



# 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 #2: Paris and the Île de France: Crucible of Creativity**

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

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

**Location:** Bois-le-Roi & Vulaines-sur-Seine, in the Île de France, are about 30-40 minutes by train south of Paris. Learning activities, and accommodation for up to 9 participants, will be provided in two rented villas, one of them pictured herein.

**Themes:** The Adventure will revolve around the immense contribution of Paris, and France generally, to some of the most significant developments in European culture. Through presentations, discussions and visits to important sites in Paris and elsewhere, we shall explore through the lens of history such fields as music, Gothic architecture, painting and sculpture from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the successive varieties of social and political organisation adopted by France during this period, 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: \$1000**

## Itinerary

- Tue Sep 9 Leave Canada
- Wed Sep 10 Arrive in Paris. Settle into Hotel near Charles de Gaulle airport
- Thu Sep 11 Minibus to Bois-le-Roi/Vulaines-sur-Seine; Groceries; Group Meal
- Fri Sep 12 Seminars: *Overview, Imagining the Past and Church Architecture*
- Sat Sep 13 Paris: Basilicas of Saint-Denis and Sacré-Coeur
- Sun Sep 14 Rest Day
- Mon Sep 15 Seminars: *Pre-Revolutionary France, Revolution Ideas/Conservative Society*
- Tue Sep 16 Château, Tennis Court and Gardens of Versailles
- Wed Sep 17 Paris: Notre-Dame Cathedral, Sainte-Chapelle, Conciergerie
- Thu Sep 18 Seminars: *Revolution and Reaction, Towards Terror and French Painting from Neoclassicism to Romanticism*
- Fri Sep 19 Paris: Musée du Louvre, Tuileries, Place de la Concorde, Arc de Triomphe
- Sat Sep 20 Rest Day or Wine Tour (optional)
- Sun Sep 21 Rest Day
- Mon Sep 22 Seminars: *Napoleon and Empire and Paint, Politics and Propaganda*
- Tue Sep 23 Paris: Musée de l'Armée/Invalides/Tomb of Napoleon, Eiffel Tower
- Wed Sep 24 Seminar: *French Painting: Impressionism and Its Aftermath*
- Thu Sep 25 Paris: Musée d'Orsay, L'Orangerie
- Fri Sep 26 Chartres Cathedral (Labyrinth open)
- Sat Sep 27 Château and Garden of Vaux-le-Vicomte (Candlelight Evening)
- Sun Sep 28 Rest Day
- Mon Sep 29 Seminars: *France after Napoleon and French Classical Music*
- Tue Sep 30 Seminar (Constance): *Bloomsbury in France*; Final Dinner
- Wed Oct 1 Minibus to Hotel at Charles de Gaulle Airport
- Thu Oct 2 Fly Home

Additional activities to be arranged: Watercolour Sketchbook Journaling (Terri), Debates, Other Lectures, Shared Meals.

## 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.), as a Calgary Board of Education secondary school teacher, received the Alberta Award for Excellence in teaching and the provincial award for contributions to Gifted and Talented Education. After retiring, he moved to Vancouver Island, where he paints and pursues outdoor activities such as kayaking and cycling. Brett has taught for Elder College for 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, 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 airport and travel insurance, including medical. Food is not included, but the accommodation includes kitchens (so that food costs may be minimised), as well as wifi and washing machines.

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

**Single Supplement: \$1000.**



Maison de la Mare at Bois-le-Roi

## **Payment Schedule**

In order to allow us to make a firm decision to proceed with the Adventure, which depends upon enrolment, and to make timely 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/](http://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 moderately 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 this Adventure, or to apply to participate, please email [info@adventuresinmind.org](mailto:info@adventuresinmind.org) or phone +1 (236) 544-1616.

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