



HANDS ON TRAVEL

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TWU: FRANCE & BELGIUM

May 27-June 6 2023

10 DAYS | 9 NIGHTS

We explore the best of Northern France, the ‘City of Lights’, Paris along with visits to Versailles before moving on to the Belgian city of Brussels and Bruges with visits to the historic buildings, European Union for the Deaf, Deaf School of Kasterlinden to be guided by local Deaf Parisians and Flemings in sign language.

Day 1 | Saturday 27th • • •

Depart from Dallas, Texas (overnight flight).

Day 2 | Sunday 28th • • •

Arrive in Paris. Meet your tour guide and transfer to our hostel. A visit to Musee Orsay and have lunch before a walkabout in Montmartre district and enjoy the sunset at the top - Sacre Coeur Church. Have orientation meeting during welcome dinner nearby hostel before a good night’s sleep.

Sleep in Paris for 5 nights.

Day 3 | Monday 29th • • •

Visiting the memorial at church of St.Roch & Royal Palais where Abbe de l’Epee was buried and his home where a small group of Deaf children was first taught before moving to the fascinating St.Jacques Deaf School where Laurent Clerc spend his formative years under the tutelage of Abbe Sicard as well as the founder Abbe de l’Epee. As well as a walking distance to the Catacombs and get spooked underground. *[Free time afterwards]*

Day 4 | Tuesday 30th • • •

Head to the heart of the city, Ile de la Cite and do a walkabout including visits to the Notre Dame Cathedral and Sainte-Chapelle. After lunch, Spend the rest of the afternoon at Musee Louvre. *[Free time afterwards]*

Day 5 | Wednesday 31st • • •

Spend all day at Chateaux Versailles where the Sun King Louis XIV reigned supreme and subsequently caused the French Revolution. Optional: biking, boating, tram and Merie Antoinette’s cottages. Return to Paris with a visit to Eiffel Tower in the late afternoon. *[Free time afterwards]*

Day 6 | Thursday 1st • • •

Visit the International Visual Theatre and participate in cultural/LSF workshop all morning. After lunch, visit Arc d’ Triomphe and see the famed Champs Elysees from a top. *[Free time afterwards]*

Day 7 | Friday 2nd • • •

Check out of the hostel and transfer to Brussels, the EU's capital city via train in the morning and an afternoon visit to the School of Deaf Kasterlinden with a tour guide by Deaf School tutor and a workshop of Flemish Sign Language at School. *[Free time afterwards]*

Sleep in Brussels for 3 nights.

Day 8 | Saturday 3rd • • •

A day trip by train to Bruges, the capital of West Flanders in North-West Belgium with a local deaf tour guide by seeing its canals, cobbled streets, and the historic buildings and much more. Return to Brussels in the evening. *[Free time afterwards]*

Day 9 | Sunday 4th • • •

A local deaf guide in Brussels with visits to Manneken Pis, Grand Place in Market Square and much more. *[Free time afterwards]*

Day 10 | Monday 5th • • •

Check out of the hotel. A morning visit to the European Union of the Deaf with a tour guide by Deaf Director of EUD and after lunch, visit the First Future Classroom Lab with transfer to Paris via train. A farewell group dinner in Paris afterwards.

Sleep in Paris for 1 night.

Day 11 | Tuesday 6th • • •

Check out of the hotel and transfer to Paris CDG airport for your afternoon flight return to Texas, USA.

FRANCE & BELGIUM TOUR PRICE

\$3,100 per person (based on 14+ paying participants)

\$500 non-refundable deposit per person

50% of the balance is required by November 27th 2022

100% of the balance is required by February 27th 2023

CONTACT: himel@handson.travel

GROUP LEADER: Himel Chowdhury

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

- Total of 9 nights of budget to moderately priced accommodations.
- 11 meals: Breakfast (9), Dinner (2)
- Services of a deaf Tour Leader on call 24 hours a day.
- Services of local deaf guides.
- All transportation expenses.
- All admission fees for attractions and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Most tips, except for your Tour Leader(s).
- Informative travel preparation packet.
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour itinerary consultation.

