



In the Footsteps of Louis XIV

6 days/7 nights - From Vaux-le-Vicomte to Versailles

Surprising horseback trips to the south of Paris, through the story of Louis XIV known as "Le Roi Soleil" and Nicolas Fouquet his superintendent. This horseback ride takes us from the Château de Versailles to Vaux-le-Vicomte via Courances, Chamarande and Breteuil. This region, right in the regional park of the Haute Vallée de Chevreuse, offers horseback rides in beautiful and unexpected landscapes, immense forests, magnificent castles surrounded by their gardens. We forget the tumultuous life of Paris a few kilometers away. The terrain and space are conducive to long gallops.



Program: Riders arrive at Melun train station around 2 pm.

- **Trip from Charles de Gaulle airport to the Melun train station :1.35mn**

Take the RER B line up to the gare du Nord train station, then take the RER D line up to Melun (end station).

- **Orly airport to Melun:1.35mn**

From Orly Airport, take the ORLYVAL shuttle up to Antony, then take the RER B line up to Chatelet-les-Halles and the RER D line up to Melun (end station)

- **Montparnasse to Melun : 1.00**

At the Montparnasse train Station, take the Metro 4 line up to Chatelet-les-Halles and then the RER D line up to Melun Reception and transfer to hotel *Germeuoy*. Phone:+33 (0)1 64 09 19 19.

During the evening, we visit Château de *Vaux le Vicomte*. This castle built by Nicolas Fouquet in 1615 was used by Louis XIV as a model for the Château de Versailles. Dinner at the hotel at about 8 pm.

Day 1



Fontainebleau castle).

Breakfast at 8 am, transfer to the horses at 9 am. Departure on horseback at about 10 am from the castle Vaux-le-Vicomte, riding in the park of the castle and then towards the Fontainebleau Forest. Ride through semi-wooded area to the picnic spot on the beach of the river Seine at Fontaine le Port. Then ride through the Fontainebleau Forest, following a varied track which allows you to discover the particularities of the forest (landscape, rocks, sand, birch, oak, beech...). Towards the end of the afternoon, we ride across the Fontainebleau castle park, and then we arrive at la Faisanderie for the night. Night at *Le Richelieu* hotel (near

Day 2: Breakfast at 8 am, transfer to the horses at 9 am. Departure on horseback at about 10 am. Following a track suitable for galloping, we will discover varied and unique landscapes of the Fontainebleau Forest. Picnic at Courances Castle, visit of the 17th century gardens (one of the most beautiful examples of renaissance water gardens). In the afternoon: travel through farmland, great plains and forest, including a passage on an ancient Roman road. Night at the *Ile de Saussay* hotel at Itteville.



Day 3

Breakfast at 8 am, riders meet at the horses at 9 am. Departure on horseback at about 10 am. We leave towards Courson, a hilly region with sparse forests, where beautiful trails lead us up to the Chamarande castle. Picnic and visit of Chamarande castle, built in the 17th century in Louis XIII style. This domain is known for supporting modern art. Passing Chamarande Forest, we will see the church *Saint Sulpice de Favière*. This sanctuary is known as the most beautiful of its kind in the entire region. The church was built in 1245 in gothic style. The day ends at Courson Castle, where we spend the night at *Château de Fontenay les Brûis* or another hotel.



Day 4

Breakfast at 8 am, transfer to the horses at 9 am. Departure on horseback at about 10 am. This slightly hilly region features beautiful forests here and there, as well as great plains with distant horizons. We pass near Marais Castle, which was the joy of a society of writers and important politicians hosted by Mme Labriche in the 19th century. Picnic near the Rambouillet Forest at the golf Rochefort Castle. Afternoon: Crossing of the Rambouillet Forest up to the *Tour Pond*. Dinner and night at the hotel.

Day 5

Breakfast at 8 am, transfer to the horses at 9 am. Departure on horseback at about 10 am. We leave Tour, riding through fields and forest, passing close to the Vaux de Cernay abbey, which was founded in the 12th century by Cistercian monks. Nowadays, the ancient abbey hosts a luxury hotel. Picnic and visit of Breteuil Castle. Built in the 16th century in Louis XII style, the castle features marvellous furniture. The visit is led by 50 wax figures from the Grévin Museum. Exposition of the counts of Perrault. Afternoon: In the Chevreuse Valley, we circumvent the city and its 11th century castle. Night at a bed and breakfast at Magny les Hameaux.



