Labyrinths in France and Italy

An itinerary prepared for
Ms. Crystal Dawn Walker
Veriditas Certified Labyrinth Facilitator
departing from Portland, OR
on September 1, 2010
17 days

Basic Inclusions
Services of a specially-trained passports courier throughout • Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels • Rooming on a triple basis

Overnights
Paris 3 • Menaggio 1 • Venice area 2 • Florence 3 • Assisi 1 • Sorrento 2 • Rome 3

Meals
All breakfasts • Seven dinners

Transit Summary
Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline • Airport arrival transfer on Days 1-2 • Transfer to the train station on Day 5 • Artesia train on Day 5 • Station arrival transfer on Day 5 • Ferry on Day 13 • Airport departure transfer on Day 17

Enrollment Information
To enroll by check:
Complete and return the application on page 13 of the Enrollment Guide. Your group leader has one for you. Or, get one from our web site www.passports.com/enro.

To enroll by credit card:
Visit www.passports.com and click the We're Going icon. Type your Group Preview Code: Labyrinths10-2 in the box in the upper left labeled Group Preview. Click the link in the center of the page that reads Enroll Online.

Labyrinths on itinerary
Paris: Jardin des Plantes
Amiens labyrinth
Saint-Quentin labyrinth
Chartres labyrinth
Ravenna labyrinth
Lucca labyrinth
Volterra labyrinth
Pompeii labyrinths
Positano labyrinth
Rome: Castle Sant'Angelo labyrinth
Palatine labyrinth
Capitoline labyrinth

NOTE:
This itinerary can be an intensive walking tour. All labyrinth walks are optional. Those who opt not to walk the labyrinth(s) will have some free time to plan as they wish with the advice of the courier.
Tour Highlights

Panoramic coach tour of Paris
Entrance and reservation to the Louvre
Guided walking tour of the Louvre
Excursion to Chartres
Round-trip train to Chartres
Visit to Chartres Cathedral
Chartres Cathedral Headsets
Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth
Full-day coach excursion to Amiens and Saint-Quentin
Visit to the Cathedral in Amiens
Visit to the Basilica of St. Quentin
Train to Milan
High-speed Artesia train Paris-Milan
Professionally-guided walking tour in Venice
Services of a specially-trained half-day local guide in Venice
Round-trip waterbus ride to St. Mark's Square
Visits to the Doges' Palace (including whisper headsets) and St. Mark's Basilica
Glass-blowing demonstration
Dinner at Trattoria Dona Onesta
Travel to Florence via Ravenna
Visits to the Tomb of Galla Placidia and the Basilica of San Vitale
Professionally-guided walking tour in Florence
Services of a specially-trained half-day local guide in Florence
Visit to the Accademia
Visit to Florence's Duomo
Ascent of the dome of Florence's Duomo
Visit to the church of Santa Croce
Visit to Leonardo's Leather Workshop
Full-day coach excursion to Lucca
Visit to Lucca's Duomo
Bicycle tour on top of Lucca's city walls, bike rental included
Travel to Assisi via Volterra and Siena
Sightseeing stop in Volterra
Visit to the Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art
Guided walking tour in Siena
Visit to Siena's Duomo
Visit to the Basilica of St. Francis
Group leader arranged activity
Participation in the creation of a birdseed labyrinth planned by your group leader
(supplies are not included in the tour's price)
Full-day coach excursion to Pompeii and Positano
Visit to the excavated city of Pompeii
Services of a specially-trained local guide in Pompeii
Drive along the scenic Amalfi Coast
Sightseeing stop in Positano
Ferry Positano-Sorrento
City sightseeing in Rome
One-day public transportation pass
Services of a specially-trained full-day local guide in Rome
Full-day whisper headsets
Entrance to the Vatican Museums
Visit to the Sistine Chapel
Visit to St. Peter's Basilica
Visit to Castel Sant'Angelo
Visit to the Treasury of Castel Sant'Angelo
Entrance to the Borghese Gallery
Visit to the church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva
City sightseeing in Rome
One-day public transportation pass
Services of a specially-trained full-day local guide in Rome
Full-day whisper headsets
Combination ticket including entrance to the Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill
Visit to the Capitoline Museums
(Entrance valid for both Palazzo Nuovo and Palazzo dei Conservatori.)
DAYS 1-2: ARRIVAL, PANORAMIC COACH TOUR OF PARIS

Weeks, or even months of preparation come to fruition at last as you board your airplane bound for Europe and the glittering jewel at her heart, Paris, the "City of Light.” Bienvenue!

