

The Paris of Thomas Jefferson and the Founding Fathers

A CUSTOM SEMINAR WITH ANNETTE GORDON-REED

May 30–June 6, 2022



Legion of Honor, Hotel de Salm (TCY)

This custom-designed travel program has been created uniquely for:



HARVARD
Alumni Association



Legion of Honor / Hôtel de Salm (JLPC)

Led by historian and author Annette Gordon-Reed, immerse yourself in late 18th-century Paris and trace the footsteps of our Founding Fathers: Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and other early Americans, reliving their encounters and triumphs, and visiting the places that inspired them.

During the very formative years of the United States of America, many of our Founding Fathers ventured thousands of miles from home to Paris. Their subtle diplomacy to the French court was key in obtaining military support and, later, helping our new nation gain a solid footing on the international scene. Preeminent among these leaders were Benjamin Franklin, the first American diplomat who served from 1776 to 1778; Thomas Jefferson, who spent five years in Paris, mostly as American Minister to France; and John Adams, who had a consequential presence, but was often overshadowed by Franklin's charisma. All three were in Paris at a fascinating and volatile time, with the winds of reform buffeting the ancient royal court, although few imagined the cataclysmic events of the French Revolution that were just around the corner. While in Paris, they exchanged ideas with distinguished French thinkers and experts about political economy, the fine arts, agriculture, trade, and fine food and wine.

This unique tour allows alumni and friends of Harvard University to experience the Paris in which the Founding Fathers lived—tracing their footsteps, reliving their encounters and triumphs, retelling personal anecdotes in the very places they occurred and visiting the places that inspired them. Intelligent excursions take us to key places in the Parisian stays of our early diplomats—Versailles, the Hôtel de Salm, the palace where the Treaty of Paris was signed ending the Revolutionary War, even the locations of the homes of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Paul Jones. With three specialized lectures by Annette Gordon-Reed and custom-created tours meant to further enhance your learning, you will be immersed in late 18th-century Paris all the while enjoying beautiful four-star hotel accommodations and memorable meals.

STUDY LEADER



Annette Gordon-Reed
Author, professor, and alumna
of Dartmouth (Class of 1981)
and Harvard Law School (1984)

ANNETTE GORDON-REED is the Carl M. Loeb University Professor at Harvard. Gordon-Reed won sixteen book prizes, including the Pulitzer Prize in History in 2009 and the National Book Award in 2008, for *The Heminges of Monticello: An American Family* (W.W. Norton, 2008). In addition to articles and reviews, her other works include *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* (UVA Press, 1997), *Vernon Can Read! A Memoir*, a collaboration with Vernon Jordan (PublicAffairs, 2001), *Race on Trial: Law and Justice in American History* (Oxford University Press, 2002), a volume of essays that she edited, *Andrew Johnson* (Times Books/Henry Holt, 2010) and, with Peter S. Onuf, “*Most Blessed of the Patriarchs*”: *Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination* (Liveright Publishing, 2016). Her most recent book is a memoir/history of Texas, *On Juneteenth* (Liveright Publishing, 2021). Gordon-Reed was the Vyvyan Harmsworth Visiting Professor of American History at the University of Oxford (Queens College) 2014-2015.

Between 2010 and 2015, she was the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. She was the 2018-2019 President of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. She is the current President of the Ames Foundation. A selected list of her honors includes a fellowship from the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, a Guggenheim Fellowship in the humanities, a MacArthur Fellowship, the National Humanities Medal, the National Book Award, the Frederick Douglass Book Prize, the George Washington Book Prize, and the Anisfeld-Wolf Book Prize. Gordon-Reed served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College from 2010 to 2018. She was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2011 and was a member of the Academy’s Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences. In 2019, she was elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society.

(background) *Château de Marly* (detail), 1723- Pierre-Denis Martin, Museum Versailles and (below) Hall of Mirrors Ceiling, Versailles (Dennis Jarvis)



HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in the Founding Fathers’ Parisian experiences on a walking tour of the city’s timeless Left Bank and learn about the buildings that inspired Jefferson’s later designs.
- Step inside the Royal Chapel at Versailles and gain special access to the palace’s private Royal Chambers.
- Discover an outstanding collection of old and rare books, as well as maps dating back to the late 1700s at the city of Versailles’ historic library.
- Explore the artists of Founding Fathers’ era during a focused tour of the Louvre Museum.
- Dine on the Seine, pairing a delicious meal with splendid views of old Paris.
- Leave the bustling city to enjoy an exclusive private luncheon within the interiors of the historic Château de la Roche-Guyon, where Adams, Jefferson and Franklin were received.
- Gather for a wonderful evening reception and meet with local alumni.

SCHEDULE BY DAY

(B = BREAKFAST, L = LUNCH, R = RECEPTION, D = DINNER)

Monday, May 30, 2022

Departures from the U.S.

Depart on independent flights to Paris.

