Behind the Scenes at CERN & ITER
Celebrating the Scientific Discoveries, Culture & Cuisine of Geneva & Provence
MAY 5–14, 2019
with Melissa Franklin
Recent scientific breakthroughs surrounding the discovery of the so-called “God particle,” the futuristic Large Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland, and other cutting-edge research centers in the south of France are changing the face of science. In Geneva, Switzerland, spend a full day discovering the intricacies of CERN and visit the United Nations. Entering the verdant hills of southern France, stop at the enormous synchrotron in Grenoble, perhaps the world’s finest center for the study of x-ray radiation and its many uses. Then, outside Aix-en-Provence, spend the morning as VIP guests at the sparkling new facilities of ITER, a large-scale scientific research center focused on the viability of fusion as an energy source. The tour’s science focus is complemented by cultural experiences throughout our journey through these beautiful cities, including visits to contemporary wineries, art museums, and bountiful morning markets.

Activity Level 3: 🥾🚶‍♂️🚶‍♂️🚶‍♂️

**A LITTLE MORE TO IT**

My walking shoes are laced up tight and I’m ready to keep up with my traveling companions, even sometimes on uneven terrain and cobblestones or climbing stairs. I look forward to getting to know them on the drives we’ll take between cities. A little mental and physical stimulation will do me good!

**TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL**

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*Study Leader*

**Melissa Franklin**, Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics at Harvard University, is an experimental particle physicist who is working on studies of hadron collisions produced by the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory with the Collider Detector Facility (CDF) and the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). She works in a collaboration of over 600 international physicists who discovered the top quark at CDF, and 3,000 physicists at ATLAS where she studies particle interactions and symmetries at the highest energies now available worldwide when the accelerator turns on this fall. Professor Franklin, born and raised in Canada, received her B.Sc. from the University of Toronto and her Doctorate from Stanford University. She worked as a post-doctoral fellow at Lawrence Berkeley Lab, an assistant professor at the University of Illinois in Champagne/Urbana and was a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard, before joining the Harvard faculty in 1989 and becoming the first female tenured faculty member in the Department of Physics in 1992.

Please note that Professor Franklin will accompany the group for the Geneva portion of the itinerary, providing an orientation lecture about CERN and attending the group during the tour of the facilities.
Schedule by Day

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019
Departure
Depart the United States on independent overnight flights to Geneva, Switzerland.

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019
Welcome to Geneva
Arrive in Geneva and transfer independently from the Geneva International Airport (GVA) to Le Richemond hotel. This afternoon, gather for a guided walking tour of Geneva’s historic Old Town. Admire the city’s Saint Peter’s Cathedral; the Hotel de Ville, seat of the city’s government; the Arsenal, an arcaded structure dating from 1634; and the Reformation Wall, dedicated to the leaders of the Protestant Reformation. Tonight, enjoy a festive welcome dinner of Swiss specialties in celebration of the exciting journey ahead.

Le Richemond, Geneva (D)

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019
Geneva & Lausanne
After breakfast, attend a lecture by your Harvard Study Leader at the hotel. Head to the Geneva Observatory in the nearby town of Versoix, home to the University of Geneva Faculty of Science’s Astronomy Department. Meet astrophysicists and astronomers who will explain the research they conduct using advanced spectrographic instruments. After lunch along the shore of the Lac Léman, continue to the Swiss Plasma Center (SPC), one of the world’s leading fusion research laboratories. Learn how this center works to advance understanding of the physics of plasmas and develop fusion as an energy source. Later, drive into the center of Lausanne to see the biggest and arguably most beautiful Gothic cathedral in Switzerland. Hear about the cathedral’s one-of-a-kind 7,000-pipe organ, and experience the sheer power and unique harmonics of one of the most expensive instruments in the world. Drive back to Geneva for an evening on your own.

Le Richemond, Geneva (B, L)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019
CERN
Embark on a full-day visit to CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research and the world’s largest particle physics laboratory. Here, scientists unite to study the building blocks of matter and the forces that hold them together. CERN exists primarily to provide them with the necessary tools to conduct this high-level research, including accelerators, which accelerate particles to almost the speed of light, and detectors to make the particles visible. Take a guided tour through CERN’s campus including a visit to the first accelerator, SM18, CCC, and possibly the Atlas control room. Lunch will be provided during the visit. This afternoon, return to the hotel and enjoy time at leisure to explore Geneva on your own.

Le Richemond, Geneva (B, L)

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019
UN & Bodmer Collection
This morning, take a guided tour of the United Nations building, the former home of the League of Nations and the second most important UN building after the New York Headquarters. Enjoy a gourmet lunch at the nearby Vieux Bois restaurant. Continue with a visit to the Museum of the History of Science housed in Villa Bartholini, one of Geneva’s most beautiful neoclassical buildings. See a unique collection of old scientific instruments from various disciplines, including astronomy, medicine, meteorology, and physics. Next, drive to the Martin Bodmer Foundation Library and Museum for a private guided tour of the Foundation’s outstanding collections, which include more than 160,000 documents in 80 languages, hundreds of western and oriental manuscripts, ancient cuneiform tablets, as well as an original copy of the Gutenberg Bible and Dante’s Divine Comedy.

This evening, enjoy dinner with your fellow travelers at one of Geneva’s finest restaurants.