Settle into your centrally-located hotel, then set out to explore one of the world’s most beautiful capital cities.

Panoramic coach tour of Paris • Begin your explorations of Paris with a panoramic coach tour of the city. On the Right Bank of the River Seine, see Napoléon’s Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Elysées, the Place de la Concorde, and the exuberant Opéra Garnier. On the Left Bank, discover the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter and Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

Free time in Paris • You may want to make your way to the Left Bank and its Jardin des Plantes, a botanical garden established in the 17th century. It was later expanded by the 18th-century natural scientist Buffon, who added a Labyrinth still open to visitors (admission to the garden is free).

You may want to head for the Opéra district. There, consider a visit to its centerpiece, now called the Opéra-Garnier to distinguish it from its younger sibling, the Opéra-Bastille. The tour introduces the grand architecture and interior decoration of the theater (once haunted by a famous Phantom!), including the marvelous ceiling painted by Marc Chagall.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight: Paris

DAY 3: LOUVRE, EXCURSION TO CHARTRES

Louvre Museum • Visit the Louvre Museum to explore its restored galleries and their ancient treasures, as well as the modernistic underground galleria beneath I. M. Pei’s glass pyramid. You will see Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa and the Vénus de Milo, among countless other masterpieces. Louvre Guide • The insights of a national museum guide help you to rediscover the masterpieces, delve into a particular theme, or focus on one artist's pieces. Tours are aimed at art enthusiasts and novices alike.

Excursion to Chartres • Board a train bound for Chartres.

The spires of the Chartres Cathedral first come into view, solemnly rising above the wide-open fields of La Beauce. Soon, you’re facing the most beautiful Gothic structure in Europe, reputed for its stunning stained-glass windows. The cathedral itself defines Gothic architecture and the concept of the flying buttress.

Inlaid on the floor of the nave, you will see the labyrinth that pilgrims used to follow on their knees while praying. If chairs have been removed to make it accessible (usually on Fridays), you may want to follow its unicursal path to the center. As you do so, you will understand why this labyrinth is the most famous and one of the most elaborate of the medieval church labyrinths remaining in Western Europe. Built in 1235, the Chartres labyrinth is also the largest with its 41-feet diameter.

Why not check out the garden labyrinth near the cathedral? From the garden, there’s a fine view of the historic center and of the banks of the River Eure.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight: Paris

DAY 4: EXCURSION TO AMIENS AND SAINT-QUENTIN

Travel to Amiens, the ancient capital of Picardy. Amiens was a prosperous city during the Middle Ages thanks to its textile industry.

The wealth of Amiens is reflected in its cathedral, which is France's largest and a jewel of Gothic art. During your visit, you will see the soaring vaults of the nave, the magnificent rose window and bas-reliefs. Part of the nave's pavement is an octagonal labyrinth of black and white stone that was reconstructed in 1894 based on the original medieval design created in 1288.

Travel to St. Quentin, a city which suffered heavy damages during World War I. The historic center has been beautifully restored, in particular the Gothic-style City Town Hall and the Fervaques Palace.

During the Middle Ages, St. Quentin became a major pilgrimage center that grew around the tomb of a 3rd-century martyr, a Roman Christian who gave his name to the city. On a visit to the Basilica, begun in the 12th century, you will see one of its most...
prized features, the octagonal labyrinth laid in 1493 on the floor of the nave.

