

Paris in the Spring

Photo Tour with Harold Davis

Sunday, May 1, 2016 to
Saturday, May 7, 2016



Paris Sunset from Tour Montparnasse © Harold Davis

Day 1: Sunday , May 1

*Welcome to Paris: Meet at Hôtel de l'Abbaye at [Page 2](#)
4 p.m. After exploring the local highlights with
Harold, we'll enjoy a Welcome Dinner at one
of Paris's classic brasseries.*

Day 2: Monday, May 2

*Panoramic Bus Tour of Paris and night photography [Page 3](#)
from the Tour Montparnasse rooftop deck: See
the sights of Paris in comfort and get a geographic
overview; photograph from the best panoramic
view of Paris at sunset and into the night.*

Day 3: Tuesday, May 3

*Guided tour of the Opera Garnier, Parisian [Page 4](#)
department store heaven with dinner hosted by
Harold, followed by night photography at the
Eiffel Tower.*

Day 4: Wednesday, May 4

*Giverny! Guided tour with private bus and guide to [Page 5](#)
Monet's famous garden in Giverny. Exclusive after
hours artist access for photography.*

Day 5: Thursday, May 5

*Guided photography with Harold to La Defense, [Page 6](#)
a night shoot at the Louvre, and along the banks
of the Seine.*

Day 6: Friday, May 6

*Montmartre and Sacre Coeur: Image review with [Page 7](#)
Harold and then a guided tour of Montmartre and
Sacre Coeur, followed by a festive Farewell Dinner.*

Day 7: Saturday, May 7

*Breakfast before departure for the airport or other [Page 8](#)
adventures.*

About the Trip

A quick note for photographic travelers [Page 9](#)

Day 1: Sunday, May 1

Check-in and Group Meeting

Included meals: Welcome Dinner at Brasserie La Rotonde

Hotel: [Hôtel de l'Abbaye](#)
10, rue Cassette
75006, Paris, France
+33(0)1 45 44 38 11

Check in at the hotel: 3:00 pm
Group meeting in lobby: 4:00 pm

Planned Activities:

Meet at the lobby of the Hôtel de l'Abbaye, and then explore fabulous local highlights of the 6th Arrondissement such as the Luxembourg Gardens and San Sulpice with Harold on foot. We will end our jaunt with a Welcome Dinner hosted by Harold at La Rotonde, an iconic and historic Parisian Brasserie that opened in 1911.

[La Rotonde](#)

105 Blvd du Montparnasse
75006 Paris
Tel: +33 1 43 26 48 26

La Rotonde is a classic and famous Paris brasserie with original art nouveau decor. Let's start our exploration of Paris off with an atmospheric and nostalgic look into the Paris of yesteryear. Be sure to bring your cameras!

Luxembourg Gardens



Day 2: Monday, May 2

Paris Panoramic Bus Tour

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel de l'Abbaye.

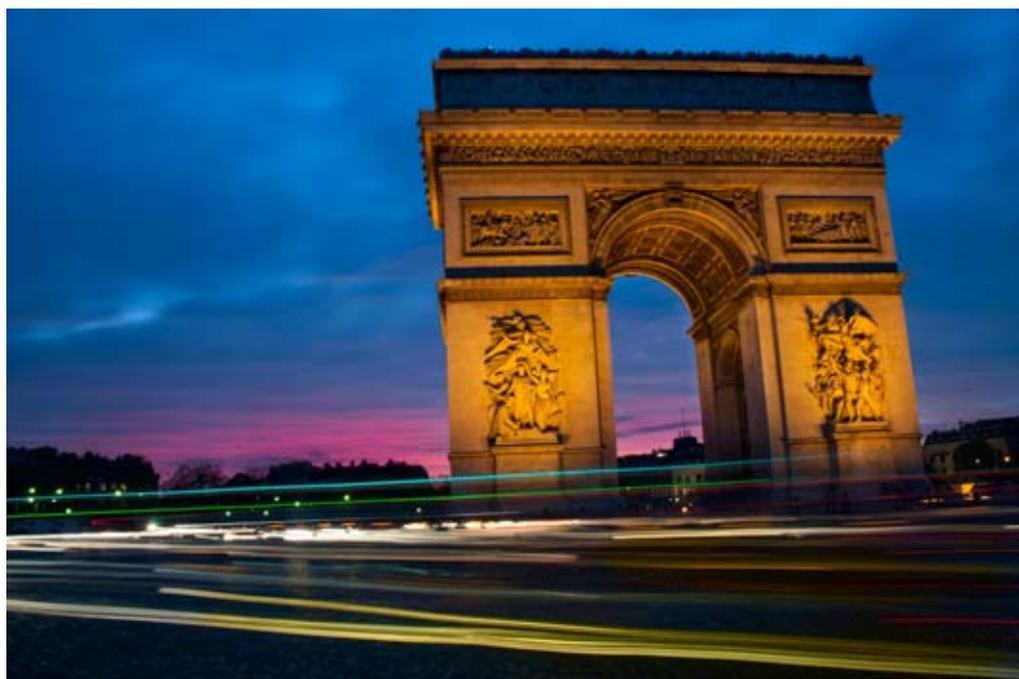
Planned Activities:

10:00 am: Meet in the hotel lobby for a neighborhood orientation. This will be your opportunity to get any questions about logistics answered. We will each buy a carnet of Metro tickets so there won't be delays entering and exiting the metro during the week. Harold will show you some of the neighborhood shopping options and explain where to buy picnics and treats at the nearby La Grande Épicerie de Paris, one of the world's premier prepared food markets.

12:00 pm: Depart from the hotel lobby on a two hour panoramic bus tour. Our local guide will help orient us to Parisian landmarks and explain the stories behind many points of interest.

Afternoon: Free time for personal shooting.

7:00 pm: Meet a local guide in the hotel lobby and proceed via Metro to the Tour Montparnasse rooftop observation deck for night photography until closing time. The observation deck on the roof of the 70 story Tour Montparnasse is probably the finest photographic viewpoint for overall vistas of Paris. (As the joke goes, one of the best things about being on top of the Tour Montparnasse is that you don't see the Tour Montparnasse!) Gaps in the protective plexiglass enable photography of the Eiffel Tower and other Parisian landmarks with nothing between your lens and the stunning views of Paris.



Arc de Triomphe

Day 3: Tuesday, May 3

Opera Garnier & Night Shoot at Eiffel Tower

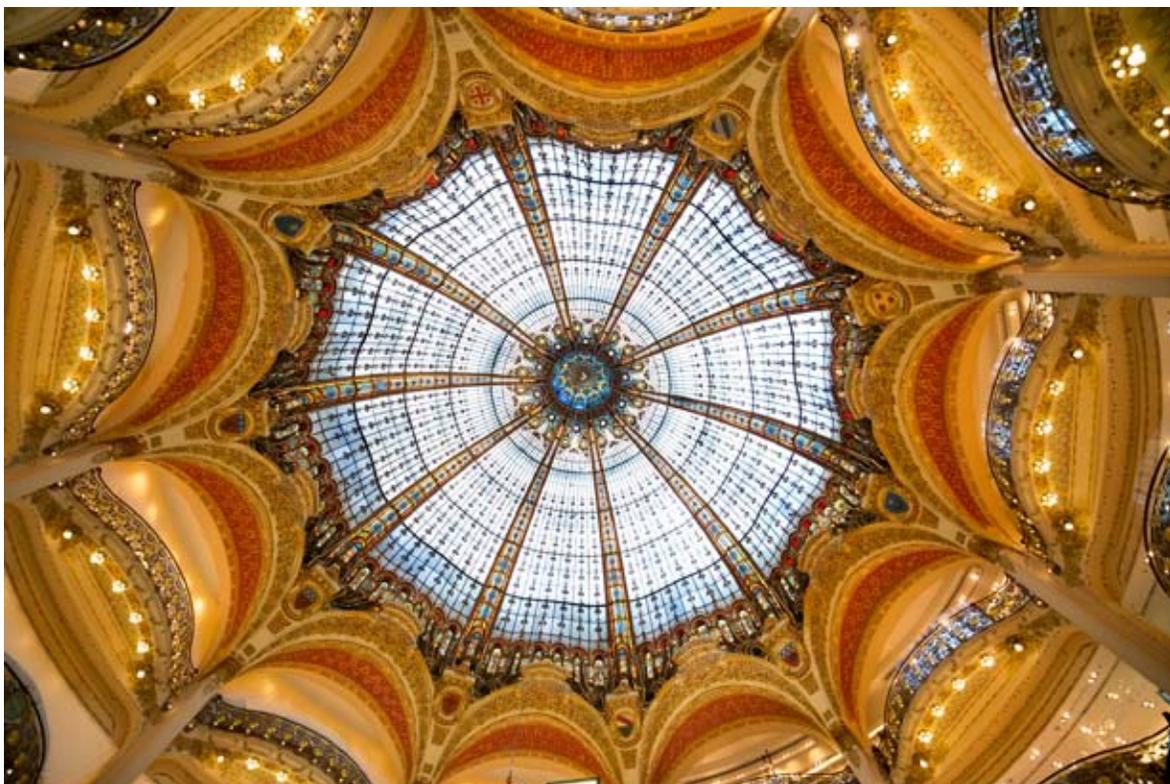
Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel de l'Abbaye and a special group dinner hosted by Harold.

