

EUROPEAN TAPESTRY AMSTERDAM TO PARIS

(April 20-May 1, 2023)

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited April 20-May 1 2023 with extension to Paris on our own. We arrived two days early before hooking up with the tour.

Amsterdam is the Netherlands' capital, known for its artistic heritage, elaborate canal system and narrow houses with gabled facades, legacies of the city's 17th-century Golden Age.

Our base hotel was the Barbizon Palace situated within a few blocks of the Red Light District. We visited the Ons' Lieve Heer Op Solder Museum, also called 'Our Lord in the Attic. This canal house, built in 1630, looks normal on the outside but inside, on the top level, sits a secret Catholic Church. This church is one of the largest and the best preserved of these schuilkerks. We stopped for an early dinner at Dal Pacillaccto operated by a group of Dutch Italian people that shared their love for the Italian cuisine.

We had wandered around town and took peeks in stores and restaurants stopping to take photos of the canals and buildings along the way. Many small shops offering the Amsterdam style snacks of frites with multiple sauces to choice from. Dutch fries are never submitted to a freezer's cold blasts; instead, they are cut and served the same day. They are plunged into boiling oil a minimum of two times, resulting in a crispy outer fry and fluffy inner fry.

We had tickets at 8:30 pm to see the special Johannes Vermeer exhibition at the Rijksmuseum that included loan works of Vermeer from all over the world. Never before have so many Vermeers been brought together. Johannes Vermeer was a Dutch Baroque Period painter who specialized in domestic interior scenes of middle-class life. He is acknowledged as one of the greatest painters of the Dutch Golden Age.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited April 21. Today we visited the Oude Kerk Church Amsterdam's oldest building and newest art institute. The building was founded about 1213 and consecrated in 1306 by the bishop of Utrecht with Saint Nicolas as its patron saint. After the Reformation in 1578, it became a Calvinist church, which it remains today. Yet more famous than its decorations is its reputation: they say people after a night of excess in the Red Light District would donate money to the Church. Much like the puritanical times in England, Calvinism ripped out the guts of the church, and replaced it with the "squeaky clean", it barred the merchants who had set up their stalls within the church, and stopped those who had used the church as an hostel.

Originally built as a Catholic place of worship, but later became one of the buildings expressing the national character of Dutch Protestantism. While all Protestant churches in the Netherlands have modest interiors and enclose very few artifacts, De Oude Kerk is different. De Oude Kerk features things characteristic for the Catholic cathedrals across

Europe like high windows full of light, impressive old gravestones on its floor and exceptional architecture. Rembrandt was a frequent visitor to the Oude Kerk and his children were all christened here. It is the only building in Amsterdam that remains in its original state since Rembrandt walked its halls.

The most interesting place in the church were the carvings in the choir stall misericords, (sometimes named mercy seat), is a small wooden structure formed on the underside of a folding seat in a church which, when the seat is folded up, is intended to act as a shelf to support a person in a partially standing position during long periods of prayer. Some carved around Full restoration took 24 years, and so in 1979 it was re-opened to the public, however no longer as a place of worship, but as a place for diverse cultural events.

As can be seen from this history, the Oude Kerk was never monastic, nor did it have a college of cannons, so the misericords seem to serve no purpose, however, by the style of the clothes in the carvings, someone around 1480 must have decided that they were necessary. Others carved around 1974.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited April 21. After leaving Oude Kerk we went to visit The Royal Palace one of three palaces in the Netherlands which are at the disposal of the monarch by Act of Parliament. It is situated on the west side of Dam Square in the centre of Amsterdam, opposite the War Memorial and next to the Nieuwe Kerk. The central hall in the palace is over 100ft long and its marble floor contains a huge and detailed map of the world that shows the exploration of the Dutch East India Company. The structure was built as the Town Hall of the City of Amsterdam "facing the landing wharfs along Damrak, which at that time would have been busy with ships". Louis Napoleon moved to Amsterdam, and converted the Town Hall into a royal palace for himself. We took the highlight tour and saw many of the ornate rooms including the bedroom of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte.

