



# *France*

## *Part 7*

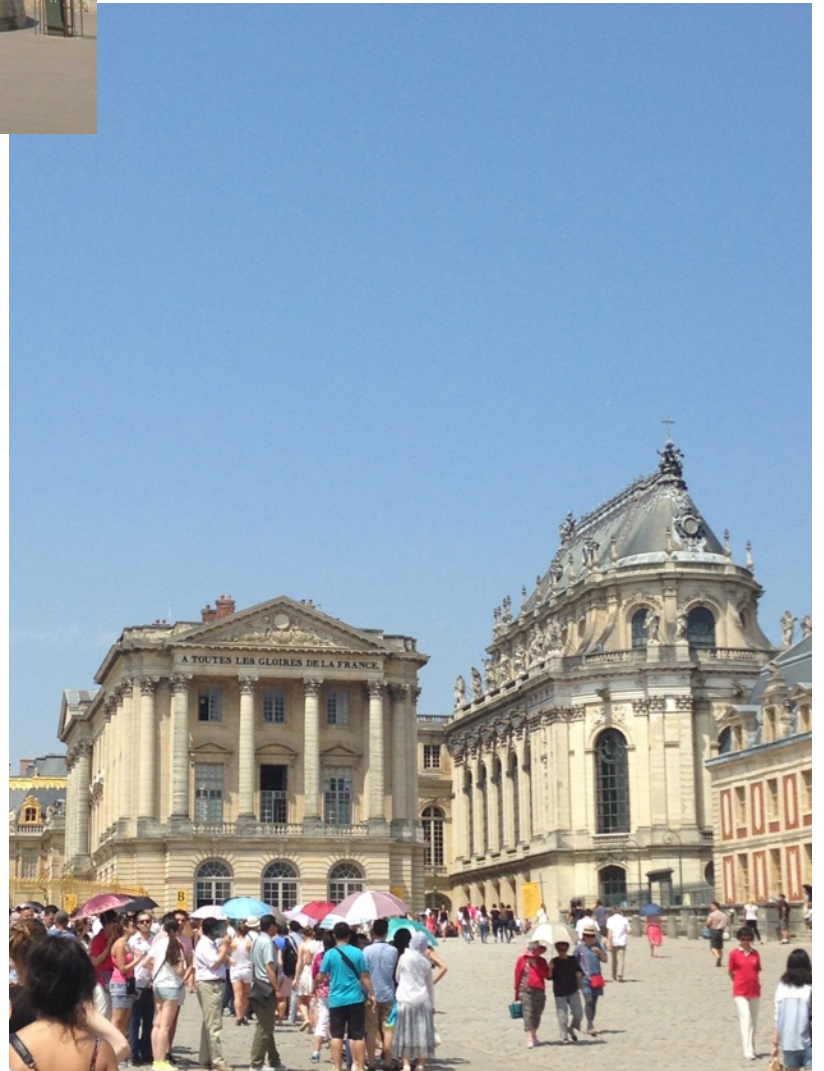
*Palace of Versailles,  
Boat Ride on the Seine  
& Eiffel Tower at Night*

*July 4, 2015*





July 4, 2015 - After our stop at the Arc de Triomphe, some of the tour went on their own to explore more of Paris. I chose the optional extra cost of going with the other part of our tour group to the Palace of Versailles. It was a very hot day. There is no air conditioning in the palace in order to preserve all the art. Our tour guide said it was not a crowded day for tourists but I thought it was way too crowded.



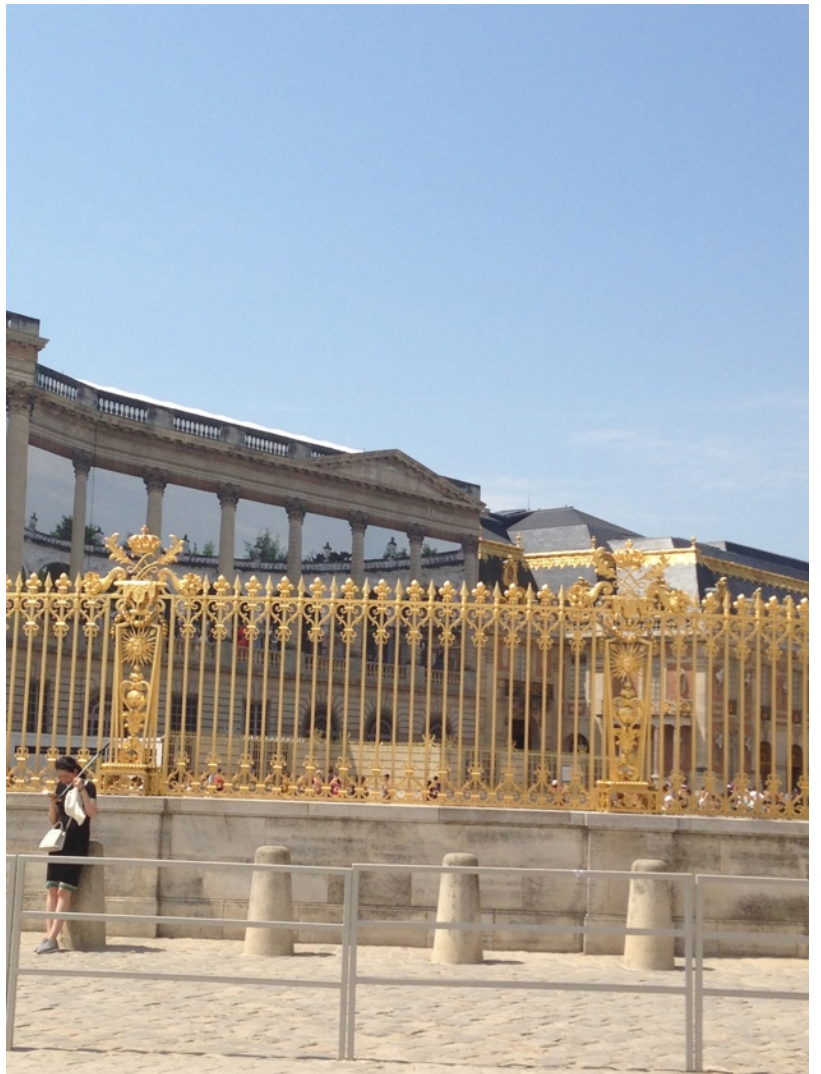




Those cobblestones were very difficult to walk on from the bus parking lot to the entrance of the palace.



