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Paris, France

Historical Versailles

Email parispatches@usagso.org for order information.

Kings, Queens, statues and things … travel back in time and discover the rich historical and cultural heritage of Versailles: its buildings, parks, breathtaking gardens and the famous Palace of Versailles. Rare art collections, special concerts, and open-air sound and light performances are only a few of the treasures you will uncover on this historical adventure.

Minimum time: 1-2 days in person; 1-2 days online.

Requirements:

1. Prepare a Versailles scrapbook of souvenirs, tickets, photos and drawings while completing the patch requirements.

2. Research the Palace and its history and write a paragraph or draw a picture in your scrapbook to illustrate what you learned. In addition, research one of the following:
   a. Marie-Antoinette and the kings who lived there;
   b. The system of the fountains;
   c. Learn about the architecture of Versailles:
      i. What makes the architecture distinct?
      ii. How have climate, culture or lifestyle shaped the architecture?
      iii. What do the homes and buildings tell you about the people who live there?
   d. Learn about the community of Versailles:
      i. Open a community telephone book to any page or search the “pages blanches” online. How many different family names are on the page?
      ii. Open to another page. How many different family names are there?
      iii. Find a name you think is unusual or interesting. Imagine the family history of a person with that name and write a short story, poem or diary entries for that family.
      OR Create a song or drawing about the exciting things that may have happened in that person’s life.
      OR Find out the origin of the name. Record what you discovered about its history in your scrapbook.

3. Visit the inside of Versailles Palace. Download Rick Steves' free audio tour or rent an audio tour. Find the following:
   a. Chapel: Where did the King site? Which way did his subjects face?
   b. Count the number of statues in the Hall of Mirrors;
   c. What do you see out the windows of the Hall of Mirrors?
   d. What room shows different continents on its ceiling?
   e. What is represented on the ceiling of the War room?
   f. What is represented on the ceiling of the Peace room?
   g. Do you see a secret door in the King and Queen's room? What do you think it was for?
   h. Why did the King have two beds?

4. Visit the outside Palace grounds. Choose 3 of the following to visit and answer the questions:
   a. Gardens
      i. How many marble columns are there in the Bosquet de la Colonnade?
      ii. How big are the Versailles gardens?
   b. Fountains
      i. What does the Apollo Basin represent?
      ii. When did it run?
      iii. What animals can be seen in the Latona Fountain?
   c. Orangerie
      i. How many exotic trees can the Orangerie hold?
      ii. How many steps are there from the Palace down to the Orangerie?
   d. Grand Canal
      i. How long is the Grand Canal?
      ii. In what shape is it laid out?
   e. Grand Trianon
      i. Why was the Grand Trianon built?
      ii. What colors are seen on the façade of the Grand Trianon?
   f. Petit Trianon
      i. Why did Louis XV build the Petit Trianon?
      ii. What style is incorporated in the Petit Trianon's columns, windows and railings?
      iii. Who lived at the Petit Trianon after Louis XV?
   g. Hamlet
      i. What is the French word for hamlet?
      ii. Why was it built and for whom?

5. Choose to do one of these activities:
   a. Take a boat ride on the Grand Canal;
   b. Have a picnic in the Versailles gardens;
   c. Go to a café for a hot chocolate and a croissant;
   d. Take a trolley ride or rent a golf cart or bicycle on the grounds;
   e. See the fountain music "spectacle".
6. In your Versailles scrapbook, illustrate your favorite things about Versailles using words or drawings.

The Historical Versailles patch was a 2009 Bronze Award project
by Zoë, Gabrielle, Tatiana and Lauren - JGS 28
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Historical Versailles – Answer Key

1. Your personal scrapbook
2. Each paragraph should be at least 3 sentences long
3. Visit the inside of Versailles Palace using an audio guide. Find the following:
   a. Chapel: Where did the King site? Which way did his subjects face? - Louis XIV sat on the upper level facing the altar. His subjects knelt with their back to the altar on the lower level worshipping Louis.
   b. Count the number of statues in the Hall of Mirrors – 8 statues
   c. What do you see out the windows of the Hall of Mirrors? – View of the gardens.
   d. What room shows different continents on its ceiling? – Apollo Room. Europe with a sword, Asia with a lion, Africa with an elephant, America with a crocodile.
   e. What is represented on the ceiling of the War room? – Nations ganging up on France (Germany with double eagle, Holland with great ships, Spain with a lion) and Lady France above protected by the shield of Louis XIV hurling thunderbolts to defeat all of them.
   f. What is represented on the ceiling of the Peace room? – Peace granted to Germany, Holland and Spain as cupids play with the unneeded canons and swords.
   g. Do you see a secret door in the King and Queen's room? What do you think it was for? – The King's late night liaisons.
   h. Why did the King have two beds? – He had a bed in the Mercury Room where his subjects had the pleasure of watching him prepare for bed at night and get ready in the morning. He also had a bed in the King's Bedroom to sleep.

4. Visit the outside Palace grounds. Choose 3 of the following to visit and answer the questions:
   a. Gardens
      i. How many marble columns are there in the Bosquet de la Colonnade? – 64 columns
      ii. How big are the Versailles gardens? – 300 hectares
   b. Fountains
      i. What does the Apollo Basin represent? – The Sun God in his chariot as he starts his daily journey across the sky.
      ii. When time of day did it run? – All the time, unlike all the other fountains.
      iii. What animals can be seen in the Latona Fountain? – Turtles, frogs and lizards.
   c. Orangerie
      i. How many exotic trees can the Orangerie hold? – Over 3000 trees.
      ii. How many steps are there from the Palace down to the Orangerie? – 105 steps.
   d. Grand Canal
      i. How long is the Grand Canal? – 1mile.
      ii. In what shape is it laid out? – In the shape of a cross.
   e. Grand Trianon
      i. Why was the Grand Trianon built? – In order to escape the Palace crowds.
      ii. What colors are seen on the façade of the Grand Trianon? – Pink, yellow and white.

f. Petit Trianon
   i. Why did Louis XV build the Petit Trianon? – He wanted to spend more time near the French gardens but the summer house was not big enough.
   ii. What style is incorporated in the Petit Trianon's columns, windows and railings? – Greek.
   iii. Who lived at the Petit Trianon after Louis XV? – Marie-Antoinette
g. Hamlet
   i. What is the French word for hamlet? – Hameaux (pronounced AH-mo)
   ii. Why was it built and for whom? – It was built for Marie-Antoinette to feel at home.