Meals included: Breakfast  
Overnight: Paris

DAY 5: TRAIN TO MILAN, LAKE COMO, MENAGGIO

Train to Milan • Today, there's the excitement of a ride aboard a high-tech Artesia train bound for Italy. Your destination is Milan, a thriving metropolis which once was the capital city of the ancient province of Lombardy, ruled for centuries by the powerful Visconti and Sforza families. Nowadays, Milan is the home turf of fashion designers such as Giorgio Armani, the late Gianni Versace, Gianfranco Ferre and the ubiquitous Benetton company.

Travel to Lake Como • Board your coach and head for the scenic shores of Lago di Como, Europe's deepest lake at 1,350 feet. Rimmed by mountains, the region surrounding Lake Como has changed hands several times during its history, at times falling under Spanish, French and Austrian rule before its final return to the Italian Kingdom in 1859.

Consider a visit to Villa Carlotta, an elegant summer residence with luxuriant gardens that was built in the 18th century on the shore of Lake Como. It became a "must-see" on any Grand Tour of Europe. In the 19th century, under the ownership of Carlotta, the daughter of Princess Marianne of Nassau, an extraordinary art collection was added and the garden was landscaped in a Romantic fashion.

Travel to Menaggio • Travel to the lakefront resort of Menaggio.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Menaggio

DAY 6: OPTIONAL FERRY EXCURSION TO BELLAGIO, TRAVEL TO VENICE

Free time in Menaggio • This morning is free to plan as you wish.

Excursion to Bellagio (by Ferry)  
Optional • Head to the lakeside promenade to board a ferry bound for Bellagio. This picturesque resort is situated on the promontory that marks the division of the lake into twin branches. Bellagio's village with stepped alleyways has attracted tourists as early as the 18th century, when splendid villas were built on the lakeshore.

Travel to Venice • Travel by coach through the Po Valley and the wine country of northern Italy on your way to the "Pearl of the Adriatic.

Settle into your Venice hotel, located either in the floating city itself, or on the Lido Beach.

Remember Marco Polo, who set out from this magnificent harbor in 1271, at the age of 18, on a fantastic journey to Asia.

Meals included: Breakfast  
Overnight: Venice area

DAY 7: VENICE CITY SIGHTSEEING, TRATTORIA DONA ONESTA DINNER

Venice City Sightseeing • After a waterbus ride to the greatest square in the West, Piazza San Marco, enjoy a walking tour led by a local guide. Of course, you will see the Bridge of Sighs, named for the sights of prisoners being led to their cells across this enclosed bridge. Local Guide • A half-day local guide; well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Venice, will accompany your group.

Doges' Palace and St. Mark's Basilica • A visit is included to the Doges' Palace, built in the 14th century and reflects Venice's Golden Age as a center of trade and exploration. Visitors marvel at architectural treasures such as its Golden Staircase, decorated with gold leaf, the Giants' Staircase, all marble, the Compass Room and, above all, the Chamber of the Great Council, which is one of the largest rooms in Europe. Its lavish decoration includes priceless paintings, in particular Tintoretto's Paradise, the world's largest painting on canvas.

You will also visit St. Mark's Basilica, which dates back to the 11th century and houses precious treasures behind its elaborate façade. Glass-blowing demonstration • You will view a glass-blowing demonstration to better appreciate the manufacture of the world-renowned Venetian glass.

Free time in Venice • Enjoy some free time in Venice today.

Consider a visit to Villa Pisani, located in the town of Stra, on the canal that connects Venice's lagoon to Padua. From the 15th century to the 18th, wealthy Venetians built fancy residences along its banks, within a stretch of the canal that became known as the Brenta Riviera. Villa Pisani, which is accessible by public bus from Venice, is a superb example of 18th-century architecture. Its landscaped garden is reputed to have the world's most difficult garden maze.

Gondola ride (afternoon) Optional • This afternoon, enjoy a gondola ride beneath the open windows of stately palaces. A unique
Venetian experience, as extravagant and as unforgettable as the city itself.