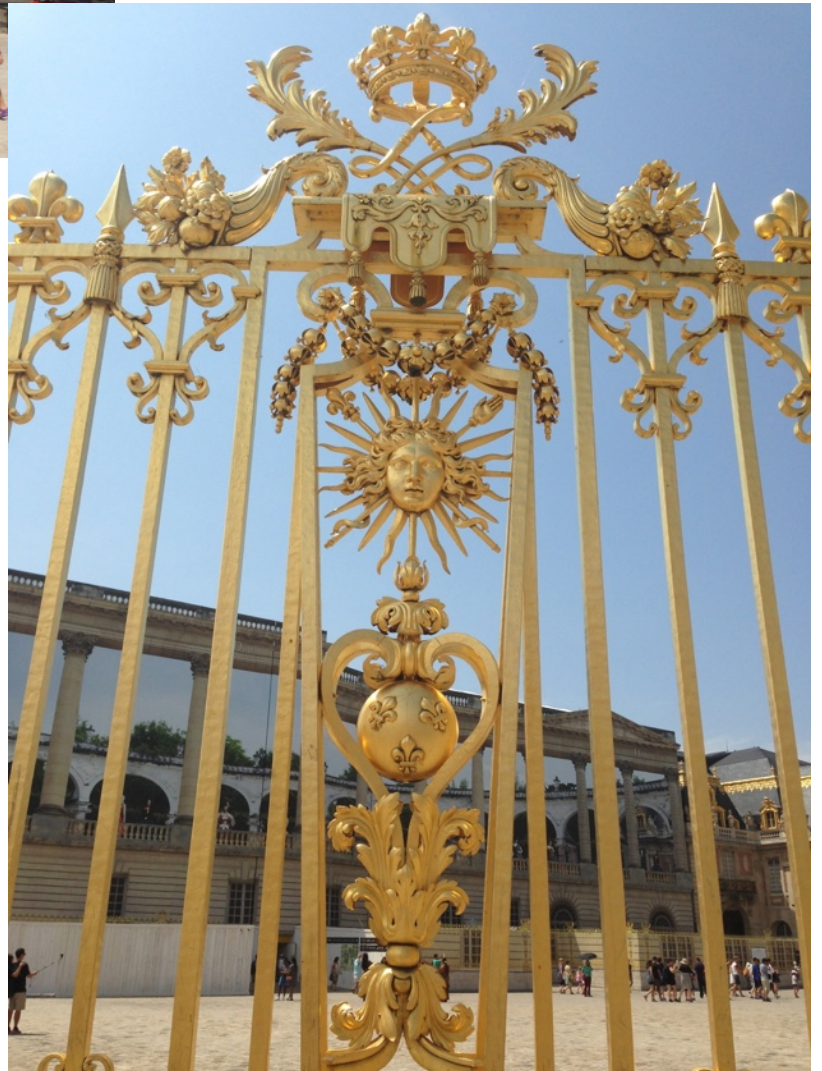








Louis XIV was known as the "sun king" and below you can see the sun icon on the fences outside the palace.



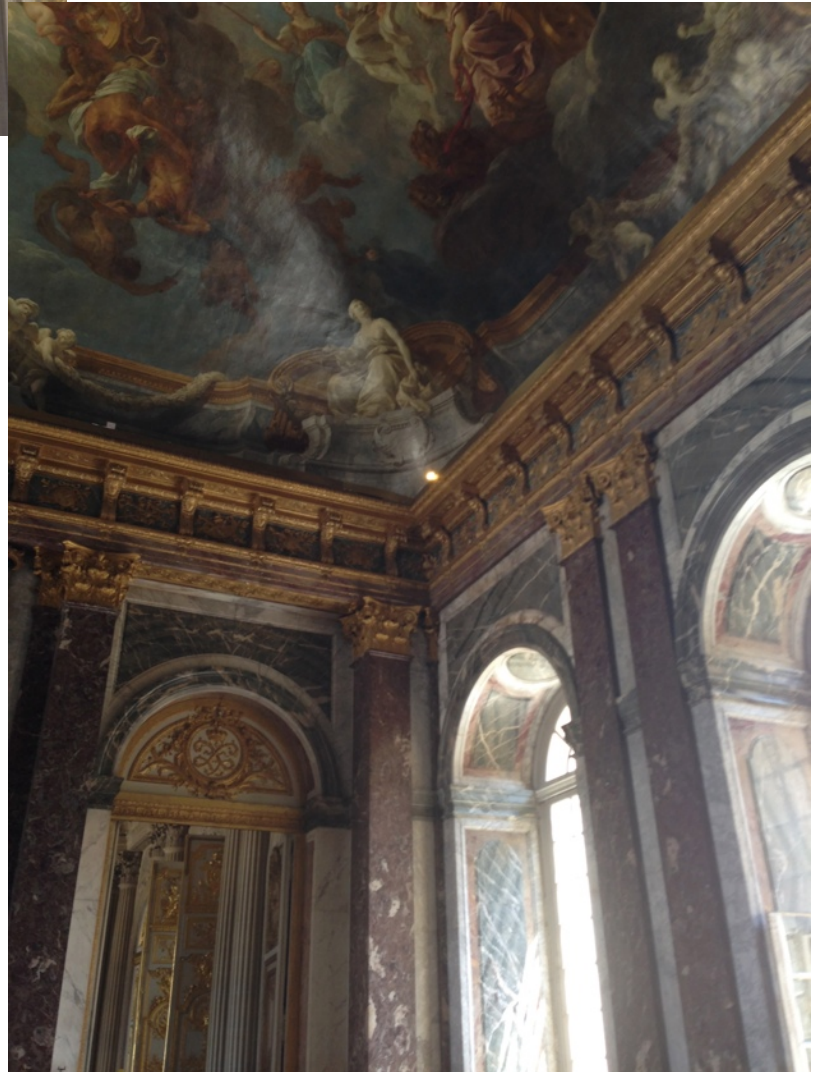




Apparently there are over 700 rooms. We only visited the ones of major historical importance. Once again we saw a lot of painted ceilings and artwork.























There were so many rooms that I thought to take a photo of the names of the rooms so that I could remember which photos I took in which rooms. Unfortunately, even though I put the photos in the order I took them in this pdf booklet, I still can't tell which photo belongs to which room. I do remember our guide saying that a lot of the rooms were named after planets. These rooms are all part of the King's Grand Apartment.







