

EXPLORING *Paris,* *Brussels & London*

EXPERIENCE

May 2023

the best of European Design!

with Western Carolina University

Trip highlights:

- Guided exploration in three of Europe's iconic cities: **London, Paris, & Brussels**
- Visit internationally celebrated museums, including the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Musee D'Orsay, the Centre Pompidou, and the Millenium Iconoclast Museum of Art (MIMA)
- Design-fueled private homes turned museums, from Arts and Crafts to Art Deco: the William Morris Gallery, Villa Empain, and the Van Buuren House.
- Discover the lives of fascinating creatives - and some of Europe's most creative neighborhoods!
- Day trips to Versailles and Bruges



Questions about this trip:

Professor Patrice Brown

jpbrown@wcu.edu

Trip sign-up:

www.exploreupclose.com/wcu



Estimated trip price: \$3,883 / student

Final pricing will be confirmed based on student sign-up
& 2023 airfare prices



Trip Itinerary

Travel with Western Carolina & discover the best of European design in London, Paris, and Brussels

Day 1: Depart the US on our overnight flight to England.

Day 2 - 4 (3 nights): After arriving in London, enjoy a walking tour to introduce us to England's storied capital city. We'll spend three nights here, soaking in layers of history on its charming cobbled streets. Hop on the Underground, and experience some of London's most famous sights, including Covent Garden, Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, and more! And, visit a number of London's acclaimed museums, including the Victoria and Albert Museum – known for its fantastic collection of decorative arts and design; and the William Morris Gallery – childhood home of the famed Arts and Crafts designer, featuring paintings, textiles, furniture, and stained glass created by Morris and friends. We'll blend our guided touring and group activities with opportunities for free time to explore London at your own pace.

Day 5 - 8 (4 nights): Depart London by train and cross the Channel Tunnel - the "Chunnel" - this morning. *Bonjour, Paris!* Enjoy a warm welcome to the city with a guided walking tour of iconic Parisian neighborhoods, such as the ancient Marais district – now home to trendy boutiques and galleries. Throughout our stay, we'll discover the city's impressive architecture and design - from the Place de Vosges – Europe's first planned residential square, to the awe-inspiring Eiffel Tower. In a city renowned for its museums, great choices abound: from the gargantuan Louvre – one-time palace and fortress, now one of the world's premier art museums; the delightful Musée d'Orsay – home to a wealth of 19th and 20th century French art; and le Centre Pompidou, home to avant-garde modernity. Or, rather off the beaten track - how about a visit to the Museum of the famed Sèvres Ceramics? Finally, enjoy free time to soak in the charming streets of Paris and its rich artistic history - from the lovely Left Bank to the bohemian hilltop "village" of Montmartre. For the royal treatment, enjoy a day trip to the Palace of Versailles, and discover its opulent interiors and beautiful gardens.

Day 9 - 12 (4 nights): This morning, make our way by train to Belgium! Welcome to Brussels - capital of the European Union, and home to a rich tradition of design, from early Renaissance up to the post-modern era. We'll discover the heart of the city's Old Town, including the Grand Place market square surrounded by medieval guild halls, to the futuristic Atomium, created in 1958 for the Worlds Fair and now a modern symbol of Belgium. The city is also the perfect place to explore Art Nouveau and Art Deco design. Two excellent examples are the Villa Empain and the Van Buuren House - each with their own unique take on Art Deco, showcasing custom work by Belgian, Dutch, and French designers. Finally, there's the new Millenium Iconoclast Museum of Art (MIMA), which focuses on "culture 2.0," non-traditional art from street art to digital mediums. Finally, round off our adventures with a day trip to the fairytale Flemish city of Bruges. From the Markt square lined with colorful buildings of different eras, to the atmospheric canals, the medieval old town of Bruges is one of the best preserved in Europe - and the most charming.

Day 13: Say goodbye to Europe, as we return to the US today. Cheers!