Planned Activities:

We will start with a guided tour of the Opera Garnier in the ritzy right bank. The Opera Garnier is an over-the-top, ornate, and baroque opera house famous for its rococo interior decor and Marc Chagall ceiling mural, perfect for indoor HDR photography. Following our tour of the Opera Garnier, we'll walk across the street to the Galeries Lafayette for lunch in the elegant department store's cafeteria. After lunch we'll photograph from the open air roof decks of Galeries Lafayette and the Galerie Printemps. The views from these platforms are some of the most photogenic in Paris.

In the afternoon there will be time for individual exploration of the right bank, including the Tuilleries and the arcade along the Rue de Rivoli.

The group will meet again at the hotel, and walk to [L'Epi Dupin](#) (11 Rue Dupin, 75006 Paris), for a special dinner hosted by Harold. Dinner will be followed by night photography at the Eiffel Tower.



Galeries Lafayette

Day 4: Wednesday, May 4

Latin Quarter / Giverny

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel de l'Abbaye.

Planned Activities:

In the morning we will take a look at the wonderful hustle and bustle of the Latin Quarter of Paris where bohemia and university students meet the tourist trade in front of the book stalls along the Seine River. We will cross and re-cross the Seine, get to know Ile de la Cite and the Ile de Saint Louis, and step into Notre Dame Cathedral.

After lunch on your own, a private bus will pick us up and take us down the Seine River valley to Monet's famous garden at Giverny. This is a lush, beautiful rural part of France that is surprisingly close to Paris.

Monet's garden is divided into two parts: an informal French-style flower garden that will be in full bloom the first week of May, and on the other side of a small road, the famous waterlily gardens that Monet engineered using water from the Seine.

Standing on the edge of one of Monet's waterlily ponds, is a spine tingling experience as one recognizes the familiar, yet novel, vista that one has seen so often in Monet's paintings.

Monet's house and studio, with its collection of Japanese art and elaborate copper cookware, are also an extraordinary destination.

We will explore the gardens in the afternoon, and then after the gardens close to the public, we will have exclusive after-hours permission as artists to photograph the gardens once the crowds have gone home.



Meditation at Giverny

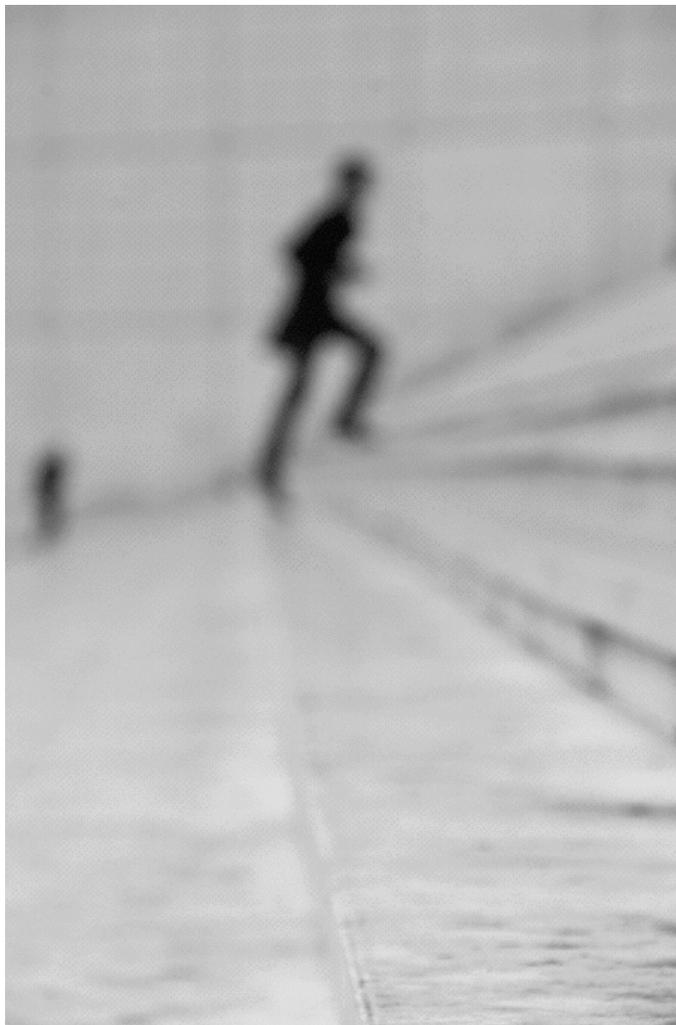
Day 5: Thursday, May 5

La Defense / Louvre night shoot

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel de l'Abbaye.