This is a bust statue of Louis XIV.















This was called the Mercury Salon.















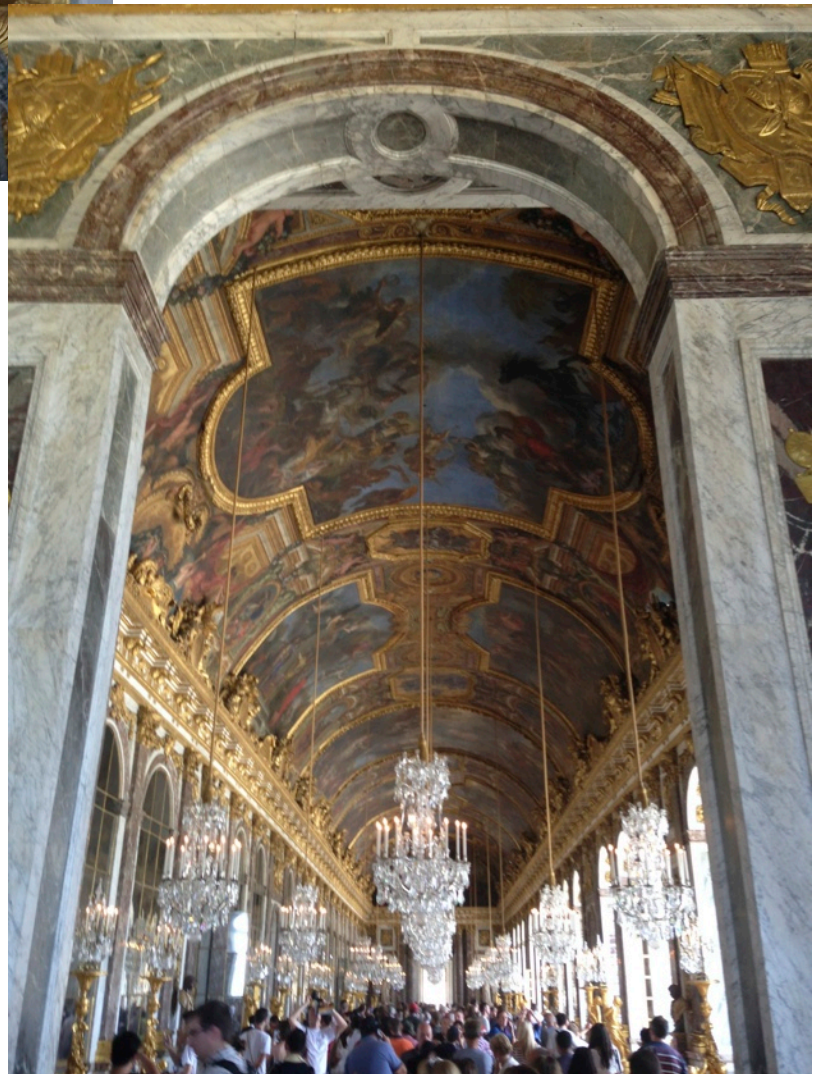








Then we approached the famous hall of mirrors.







You can see the crowd of tourists in the hall of mirrors. One wall is lined with mirrors and the other is lined with windows that overlook part of the huge garden.







Tried to take a “selfie” in one part of the wall of mirrors, but the windows behind caused the photo to come out dark. Below is one of the windows in the hall of mirrors overlooking part of the garden.











The hall of mirrors leads into the King's Chamber, which consists of the Bull's-Eye Room, the King's Chamber and the Council Study.







## l-de-Bœuf

s qui s'ouvrent dans la frise.  
ans avant d'être admis dans

V par  
marbre.

**Buste de Louis XVI, petit-fils  
de Louis XV, par Jean-Antoine  
Houdon, marbre, 1790.**

V, arrière-  
s XIV,  
marbre, 1770.

## The Bull's-Eye Room

This room takes its name from the oval shaped windows that are integrated into the ceiling frieze. Courtiers would wait here before being admitted into the king's bedroom.

**The Olympian Gods and  
Goddesses all with  
features of members of the  
Royal Family, large allegory,  
by Jean Nocret, 1670.**

