credit, the City of Light largely inspired the revolutionary ideas that shaped our young nation. **Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Jay, and Thomas Paine** spent significant time in Paris, securing essential French support that ultimately helped us win independence.

From **April 14 to 21, 2026**, our six-night journey traces their footsteps through the city they came to love. Stand at **56 rue Jacob**, where Franklin, Adams, and Jay signed the 1783 Treaty of Paris, officially ending the Revolutionary War. Beyond diplomatic triumphs, join experts for guided access to these leaders' Parisian residences in Saint-Germain-des-Prés and Passy, including Jefferson's elegant Hôtel de Langeac along the Champs-Élysées.

Enjoy a special lunch at **Le Procope**, the city's oldest café, where Franklin and Jefferson debated philosophy beneath 18th-century crystal chandeliers still hanging today. Many American visitors find themselves unexpectedly moved at **Cimetière de Picpus**, Paris's largest private burial ground and one of only two in the city. Here, the Marquis de Lafayette rests beneath soil brought from Bunker Hill, under the only American flag authorized to fly permanently on foreign soil.

This journey also includes exclusive cultural experiences. Skip the famously long lines at the incomparable **Louvre**, enjoying a personal staff greeting and a privately guided tour. Venture outside Paris to Claude Monet's home and gardens in **Giverny**. Gain special access to the lavish **Palace of Versailles** with entry to the King's Private Apartments—closed to regular visitors—and an inside look at the Bibliothèque Municipale de Versailles, once Louis XVI's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where American revolutionaries secured crucial French aid for independence.

Our journey concludes with a farewell dinner at **Lafayette's**, an eatery housed in a beautifully restored 18th-century townhouse that was formerly the home the Marquis himself. With limited availability for this special anniversary journey, I encourage you to secure your place promptly by calling **National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785**. I look forward to sharing this extraordinary experience—rediscovering American history in the French capital.

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.



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Le Procope, photo courtesy of La Procope

TUESDAY, APRIL 14: DEPARTURE

Depart on overnight flight to Paris.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15: PARIS, FRANCE

Upon arrival in Paris, join a group transfer to the hotel. After checking in, enjoy an optional walking tour featuring a special visit to the recently reopened **Cathédrale Notre-Dame**. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner. D

THURSDAY, APRIL 16: PARIS

Wander the cobblestone streets of **Saint-Germain-des-Prés**, where brasseries, patisseries, art galleries, museums, and theaters line the way. Pass the Parisian residences of John Jay, Thomas Paine, and John Paul Jones, the founder of the United States Navy.

Stop at the former site of the **Hôtel d'York**, where Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay met British negotiators to sign the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783, officially ending the Revolutionary War. A marble plaque affixed to the original building marks this moment in history.

Enjoy lunch at **Le Procope**, the city's oldest café, a gathering place for intellectuals and revolutionaries for more than 330 years. Frequenting by Napoleon, Voltaire, Victor Hugo, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, it was a meeting spot for French revolutionaries such as Danton and Robespierre. Franklin was even rumored to have drafted parts of the U.S. Constitution here.

Afterwards, walk in the footsteps of French nobility through the **Jardin du Luxembourg**, pausing by the Medici Fountain, the Orangery, and the Davioud Pavillon. Nearby, visit **Église Saint-Sulpice**, home to Delacroix's only fresco.

Explore the heart of medieval Paris in the **Latin Quarter**, the city's oldest district, where remnants of its ancient past still endure. Stroll past the **Panthéon**, a monument and mausoleum honoring many of France's greatest figures. Pass the **Sorbonne**, France's oldest university, before ending the day at the food stalls along **Rue Mouffetard**, with dinner at leisure. B,L

FRIDAY, APRIL 17: PARIS / VERSAILLES / PARIS

Venture outside Paris for an inside look at the grand **Palais de Versailles**. Take a private tour of the **Bibliothèque Municipale de Versailles**, once Louis XVI's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Completed in 1762, this elegant 18th-century residence was the backdrop for critical diplomatic negotiations, including the 1763 Treaty of Paris, which ended the Seven Years' War. Admire its original decorative woodwork, paintings, and five opulent rooms.



Bibliothèque Municipale de Versailles, photo © Christophe Foun



Musée Carnavalet

In an adjacent room, see where Benjamin Franklin was formally welcomed upon his arrival in 1778, as France prepared to support the American Revolution. Gain access to the **King's Private Apartments**, an exclusive experience beyond the reach of regular visitors.

Cross the **Jardin de Versailles**, the masterpiece of André Le Nôtre, where spring's first blossoms color the symmetrical avenues. Follow the Grande Perspective, a sweeping axis of pools and fountains designed to draw the eye toward the horizon. See the Royal Promenade, the Bassin d'Apollon, and the Grand Canal, landmarks of 17th-century landscape architecture.

A short distance away, enter the **Hameau de la Reine**, Marie Antoinette's countryside retreat. Built to resemble a Norman village, this collection of ten thatched-roof cottages surrounds a quiet lake. Pass the Mill, the Marlborough Tower, and the Guardian's House, where the queen escaped court life to embrace an idealized vision of rural simplicity.



Palais de Versailles



Lafayette's memorial, Cimetière de Picpus

At the **Grand Trianon**, an opulent retreat built for Louis XIV, view the **Mirror Room**, where he conferred with his inner circle. Nearby, the **Petit Trianon**, originally commissioned by Louis XV, later became Marie Antoinette's private haven within her gardens. Dinner this evening is at leisure. B,L

SATURDAY, APRIL 18: PARIS

As American Minister to the Court of Versailles, Thomas Jefferson observed the first stirrings of the French Revolution in the late 1780s, meeting frequently with the Marquis de Lafayette and other key figures. Explore his role in these pivotal years on a private tour of the **Musée Carnavalet**, where artifacts and documents trace the revolution's early days.