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Welcome to Paris

Upon arrival at Paris' Charles de Gaulle (CDG) International Airport, transfer independently to the four-star Hôtel Rochester Champs-Élysées, a sophisticated hotel with an enviable location close to the Champs-Élysées, couture boutiques, and excellent restaurants. After an independent lunch, set out on an optional afternoon tour to Sainte-Chapelle, and be dazzled by this glorious Gothic chapel and its 13th-century stained glass. Next enjoy a guided walk through the Jardins des Plantes, formerly known as the Jardins du Roi where Thomas Jefferson met André Thouin, the director of the garden. Upon his return to America, Jefferson and Thouin corresponded regularly to share their passion for plants as well as hundreds of species of seeds. This evening, gather for a delicious welcome dinner paired with wonderful views of Paris aboard a private boat on the Seine.

Hôtel Rochester Champs-Élysées (D)

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Paris' Left Bank

This morning join your study leader, Professor Annette Gordon-Reed, in one of the hotel's conference rooms for the first of three lectures. In the late morning, immerse yourself in Jefferson's Parisian experience with a custom-designed walking tour of the city's timeless Left Bank. It was in this quarter that Jefferson studied new architectural designs that would later influence his own. Some of the highlights along the Seine include exterior views of the Legion of Honor and the Hôtel de York, where the Treaty of Paris was signed. Break for lunch at le Procope, a café that was already historic when Jefferson began dining there during his years in Paris. Resume your walk and learn more about the political climate of the time and the relationship between the Latin Quarter and the French Revolution. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

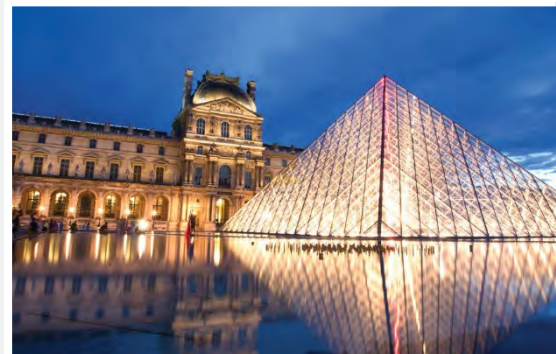
Hôtel Rochester Champs-Élysées (B, L)

Thursday, June 2, 2022

The Right Bank & the Louvre

This morning attend Dr. Gordon-Reed's second lecture. Walk in the footsteps of our Founding Fathers with a guided tour of some of the statues, plaques, and important monuments that commemorate their presence on the Right Bank, including Place de la Concorde where Franklin signed the Treaty of Alliance. After a delicious lunch at a traditional Parisian brasserie, enjoy an independent afternoon. At 6:30 p.m., gather for a special visit to the Louvre Museum (open late tonight with fewer visitors than usual) that will focus on the artists of the Founding Fathers' era, including portrait busts of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin by Houdon, and paintings that tell the story of France during the time leading up to the Revolution. Dinner and the remainder of the evening are at leisure.

Hôtel Rochester Champs-Élysées (B, L)



Friday, June 3, 2022

Versailles

During an in-depth tour of the Versailles palace complex, learn about the royal court that dominated Parisian high culture during the Founding Fathers' time. Go behind closed doors and gain special access to private chambers and the Royal Chapel. Stop for lunch in the grand gardens of Versailles. This afternoon, step inside the city of Versailles' historic library, the former Foreign Ministry office that Jefferson visited while in France. This library holds an outstanding collection of old and rare books, as well as maps dating back to the late 1700s. On the way back to Paris, pass the still-existent Adams compound in Auteuil and the location of Franklin's former home in Passy. Return to Paris for an independent evening.

Hôtel Rochester Champs-Élysées (B, L)

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Marly & the Désert de Retz

This morning, drive to the Château de Marly estate. Although the main house is now gone, the extravagant garden layout is still largely intact. It has been argued that Marly greatly influenced Jefferson's design of the University of Virginia. Head to nearby Désert de Retz, a French landscape garden created at the end of the 18th century that lies on the edge of the Marly forest. Several structures reminiscent of classical antiquity were built to evoke columns in ruin, adding to the romantic imagery more commonly associated with English gardens. Jefferson, and possibly Franklin, visited the Désert de Retz, a very different design than the gardens found at Versailles. This evening, gather for a cocktail reception hosted by local alumni. Enjoy a delicious dinner in the company of fellow travelers and local alumni.

Hôtel Rochester Champs-Élysées (B, L, R, D)

Sunday, June 5, 2022

La Roche-Guyon

This morning attend Dr. Gordon-Reed's final lecture in one of the hotel's conference rooms. Then drive to the historic Château de la Roche-Guyon for a guided tour of the property, followed by an exclusive private luncheon within the historic interiors of the old palace. The Duc de la Rochefoucauld, who lived in the château, received both Franklin and Jefferson several times. After lunch return to Paris and have the remainder of the afternoon for an independent late lunch and sightseeing on your own. This evening, join fellow travelers for a splendid farewell dinner at one of Paris' great restaurants.

Hôtel Rochester Champs-Élysées (B, D)

Monday, June 6, 2022

Return to the U.S.

After breakfast take an independent transfer to Charles de Gaulle International Airport for independent return flights to the U.S.

(B)