Le Richemond, Geneva (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019
Grenoble, LNCMI & Aix-En-Provence
This morning, depart from Geneva by private motor coach
and drive two hours southeast to the town of Grenoble at the foot of the French Alps. Stop at the French National Laboratory for the Study of Strong Magnetic Fields (LNCMI). Meet with a group of enthusiastic scientists for a guided tour of the laboratories and learn about the importance of high magnetic fields in nuclear fusions research. Next, take a ride on the first urban cable-car in the world to reach the Restaurant Le Téléferique in the heart of the Bastille of Grenoble for a lunch with panoramic views of the city. This afternoon, continue driving south toward Aix-en-Provence. After checking into your hotel, enjoy a Provençal dinner at a local restaurant near the hotel. Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019

Aix-En-Provence

After breakfast, meet your Harvard Study Leader for a lecture at the hotel. Later, embark on an introductory walking tour of Old Aix-en-Provence, the first Roman city built in Gaul in 122 B.C. Walk through the narrow winding streets of town discovering charming squares and remarkable aristocratic mansions. Stop inside the Saint Savior Cathedral, famous for its 6th-century baptistery and Triptych of the Burning Bush painted by Nicolas Froment. Enjoy time to stroll through the local market and have lunch on your own. This afternoon, meet a local impressionist painter who will take you on a wonderful discovery of Cézanne’s landscapes and studio, where he produced dozens of works that are now in great museums around the world. Finish the afternoon with a visit to the local artist’s house and studio with light refreshments served in your honor. The evening is at leisure.
Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (B)

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019

Château la Coste

After breakfast, meet with your Harvard Study Leader for a lecture at the hotel. After lunch near the hotel, drive to the nearby Château la Coste to enjoy wine, art, and architecture in the beautiful surroundings of the French countryside. Continue to the Jean Nouvel-designed Chai and learn about wine making. Enjoy time at leisure to walk through the estate’s grounds and view an assortment of unique architectural installations by famous artists from all over the world such as Richard Serra, Louise Bourgeois, Sean Scully, Andy Goldsworthy, Alexander Calder, and Frank Gehry.
Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.
Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (B, L)

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019

CEA & ITER

Embark on a morning visit to the CEA (Cadarache Center), one of the most important technological research and development centers for energy in Europe, with activities that focus on nuclear fission, nuclear fusion, new energy technologies, and research in the field of vegetal biology. Enjoy a gourmet lunch at a nearby restaurant before heading to ITER, a large-scale scientific experiment intended to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source. The visit will include a presentation of the project followed by a guided tour of the ITER platform where the scientific facilities are under construction. This evening, gather for a farewell dinner at a nearby local restaurant to celebrate the end of a fascinating cultural and scientific journey through Switzerland and France.
Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

Return to the U.S.

After breakfast, take a group transfer to the Marseille Provence Airport (MRS) for independent flights returning to the United States. (B)
Tour Highlights

- Visit what is widely considered the world’s most advanced center for particle physics, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), which has become the critical center for scientific research in Europe, with a special opportunity to see its amazing research facilities up close.

- Near Aix-en-Provence in Saint Paul-Les-Durance, join an ITER staff member for a tour of the ITER site. Learn about the culmination of decades of fusion research, design work and complex negotiations, which have led to ITER’s large-scale scientific experiment that aims to demonstrate the technological and scientific feasibility of fusion energy.

- Enjoy a relaxing day in the French countryside at Château la Coste, which will include a visit inside the state-of-the-art wine facility designed by famous architect Jean Nouvel, a tasting of the excellent wines produced on the property, and time to stroll through the estate to admire the works of art installed by famous artists and architects from all over the world.

Tour Price $6,995 per person double occupancy | $1,595 single supplement
TOUR COST

INCLUSIONS
Accommodations for four (4) nights at the five-star Le Richemond in Aix-en-Provence, France; breakfast daily, six (6) lunches, four (4) dinners; two glasses of wine or beer with each lunch and dinner, plus mineral water, soft drinks, and tea; land transportation by private motor coach as outlined; one (1) group airport transfer upon departure from the Renaissance Aix-en-Provence to the Marseille Provence Airport (MRS); entrance fees to sites per itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert, local English-speaking guides; leadership of Harvard Study Leader Melissa Franklin; gratuities to local guides and drivers; bottled water aboard motor coach; taxes, services, and portage fees; $200,000 emergency medical assistance and evacuation insurance.

TOUR COST

EXCLUSIONS
Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport portage; transfers from the airport upon arrival; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; personal items; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping and concierge staff.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENT
To reserve your space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Your final payment is due January 25, 2019 and must be made by check.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
Written cancellation received on or before January 25, 2019: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation on or between January 26, 2019 and March 21, 2019: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less $3,500 per person cancellation charge (includes administrative fee). Cancellations received on or after March 22, 2019 are fully non-refundable.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS
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INSURANCE
We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY

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QUESTIONS
Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

Terms & Conditions

Registration Form
To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person.

Please return this form by mail to:
Harvard Alumni Travels
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions:
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

How did you hear about this trip?

Program Name
Start Date

First Person Name on Passport
Date of Birth

Email Address

Street Address

City, State / Zip or Postal Code

Home Telephone

Work Telephone

Second Person Name on Passport
Date of Birth

Email Address

Street Address

City, State / Zip or Postal Code

Home Telephone

Work Telephone

Method of Deposit

Check (please enclose check)

MasterCard

Visa

Expiration Date

3-Digit Security Code

Name as it appears on card

I/We confirm that I/We have read and accept the general information for this tour, including refunds and cancellations and the responsibility clause at alumni.harvard.edu/travel.

Signature

Signature

ACCOMMODATIONS

Category Preference

Double Room

Single Room

Share a Room With:

Roommate
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