

PARIS

CITY OF ART AND ROMANCE

a. AN ARMCHAIR TOUR OF THE CITY

Susanna studied at the Sorbonne in Montmartre and knows Paris well. In this slide talk we explore hidden corners and learn the rich history of the medieval parts of Paris, to the Conciergerie, prison of Marie Antoinette, to the Boulevard St Honore and the Champs Elysees. We learn how the Arc de Triomphe was planned and built, how Parisians initially hated it and then came to love it as the symbol of their city. We visit the artists' *quartier* of Montmartre with the Sacre Coeur and Place de Tertre and the museum once the studio of Renoir, the Lapin Agile where so many artists drunk the absinth sold by the house wand contrast this with more recent artists' and students *quartier* of Montparnasse and the influence of North African migrants on the city and a host of other places you will enjoy visiting.

b. THE LOUVRE AND ITS HISTORY

From fortress to palace and one of the world's greatest art museums the Louvre has enjoyed many different incarnations. It is three museums in one, the first relates the history of France and contains portraits of France's Kings and Queens, it contains the gifts of Leonardo da Vinci to Francois I who was allowed to live out his final days in France — the Mona Lisa and the story of how it was stolen and found, and that other Da Vinci masterwork The Madonna of the Rocks in detail. We continue through the centuries and end with masterpieces of Napoleonic art by artists of the calibre of David, Ingres and the great Romantics like Delacroix and the landscape artist, Corot a forerunner of the Impressionists.



PARIS: MONTMARTRE QUARTIER



PARIS: VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE EIFFEL TOWER



PARIS: SACRE COEUR



PARIS: MOULIN DE LA GALETTE

c. THE MUSEE D'ORSAY – HOME OF REALISM, IMPRESSIONISM AND POST IMPRESSIONISM

This former railway station was transformed by architect Gaie Aulenti into one of the world's truly great art museums. These great Impressionist paintings that were gifted by the art collector and painter Gustave Caillebotte whose friend executor was Renoir, after Caillebotte's death were hung in the Palais de Luxembourg and then moved to the Jeu de Paume from where the Nazis stole many of them. The Musee d'Orsay has been designed to tell the story of French art in the second half of the nineteenth century, the struggles of the Impressionists to have their message understood. This great museum comprises some of the greatest works of Impressionism, the collections of Dr Gachet which include some of Van Gogh's greatest works and we make a brief diversion to the fascinating Musee Rodin to see the work of this great sculptor held in the chateau where he lived with his lover.

NB Instead of the Louvre lecture a slide lecture on **CLAUDE MONET AND HOUSE AND HIS WATER GARDEN AT GIVERNY** can be substituted which compares the paintings of the garden with the genuine article and gives Monet's life in context.



PARIS: STREET SCENE MONTMARTRE