WHAT'S EXCLUDED?

- Domestic and/or international airfares.
- All other meals not mentioned in the itinerary and personal expenses.
- Any COVID-19 related tests.
- Travel insurance.

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- Obligatory travel insurance will be provided at an additional fee. It will cover trip cancellation & interruption, emergency medical & dental, medical evacuation, travel delay and baggage delay.
- It is essential to consult the HOT school tour terms and conditions before booking.
- Substantial amount of walking is expected during the tour. Appropriate physical fitness is strongly encouraged.
- Please consult the most recent version of the HOT terms and conditions.
<https://handson.travel/terms-edu.pdf>
- **Tour itinerary and price are subject to change, especially at the time of all deposits received to confirm this tour.**

IMPORTANT TO KNOW - COVID19:

The goal of group tour companies is to provide safe travel experiences for their passengers. Hands On Travel will diligently only work with Covid-19 Safety Protocol vendors: Motor Coach Operators; Restaurants; Attractions; Museums; Hotels; Public Transportation; Facilities; etc. Hands On Travel will provide necessary information to passengers on what to expect on their trip as well as any protocols Hands On Travel is following. It is the responsibility of the passengers or group leader to communicate and seek what protocols are in place to ensure safety of all passengers and ensure a level of comfort in group travel.

Hands On Travel will provide their Crisis Management Plan to the group leader and/or their educational institution.

Hands On Travel continues to follow the recommendations, alerts, crisis management, crisis response and more by the following below:

U.S. Dept. of State: <https://travel.state.gov/>

Ministry of France: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

Ministry of Belgium: <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/>

U.S. Embassy in France: <https://fr.usembassy.gov/>

US. Embassy in Belgium: <https://be.usembassy.gov/>

ABOUT OUR EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Our American Sign Language Tour is specifically designed for ASL and Interpreter Training Programs for any high school and post-secondary program (colleges, community colleges, universities).

This thematic tour is a wonderful opportunity for ASL and ITP teachers to bring their students outside of the classroom and to new places, where they will be able to expand their horizons by interacting with Hands On Travel's guides and managers in ASL in addition to interacting with local deaf people in their own sign language, learning about deaf culture and history in different countries, and finding new ways to communicate and get immersed into ASL and sign language in general.

In 2013, our pilot ASL Tour was met with such positive reviews, as the ITP and ASL students on the tour remarked on how much their sign language skills improved in such a short time. They got to practice their sign language from morning to night every day and learn & practice ASL in a new atmosphere.

We are motivated to offer memorable experiences to any ASL and ITP program and will be working closely with administrators and/or teachers throughout the process to ensure a smooth outcome. Our consultation services include assistance with the administrative tasks that are required to make the trip a success - such as fundraising, insurance, general liability-legal issues, necessary policies/rules for dealing with students abroad, and dealing with administration/parents.

Past ASL Programs using our ASL Tours:

Central Michigan University, Michigan (recurring client)
Rochester Institute of Technology, New York (recurring client)
William Woods University, Missouri
Tulsa Community College, Oklahoma
Medina Valley ISD, Texas (recurring client)
Maumee Valley Country Day School

Testimonials:

"Thank you for a life changing experience. We are truly lucky to have had you as a guide. We have been on a few guided tours before with other companies and we can honestly say this has been the best, both the tours and the culture. You made it so carefree for us all and we were able to experience these amazing cities just as locals would. We will be forever grateful to you for this amazing adventure."

Medina Valley Independent School District

"The experiences I gained while with this group have changed my heart as well as the course of my future. I was completely captivated each day while watching you share historical information in beautiful ASL. Making this trip open to hearing students has done more than you know. I am deeply thankful."

Laura Hawkins, student, William Woods University

"CSD Fremont is proud of our longstanding relationship with Hands On Travel. CSD Fremont will never go back to touring with a company that does not cater directly to Deaf students. HOT is a top-notch company, with better, quicker, and deeper travel experiences in all regions HOT visits."

California School of the Deaf