The St. John’s Paris Campus offers an exciting and wide array of organic cultural programming options. The local Paris staff is well-versed in local and national histories and has designed a number of the following excursions options with student interest and curiosity in mind. Most of them are offered every semester, and the team is constantly looking for new opportunities for students to explore their city. All excursions are included in the program fee.
Rue de Sèvres and Saint-Germain-des-Prés neighborhood

This walking tour is designed to introduce students to their new neighborhood: from the Rue de Sèvres where our campus is located to the Saint-Germain-des-Prés area and the Carrefour de l’Odéon, students learn what makes the 6th arrondissement so unique.

The Arc de Triomph and the Champs-Elysées

Napoléon’s Arc de Triomphe is reminiscent of ancient Rome and celebrates the victories of the French army. On this excursion, students climb to the top of the Arc for one of the best views Paris has to offer before taking a walk down the Champs-Elysées, Paris’ most famous avenue.

Montmartre

This walking tour aims to highlight the peculiar history of the Montmartre neighborhood, from its sacred origins as the “Mount of Mars” during the Gallo Roman era to its more recent bohemian and artsy past. The tour also considers contemporary Montmartre, the lives of its inhabitants and the impact of the tourism industry. Sites include the Moulin Rouge, the Basilique du Sacré-Coeur, and the Place du Tertre where artists come to paint every day.
Latin Quarter

Students take a walk through the Latin Quarter, the historical heart of education in Paris. Sites include the Gallo Roman baths, the Sorbonne, the Panthéon, the Rue Mouffetard, and the Grand Mosque. The excursion finishes with a stroll through the Jardin des Plantes, the former medicinal garden of King Louis XIII.

Faubourg Saint-Antoine

Sprawling east of the Bastille, the Faubourg Saint-Antoine was one of the traditional suburbs of Paris up to the expansion of the city limits in the 19th century. This sociological tour focuses on a typical, gentrifying Parisian neighborhood largely unaffected by tourism.

Le Marais

The Marais is one of Paris’ most fashionable and eclectic neighborhoods. This excursion emphasizes the social shifts in an urban fabric that has seen diverse groups (nobles, Jews, and more recently L.G.B.T.Q.) set up shop in streets lined with colorful boutiques, cafés, and lush green parks like the Place des Vosges.
Palais de Versailles

Louis XIV’s sumptuous summer palace is the largest in Europe and a treat for all who visit this gilded version of the past. About forty-five minutes away from campus, this day-long excursion requires the use of the RER. St. John’s organizes an hour-long lecture with an architectural historian in order to help students put what they will see into context.

Grande Galerie de l’Evolution

Part of the Natural History Museum at the Jardin des Plantes, the Grande Galerie de l’Evolution displays 7,000 incredibly lifelike specimen in a beautiful 19th century iron-framed glass-roofed structure.

Haussmann / Saint-Lazare / Opéra

On this walking tour, students explore one of the most important Parisian shopping districts and the heart of 19th century modernity. Sites include the Saint-Lazare train station (the oldest in the city), the Opéra Garnier, the Place Vendôme, and the Madeleine church.
Passages Couverts

Built for the most part in the 19th century, these covered arcades are typically Parisian. Housing shops, tea rooms, and theaters, they are the ancestors of the contemporary shopping mall.

Canal Saint-Martin

This walking tour takes students to the Canal Saint-Martin’s iron bridges and tree-shaded quays, a gentrifying part of the city that attracts young crowds to its trendy shops, cafés, and concert venues.

La Villette

The Parc de la Villette in the 20th arrondissement is one of the largest park in the city and houses a large concentration of cultural venues from the Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie (the largest science museum in Europe) to the Conservatoire de Paris.
Musée des Arts et Métiers

The Museum of Arts and Trades houses the collection of the National Conservatory of Arts and Industry founded during the French Revolution as a repository for the preservation of scientific instruments and inventions.

Musée d’Histoire de la Médecine

Part of the Paris Medical School, the Museum of the History of Medicine hosts an exceptional collection of surgical, diagnostic, and physiological instrumentation spanning centuries.

Musée de l’Orangerie

Famous for being the permanent home of eight Water Lilies murals by Claude Monet, the Orangerie Museum in the Tuileries Garden also displays work by Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, and Pablo Picasso among others.
Salon de l’Agriculture (Spring)

The massive annual agricultural show in Paris is an opportunity for farmers hailing from all over the country to show off their best livestock and products while competing for highly coveted awards. Students join the enthusiastic local crowds to get a taste of rural France.

Salon du Chocolat (Fall)

Cocoa producers, pastry chefs, and chocolatiers from all over the world gather in Paris every year around Thanksgiving to display their crafts. Students get a unique opportunity to taste chocolate in all its forms.

Père Lachaise Cemetery

Paris’ most famous cemetery, known for its elaborate funerary monuments and the celebrities they immortalize. Students enjoy paying homage to Oscar Wilde, Frédéric Chopin, Marcel Proust, Edith Piaf, Gertrude Stein, Molière, Jim Morrison, and others.
Day Trip to Claude Monet’s Garden at Giverny

The outing to the village of Giverny, where painter Claude Monet lived and worked from 1883 until his death in 1926, is a student favorite. St. John’s charters a bus from Paris for the hour long trip and students visit the former home and elaborate gardens where the artist produced his famed water lilies series. We pre-order packed lunch from our neighborhood bakery and have a picnic near the site. A light breakfast is also provided.