Planned Activities:

La Defense is the modern temple to capitalism, created on the Parisian axis that shoots in a straight line from the Louvre through the Arc de Triomphe. In fact, you can stand at the edge of La Defense, and line up the Arc de Triomphe, the Tuilleries, and the Louvre in a single photograph (if your lens is long enough!).



© Harold Davis

Home to a surprising number of the top global 50 corporations, La Defense combines France's dreams of glory with a surrealistic melange of modernist architectural styles. This is an area of unique public spaces, quirky sculptures, gardens, mirrored windows, and a gigantic arch. It is an under-represented photography opportunity.

Led by Harold, we will embark on the Metro to the end of the No. 1 line and explore the various aspects of La Defense with our cameras.

Weather permitting, on Thursday night we will have a blast with night photography at the Grand Court of the Louvre, photographing the Pyramide, and then continue on to the banks of the Seine, and the facade of Notre Dame at night.

Stairs at La Defense

Day 6: Friday, May 6

Monmartre and Sacré Coeur

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel de l'Abbaye and a festive Farewell Dinner hosted by Harold.

Planned Activities:

Following our review and discussion of our Parisian images, we will proceed by Metro to the Montmartre district. A local guide will take us on a tour by foot of many of the landmarks well-known to art history buffs, such as the Bateau Lavoire where Picasso, Juan Gris, and Modigliani had their studios. We will explore stairs, cafés, the remaining vineyard in Montmartre, and the great basilica of Sacre Coeur. If you choose, you can join Harold on a climb up to the top of the Sacre Coeur bell tower (about 240 steps).

After time for individual photo projects, we will meet back at the hotel and walk together to Chez Marcel for our festive Farewell Dinner, hosted by Harold.

[Chez Marcel](#)

7 Rue Stanislas

75006 Paris

Phone:+33 1 45 48 29 94



*The Eiffel Tower from the
Dome of Sacre Coeur*

Day 7: Saturday, May 7

Group transfer to airport

Included meals: Breakfast at the Hotel de l'Abbaye.

Planned Activities:

If you are leaving Paris today, there is one included group transfer with assistance to Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG). *Estimated departure time to airport is 8:00 am.*

For those staying in Paris after the workshop is over, there will be an optional, informal photo shoot with Harold, with destination and time TBD.



Hotel de Sully

About the Trip

When and Where to Meet

We will meet in the lobby of the Hôtel de l'Abbaye, at 4PM on Sunday, May 1, 2016. From there, we will proceed with a walking tour of the local Paris sights including Saint Sulpice and the Luxembourg Gardens, and with a Welcome Dinner. Please be checked into the hotel before we meet. (See page 1 of the Itinerary for details.)

What to Expect in Weather

This is an spring photo trip, exploring Paris and its outskirts. Generally, the weather at this time of year in Paris is very nice and temperate. However, spring rain showers are certainly possible, so you should come prepared to protect both yourself and your camera from rain. As Ansel Adams put it, *If you don't go out in the rain, you can't photograph a clearing storm*. Note that Paris is surprisingly far north by the standards most Americans are used to. This means that spring days are long, but it can also mean that nights in May are chilly. Since we are planning to do some night photography, please plan to bring a warm layer, as well as a wind/rain shell.

General Items to Bring with You

As noted above, we recommend layered clothing. By all means, bring good walking shoes and socks that will pad your feet to keep them from blisters. Do make sure your shoes are broken in before the trip to avoid rub spots on your feet.

Please keep in mind that European power plugs are shaped differently than American plugs, so you will need to bring a converter for the plugs for your chargers.

Most European credit card terminals are set to work with chip-and-pin credit cards. While magnetic strip credit cards can still be used, by and large US banks are catching on to the security benefits of chip-and-pin. So you might want to check with your credit card issuer at the same time as you inform them of your travel plans to see if they have a chip-and-pin card available.

Photographic Items to Bring with You

Please bring a camera, tripod, wide-angle and telephoto lenses, and a remote release. You will want a head lamp for evening and night photography. Bring plenty of memory cards, your charger, and extra batteries for anything that takes batteries.

Harold travels with his laptop, and processes his images on-the-fly when he can. You are welcome to bring your own computer if you would like to process your images with input from Harold, but bringing a laptop is not required. If you do bring a computer, please be sure to include a card reader.

Contacting Harold

If you have any questions at all, please contact Harold by email at harold@photoblog2.com or Phyllis at phyllis@bearhome.com. Harold's mobile phone when he is on the road in Europe or the US is +1.510.295.3982.
