



FOLLOWING The Da Vinci

Explore Paris through the scenes of Dan Brown's best-selling novel.

For centuries, famous writers have used the world's greatest cities as backdrops to tales of romance and mystery—planting the seeds of wanderlust and inspiring generations of readers to seek the richness of foreign lands.

How would you like to sip coffee in the shadow of the oldest church in Paris at Café Les Deux Magots where Hemingway once wrote?

Or, perhaps better yet, you can plunge into the pages of one of today's hottest novels and see the scenes of *The Da Vinci Code* come to life before your own eyes.

From the Louvre to Saint-Sulpice, tours based on

The Da Vinci Code are exploding in popularity. In fact, City Walks of Paris recently doubled its availability and now offers tours twice daily just to keep up with demand. Its popular two-and-a-half-hour guided tour mixes Parisian history with *The Da Vinci Code*'s dramatic locations and separates fact from fiction as you retrace the scenes of this literary phenomenon. Whether you want to book a guided Da Vinci Code tour or be your own guide, your Carlson Wagonlit Travel agent can help you plan your Parisian literary adventure.

Here's a look at some of the hot spots you won't want to miss.



Code

*"The world is a book and
those who do not travel
read only one page."*

—St. Augustine

BY GINGER TAGGART

SCENE 1: *Hotel Ritz Paris*

Begin your adventure at the Ritz in Place Vendôme, where *The Da Vinci Code* hero Robert Langdon was awoken from his slumbers amidst the opulent Louis XVI furniture in this Paris landmark hotel. If you wish to stay in the heart of the literary action, ask your Carlson Wagonlit Travel agent to book you a reservation at the Ritz. You'll be staying within one of Paris's most chic and centrally located neighborhoods.

Without leaving the hotel you can take part in the famed Ritz Escoffier cooking school, enjoy a drink at the Hemingway Bar (where the famous author was rumored to have ordered an astounding 51 dry

martinis when Paris was liberated after World War II), or splash around in the impressive subterranean swimming pool—all before stepping outside your door directly into the stately Place Vendôme.

SCENE 2: *Jardin des Tuileries*

From Place Vendôme, head three blocks south via Rue de Castiglione directly to the Jardin des Tuileries. Coupled with the Jardin du Luxembourg and Jardin des Plantes, this large park in the center of Paris is one of the city's most celebrated and its most formal. Instead of the frantic police car ride Robert Langdon took through the park's central avenue, you can stroll



leisurely through the stately pathways lined with statues and flora. Play Parisian for a day and pack a picnic with the limitless array of bread, cheese, and wine from the local markets.

SCENE 3: *Arc du Carrousel*

At the easternmost end of the Jardin des Tuileries lies the spot Langdon describes as revered by art aficionados for its vantage point to four of the world's finest art museums—the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, Centre Pompidou, and the Jeu de Paume. Although you would need bionic vision to see through the city's stunning architecture and park treetops to view each museum from this point, it is awe-inspiring to realize that the world's

most extensive art collection is all within easy access. As you soak in the possibilities, enjoy the view that made this location famous—its vantage point in perfect symmetry of the Jardin des Tuileries, Place de la Concorde, Champs Elysées, and the Arc du Triomphe—all in an arrow-straight line. Get your cameras ready!

SCENE 4: *The Louvre's Grand Gallery*

The dramatic opening scene of *The Da Vinci Code* commences in the Louvre's Grand Gallery, but you won't require the book to feel awestruck when entering these world-renowned rooms filled with

A Harry Potter Tour of England

The sweeping literary phenomenon of Harry Potter is still alive and well with the release of the sixth book in July. If you're a die-hard Potter fan, why not plan a tour to England to check out key sites from the books and movies? Contact your Carlson Wagonlit Travel agent to book your trip.

LONDON UNDERGROUND: All aboard at King's Cross Platform 9^{3/4}. The platform really does exist (although created for tourists after the book's tremendous popularity). Pose for photos upon the famous platform, but be sure to watch and obey the signs—no owls allowed!

LONDON ZOO: Stop by for a quick visit and see the site of Harry Potter's first conversation with a snake at the London Zoo. See if you too can speak parseltongue.

LONDON AUSTRALIA HOUSE: You might recognize this site as Gringotts Wizarding Bank. Look for Diagon Alley (perhaps Charing Cross Road?) and search for your own wizarding textbooks, magic wands, and cauldrons.



OXFORD: England's oldest university was the filming location of several famous settings for Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft. The dining hall at Christ Church college at Oxford is the very same shown in the movies as Hogwarts Great Hall. —G.T.

Italian masterpieces. Visit the *Mona Lisa's* new home, the Salle des Etats, which also hosts *The Marriage at Cana*—the biggest canvas in the world's largest museum. If you are seeking a vacation that refreshes, rejuvenates, and inspires you with artistic and literary masters, this is it.

SCENE 5: Saint-Sulpice

Heading south across the Seine river to the artsy Left Bank, you'll find Saint-Sulpice. This 17th-century church where *The Da Vinci Code* villain Silas searches for

the revered keystone includes the now famous Rose Line—the brass strip that marks the world's original longitude line. The line cuts across the floor and to the summit of the church's obelisk, creating a path that the sun traces twice annually during the summer and winter solstices.

THE FINAL CHAPTER

If you are seeking an add-on to your Paris itinerary, don't just think of the smart car transport used by the novel's main characters—why not

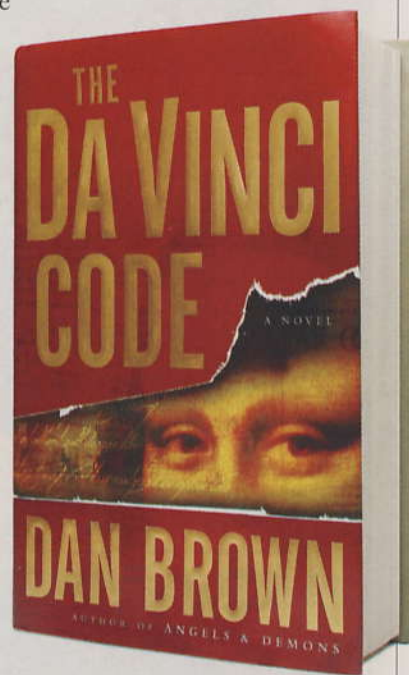
discover the true essence of France by adding on a barge vacation and visiting the country's small towns with a tour from Abercrombie and Kent? Or take the plunge into further adventure by visiting the sites of other European capitals with a cruise package from Holland America. The 2005 selection includes 33 different cruise itineraries exploring 98 European cities.

For true fans of *The Da Vinci Code* who want to be immersed in author Dan Brown's storylines, Insight Vacations offers the perfect opportunity to trace all of Robert Langdon's adventures through an itinerary by its custom group department. The 16-day, 14-night itinerary through Rome, Milan, Switzerland, Paris, London, and

Edinburgh is focused exclusively on sites from *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and Demons*. Contact your Carlson Wagonlit Travel agent today to plan your vacation and become the author of your own literary adventure. □



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the insider

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