The most interesting hall located on the ground floor of the palace is the "Vierschaar", a tribunal space. When the building was still a town hall this was where the death sentence was pronounced, on an average three to four times a year. This was a very important ceremony and, for that reason, the Tribunal was decorated elaborately with the marble works of sculptor Artus Quellinus. Wise and Righteous Judgment: Upon entering the Tribunal, the condemned person immediately saw the sheriff and magistrates – the prosecutor and judges – sitting on the long bench. And behind them, three depictions of good judgment. In the middle was the Judgment of King Solomon, who managed to find the truth in court through the use of a clever trick told in the Bible in which King Solomon of Israel ruled between two women both claiming to be the mother of a child. The marble stories were there to inspire the sheriff and magistrates to be wise and just. After the trial the prisoners went to the Justice Room, where they were passed through an opening in the wall to the gallows on Dam square.

From 1808, King Louis Bonaparte used the Tribunal as a court chapel. Happily, he didn't get rid of the marble reliefs, but covered them with blue curtains. The story goes that the

hand of Lady Justice –between the windows onto Dam Square – stuck out through the curtains and was unceremoniously chopped off, weighing scales and all.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited April 21.

Continuing we started strolling the canals and to the western section of the canal ring where it is the most scenic. This is the location of De 9 Straatjes, or The Nine Streets south of the Anne Frank House. These nine little streets are a haven of boutique shops, cafes, art galleries, and restaurants. You can very easily spend an afternoon here, hopping from shop to shop. Even if shopping is not your thing, this area, with its jumble of canal houses and cobblestoned streets, is a delight to explore. I always stop to look inside the bakeries, deli and candy shops. Saw a line outside the oldest bakery in Amsterdam since 1898, ‘Hans Egstorf’ that make fresh Stroopwafels served warm from the original recipe by hand.

When you peek through the windows, you can see the bakers at work: the dough balls are rolled by hand and the waffles are baked in a special iron, filled with warm caramé. After eating our Stroopwafels we stopped for Mike to have a pint in a local pub. Walked down the streets and stopped in a store that was full of handmade story tiles. I purchased a tile called ‘May Wishes Come True’. One euro is donated to a children’s fund called ‘Make-A-Wish’.

Diamonds are forever so I went inside ‘The Antique Ring Shop’ for a souvenir. While crossing a canal bridge with homes on each side we noticed brass tiles set into the sidewalk. The square plaques (called Stolpersteine), “stumbling stones” are engraved with the names of Jews who moved to this neighborhood upon its creation after the First World War and were deported during the Second, many who died at Auschwitz. Placed to remember individual victims of the Nazi genocide and oppression, a mental “stumbling” that forces pedestrians to reckon with the past.

Stopped for dinner at Ristorante Papa Carlo for some Italian food. The Italian Shehata family has been running restaurants since 1991. Feeling rested we took our time walking back to the hotel by night looking at the city lit up at night.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: April 22.

Today we headed to the outdoor vegetable market and then to the Floating Flower Market. This is the only floating flower market in the world and can be found on Singel street in-between Vijzelstraat and Koningsplein. Here you will find row after row of market stalls selling flowers, seeds, spices, herbs and plants. The display of colors and the amount of different aromas is truly wonderful. You can order bulbs to be delivered to your house or buy some to take home that have documents that allow you to bring them back into the US. They were selling the lily of the valley plants. In France, lily of the valley (or muguet in French) has been given as a gift for centuries. Legend has it that the custom began on May 1, 1561 when King Charles IX received a sprig of the tiny flower as a token of good luck. The King liked the idea so much that he decided to start a tradition.

Today we had tickets to the Vincent Van Gogh Museum: You get a riveting insight not only into Vincent Van Gogh's art, but into his life. In addition to over 200 paintings and 500 drawings the museum has more than 700 letters that help to tell the story of such the brilliant, intense and troubled man behind the canvas. In addition to over 200 paintings and 500 drawings the museum had more than 700 letters that helped tell the story of such the brilliant, intense and troubled man behind the canvas. We stopped in the museum's café for a early lunch before touring the museum. Had a slice of apple pie and some sandwiches. The audio guide was the best way to understand the Van Gogh paintings.