Day 6

Breakfast at 8 am. Departure on horseback at about 9:30 am. It is difficult to conceive that we are so close to Paris. Today, we are riding only a couple of kilometres away from the turbulences of the huge cities. We leave *Magny les hameaux* and ride towards the forest of the Versailles domain, then the Queen's portal of the Versailles castle - majestic, impressive, huge; we enter the park of the castle of the greatest king ever, Louis XIV. We follow the *Grand Canal* and pass near the Grand Trianon. Picnic at the Saint Antoine garden center. Afternoon: return to our bed and breakfast at *Magny les Hameaux*. We ride over the parade grounds (*place d'arme*), the *pièce d'eau des suisses* water basin, as well as the Versailles domain forest. Dinner and night at Magny les Hameaux.



Day 7: Transfer at about 10 am to Saint Rémy les Chevreuse train station.

-From Saint-Rémy-les-Chevreuse to Orly Airport :45mn

At Saint-Rémy-les-Chevreuse, take the RER B line up to Antony and the ORLYVAL Shuttle up to the Orly Airport. It is possible to purchase a combined ticket for both Orly-Val and RER trains at the airport.

-From Saint-Rémy-les-Chevreuse to Montparnasse : 50 mn

At Saint-Rémy-les-Chevreuse, take the RER B line up to Denfert-Rochereau and then the Metro 6 line up to Montparnasse train station

-From Saint-Rémy-les-Chevreuse to Roissy Airport :1.35mn

At St-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse, take the RER B line up to the Roissy CDG Airport (direct line)

PRICE: room for two (6 days/7 nights), single with supplement. This price does not include visits or beverages in hotels and restaurants. Please note that this program is for information only. Changes due to weather, security, technical criterias and other imponderables may occur.

LIST OF ACCOMMODATIONS AND RESTAURANTS

Accommodations (depending on availability)

- Night 1

Le Grand Monarque www.legrandmonarque.fr



The Grand Monarque, hotel restaurant Melun, welcomes you in the middle of a wooded park where calm and relaxation are at the rendezvous.

- Night 2

Hôtel de Charme à Fontainebleau www.richelieu-fontainebleau.com



Ideally located between the castle and the theater of Fontainebleau, this charming hotel is an old annex of the famous castle of Fontainebleau. The forest and the castle offer exceptionally calm and relaxing surroundings. All the ingredients are there to make this hotel an exceptional accommodation, in a beautiful historic

setting! The rooms are spacious and equipped with flat screen HDTV, as well as Wi-Fi. A safe and toiletries are provided.

- Night 3

Hôtel sur l'île de Saussay www.hotel-iledusaussay.com



Located in the heart of the valley of Essonne, the hotel of the island of Saussay is an oasis of greenery and tranquility. All rooms are equipped with a bathroom with bathtub, hairdryer, a lounge with free and unlimited WIFI internet access and a balcony overlooking the lake, from where you can contemplate nature and its animals. All the products used (hygiene products, products of reception, and the maintenance of the rooms) are 100% ecologic!

- **Night 4**
Château de Fontenay les Briis



B & B and restaurant The Château de Fontenay was built in the county of Henri de Bullion and his son in July 1659.

Or



Hôtel Arpège www.hotel-arpege.fr

- **Night 5**
Hôtel Saint Charles www.hotel-stcharles-rambouillet.fr

Situé aux portes du parc naturel régional de la haute vallée de Chevreuse, Rambouillet est une clairière de la forêt d'Yvelines. Idéalement placé près du Château de Rambouillet et du centre-ville, l'hôtel Saint-Charles est un charmant petit établissement de 14 chambres. Les chambres sont toutes équipées de Wi-Fi et de la télévision satellite, ainsi que d'une literie confortable.



- **Nights 6 and 7**

Gîte Magny les Hameaux www.chambres-hotes-prairie-bonheur.com



In the Natural Park of the "Haute Vallée de Chevreuse", this guest house welcomes us in the charming and old listed village of Magny-les-Hameaux 8 km from Versailles. The rooms have private toilet and shower and are equipped with TV and free Wi-Fi. Each room has its private entrance. The cottage also has a jacuzzi (extra charge).