BEHIND THE SCENES AT CERN & ITER:  
CELEBRATING THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES,  
CULTURE & CUISINE OF GENEVA & PROVENCE  
MAY 5-14, 2019

Complemented by cultural and culinary visits, this program provides a window into the groundbreaking scientific work being done at several prestigious institutions. Enjoy special access to the most critical centers for scientific research in Europe: the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) outside Geneva, and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) near Aix-en-Provence. Other highlights include visits to the United Nations and the physics laboratories of the University of Geneva, a special look at Swiss watchmaking, a stop at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) in Grenoble, and 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.

GROUP SIZE: 20-25 guests

PRICING: $6,995 per person double occupancy / $8,590 single occupancy

STUDY LEADER: MELISSA FRANKLIN, Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics at Harvard University. She 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 3000 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.
SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

SUNDAY, MAY 5
DEPART U.S. FOR GENEVA

MONDAY, MAY 6
ARRIVE GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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, an architectural hybrid constructed over centuries in Romanesque, Gothic, and Greco-Roman styles. Walk by the Hotel de Ville or Town Hall, seat of the city’s government; the Arsenal, an arcaded structure dating from 1634; and the Reformation Wall, dedicated to the leaders of the reformation.

Tonight, enjoy a festive welcome dinner of Swiss specialties in celebration of the exciting journey ahead.

Overnight: Le Richemond, Geneva (D)

TUESDAY, MAY 7
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, which is home to the University of Geneva Faculty of Science’s Astronomy Department. Meet astrophysicists and astronomers who will explain the research they perform using advanced spectrographic instruments.

After lunch at a restaurant situated along the shore of the Lac Léman, continue toward the city of Lausanne for a visit at 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 for a visit to the biggest and arguably the most beautiful Gothic cathedral in Switzerland. Enjoy a guided tour of the cathedral’s one-of-a-kind 7,000-pipe organ, which was inaugurated in 2003. It is the first organ to feature four styles, the first to have been designed by a designer, and the first in a European cathedral to have been constructed by a company from the U.S. 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.

Overnight: Le Richemond, Geneva (B, L)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
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 further explore Geneva on your own.

Overnight: Le Richemond, Geneva (B, L)

THURSDAY, MAY 9
GENEVA

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 Vieux Bois restaurant of the Hotel School of Geneva, located close to the United Nations in the beautiful park of Ariana.

Continue with a visit to the Museum of the History of Science housed in one of Geneva’s most beautiful neoclassical buildings, Villa Bartholini, with views of Lake Geneva. 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. Designed by Swiss architect Mario Botta, the Bodmer Foundation is one of the most important private libraries in the world. Take a private guided tour of the Foundation’s 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.

Overnight: Le Richemond, Geneva (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, MAY 10
GRENOBLE / 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 how high magnetic fields are crucial to the very existence of CERN and the Large Hadron Collider, and form the very basis of nuclear fusions research and the Tokamak reactors already in operation and ITER, the large one being built in Provence.

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 for another three hours south to Aix-en-Provence.

Upon arrival in Aix-en-Provence, check in at the five-star Renaissance Hotel located in the heart of the city.

This evening, enjoy a Provençal dinner at a local restaurant near the hotel.

Overnight: Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, MAY 11
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 such as Place d’Albertas, and the town’s remarkable heritage with more than 140 aristocratic mansions dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. Visit the Saint Savior Cathedral, famous for its 6th-century baptistery and Triptych of the Burning Bush painted by Nicolas Froment for the King Rene. The tour will finish in the bustling Place Richelme featuring a lively local produce market.

Enjoy free time to stroll through the local market, taste local specialties such as tapenade, olives or Calissons, and have lunch on your own.

This afternoon, meet a local impressionist painter who will take you to a famous lookout called “The Painter’s Ground” featuring a beautiful view of Saint-Victoire Mountain and ten panels depicting the mountain as painted by Cézanne from the very same spot. Later, enter Cézanne’s small country 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.

Overnight: Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, MAY 12
AIX-EN-PROVENCE

After breakfast, meet with your Harvard Study Leader for a final lecture at the hotel.

Enjoy the remainder of the morning before joining your fellow travelers for lunch near the hotel.

This afternoon, drive to the nearby Château la Coste in Le-Puy-Sainte- Réparade to enjoy wine, food, art, and architecture in the beautiful surroundings of the French countryside.

Later, tour the Jean Nouvel-designed Chai with an introduction to wine making. Taste the wines produced on the property.

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.

Overnight: Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (B, L)

MONDAY, MAY 13
ITER

Embark on a morning visit to the CEA (Cadarcache Center), which is 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 nestled in a country castle with breathtaking views onto the Provence landscape.

Dedicate the afternoon to visiting ITER, a large-scale scientific experiment intended to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source. Its construction began in 2010 using the financial

and scientific resources of several partnering countries: China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States. 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.

Return to Aix-en-Provence for independent time to do last-minute shopping, further explore the town, pack, or relax.

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.

Overnight: Renaissance Aix-en-Provence Hotel (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, MAY 14
RETURN TO U.S.

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