Walked to Magere Brug 'Skinny Bridge' a bridge over the river Amstel. The central section of the Magere Brug is a bascule bridge made of white-painted wood. The present bridge was built in 1934. The bridge can be seen in a number of films, including the 1971 James Bond film 'Diamonds Are Forever', in which the legend of the bridge's being built is told by a boat tour guide. Legend says that a kiss between lovers while on this bridge (or passing beneath by boat) ensures that they will be in love forever.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: April 22 with the group. This morning we met the group and went on a city tour and then to the Rijksmuseum Museum to view Dutch painting through works by Vermeer, Rembrandt and other masters. The remainder of the day we were on our own so Mike and I went to Rembrandt House Museum located in a former house in the Jodenbreestraat, in the center of Amsterdam. Between 1639 and 1658, the house was occupied by the well-known Dutch painter Rembrandt van Rijn, who also had his studio and art dealership there. We had headsets that gave us the audio guide about the house and the works of Rembrandt.

After visiting the Rembrandt house we had lunch at Rembrandt Corner Café. Later we met up with the group for a cruise along the city's fabled canals with drinks and light appetizers included.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited April 23. Today the group went to have a trip to one of the most beautiful spring gardens in the world, Keukenhof. The history of Keukenhof (kitchen garden) dates back to the 15th century. Countess Jacoba van Beieren (Jacqueline of Bavaria) (1401-1436) gathered fruit and vegetables from the Keukenduin (kitchen dunes) for the kitchen of Teylingen Castle. Keukenhof Castle was built in 1641 and the estate grew to encompass an area of over 200 hectares.

Landscape architects Jan David Zocher and his son Louis Paul Zocher, who also designed Amsterdam's Vondelpark, redesigned the castle gardens in 1857. That park, in the English landscape style, still constitutes the basis of Keukenhof.

In 1949 a group of 20 leading flower bulb growers and exporters came up with the plan to use the estate to exhibit spring-flowering bulbs, signaling the birth of Keukenhof as a spring park. The park opened its gates to the public in 1950 and was an instant success, with 236,000 visitors in the first year alone. 2023 will be the 74th edition of Keukenhof. During the past 73 years Keukenhof developed into a world-famous attraction.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited April 23. After leaving the beautiful gardens of Keukenhof our group was taken back to town and we had the coach dropped Mike and I off at the Museum Willet-Holthuysen located on the Herengracht in Amsterdam. This double mansion on the Herengracht contains many period rooms. Its beautiful salons are in the style of Louis XVI, and the garden is symmetrically designed as a French formal garden.

The house takes its name from the married couple who lived there at the end of the 19th century, Abraham Willet and Louisa Holthuysen. They collected a large amount of art and objects, and also designed the period rooms. Even then, such splendor was considered a reminder of the Romantic past. The period rooms were the perfect way for the couple to share their taste and wealth with others.

Upon their deaths, the couple left their collection and house behind with the intention that it would be turned into a museum. More than a hundred years later, the Willet-Holthuysen House is still open to the public. It currently serves as an additional location of the Amsterdam Museum.

We walked back to our hotel from the museum and pass the small statue of Anne Frank near the Anne Frank Museum in the Jewish Quarter.

It started to rain right when we got to our hotel, across the street was the Prins Hendrick Hotel. At this hotel on the outside is a plaque with the image of Chet Baker. Chesney Henry "Chet" Baker Jr. was an American jazz trumpeter and vocalist. He is known for major innovations in cool jazz that led him to be nicknamed the "Prince of Cool". He had a life of getting in trouble and spending time in jail. Wikipedia has a history of Chet Baker that is interesting. Early on May 13, 1988, Baker was found dead on the street below his room in Hotel Prins Hendrik, Amsterdam, with serious wounds to his head, apparently having fallen from the second-story window. Drugs were found in his room and no evidence of a struggle, his death was ruled an accident or suicide. According to another account, he inadvertently locked himself out of his room and fell while attempting to cross from the balcony of the vacant room adjacent to his own.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Monday, April 24. Today we traveled by motorcoach to the village of Kinderdijk, Dutch for "Children Dike". After a discussion about windmills, found throughout the Netherlands we embarked on a boat ride to view some of the Netherlands' 1,000 or so windmills that were used for centuries to power the grinding of corn, the sawing of timber, and the removal of excess water from low-lying fields. Built around 1740 the 19 wooden windmills at Kinderdijk still stand in their original locations, and also represent the largest concentration of windmills in the country. After our windmills visit we went to have a pleasant lunch at Het Wapen van Alblasserdam.

