

France

Part 6

Paris - The Eiffel Tower & Arc de Triomphe

July 3- 4, 2015





July 3, 2015 - It was a long drive from the south of France back to Paris. Stopping in the towns of St. Maximin la Sainte Baume and Beaune and Lyon gave us a brake from a long drive, but it was still a little long. We watched a movie on the bus and stopped at a rest stop for lunch. We arrived in Paris in the late afternoon. Our hotel was in the newer modern district called La Defense. The Renaissance Hotel La Defense was surrounded by skyscrapers.







We just had time to check in and get cleaned up and changed. Some of us had opted to go to see the show at the famous Moulin Rouge. We met up in the lobby and got on the bus.







I snapped some photos from the tour bus window, while Cindy explained some things about the historic Moulin Rouge. She also played some “can-can” music and other French songs on the way.





We arrived out front
and I took these photos
before going in.





Cindy had arranged for our tickets to the dinner show. We were escorted through three sets of doors. This outside entrance was the first door that led down red carpeted stairs. We walked past posters of the girls dancing the can-can.





Above was some sort of lounge in the outer area. On the right is Cindy waiting for the man to come escort us through that last door to our table.





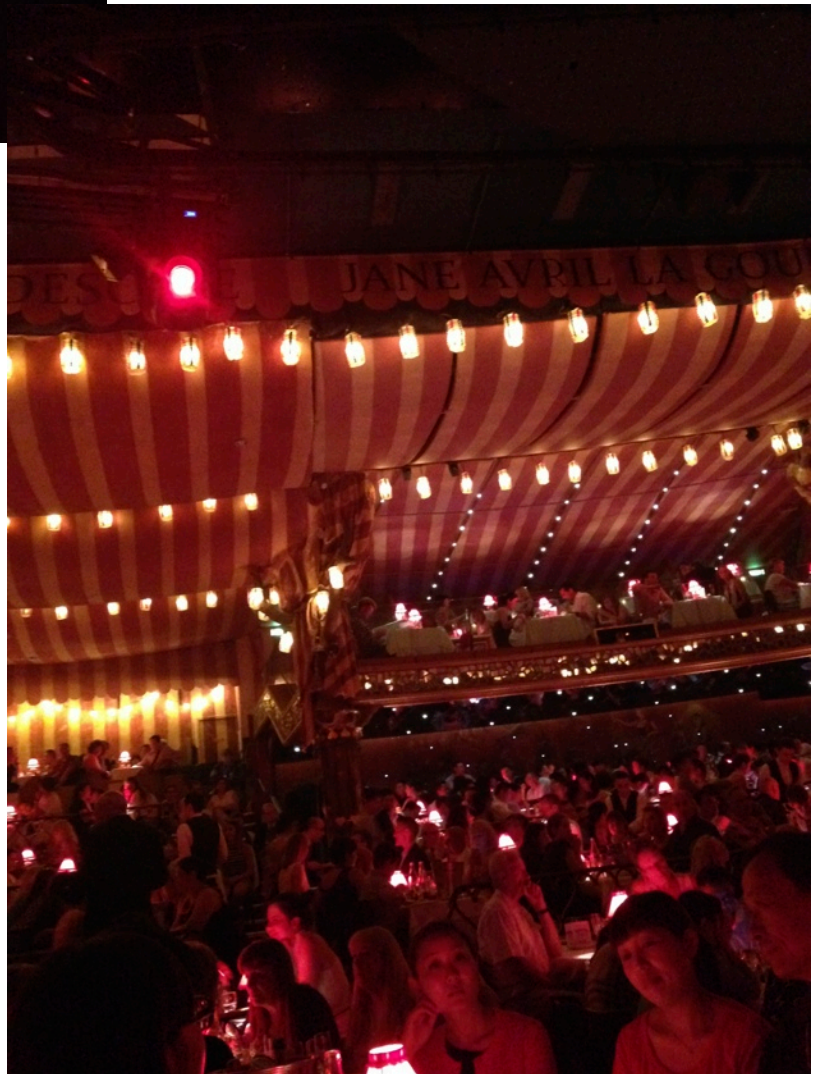
No photos or video was allowed once we got into the theater. But I managed to sneak a few. They had a person coming around to the table to ask if you wanted professional photos taken, but none of us wanted to pay for them. Everything on the inside of the theater had a red glow to it. But of course, "rouge" is the French word for red. The theater is in the "red light" district, and the show does have topless girls. That's a red lamp on our dinner table.

