
FRANCE – The French Riviera, Paris & Versailles

Featuring operas at the Opéra Nice Côte d'Azur, the Opéra Bastille, Paris, and the Royal Opera of Versailles, plus concerts at the Philharmonie de Paris and at the Royal Chapel of the Palace of Versailles

The Vancouver Opera Guild invites you to join its spring tour to France, combining the elegance of the French Riviera with the artistic treasures of Paris and the royal splendour of Versailles. Enjoy four nights in Nice, three in Paris, and four in Versailles. Six opera and concert performances are included.

TOUR SCHEDULE (subject to minor change)

Sat. Mar. 13: Nice
Arrival at Nice Côte d'Azur Airport (depart Vancouver Friday, Mar. 12) Accommodation for four nights at Best Western Plus Hotel Massena Nice. Welcome Reception.

Sun. Mar. 14: Nice
Day at leisure to explore the capital of the French Riviera. Founded by the Greeks over 2,300 years ago, Nice has long attracted artists, writers, and musicians with its mild climate, Mediterranean light, and elegant Belle Époque architecture. Wander through the colourful streets of Vieux Nice, browse the flower market at Cours Saleya, or stroll along the famous Promenade des Anglais.

3:00 p.m. attend **Unsuk Chin's *Alice in Wonderland*** at the Opéra Nice Côte d'Azur, starring Raquel Camarinha as Alice and Jenny

Daviet as the Cheshire Cat, conducted by Léo Warynski.

Mon. Mar. 15: Villefranche-sur-Mer & Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat
Today's excursion explores one of the most beautiful stretches of the Côte d'Azur. Picturesque Villefranche-sur-Mer, with its colourful waterfront and narrow medieval streets, is one of the Riviera's most charming villages.

Continue to Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, where we will visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, built for the Baroness Béatrice de Rothschild. Return to Nice during the afternoon.

Tues. Mar. 16: Nice
A full day at leisure to explore Nice. Visit the Marc Chagall National Museum or the Matisse Museum, which traces Henri Matisse's long association with Nice. Alternatively, relax at one of the city's seaside cafés, or enjoy shopping through the elegant streets surrounding Place Masséna.

Wed. Mar. 17: Nice – Paris
Transfer to the station and travel First Class by TGV to Paris. Accommodation for three nights at the M Social Hotel Paris Opera.

Thu. Mar. 18: Paris
Free day. A full day to discover one of the world's great cultural capitals. Explore the Louvre or Musée d'Orsay, visit Notre-Dame Cathedral, stroll through the Latin Quarter, or simply enjoy one of Paris's famous cafés.

8:00 p.m. enjoy a concert by the **Orchestre de Paris** featuring *Brahms and Walton*, conducted by Klaus Mäkelä with violist Antoine Tamestit.

Fri. Mar. 19: Paris
Free day.

7:30 p.m. attend **Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*** at the Opéra Bastille, starring Aušrinė Stundytė and Pavel Černoch.

Sat. Mar. 20: Paris – Versailles
Transfer to Versailles. Once a modest hunting lodge, Versailles became the centre of political and artistic life in France. Accommodation for four nights at Les Lumières Hotel – Relais & Châteaux.

7:00 p.m. attend **Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*** at the Royal Opera of Versailles, with Florian Sempey as Figaro and Catherine Trottmann as Rosina in one of France's most beautiful opera houses.

Sun. Mar. 21: Versailles
Free day- You may wish to visit the Palace gardens, explore the Grand and Petit Trianons or visit Marie Antoinette's charming Hameau de la Reine, created as her private country retreat.

5:00 p.m. attend **Rossi's *Oratorio pour la Semaine Sainte***, featuring Les Arts Florissants, at the Royal Chapel of the Palace of Versailles.

Mon. Mar. 22: Versailles - Chartres
Today, we make an excursion by private coach to Chartres, where an English-speaking guide will introduce us to this historic cathedral city and its remarkable Cathedral of Our Lady of Chartres, one of the great masterpieces of French Gothic architecture and renowned for its extraordinary medieval stained glass. Our visit includes a guided tour of the cathedral. Return to Versailles in the late afternoon.