Dinner at Trattoria Dona Onesta • Enjoy dinner this evening at Trattoria Dona Onesta in Venice proper.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner at Trattoria Dona Onesta
Overnight: Venice area

DAY 8: RAVENNA, FLORENCE
Travel to the Adriatic coast and the city of Ravenna, which was once the capital of the Roman Empire and a favorite of Byzantine emperors.

You’ll see evidence of past wealth during visits to the spectacular blue and gold-starred domed Tomb of Galla Placidia and the Basilica of San Vitale. Dating back to 547 AD, this octagonal basilica is a masterpiece of architecture. Among its outstanding mosaics are representations of Christ the King, the empress Theodora and the emperor Justinian. In The Divine Comedy, Dante praised the “symphony of colors” of Ravenna’s mosaics.

The Basilica of San Vitale is also known for the circular labyrinth, nearly 12 feet wide, that is inlaid on its floor. Continue your journey up and over the rolling hills of Tuscany, to Firenze, the “jewel of the Renaissance.”

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Florence

DAY 9: FLORENCE CITY SIGHTSEEING
On a city tour of Florence, you’ll hear about the Medici family and the art of politics.

A local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Florence, will accompany your group. Accademia • A visit is included to the Accademia, where you’ll admire the best known of all Florentine treasures, Michelangelo’s David. Duomo (nave) • See the Duomo, the Baptistry with Ghiberti’s Doors of Paradise, Giotto’s Bell Tower and the Piazza della Signoria. Ascent of the Duomo (Cupola del Brunelleschi) • Climb up to the rooftop of the cathedral and into Brunelleschi’s double dome for a grand view of Florence and the surrounding hills. On your way up, admire the revolutionary technique that allowed the construction of this huge dome, built without the support of scaffolding. Florence’s Duomo remained the world’s largest dome until modern engineering produced domed arenas. Santa Croce • In the church of Santa Croce, see the final resting places of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. The church is filled with treasures and houses the Pazzi Chapel, a masterpiece by Brunelleschi noted for its original conception and skillful proportions. Leonardo’s Leather Workshop • You will visit the Leonardo Leather Workshop, where a craftsman will demonstrate steps used in the manufacture of world-renowned Florentine leather goods.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Florence

DAY 10: EXCURSION TO LUCCA
Travel to another medieval town with a rich cultural heritage. The Città Vecchia (Old Town), still encircled by three-mile-long ramparts, is brimming with ancient merchant palaces, towers and old shops.

You’ll visit the Duomo, (Cathedral of San Martino), which contains a painting of The Last Supper by Tintoretto and the venerated Volto Santo, a Byzantine crucifix that is a masterpiece of Italian funerary sculpture by Jacopo della Quercia.

A stone block inserted on the wall of the Duomo’s tower bears a carved labyrinth 20 inches in diameter that has been dated back to the 12th century. Pilgrims followed the path of this labyrinth with their finger.

Enjoy a bicycle tour along the tree-shaded promenade, three miles long, which was created on top of Lucca’s 16th-century city walls.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Florence

Labyrinths in France and Italy
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DAY 11: VOLTERA, SIENA, ASSISI

Travel to the hilltop town of Volterra, which has preserved remnants of its Etruscan walls and its medieval city center. Landmarks includes the cathedral, baptistry and Piazza dei Priori, surrounded by palaces. Volterra is also known for its production of alabaster, beautifully carved by local artisans: check out a few of their workshops.

Consider a visit to the Guarnacci Museum, renowned for its collection of Etruscan artifacts.

Visit the Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art, housed in the Bishop's Palace near Volterra's cathedral. Its collection includes vestments, marble sculptures and wooden carvings. If it is on display, you may see a square labyrinth 14 inches wide that was inlaid on a wooden lectern between 1388 and 1404.

Discover the charm of Siena, Florence's great rival on a walking tour led by a local guide. See the Piazza del Campo (where colorful horse races are held twice a year), the Palazzo Pubblico (Siena's town hall since the 1300s) and the Mangia (from mangiare, to eat), a tower which looks like a huge tooth!