I don't remember was the dessert was after we ate our dinner, but it also has a red glow. There was some sort of cover band on stage while we were eating.





I snuck a few of
these photos on my
phone camera also
without flash.





And, of course, I had to sneak a “selfie”! That’s me in the Moulin Rouge. I did honor their requests by not taking any photos of the actual show. The show was entertaining enough with singing and dancing. The choreography is a bit dated, and Cindy said they haven’t changed the dance numbers in many years. There were really good acrobats. I loved the can-can number.

Outside after the show that’s the front of the Moulin Rouge.





Look...that's me outside the Moulin Rouge across the street waiting for the others to catch up to us so we could catch a taxi back to the hotel.





July 4, 2015 - Our last day in Paris was a long one packed with things to do and see. It started off by riding in the tour bus to the Eiffel Tower. There are always long, long lines of people waiting to get tickets and waiting to catch the elevator to ride up the tower. When with a tour group, you get some privileges. No standing in long lines. Cindy managed to get us tickets for the very first elevator going up when they opened at 9:00 A.M.







I took pictures from all kinds of angles. It's such an interesting structure. I didn't realize how big it would be.

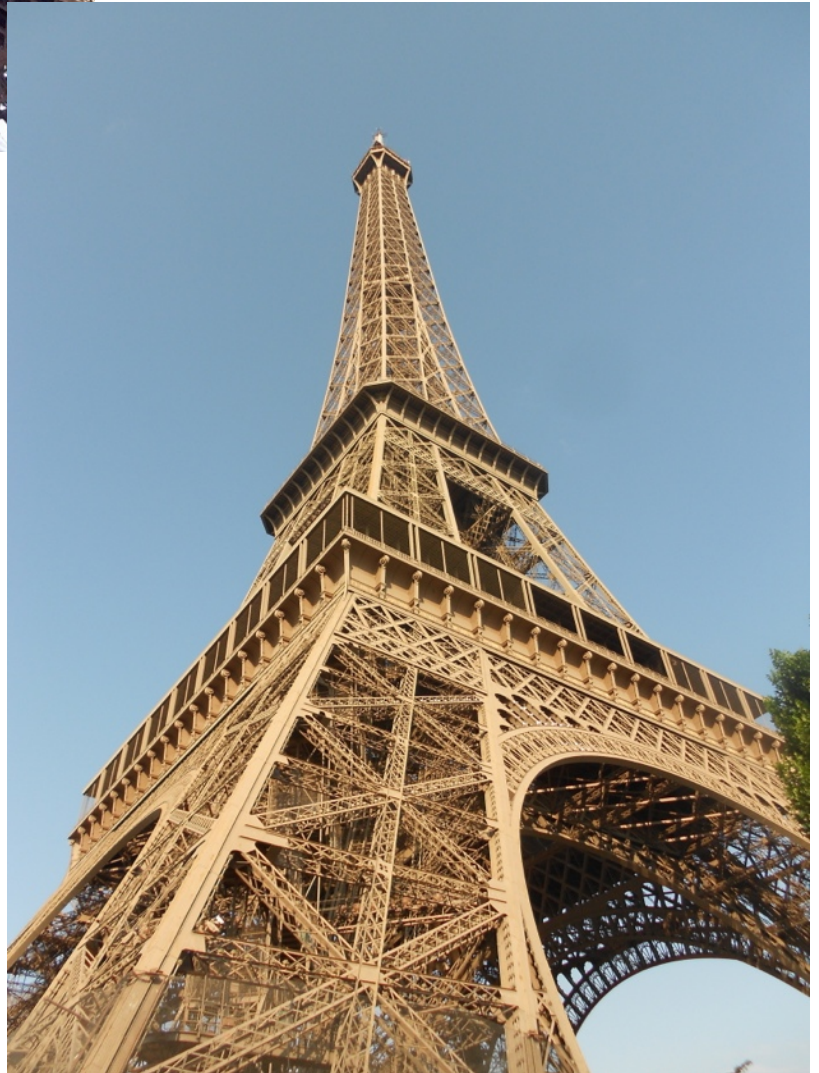






There I am at the base waiting for our group to gather to go to the other side where the elevator is.









Walking underneath it.





That's me holding the ticket
and below is the elevator.





