



# Adventures in Mind

*Travelling Together ... Learning Together*

797 Girvin Avenue  
Nanaimo, BC V9S 4W9, Canada  
[info@adventuresinmind.org](mailto:info@adventuresinmind.org)  
+1 (236) 544-1616

## **2025 Adventure #3: Paris and the Île de France: Crucible of Creativity**

**Please note that this Adventure is a collaboration with the Canadian International Council, whose members will have first call on seats until October 31 2024. Any seats not taken will be offered more widely.**

**Dates (tentative):** September 9-October 2 2025  
(includes travel from and to Canada)

**Group Leaders:** Brett Bowen and John Black.

**Location:** Seine-Port, in the Île de France, is about 30 minutes by train south of Paris. Learning activities, and accommodation for up to 9 participants, will be provided in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century manor house, recently renovated to contemporary standards, pictured herein. Others will be housed nearby in accommodation of similar quality.

**Themes:** The Adventure will revolve around the immense contribution of Paris, and France generally, to significant developments in European culture. Through presentations, discussions and visits to important sites in Paris and elsewhere, we shall explore such fields as music, Gothic architecture, painting and sculpture from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and varieties of social and political organisation, along with the ideas that inspired them. Special (but not exclusive) attention will be paid to the Revolutionary and Napoleonic periods.

**Program Fee: \$6495 (double occupancy)**

**Single Supplement: up to \$1000 TBD**

## **Tentative Itinerary**

- Day 0 Leave Canada
- Day 1 Arrive in Paris; Settle into Hotel near Charles de Gaulle airport
- Day 2 Minibus to Seine-Port; Orientation; Walk; Groceries; Group Meal
- Day 3 Seminars: *Overview* and *Church Architecture*
- Day 4 Paris: Basilicas of Saint-Denis and Sacré-Coeur
- Day 5 Rest Day
- Day 6 Seminars: *L'Ancien Régime* and *Jacques-Louis David*
- Day 7 Château and Gardens of Versailles
- Day 8 Paris: Notre-Dame Cathedral, Sainte-Chapelle
- Day 9 Seminars: *The French Revolution* and *The Terror*
- Day 10 Paris: Musée du Louvre, Tuileries, Place de la Concorde, Arc de Triomphe
- Day 11 Rest Day or Wine Tour (optional)
- Day 12 Rest Day or Chartres Cathedral (optional)
- Day 13 Seminar: *French Painting: From Neoclassicism to Post-Impressionism*
- Day 14 Paris: Musée d'Orsay, L'Orangerie
- Day 15 Seminar: *From Republic to Empire: Napoleon*
- Day 16 Paris: Musée de l'Armée/Invalides/Tomb of Napoleon, Eiffel Tower
- Day 17 Château and Garden of Vaux-le-Viscomte OR Fontainebleau
- Day 18 Rest Day
- Day 19 Rosa Bonheur Museum
- Day 20 Seminar: *France after Napoleon*
- Day 21 Rest Day, Final Dinner
- Day 22 Minibus to Hotel at Charles de Gaulle Airport
- Day 23 Fly Home

## Group Leaders



**John Black** has MAs in Philosophy from Cambridge and Simon Fraser, and a PhD from the University of British Columbia. He taught for twenty-four years in the interdisciplinary Liberal Studies BA program at Vancouver Island University, and led study-abroad trips to Europe for twenty years before retiring in 2017. He has a special interest in the way developments in French artistic expression during the 19th century reflect transitions in political thinking and practice during that period.

**Brett Bowen** (B.A., B.Ed., M.Sc.) received the Alberta Award for Excellence in teaching and the provincial award for contributions to Gifted and Talented Education as a Calgary Board of Education secondary school teacher. After retiring, he moved to Vancouver Island where he paints and engages in outdoor pursuits (primarily kayaking and cycling). Brett has taught for VIU Elder College for over a dozen years and has spoken to a wide variety of audiences about the impacts of history on today's world.



## Inclusive Packages

Package costs include program overheads, accommodation in Seine-Port (as well as at Charles de Gaulle airport on arrival and before departure), minibus rental, train and metro fares, tourist guides, educational materials and activities, and admissions to all cultural sites and events. Participants must arrange their own air travel to Charles de Gaulle and travel insurance, including medical. Food is not included, but the accommodation in Seine-Port has a large kitchen (so that food costs may be minimised), as well as fast wifi and a washing machine.

**Shared Accommodation** (two people sharing a bedroom): **included in program fee.**

**Single Supplement: up to \$1000, TBD.**



The Maison de  
Maître:  
our location in  
Seine-Port

## Payment Schedule

In order to allow us to make a firm decision to proceed with the Adventure, which depends upon enrolment, and to make bookings for accommodations etc., it is essential that we are able to cover our overheads well in advance of leaving Canada. The following payment schedule is therefore necessary:

- On application, commitment fee of \$500
- Due January 15, 2025: booking deposit of \$3000
- Due June 15, 2025: payment of remaining balance

Payments may be made by e-transfer to [info@adventuresinmind.org](mailto:info@adventuresinmind.org) (no codeword needed), or by cheque payable to Adventures in Mind, mailed to: Adventures in Mind, 797 Girvin Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9S 4W9, Canada.

**Please note that all payments are non-refundable, except in case of cancellation of the program by Adventures in Mind. Late applicants may be allowed some leeway from these deadlines.**

## Air Travel

Participants must arrange their own air travel to and from Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG), but **should not do so until they receive official word (probably in February 2025) that the Adventure will proceed**. Before departure you will be given instructions on getting to the hotel on arrival at the airport.

## Travel Insurance

All participants are required to have travel medical insurance and are strongly advised also to obtain coverage for trip cancellation and interruption. **Please do not buy insurance until the Adventure has been confirmed.**

For medical, safety and other advice on travelling overseas, please visit the federal government website [travel.gc.ca/](https://travel.gc.ca/).



## **Important Notice**

A level of physical and mental fitness is required to get the most out of the Adventure. Some of the sites visited are accessible only on foot (some may not be wheelchair-accessible), and some visits may require lengthy periods of walking and standing. On arrival and departure you will have to carry your own luggage. If you have any limitations or concerns in this area, please consult Adventures in Mind personnel before applying.

## **Application Process**

To register your interest in the 2025 Adventure, or to apply for the Adventure, please email [info@adventuresinmind.org](mailto:info@adventuresinmind.org) or phone +1 (236) 544-1616.

[adventuresinmind.org](http://adventuresinmind.org)