A visit is included to Giovanni Pisano's Cathedral, also known as the Duomo, a cathedral which presents a stunning compilation of rich tracery and sculptured facades; Gothic style at its greatest.

A labyrinth inlaid in the flooring of Siena's cathedral was once followed by the faithful on their knees as a form of penance.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Assisi

DAY 12: BASILICA OF ST. FRANCIS, GROUP LEADER ARRANGED ACTIVITY, TRAVEL TO SORRENTO

Basilica of St. Francis • Enjoy a visit to the Basilica of St. Francis, which has been restored to its past splendor following the 1997 earthquake. It consists of two superimposed churches resting on a series of arches: the Lower Basilica, built over the crypt which contains the tomb of St. Francis, and the Upper Basilica, decorated with frescoes by 13th-century masters Giotto and Cimabue.

Group leader arranged activity • While in Assisi, participate in the creation of a birdseed labyrinth planned by your group leader.

Travel to Sorrento • Today, board your coach and travel south to the bay of Naples, to Sorrento, the fabled town of poets and sunsets, also renowned for its embroidery and intarsia (wood-inlay).

The evening is free to enjoy Sorrento's scenic delights and spectacular views. For the finest overlook of all, go to the Punta di Sorrento and watch the sunset from the belvedere.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Sorrento
DAY 13: EXCURSION TO POMPEII AND POSITANO WITH FERRY TO SORRENTO

You will visit the excavated city of Pompeii, another treasure of Western Civilization. See how well-to-do Romans lived 2,000 years ago, until Mt. Vesuvius spoke, at once destroying this city and preserving it for all time.

Sit back and enjoy the splendid ride along the celebrated Amalfi Drive, which twists its way along steep cliffs to Salerno, site of the American landing in 1943 and a city famous in the Middle Ages for its medical school.

Stop in Positano, once a fisherman’s village and now one of the most picturesque and most popular resorts on the coast. You may recognize backdrops from the 2003 film by Audrey Wells, Under the Tuscan Sun.

On the landing of the exterior stairs of Positano’s Church of Santa Maria Assunta, you will see a square mosaic labyrinth about 3 feet wide.

As you travel by ferry from Positano to Sorrento, enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Amalfi Coast from a different perspective.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Sorrento

DAY 14: OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO CAPRI, TRAVEL TO ROME

Excursion to Capri Optional • Today, descend the winding road to the port of Sorrento.

A boat will take you to the Isle of Capri for a tour of the island.

Transfer by funicular to the town of Capri’s main piazza, passing tropical gardens on the way. On the island stands Villa Jovis, the imperial residence from which Tiberius once ruled his empire. Recall tales of the Emperor Augustus, and of the mischievous Caligula.

Travel to Rome • Today, travel north on the autostrada, past Montecassino, the monastery and World War II fortress town, on your way to Rome, the "Eternal City."

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Rome

DAY 15: THE VATICAN WITH CASTEL SANT’ANGELO, BORGHESE GALLERY, SANTA MARIA SOPRA MINERVA

Local Guide • A full-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Rome, will accompany your group.

Vatican Museums • You’ll visit the Vatican Museums to view outstanding collections of masterpieces. Founded in the 16th century by Pope Julius II, the museums display collections that have been accumulated by the Roman Catholic Church for over 500 years. You’ll see exceptional statues from antiquity and stunning Renaissance paintings in the Raphael Rooms.

Marvel at Michelangelo’s Last Judgment and brightly-colored ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel.

Entrance is included to the magnificent St. Peter’s Basilica, which houses priceless works of art, in particular Michelangelo’s Pietà and Bernini’s Dove of the Holy Spirit.

Castel Sant’Angelo • Visit Castel Sant’Angelo. This immense castle was built by the Emperor Hadrian in AD 135 to be his mausoleum and featured a winding ramp 400 feet long. In the Middle Ages, it was transformed into a papal fortress linked to the Vatican by the Passetto, a protected passageway. Visitors can see luxurious Papal Apartments, prison cells and a rooftop terrace which offers splendid views of Rome.