During a horrendous storm a villager went to inspect damage to the dikes and he saw a wooden cradle floating on the water. As it came nearer, some movement was noted, and

upon closer investigation, a cat was found, trying to keep it in balance by leaping back and forth in such a manner that water couldn't flood the cradle. As the cradle eventually came close enough to the dike for a bystander to pick up the cradle, he saw that a baby was quietly sleeping inside it, nice and dry. The cat had kept the cradle balanced and afloat. This folktale and legend has been published as "The Cat and the Cradle" in English.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Tuesday, April 25. Arrived in Bruges, the capital of West Flanders in northwest Belgium, is distinguished by its canals, cobbled streets and medieval buildings. We stayed at Grand Hotel Casselbergh located at the heart of the historic centre, near the Main Market Square, the Town Hall and the Burg.

Market square features the Belfry of Bruges. The belfry was added to the Markt (market square) around 1240, when Bruges was an important centre of the Flemish cloth industry. After a devastating fire in 1280, the tower was largely rebuilt. We purchased ticket to climb the narrow, steep staircase of 366 steps. The bells in the tower regulated the lives of the city dwellers, announcing the time, fire alarms, work hours, and a variety of social, political, and religious events. Drum Room: The drum plays a melody on every quarter of the hour; every half quarter is indicated with a short musical signal. The music is changed every two years. In the 16th century the tower received a carillon, allowing the bells to be played by means of a hand keyboard. Starting from 1604, the annual accounts record the employment of a carillonneur to play songs during Sundays, holidays and market days.

After the Belfry of Bruges Mike and I went to the Church of Our Lady Bruges to see the marble sculpture by Michelangelo of the 'Madonna and Child'. Church of Our Lady boasts the second highest brick tower in the world standing at nearly 400 feet tall. The church demonstrates the Gothic style in the prominent Flying buttresses on the exterior which were constructed in the 1270s and 80s.

Michelangelo's depiction of the Madonna and Child differs significantly from earlier representations of the same subject, which tended to feature a pious Virgin smiling down on an infant held in her arms. It is said that Michelangelo intended to convey her purity and chastity by preserving her youthfulness. In 1504, it was bought by Giovanni and Alessandro Moscheroni (Mouscron), who were wealthy cloth merchants in Bruges. While Michelangelo was alive, the Madonna was the only sculpture to be taken out of Italy. The sculpture was twice recovered after being looted by foreign occupiers. On November 12, 1945, the sculpture of the 'Madonna and Child' was brought back to the city solemnly and returned to its place in the Church of Our Lady, where it still stands today.

Early lunch at Het Hof van Rembrandt a household name in Bruges night life. For decades now the people from Bruges have been dropping by for good wine and delicious food. Looked around town and inside a lace shop. Since time immemorial, Bruges and lace have been inextricably linked. The deft hands of thousands of women and girls earned Bruges lace worldwide fame. At one time, a quarter of all the women in Bruges were lacemakers.

Met up with the group for dinner at Bierbrasserie Cambrinus Café in a historical building built in 1699. After dinner Mike and I went to Le Trappiste a specialist beer bar located in an 800 year old medieval cellar in the heart of Bruges, near the main Market Square. Walked back to our hotel and enjoyed seeing the town lit up at night.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Wednesday, April 26, 2023: Today chocolates, waffles and other tasty treats. Our group went to visit a local chocolatier. We went to L'atelier Du Chocolat to see their candy-making process up close in their workshop and to sample some of the finest high-quality Belgian chocolates made in their kitchens. Brought some fine chocolates to take home. We wandered inside other local chocolatiers and bakeries scanning all the sweets.

Ended up getting in line to order some Belgian waffles at Chez Albert's located at the heart of Bruges, near the Belfort and the central Market. The waffles were made fresh and hot off the grill. You have your choice of many toppings. We ordered waffles with strawberries, Belgian chocolate and whipped cream.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Wednesday, April 26, 2023: This morning we traveled to Ghent, capital of Belgium's East Flanders region and know as the country's "flower city" for its international floral trade. Our walking tour here included a visit to St. Bavo's Cathedral, filled with priceless artworks including a 24-panel altarpiece called "The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb" by brothers Hubert and Jan van Eyck. During WWII Nazis stole the masterpiece, and hid it in a salt mine; this bit of history was memorialized on film in the 2014 George Clooney movie 'The Monuments Men'.