**Bust of Louis XIV, by Antoine  
Coysevox, marbre, 1681.**

**Bust of Louis XV, the great  
grandson of Louis XIV,  
by Etienne Goussier, marbre, 1770.**

**Bust of Louis XVI,  
the grandson of Louis XV,  
by Jean-Antoine Houdon,  
marbre, 1790.**









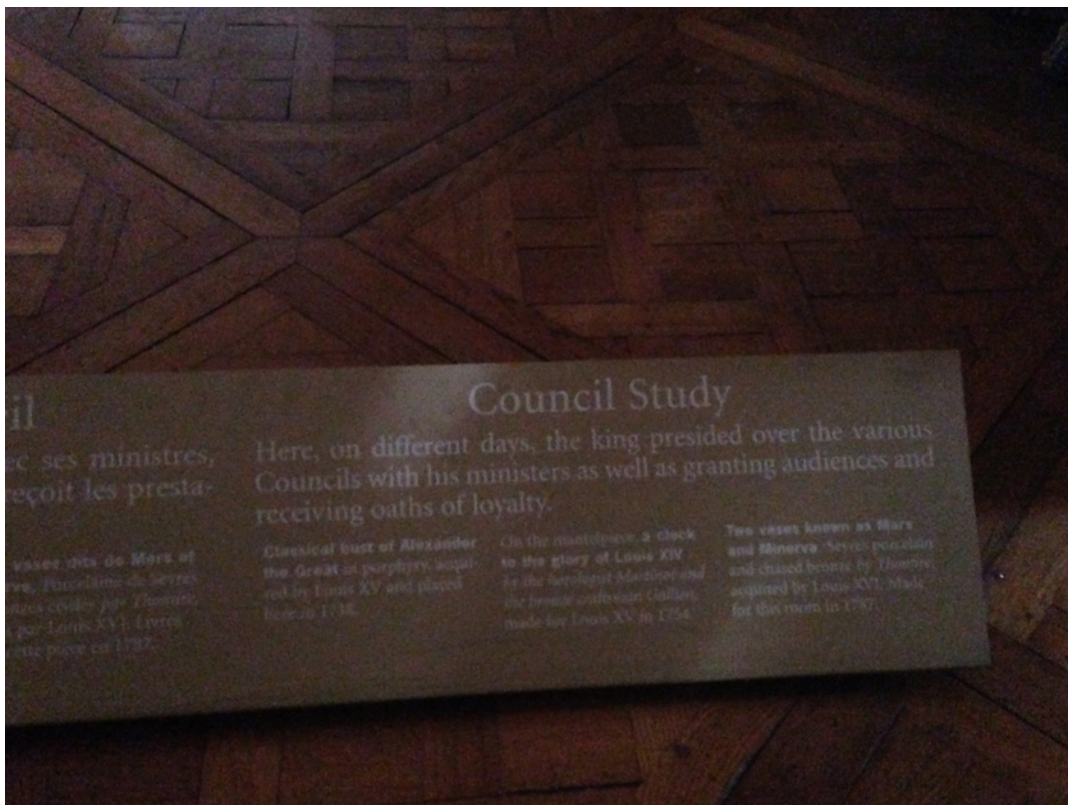




Another bust statue of Louis XIV in the King's Bedroom.















Another few attempts at "selfie" photos in all the many mirrors in this palace.











Then we went in to the Queen's Grand Apartment and the bedroom of Marie Antoinette. That's her bed on the left and a bust statue of her in the photo below.





Our tour guide pointed out that the  
bedspread and decor is the original  
from the time of Marie Antoinette.







## QUEEN'S BEDCHAMBER

Official bedchamber of the queens of France. Decoration by Robert de Cotte and Jacques Vih Gabriel (1730-1735).  
 On 6 October 1789, Marie-Antoinette escaped from the rioting crowd by the door on the left of the bed to take refuge in the King's apartment.

Silks of the bed and the alcove woven in Lyon from the original models. Room refurnished between 1948 and 1976 in the state of 1789.

On the fireplace in grèsite marble with chased bronzes by Etienne Forestier (1786);  
**Bust of Marie-Antoinette** by Félix Leconte (1783).

Behind the balustrade, on the left:  
**Queen's Jewel box** by Jean-Ferdinand Schwaninger (mahogany, mother-of-pearl and gilded bronze; 1787).

In the middle:  
**Bed - à la duchesse** - remake thanks to the archives.

In front of the balustrade:  
 Eight **seats** whose four came from the counters of Arrou's bedroom, queen's sister-in-law.

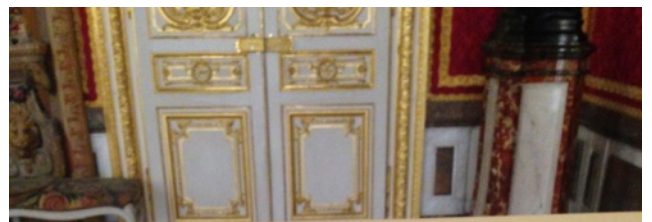
**Sofa** by Nicolas Oudry's Palais (1777), formerly in the counters of Provence's bedroom (slipped from Mobilier national in 1981).







This is a portrait of Marie Antoinette and her children.



## ANTECHAMBER OF THE GRAND COUVERT

The Queen's Guard Room until 1680, it became the first antechamber of the Queen's apartment, where the King and Queen took their meals in public. Marie-Antoinette gave concerts and balls and held her grand dinner service here. The royal couple "dined" in front of the Court on Sundays and on days when ceremonies took place.

The ceiling paintings, 1678 - 1681, were restored thanks to the support of MARTELL :

In the centre : *Henri Tastelin* (after *Charles Le Brun*), *Darius's Tent* or *The Family of Darius at the Feet of Alexander*, 1680.

Facing the windows : *Antoine Paillet*, *Artemisia Combatting the Greeks at the Battle of Salamis* (left), *Fury and War* (centre) and *Zenobia Combatting the Emperor Aurelianus* (right).

On the wall on the right : *Antoine Paillet*, *Hyspocrates Follows her Husband Mithridates to War*

Over the windows : *Antoine Paillet*, *Clelia Escaping with her Companions* (left), *Claude-François Vignon*, *Bellona Burns Cybele's Face* (centre) and *Harpalyce Rescues her Father* (right).

On the wall on the left : *Claude-François Vignon*, *Rhodogune Vows to Avenge her Husband Killed by the Armenians*

Pair of candlesticks, Louis XVI period. Gilt and engraved bronze.

In front of the fireplace : Two Etiquette high-back chairs from the suite of the King and Queen. Crimson silk velours, gold trimmings. Wood painted red and gold. Restoration after a description from 1774.

Twelve stools, seats upholstered in crimson silk velours with gold fringe, restoration.

In front of the fireplace : Two Etiquette high-back chairs from the suite of the King and Queen. Crimson silk velours, gold trimmings. Wood painted red and gold. Restoration after a description from 1774.

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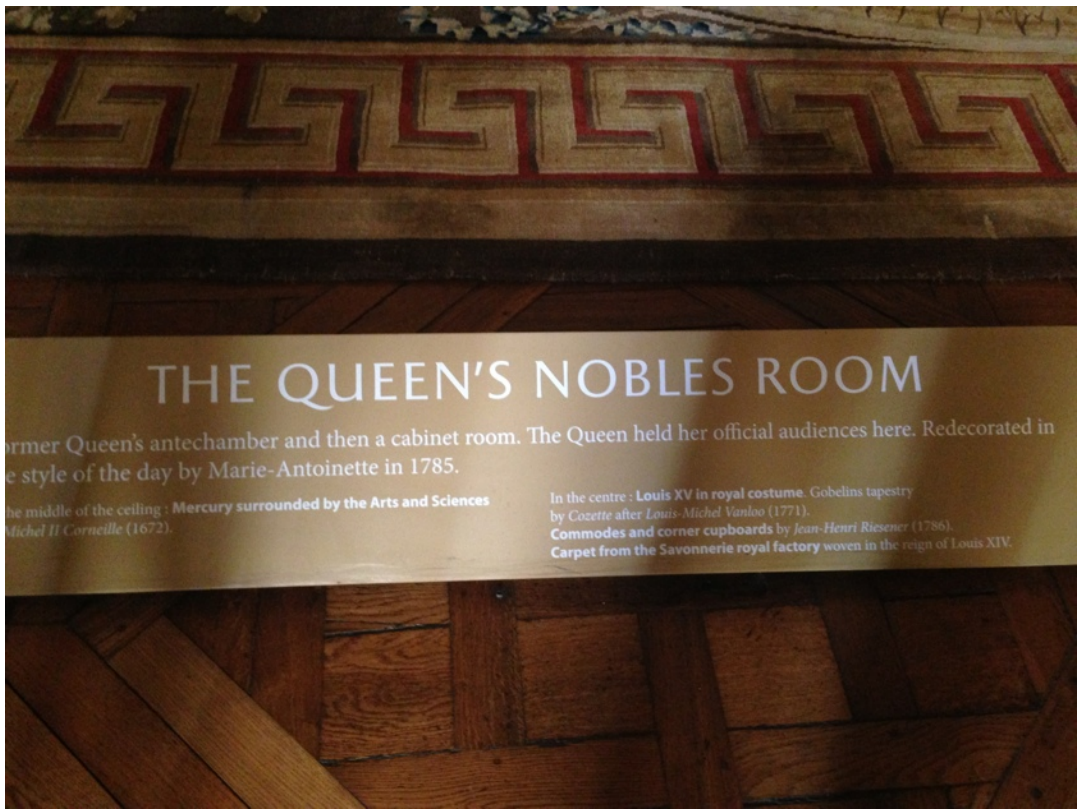
On the table : Linen damask tablecloth, Fleurs de lys pattern. Doubletirim bearing the arms of France.