Castel Sant’Angelo Treasury • Your guide will lead you to the Treasury of Castel Sant’Angelo, where you will see a floor labyrinth that was created with red and yellow bricks back in 1546.

Borghese Gallery • Enjoy a visit to Rome’s most beautiful park, Villa Borghese. There, view the superb art collection on display in Galleria Borghese. This museum owns Bernini masterpieces, such as David and Apollo and Daphne, and Canova’s famous statue of Pauline Borghese, the sister of Napoléon Bonaparte.

Church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva • Enjoy a visit to the church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva. This Gothic sanctuary (rare in Rome) is built over the remains of a Roman temple and houses remarkable artwork. Famous Italians buried here include Fra Angelico and St. Catherine of Siena.

Free Time in Rome • You may want to walk in the district surrounding the Pantheon, the Temple to All the Gods, which is one of the better-preserved and most harmonious monuments of antiquity. In the vicinity lies Piazza Navona, built on the site of Domitian’s stadium and adorned by trendy bistros and with statues, notably Bernini’s Fountain of Four Rivers.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight: Rome
DAY 16: ROME CITY
SIGHTSEEING, CAPITOLINE MUSEUMS

Rome City Sightseeing • Local Guide • A full-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Rome, will accompany your group.

Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill • Today you will visit some of the best known monuments of Ancient Rome, including the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Once the heart of a vast empire, the Forum was filled with extravagant buildings and crowded with people from all over the known world.

Your combination ticket also allows entrance to the archaeological site on the Palatine Hill. Should time allow, you may want to make your way up the hill to visit the site and its museum. This was the oldest residential area in Ancient Rome.

Among the notable ruins on the Palatine Hill, you will see the Domus Flavia and the Domus Augustana, parts of the huge palace built by Domitian in the 1st-century AD. There’s also the House of Livia, a prime example of a wealthy Republican-era dwelling decorated with delicate frescoes.

A labyrinth has been found on the Palatine Hill, in the Peristyle of the Domus Flavia. This large colonnaded courtyard is now known as the Labyrinth Court.

Capitoline Museums • Enjoy a visit to the Capitoline Museums, housed in the neighboring Palazzo Nuovo and Palazzo dei Conservatori. Their collections include artifacts from all periods of the Roman Empire, in particular the marble statue known as the Dying Gaul, pieces of a colossal statue of Constantine the Great and Roman busts that stand as a kind of ancient Who’s Who, as well as remarkable Renaissance paintings.

Free Time in Rome • This evening is free to plan as you wish.

Plan a visit to the Trevi Fountain, one of Rome’s most celebrated sights, which was the terminus of the Aqua Virgo aqueduct. The Trevi is at its best at night, when the fountain is illuminated. Throw a coin into the spray to ensure your return to this wonderful city!

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 17: DEPARTURE

Ciao, Europa! Statistics show that visitors do in fact return to Rome, although it may not have anything to do with coins in a fountain. Race the sun and arrive home later today, eager to share your discoveries with family and friends.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight: Rome
Participant Cost Breakdown

**Itinerary**  Labyrinths in France and Italy

**Departing**  September 1, 2010

**Departure City**  Portland, OR

**Program Cost**  $4,399

- Add $95 lifetime membership/registration fee
- Add $469 airline fees
- Add $40 for weekend flights

**Total Cost**  $5,003

**Estimated Monthly Payment**  $501

*The above total cost is valid for participants who enroll with the $495 deposit before September 15, 2009 and pay in full by the published final payment deadline (May 14, 2010). Estimated monthly payment for enrollments before August 15, 2009 after $495 deposit.*

**Optional Add-ons**  (not included in price)

- Excursion to Bellagio (by Ferry): $12
- Gondola ride (afternoon): $50
- Excursion to Capri: $200
- Double rooms: $40 per person per night

**TRAVEL PAK BENEFITS PACKAGE**

Life, health, and accident insurance, and trip interruption/cancellation coverage. Optional at $159, pre-billed (may be declined in writing by individual traveler.)