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ST. CLAIR COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS
10 DAY ART FOCUS TOUR TO SPAIN, SOUTHERN FRANCE & PARIS
MAY 6 – 15, 2012

Revised Itinerary – July 13, 2011

Note: It is the responsibility of all participants to be in possession of the correct documentation to travel out of the country. Failure to do so will result in participants being denied entry/boarding and returned home at the expense of the individual. Canadian Citizens require a valid passport (the Canadian Government recommends that passports are valid at least 6 months beyond your return date). Notarized letters of consent for persons under 18 are also strongly recommended and may be required. Non-Canadians must check entry and transit requirements. Please notify the group leader at time of booking if you will be traveling with a passport from another country so we can check requirements and advise you accordingly.

Day 1 – Sunday May 6 – INFLIGHT **D**

6:30pm - meet as a group at **Detroit International Airport**
- **check in** at the airline ticket counter *(it is recommended that groups travelling internationally allow 3 hours for check in prior to their scheduled departure)*

9:40pm - depart on **Air France flight 377 for Paris, France**
- **dinner** served inflight, at the discretion of the airline

Day 2 – Monday May 7 – arrive BARCELONA, Spain **B/D**

- **breakfast** served prior to landing

11:20am - arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport where you will change planes

12:55pm - depart on Air France flight 1648 for Barcelona, Spain

2:35pm - arrive at **Barcelona International Airport** where you will pass through customs, collect your luggage and proceed through to the arrival hall

3:15pm - meet your **local coach and driver** for **transfer directly into Barcelona's city centre**

4:00pm - check into your **hotel accommodation for 2 nights**
- time to rest and freshen up

6:00pm - meet your **local guide** and embark on a **panoramic coach and walking tour.** On the way, you will drive along the scenic Passeig de Gracia, walk in Parc Guell and **tour the world famous and unique Sagrada Familia**, both designed by Antoni Gaudi. Finish tour with a stroll along Les Rambles and into the Barri Gotic, the medieval section of Barcelona.
- **group dinner** at your hotel
- early to bed after two long days of travelling

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<u>Day 3 – Tuesday May 8</u> – BARCELONA **B**

8:30am - **breakfast** at your accommodation
9:30am - transfer to **Casa Battlo**
10:00am - this morning take part in a **guided audio tour of Gaudi's famous Casa Batllo.** From the outset of your stay, you will notice that Antoni Gaudi put his stamp on Barcelona and one of the places this can be clearly seen is Casa Batllo. Marvel at the creative genius of Gaudi as you tour the house Dali once called, "an immense, senseless multicolor mosaic shimmering with scintillating light from which forms of water emerge."
- after your tour, enjoy an afternoon soaking up the ambiance of Barcelona, or use the time to explore some of Barcelona's many attractions
- purchase your dinner, on your own in smaller groups, at or near, your hotel
- following dinner, you may wish to take in a flamenco show such as that at Palacio Flamenco (optional)

<u>Day 4 – Wednesday May 9</u> – to CARCASSONNE, France **B/D**

8:00am - **breakfast** at your accommodation followed by check out
9:00am - bid good bye to Barcelona and set out for France and the town of Carcassonne
11:30am - **stop enroute in Figueres**, the birthplace of Salvador Dali, with time to purchase lunch and take a stroll
1:30pm - re-assemble as a group to take a **self-guided tour of the Dali Theatre-Museum** distinguished by its honeycomb-like exterior, designed by Dali, which crowns the old neo-classical theatre housing the museum. You will never forget the examples of Dali's genius housed in the museum which is second only to the Prado in Madrid, for number of visitors each year.
2:30pm - board the coach and continue on to Carcassonne
4:00pm - **arrive Carcassonne** and check into the **Best Western Le Donjon des Ramparts (within the walls of the medieval city)** for an **overnight stay**
- time to explore the medieval streets of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. No other site in Europe captures the feel of medieval times more faithfully than this carefully restored town.
7:00pm - **group dinner** at or near the hotel
- after dinner, take a walk through the streets of this remarkable town

<u>Day 5 – Thursday May 10</u> – to AVIGNON, France **B/D**

8:00am - **breakfast** at your accommodation followed by check out
9:00am - board your coach this morning heading for Provence and the beautiful city of Avignon, home of the papal court through the reigns of seven "official" popes from 1309 – 1377 and two "anti-popes" until 1403
12:00pm - arrive in **Avignon** with time to purchase lunch
2:00pm - meet your **local guide** and transfer to **the Palais des Papes**
- enjoy a **tour of this amazing palace/fortress** that was the Vatican for most of the 14th century
- after your tour **continue on with your guide** for a **walking tour of the town**, including the city gardens, the old city and the famous Pont d'Avignon where you may be moved to sing together with your guide, "sur la Pont d'Avignon, on y danse, on y danse." ☺
5:00pm - check in at the **Novotel Avignon Centre** for a **2 night stay**
7:00pm - **group dinner** at, or near, your hotel
- enjoy a stroll in the charming streets of old Avignon