Six linen napkins (19<sup>th</sup> century) including two napkins of the King and Queen decorated with gadroons and small













This is where the King and Queen ate their meals, and below is high ranking people would sit in audience while the King and Queen dined. Others of less rank would stand in the back.







Back outside the palace on my way to the garden.







Other than being huge in size I didn't think the garden was all that nice. None of the fountains were working. Perhaps if the fountains were on, it would have looked nicer.























Francois drove us back on the tour bus to our hotel, where we freshened up and met in the lobby to get back on the bus to go to the restaurant for our farewell dinner.







This Parisian restaurant had the decor and atmosphere of the Provence in the south of France where we had just visited. It was decorated so cute to appear as if we were sitting outside but being inside. It was very hot though with no air conditioning.







The food was really good with salad and I ordered chicken. They brought us three small cups of dessert with each having a different flavor of pudding.







Next some people departed our tour and those of us that chose the optional boat ride on the river Seine got back on the bus to drive to where the boat was. I had seen Paris mostly through the bus window, but now I would see it from the perspective of the boat.







It was dusk, and going under all the many bridges was a fun experience. The sound really does echo off the underneath of the bridges.







I got a much better view of Notre Dame from the boat than from the bus.











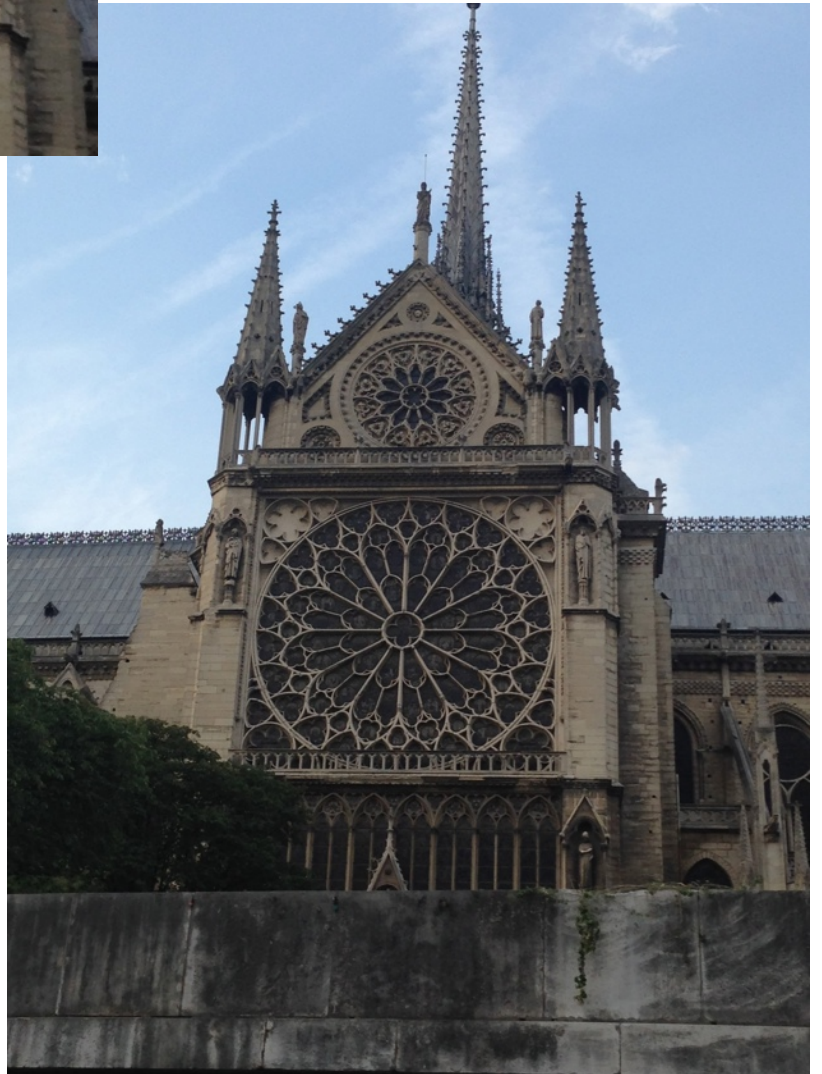
More photos of Notre Dame.