Tues. Mar. 23: Versailles
This morning, enjoy a guided visit of the magnificent Palace of Versailles, one of the greatest royal residences in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Highlights include the lavish State Apartments, the spectacular Hall of Mirrors, and André Le Nôtre's celebrated formal gardens. Afternoon at leisure.

8:00 p.m. **Purcell's *The Fairy Queen***, opera in concert, at the Royal Opera. Based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, this enchanting Baroque masterpiece combines music, dance and theatre.

Wed. Mar. 24: Depart Versailles
Tour ends following breakfast.

- Tour includes:**
 - Accommodation for 11 nights at hotels listed, or similar
 - Welcome reception, daily breakfast
 - Six opera/concert tickets
 - Guided tours as described in the itinerary
 - Entrance fees where applicable
 - Coach and driver for tours and transfers
 - Gratuities to drivers and guides
 - Full-time French tour escort
 - Vancouver Opera Guild tour leader
 - \$300 donation to the Vancouver Opera Guild (\$400 for non-members)
- Not included:**
 - Airfare (Great Expeditions will be pleased to assist with airline reservations)
 - Nice and Versailles airport transfers

PRICES

Prices quoted in this brochure are in Canadian dollars based on a full tour, and foreign exchange rates in effect at time of printing (August 2026). We reserve the right to adjust the tour cost if there are substantial price changes.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

This paragraph defines our responsibility with respect to all our tours. Please read it carefully. Payment of deposit represents an acceptance by purchaser of the following terms and conditions. Great Expeditions, its owners, outfitters, agents and employees, gives notice that all arrangements for accommodation, transportation and/or, all related travel services, have been made by Great Expeditions only as agent, upon the express condition that Great Expeditions shall not be liable for any injury, damage, delay, mishap, inconvenience or irregularity occasioned through the default of any company or individual engaged in providing the arranged accommodation. Great Expeditions cannot be responsible for negligent conduct or financial irresponsibility of these suppliers, since they maintain no control over them. Such passenger conveyance, hotel accommodation, etc. is subject to the laws of the state or country where provided. In addition, Great Expeditions assumes no liability resulting directly or indirectly from any of the following causes: acts of God, detention, annoyance, weather, quarantines, strikes, civil disturbance, theft, government regulations, etc. over which it has no control. Great Expeditions reserves the right to substitute hotels and leaders and to alter the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable. The right is also reserved to cancel any trip prior to departure upon the refund of all payments received which shall release Great Expeditions from any further liability. Great Expeditions reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person or member of any tour should such person's actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare or enjoyment of other members of the tour, and it is agreed a refund of the amount recovered from suppliers of unused land services is the limit of Great Expeditions responsibility.

CARRIER'S RESPONSIBILITY

No carrier shall have or incur any responsibility or liability to any passenger or for property accompanying passengers, except for its liability as a common carrier. In particular, Great Expeditions advises the customer that any air carrier's liability may be limited by its tariffs, conditions of carriage and international conventions and agreements.

B.C. Reg. 2629

TOUR COST

Guild Members: Cdn. \$7,855 per person sharing

Non-Guild: Cdn. \$7,955 per person sharing

Single supplement: Cdn. \$2,950

RESERVATIONS

A deposit of \$2,300 per person is required at time of booking with the balance due by January 05.

CANCELLATIONS

All payments are non-refundable unless space can be resold.



Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that tour members purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect themselves against money loss in the event of cancellation due to personal or family illness. We also offer comprehensive insurance which includes trip cancellation/interruption plus excess hospital/medical benefits, baggage and travel accident. Some exclusions for pre-existing conditions do apply. Insurance premiums are age banded. Please ask for an insurance quote at time of booking.

PLEASE NOTE:

WALKING IN VERSAILLES

Evening performances in Versailles require approximately 15–20 minutes of walking each way, including uneven and cobbled streets. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.



**For further information,
please text or call:
Jill Plumbley 604-837 2629**

Vancouver Opera Guild

FRANCE – Opera & Music

The French Riviera, Paris & Versailles



Opera Royal Versailles

MARCH 13 – 24, 2027

Great Expeditions
221 – 1433 Lonsdale Avenue
North Vancouver, B.C. V7M 2H9
Tel. 604-257-2040
Toll free 1-800-663-3364
tours@greatexpeditions.com