

# SHORT BREAK MAY 2025 - PARIS HIGHLIGHTS

VERSAILLES didn't disappoint despite the massive crowds. Our guide gave us a detailed and witty historical background to life in Louis the XIV's time. We made it to the famed Hall of Mirrors where amazingly some of the glass was original, an awe-inspiring sight with more ceiling paintings of extraordinary complexity and beauty. Some of us took a little train around the gardens with its long avenues of trees. There were vast areas of water, some spouting lovely fountains and one with an extraordinary gold chariot emerging from the water. Baroque music playing nearby. All in all a wonderful, if somewhat tiring, experience. **ALISON**



Only 35 minutes from our hotel was the MUSEE D'ORSAY. With a lot of patience in scanning our entry ticket we were eventually let through. This magnificent building, originally a railway station, is huge with several ornate clocks — the most famous one on the 5th floor through which you have stunning views over Paris. The museum was very crowded, but we saw some wonderful statues on the ground floor. Many of us headed straight to see the Impressionist paintings and sculptures by Degas. With a couple of hours free for lunch some of us crossed the road to the Tuileries gardens to sit with a glass of wine and watch all Parisian life go by. **ANNE**

A day in Paris ended with a cruise down the Seine. What could be better? All those views we'd seen during the Olympics. Leaving from the Eiffel Tower offered a unique way to admire the golden dome of Les Invalides, the Grand Palais, and the Pont Alexandre bridge with its golden statues. Nobody was going to miss la Cathedrale de Notre Dame, rebuilt and magnificent, despite the remaining scaffolding. All giving us great opportunities to take lots of French photos! **PHIL**



## MONET'S GARDEN.

It was a warm sunny day to see Monet's paintings brought to life in his beautiful gardens. The famous Japanese bridge was draped with long racemes of mauve, pink and white wisteria. Then the flower garden with pathways bordered by flag irises and beds full of tulips and pansies. We finished at Monet's pink house with reproductions of many of his paintings hung throughout. **CHRIS**



A perfect accompaniment to Monet's Garden was a visit to a Giverny cider farm where Christoph single-handedly makes cider with 10 different varieties of apple from his 4000 apple trees. The whole process is completely mechanised and done by Christoph himself. He produces apple juice, dry cider, an aperitif and Calvados. We got to sample them all!! **BARRY**



AMIENS was our lunch stop on the way home. The outstanding part was the cathedral of Notre Dame, the largest medieval cathedral in the world. At Quai Belu by the river many of the group had a meal of the local delicacy, the Ficelle Picarde, a savoury crepe packed with cheese, ham and mushrooms. Delicious. A great way to finish a most memorable visit before taking the shuttle back to England. **ROGER**