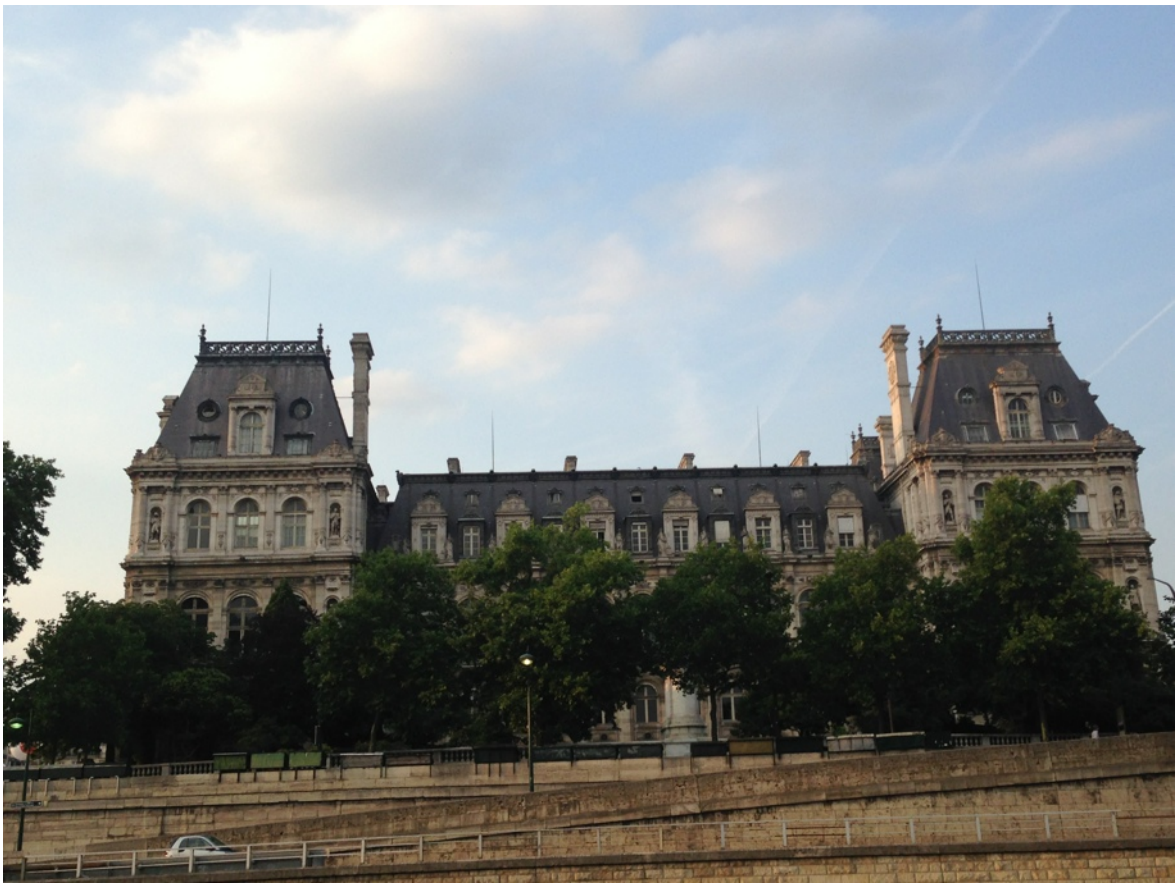












People on the shore would wave to our boat, other boats would wave to us and we would wave back all along our route on the Seine.







A closer look at the building above where Marie Antoinette was imprisoned for 2 months before her beheading.







A beautiful close-up look at the awesome bridge with the large golden statues and old fashioned ornate lights.











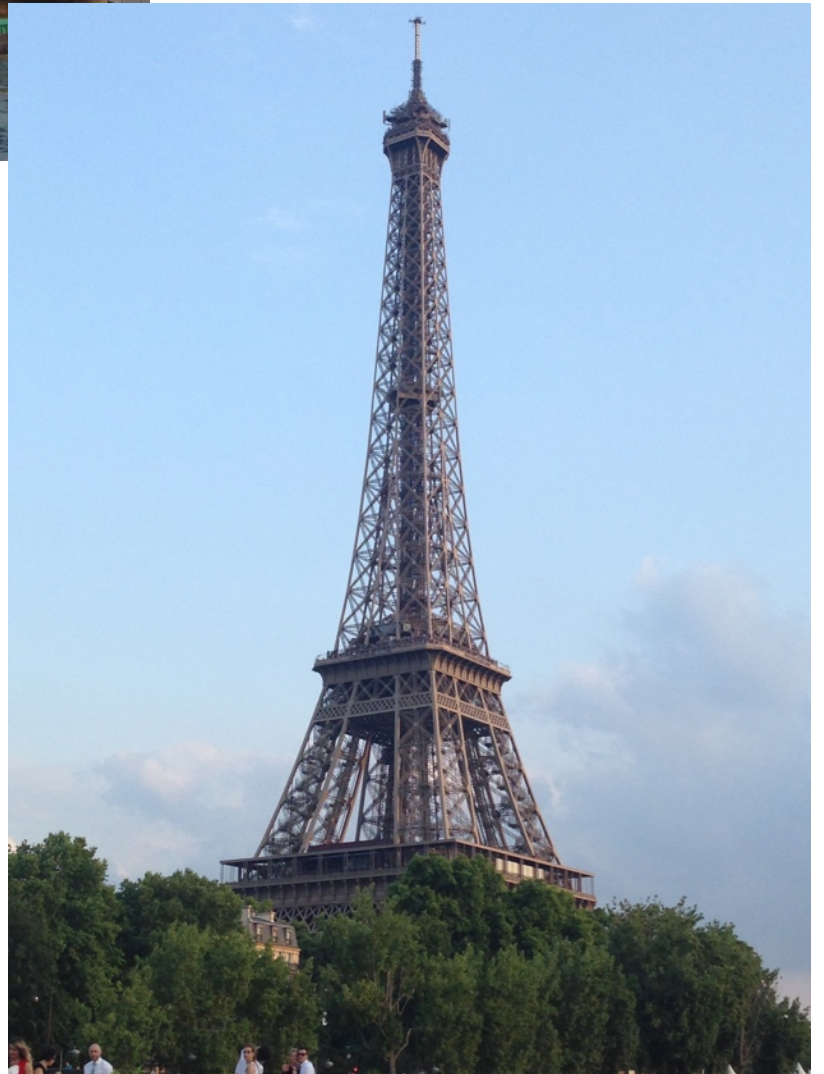
Every bridge is different and underneath is also different.







Views of the Eiffel Tower  
from the boat.











After the boat tour I posed with our tour director, Cindy, and bus driver, Francois, above and said goodbye. A few of us were disappointed that we had not yet seen the Eiffel Tower lit up and we were not ready to go back to the hotel on the bus. Three of the younger people and three of us older ladies decided to walk over to the Eiffel Tower and wait for it to light up. Now I got to see a bit more of Paris from the perspective of walking. On the right is an eternal flame sculpture dedicated to Princess Diana above the tunnel where her car crashed.