With free time on Mike and I went to climb the 'Belfry of Ghent' one of three medieval towers that overlook the old city centre of Ghent. Through the centuries, the belfry served not only as a bell tower to announce the time and various warnings, but also as a fortified watchtower and the place where the documents evidencing the municipal privileges were kept. Climbing the 366 steps of the Belfry you will be passing some small museums to learn more about the history of this landmark.

Afterwards we rushed off to Tierenteyn-Verlent a famous maker of mustard in Ghent. They have been selling spicy mustard in their small shop for more than a century.

With mustard jars all packed up we took off to find 'Lovendegem House' This corner house from 1717 was named after one of its owners. In 1814, the then owner, Gilles Schamp de Romree, put the building at the disposal of the American delegation, that had come to Ghent to meet the British and negotiate the peace treaty that brought an end to the second (and last) British-American war. A plaque was added to the front, commemorating the American diplomats' stay. 'Treaty of Ghent: Here resided from July to December 1814 the U.S.A. delegation headed by John Quincy Adams later the President of the U.S.A. The National Society United States Daughters of 1812 added to the plaque: To the five Americans negating "The Peace Treaty" John Quincy Adams, J.

A. Bavard, Henry Clay, Albert Gallatin and Jonathan Russell. We returned to Bruges for the night and dinner at Poules Moules.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Thursday, April 27, 2023: En route we honored the 77,000 American troops killed or injured in the deadliest battle of WWII, which took place in the Ardennes, the deeply forested region flanking Belgium, France, and Luxembourg. The Battle of the Bulge, as it became known, left an indelible mark on the region, as we saw on our visit to the Mardasson Memorial, commemorating those who died here. We also toured the adjacent Bastogne War Museum, which provides a dramatic look at the war through personal testimony, artifacts, and interactive exhibits and displays. We reached Luxembourg City this afternoon.

Our group stopped for lunch at Bastogne a small town surrounded by the Ardennes Forest in southern Belgium. Had a nice lunch, picked up some cupcakes for the road and strolled around town. Stopped at 'The Battle of the Bulge Monument' formerly known as the 'Mardasson Memorial' a monument honoring the memory of American soldiers wounded or killed during World War II's Battle of the Bulge. Designed in the shape of a five-pointed American star, it is located near Bastogne in the Luxembourg province of Belgium. A walkway situated at the summit offers the visitor a panoramic view of the defensive positions held during the siege of the town. The Memorial is endowed with a crypt, decorated with a mosaic by the French artist Fernand Léger. Then we went inside 'The Bastogne War Museum' the World War II museum focusing on the Battle of the Bulge. We watched two of the three 'scenovisions', real multisensory 3D scenes, giving us the opportunity to relive the past during the battles. Arrived at Le Royal Hotel in Luxembourg.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Friday, April 28, 2023 Luxembourg the capital of the small European nation of the same name. Built amid deep gorges cut by the Alzette and Pétrusse rivers, it's famed for its ruins of medieval fortifications. The vast Bock Casemates tunnel network encompasses a dungeon, prison and the Archaeological Crypt, considered the city's birthplace. Along ramparts above, the Chemin de la Corniche promenade offers dramatic viewpoints.

Today's city tour features the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial a Second World War American military war grave cemetery, located in Hamm, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg. The cemetery, containing 5,074 American war dead, covers 50.5 acres and was dedicated in 1960. It is administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The city of Luxembourg served as headquarters for General George S. Patton's U.S. Third Army. The cemetery is the final resting place of General Patton.

Sloping away from the terrace is the cemetery where 5,070 service members lie, many of whom lost their lives in the Battle of the Bulge and in the advance to the Rhine River. The design is a softly curving fan shape consisting of nine sections interspersed with four fountains, majestic trees, and expansive rose and rhododendron beds. It is a befittingly tranquil final resting place for these Americans who gave their all.

