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Our 3 Generation European Vacation - Paris, France - Country 6 of 6

Friday, July 24, 2015

It's not easy to describe Paris in a short blog

We ate in a lot of sidewalk cafes unless people were smoking. Then we looked for an indoor location.

Can't enjoy the city when I'm wheezing.



We saw a lot of art by visiting the Louvre TWICE. Fortunately it was very close to our apartment.



Yes, the Mona Lisa, Winged Victory and all those items on the regular must-see tourist list. But also, areas where the crowds were sparse.

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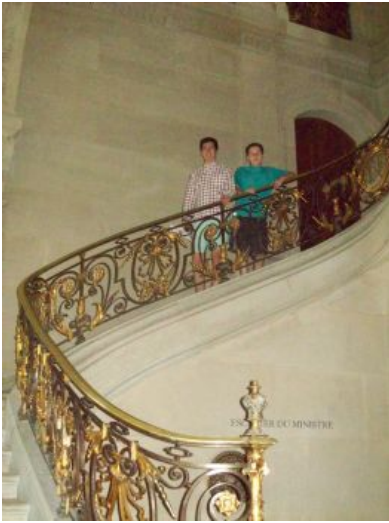
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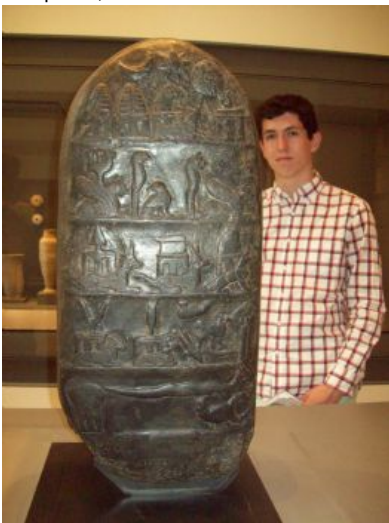
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Napoleon's Apartments (The Third, not the conqueror of Europe)



Antiquities, like the Code of Hammurabi



And foundation of the medieval Louvre Castle down in the bottom level



Notre Dame of course



But also the Archeological Crypt beneath it. Besides the excavation itself, technology has been added to explain the chronological development of the site.



Who knew my grandson really loves art? A wonderful experience at the d'Orsay Museum. My first time

there. The collection was amazing as well as the building itself.



Next the Military Museum and the Tomb of Napoleon with DH, our own personal guide.



Look the windows are carved to look like knights



There were LOTS of knights inside



And hardware too. It's interesting that weapons of war would be so elaborately decorated.



Next stop the Eiffel Tower



The lines aren't so bad if you walk to the first level.



I stayed on the ground to take their picture.



We enjoyed the time people watching especially the cat and mouse "dance" between the police and the throng of young men trying to sell souvenirs



And then there was Versailles.



Which I remember more for this



Now I'm not going to complain about tourist crowds. After all, we were tourists who contributed to the crowd. I bought sandwiches and pastry at a local bakery and observing the crowd itself was interesting. I realized people were getting bored when I saw a group of tourists surrounding and photographing a baby sitting on the pavement while her amused father looked on.

That said, I do wonder about the management that provides FIVE accessible bathroom stalls for a waiting throng of this size. There was a report of people actually going off into the bushes. We managed with a "tag team" arrangement during the 2+ hour wait.

Here's the Hall of Mirrors

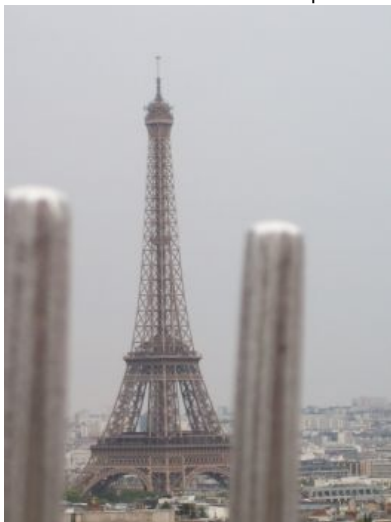


DH & I have visited here before with other family members (www.brigs.us/Europe-June2011/Paris/Versailles-detail.htm) and that was a very different experience.

Another landmark, the Arc de Triomphe, a memorial to those killed in war. While we were there, a wreath laying ceremony was being prepared.



And a zoomed in view from the top



If you don't zoom in, the Eiffel Tower which looks huge to the naked eye, appears like an extra "picket" on the camera.

We then walked down the Champs Elysees, famous for its elegant shops. You know what interested us? A store for apparel of professional soccer teams and the Citroen Store where they had a 6 story slide as well as a virtual "speed experience."

We are not your ordinary tourists.
Here's a view from near the top.



And here's DD#2 at the end



Continuing our walk back to our apartment by the Louvre, we passed the Place de la Concorde which was being prepared for Bastille Day Festivities.



Finally an evening cruise on the Seine.



You can see the city from a different perspective.



If you have been reading my blog, thank you very much. This was just the first pass with the basics. Eventually I sort through everyone's photos (all 6 of us were taking pictures) and add this trip to my website. "Welcome to My World" www.brigs.us/portfolio/index.htm

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WALLAHALLA

We did so many of the same things in Paris last year. I love the crepes. They were so much better than the ones I've had stateside. Our evening cruise on the Seine was lovely. Lots of people were dancing on the banks. Your grandchildren are so blessed!
2145 days ago



PHEBESS
I love Paris!

And Versailles didn't have enough bathrooms when it was the royal residence, either. People used potted plants and the garden as well as the usual facilities. Apparently the place stank during the summer.

But I love Paris!
2147 days ago



LINDAKAY228

Wow, catching up on blogs and you definitely have so much on your blogs and your wonderful trip! Cant wait to see when you get all the pictures sorted out!
2147 days ago



CD13376265

I am envious!
2147 days ago



GARDENCHRIS

very cool, thank you for sharing!
2147 days ago



WILSONWR

What a blog! It really brings back memories of when we visited Paris when I was stationed in Germany. It also made me realize how much more there was to see of Paris! Thanks for sharing your vacation pictures. I know it had to be such a fantastic experience for all of you, and I appreciate you sharing that experience with us!
2148 days ago



GINIEMIE

I love the evening cruise on the river as well as being on the Eiffel tower around sun down. It was an amazing experience. Love your pictures and your stories, so great that you and your family could travel together. Looking at your trip I realized that I had never been in the bowels of the castle or of Notre Dame. I have been in several other churches in Belgium with my uncle Pierre-back in the day. I also need to visit the Musee d'Orsay. Have you ever been to Giverny to see Monet's house and gardens?

I've been in Belgium for their independence day celebrations (7/21) but not France. Guess I'll

check out your page to see other pictures.



2148 days ago



LIVEDAILY

I have to say, all of you held up remarkably well after traveling through 6 countries!! I was still seeing smiles on faces at the end. Paris was lovely - thank you for sharing it with us!!
2148 days ago



DOVESEYES

Paris is amazing thanks for taking me along.
2148 days ago



PHOENIX1949

AWESOME **THANK YOU!**

2148 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM

Another lovely overview... nothing matches "being there" but looking over your shoulder was

fun!
2148 days ago





LIVINGLOVINLIFE

Really enjoyed the tour of Paris and all the great sights. Thank you for sharing.
2148 days ago



HELEN_BRU

In 1971, I arrived in Paris on Bastille Day. What an experience! Had a true adventure.
So enjoyed your pictures and comments.
2148 days ago



AJB121299

beautiful
2148 days ago



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