We came across this unique building with an actual garden growing on its side. There was some sort of irrigation system on the side of the building to water it.







We stopped to pose by the wall garden. I later noticed the next morning at the airport that there was a very similar wall garden by my departure gate.



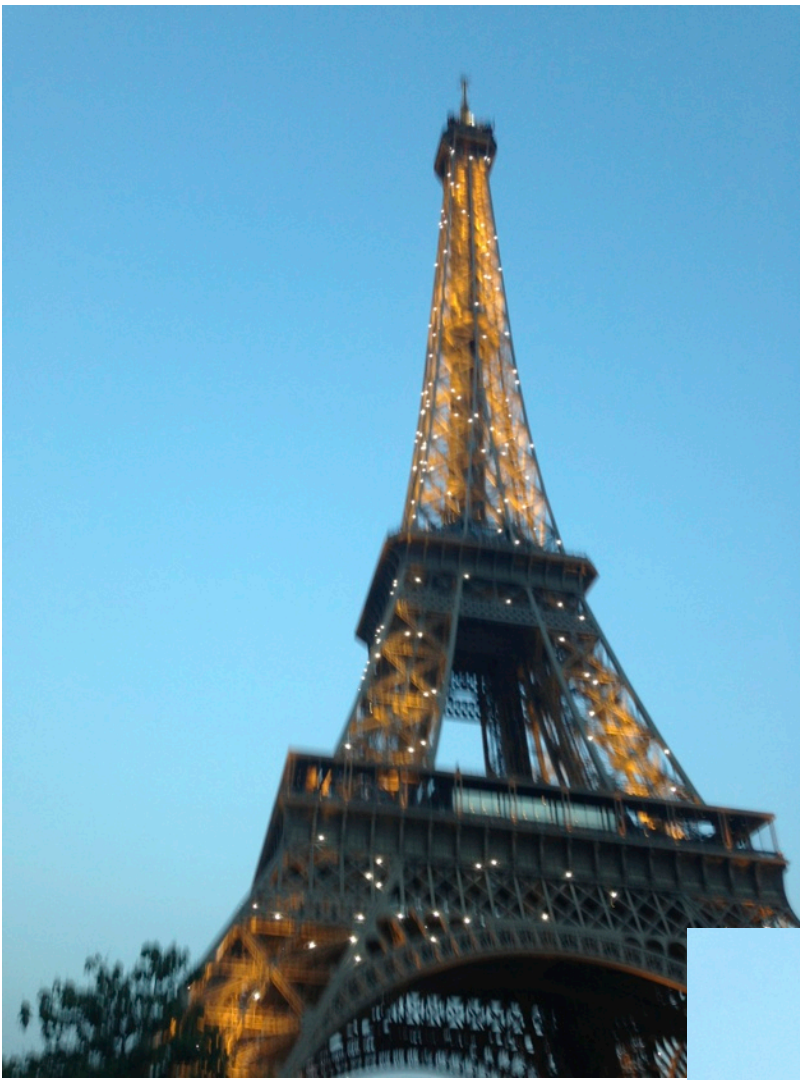




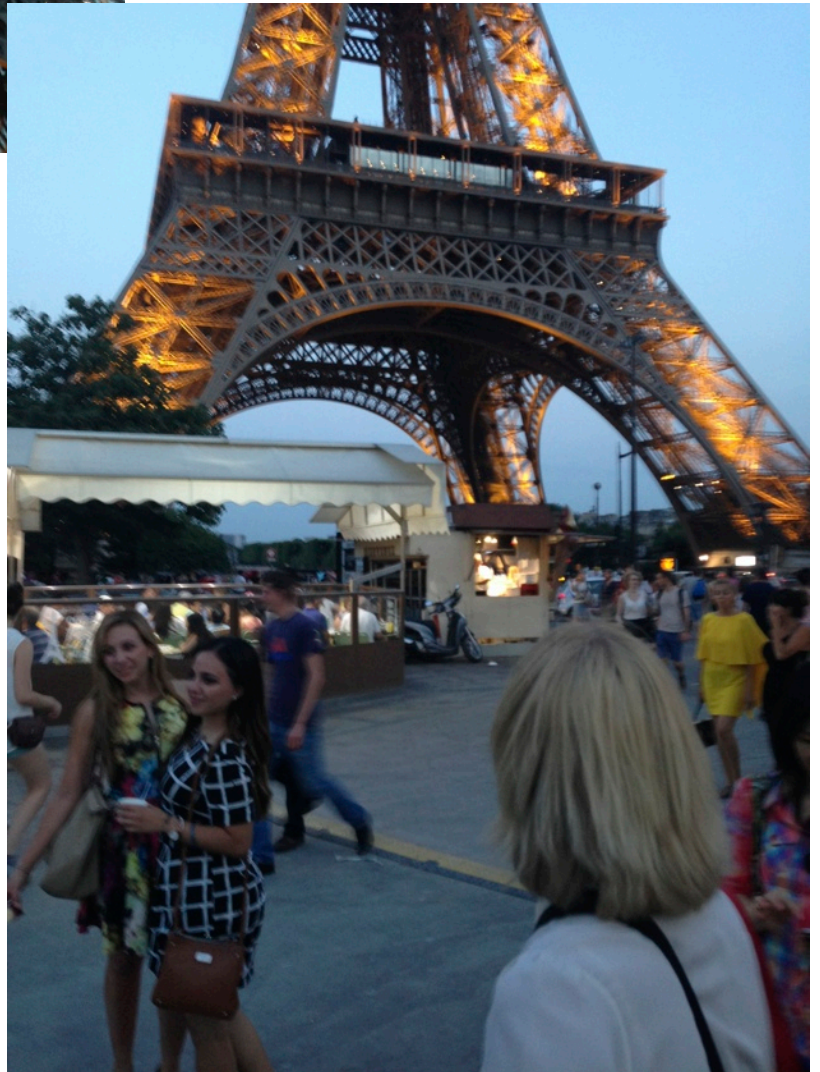
We made our way to the base of the Eiffel Tower. Just across the street here by the river Seine were carousels and a sort of street fair with venders of all sorts.