There are 118 headstones at this site in the shape of a Star of David for service members of Jewish faith. There are many different reasons why Jewish service members fought in WWII, but all of them fought against anti-Semitism, oppression and discrimination. For many, the motivation to fight against the Nazi regime was a very personal mission.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Friday, April 28, 2023: Our group was led on a walking city tour of Luxembourg. We went inside the Notre-Dame Cathedral and afterwards we walked past other places of interest with the group. With time on our own Mike and I went inside Saint Michael's Church to see its modern style stained glass windows. For lunch I wanted to go to Matelots that offered traditional French food with a nice selection of crepes and galettes. After lunch we walked to the Pfaffentahl Lift for the best views of Luxembourg. Afterwards we went to explore downtown streets lined with stores, bakeries and restaurants. We walked back to our hotel through the Edouard Andre Municipal Park, an English park laid out by landscape engineer Edouard Andre. Nice full day sightseeing Luxembourg.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Friday, Saturday April 29, 2023: Reims to Paris. Reims is a city in northeastern France's Grand Est region. It's the unofficial capital of the Champagne wine-growing region, and many of the champagne houses headquartered there offer tastings and cellar tours. For more than 1,000 years, French kings were crowned at its Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims. This grand cathedral is known for its stained-glass windows and Gothic carved portals, including the Smiling Angel. It's the world's only religious edifice that contains the largest number of statue 2,303, one of which is particularly famous; the "Ange au sourire" (The Smiling Angel or St. Nicasius' Angel). We had lunch at Bistro des Anges after visiting the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims. We then departed for Paris.

Continuing our trip: European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Friday, Saturday April 29, 2023: Paris. Today our group went on a city tour around Paris, afternoon on our own. We stayed at Hotel Splendid Etoile very near the Arc de Triomphe. We decided that we would go to the Paris Antique & Flea Market. The most famous flea market in Paris the one at Porte de Clignancourt, officially called Les Puces de Saint-Ouen, but known to everyone as Les Puces (The Fleas). It covers seven hectares and is the largest antique market in the world, receiving between 120,000 to 180,000 visitors each weekend.

Mike found the coupe glasses he was looking for at Antiquite Brocante's French Antiques. Coupe glasses are good for cocktails served "up," meaning they've been shaken or stirred with ice and then served chilled, without ice. The stems purpose is so you don't heat up the cocktail with your hand as you sip it. I tried to bargain at a store for an antique French decoration of a medieval face from some piece of salvaged furniture. The owner didn't speak English so it was hard to bargain till a young lady that was browsing in the store helped me. I told her what I would pay and she told the owner. We finally agreed on a price and I thanked the lady for helping me.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Monday, 1 May, 2023: Paris. Many of the museums were closed on Mondays so we went to visit the streets in the Latin Quarter of Paris. Nestled on the Île de la Cité in the 4th arrondissement is the flower market Marché aux fleurs founded in 1808. The covered shops and stalls sell seasonal flowers, plants and lots of garden related products. Stopped to visit the Church of Saint-Severin a Roman Catholic church on the lively tourist street Rue Saint-Séverin. It was constructed beginning in 1230, then, after a fire, rebuilt and enlarged in the 15th to 17th centuries in the Flamboyant Gothic style. Walked back to the hotel to see the monumental clone of the artist Yayoi Kusama, commonly known as “the princess of polka dots”.

European Tapestry Amsterdam to Paris with Odysseys Unlimited: Tuesday 2nd of May, 2023: Paris. Last full day on our own and then flying home the next day. Today we went to the Arc de Triomphe inspired by the Arch of Titus in Rome, Italy. Built by Napoleon for his army and commissioned in 1806. It took 30 years to build the Arc. Napoleon and his army had conquered much of Europe by then and were considered invincible. Napoleon promised his army they would return home through the arches of the Arc. Beneath the arch lies France’s Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, added in 1921. A flame of remembrance there, first lit on the 11th of November 1923, is rekindled each evening.

We caught a shuttle to go to ‘The Louis Vuitton Foundation’ the exhibition featured the “Jean-Michel Basquiat” exhibition. It continues its exploration of the work of the artist, revealing, this time, his collaboration with Andy Warhol.

We then went to Maille a specialist retail boutique of mustard, vinegar and kitchen accessories. The brand was established in 1747 by Antoine Claude Maille in France. Every time we go to Paris Mike has to go to Maille mustard shop.

After lunch we went back to the hotel to get dressed for the dinner and show at the Moulin Rouge. We went to the Moulin Rouge show years ago when in Paris and decided to get tickets and go again. I wore the same hat and blouse that I wore then. The show this year had a mixture of the past and modern dances and costumes. The variety acts were spectacular like the ones we saw years ago.

Continuing to enjoy the world and all it has to offer and learn about people and their cultures as long as we can.

HAPPY TRAILS

Audrey & Mike Lambert