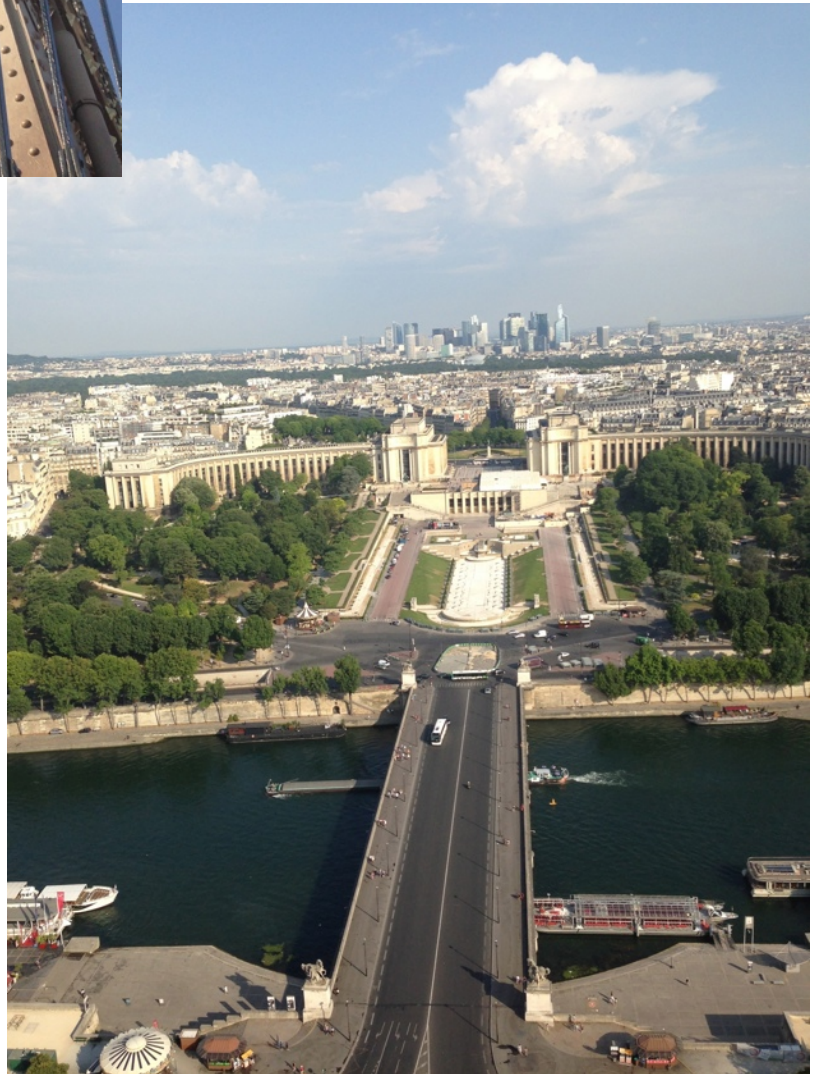
Our tickets were for the elevator to the second floor. Once on the second floor, a few of the younger people on our tour decided to purchase their own tickets to take the elevator all the way to the top. There are actually stairs that you can climb all the way to the top.