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<u>Day 6 – Friday May 11</u> – AVIGNON (1/2 day trip to Chateauneuf du Pape) **B**

8:00am - **breakfast** at your accommodation

9:00am - board your coach for the short drive to the region of **Chateauneuf du Pape**, one of the most famous vineyard regions in France

- **arrive at the Chateau des Fines Roches Winery**, a maker of fine wines for five generations. Enjoy a **guided cellar tour and wine tasting**, including some fresh farmhouse bread, olives and spreadable tapenades.
- **return to Avignon** and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure doing some shopping or just soaking up the atmosphere in one of Avignon's many sidewalk cafes
- purchase dinner on your own in small groups

<u>Day 7 – Saturday May 12</u> – to PARIS, France (TGV high speed train) **B/D**

8:00am - **breakfast** at your accommodation followed by check out

9:00am - coach transfer to the **Avignon Train Station**

10:05am - mid-morning **depart Avignon for Paris aboard the TGV high speed train**

12:45pm - **arrive Paris, Gare de Lyon Train Station**, early afternoon where you'll be **met by a local coach and driver** who will transfer you to your hotel

- check into your **hotel accommodation for 3 nights**
- meet your **local English speaking guide** in the lobby of your hotel and set out on a **combined coach and walking tour of Paris**. Highlights of the tour may include the Latin Quarter, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Champs d'Elysees, the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower and other sites that make Paris one of the truly enchanting cities in the world.
- return to your hotel to freshen up for the evening
- **group dinner** at, or near, your hotel

<u>Day 8 – Sunday May 13</u> – PARIS (no coach today, RER & Paris Metro tickets) **B**

- **breakfast** at your accommodation
- group to depart hotel for a **morning visit to Versailles**. Using the **Paris Metro, transfer to the Rive Gauche RER station** (this RER train will take you the closest to the Chateau) for your **train trip to Versailles** *(located approx. 12 miles west of Paris)*
- arrive at the **Palace and meet your guides** (max. 25 persons per tour) **to enjoy a morning guided tour** of this amazing Palace, rebuilt by the Sun King, Louis XIV from a more modest hunting lodge to the chateau that survives today. The sheer magnitude of this colossal architectural project is sure to leave you awe-struck!
- purchase your lunch in the town of Versaille before your return to Paris
- take the RER back to Paris with the rest of the afternoon at your leisure, perhaps doing some souvenir shopping or strolling up the Champs d'Elysees
- purchase your dinner in the area of the Eiffel Tower, in small groups
- re-assemble as a group and after, **transfer (via Paris Metro if required)** to the foot of **the Eiffel Tower**
- **ascend to the top of the tower** for one of the most famous panoramic views in the world
- return to your hotel **(via Paris Metro)** for the night

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<u>Day 9 – Monday May 14</u> – PARIS (no coach today, Paris Metro tickets) **B/D**

- **breakfast** at your accommodation
- this morning, join the group and **transfer (via Paris Metro)** to **the Louvre**
- on arrival **meet your guide for a tour of the priceless collection**. During the tour see such masterpieces as Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, Delacroix's Liberty Leading the People, Gericault's Raft of the Medusa, along with Winged Victory and Venus de Milo.
- after your tour, walk across the Seine to the Left Bank to purchase your lunch in one of Paris' many fine sidewalk cafes
- afternoon at your leisure. You may wish to take the Paris Metro to the Montmartre District where you can visit the famed Basilica of Sacre Coeur and the renowned artist's square, Place du Tertre. Or you may choose to take in the Pere la Chaise Cemetery, final resting place of people like Edith Piaf, Chopin, Oscar Wilde and lest we forget, Jim Morrison. Or, if more art is your desire, the Musee d'Orsay and Monet's Orangerie are certainly worth a visit. Or you may go to the vicinity of the Opera Garnier to patronize the world famous shopping precinct there.
- late-afternoon make your way back to your hotel to freshen up and change for the evening
- end your final day in Paris with a **group farewell dinner**
- **transfer (via Paris Metro)** to the foot of the Eiffel Tower and board Bateaux Parisiens
- enjoy a **narrated cruise on the Seine River**
- **transfer (via Paris Metro)** back to your hotel, after the cruise. Be sure to pack your suitcases before you go to bed, for your flight home tomorrow.

<u>Day 10 – Tuesday May 15</u> – HOME **B**

8:00am	-	**breakfast** at your accommodation followed by check out
9:30am	-	board your **coach** and **transfer to Charles de Gaulle International Airport** *(groups travelling internationally must check in at least 3 hours prior to scheduled departure time)*
10:30am	-	check in at the assigned airline ticket counter
1:35pm	-	depart on **scheduled overseas flight to Detroit**
	-	**in flight meal served,** at the discretion of the airline
4:20pm	-	arrive at **Detroit International Airport**, collect luggage and clear security
	-	**WELCOME HOME!**

B - Breakfast / L - Lunch / D - Dinner - denote meals included in tour cost

Itinerary is tentative and subject to final confirmation