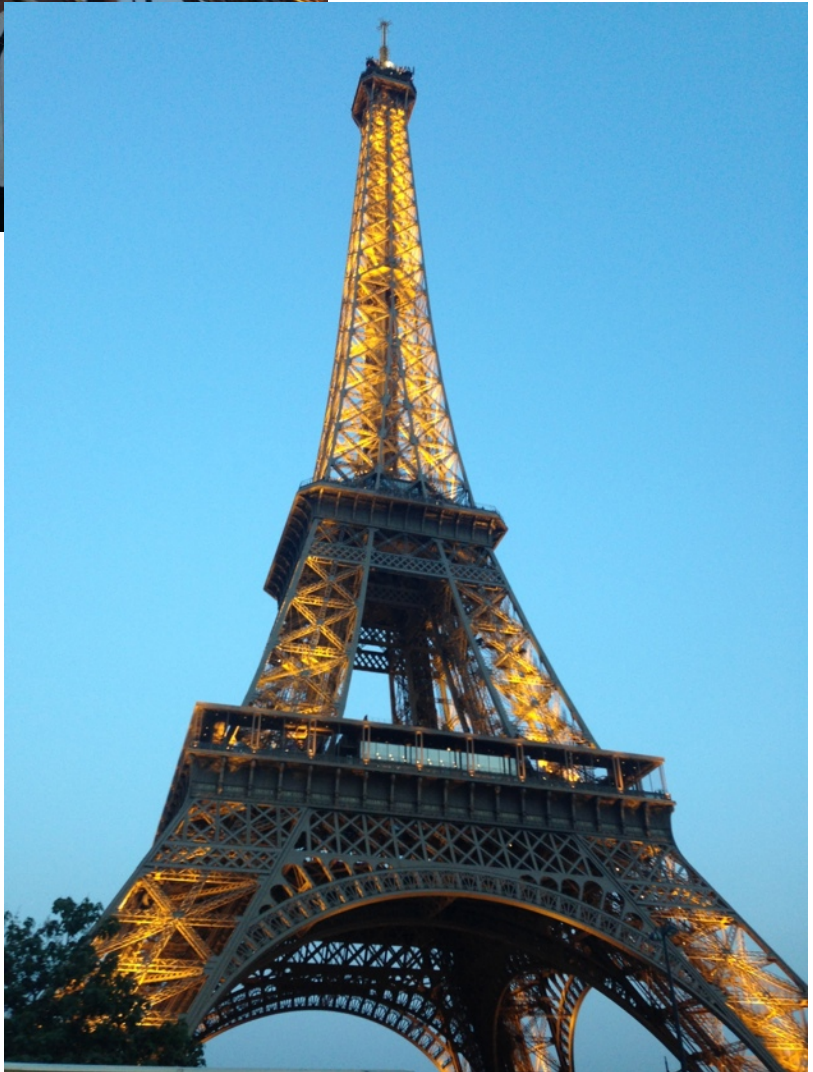




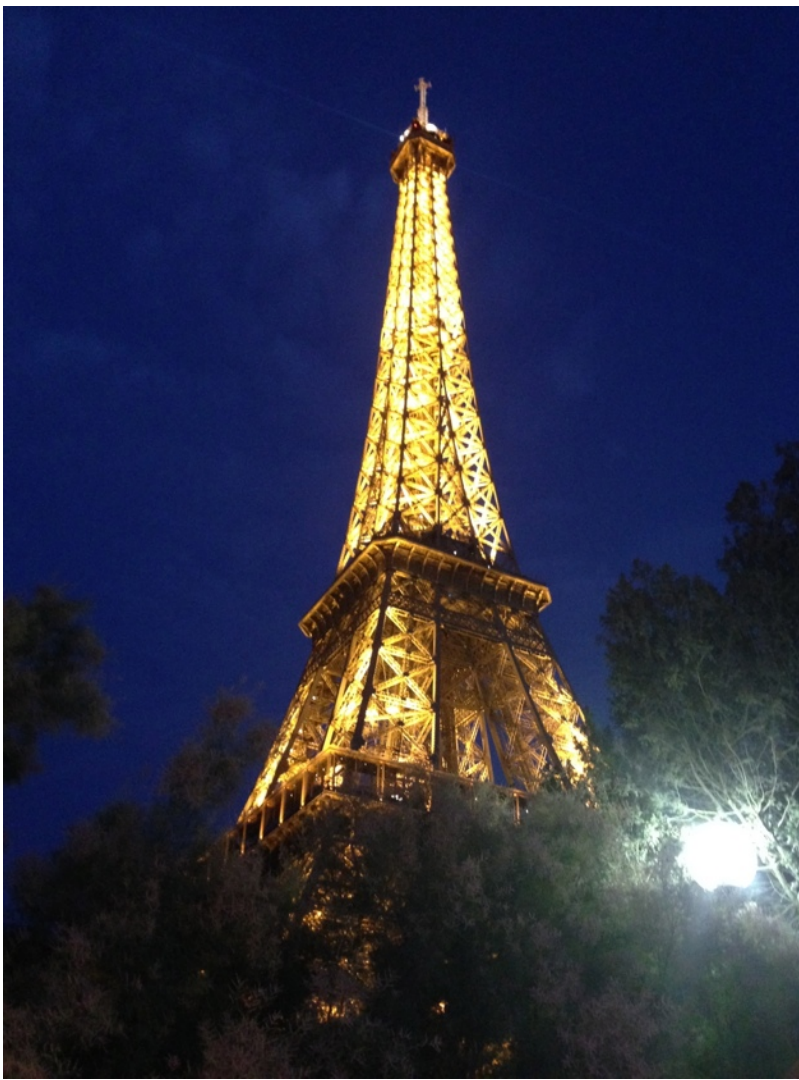
The twinkling lights finally came on and stayed on for 5 minutes. We realized they came on every hour beginning at 10:00 P.M. for just 5 minutes up until 1:00 A.M. We decided to wait until 11:00 PM to see it again.











We shopped in the street fair, got some ice cream, took photos and waited for the next twinkling light event. By the time it went on again we had walked under it and to the other side where the green grass lawn was. The entire area was like a festival party atmosphere. People cheered when the twinkling lights came on. I realized it was the Fourth of July back in America, and here I was celebrating with the twinkling lights under the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

It was a perfect ending to an absolutely wonderful 27 day trip through Italy, Santorini and France!







The three of us older ladies caught a taxi back to our hotel, while the younger three went off to explore some more. We heard from them the next morning that they had fun sitting on the side of the Seine with a group of people playing guitars and music.