After a bistro lunch in **Le Marais**, visit **Cimetière de Picpus**, where Lafayette rests beneath soil taken from Bunker Hill. An American flag, the only one authorized to fly permanently on foreign soil, marks his grave. Dinner this evening is at leisure. B,L

Monet's Garden, Giverny



SUNDAY, APRIL 19: PARIS / VAL-D'OISE / GIVERNY

Visit **Château de La Roche-Guyon**, the ancestral home of the La Rochefoucauld family, an 18th-century residence perched above a bend in the Seine River. The young Duc de La Rochefoucauld, a philosopher and ally of the American cause, translated the Declaration of Independence into French.

Continue to **Giverny**, the Normandy village that famously inspired **Claude Monet**. After lunch, explore Monet's gardens, beginning with **Clos Normand**, the flower garden he designed and filled with roses and Japanese apricot trees.

Walk through the **Water Garden**, where the Japanese bridge draped in wisteria and the floating water lilies evoke some of the painter's most famous works.

Arc de Triomphe



Return to Paris, following the broad avenues of the **Champs-Élysées**. See the Arc de Triomphe, the monument honoring those who fought and died for France, before passing the Parisian homes of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

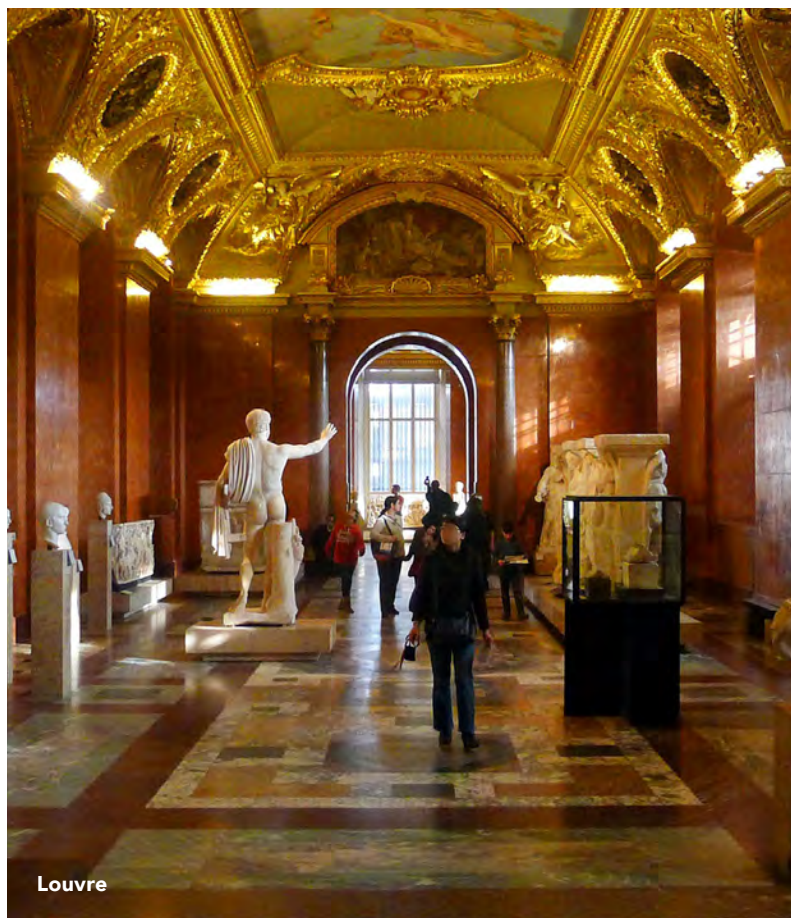
MONDAY, APRIL 20: PARIS

After a personalized welcome, enjoy **exclusive priority access to the Louvre** on a specially arranged tour. Admire 18th-century paintings from the Louvre's original collection, including works by Delacroix, Titian, Veronese, and Rembrandt that Thomas Jefferson would have seen during his visits.

After lunch and an afternoon at leisure, gather for a festive farewell dinner at **Lafayette's**, housed in the former mansion of the Marquis de Lafayette. Dine in this beautifully restored 18th-century setting, where a Neo-Bourgeois menu celebrates the depth and refinement of French cuisine. B,D

TUESDAY, APRIL 21: PARIS / RETURN

Following breakfast, depart the hotel on a group transfer to the airport. B



DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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ACCOMMODATIONS



LE GRAND HÔTEL CAYRÉ (OR SIMILAR)

Experience refined elegance in the Saint-Germain-des-Prés neighborhood. Just steps from the Seine and close to the city's most famous landmarks, this four-star Miiro hotel offers rooms and suites styled like classic Parisian apartments, enhanced with modern comforts.

PROGRAM RATE

\$8,999 per person, double rate

\$10,699 single rate

RATES INCLUDE

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine included at all group lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested arrival times
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Le Grand Hôtel Cayré, Paris



To secure your place,
please call National Trust Tours at
888-484-8785.

A deposit of \$2,000 per person
(of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for
administrative fees) is required.



Le Grand Hôtel Cayré, Paris



National Trust for Historic Preservation

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Front cover: George Peter Alexander Healy, *Franklin Urging the Claims of the American Colonies Before Louis XVI*, 1847, photo © American Philosophical Society. Highlights page: Jardins de Versailles. Back cover: Hall of Mirrors, Palais de Versailles (top) and Château de La Roche-Guyon (bottom).

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