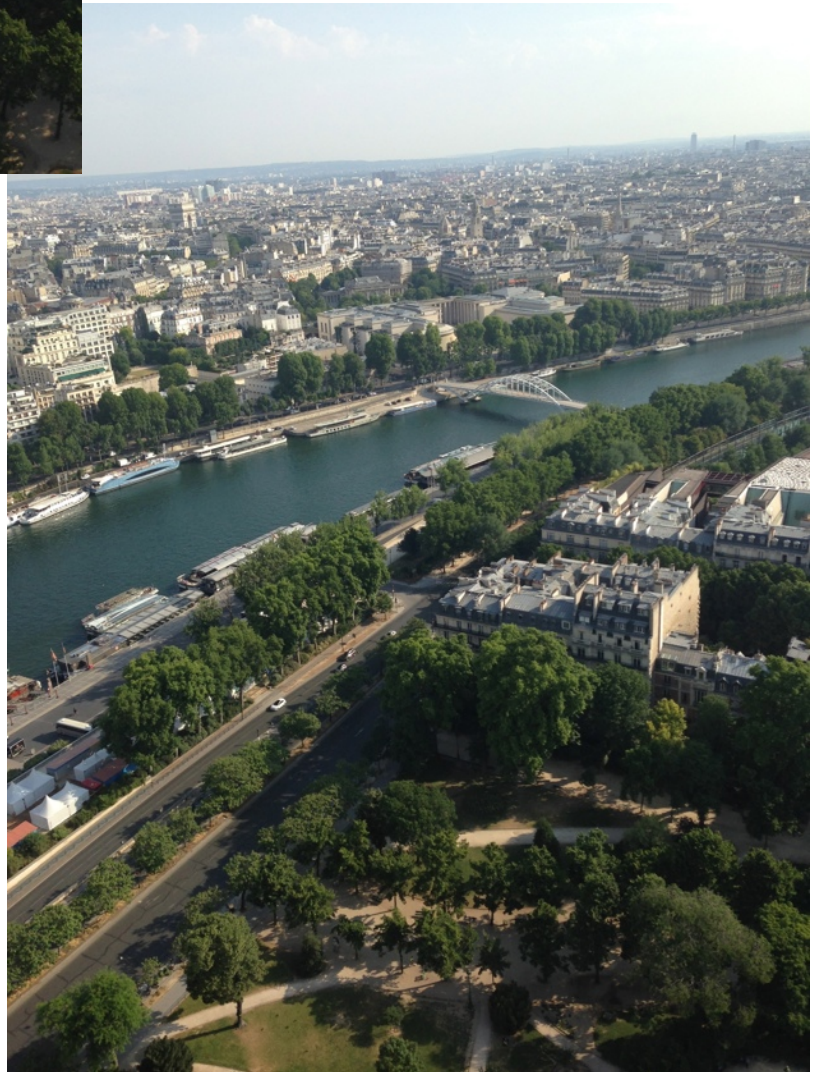
The second floor actually has two levels that you can walk up a few stairs to the upper part of the second floor. There are also gift shops and food and ice cream on the second floor.







I walked all around and
took photos of the view in
every direction.



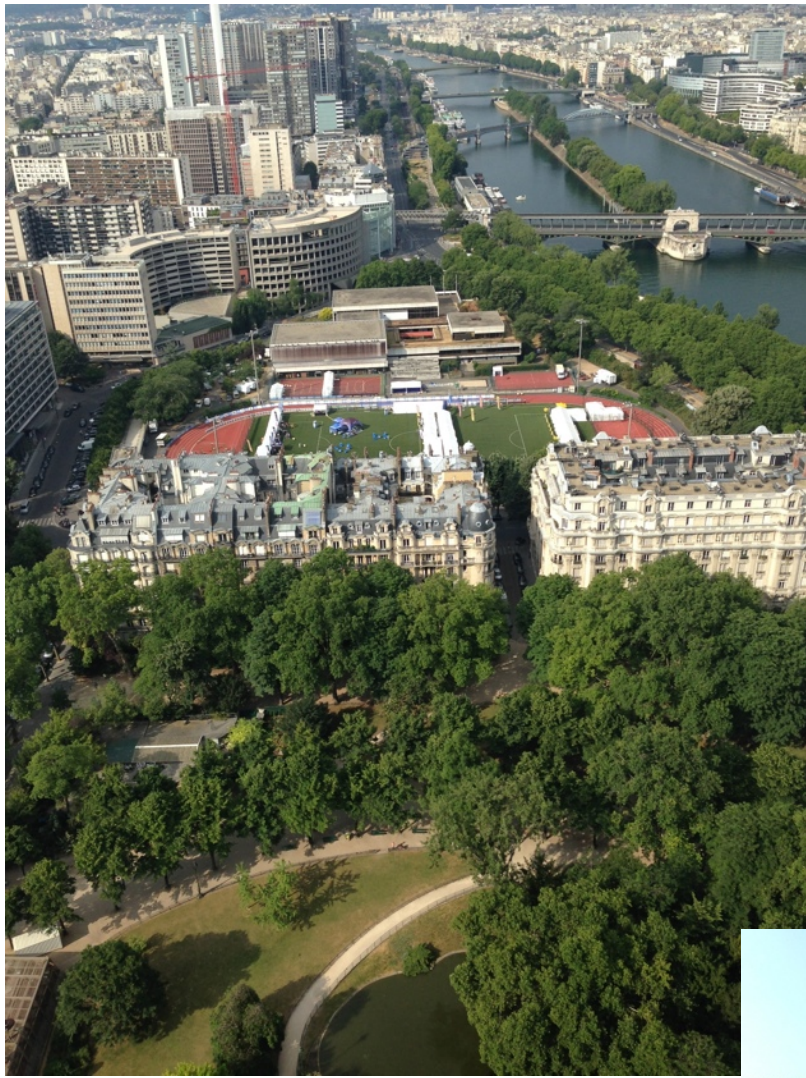


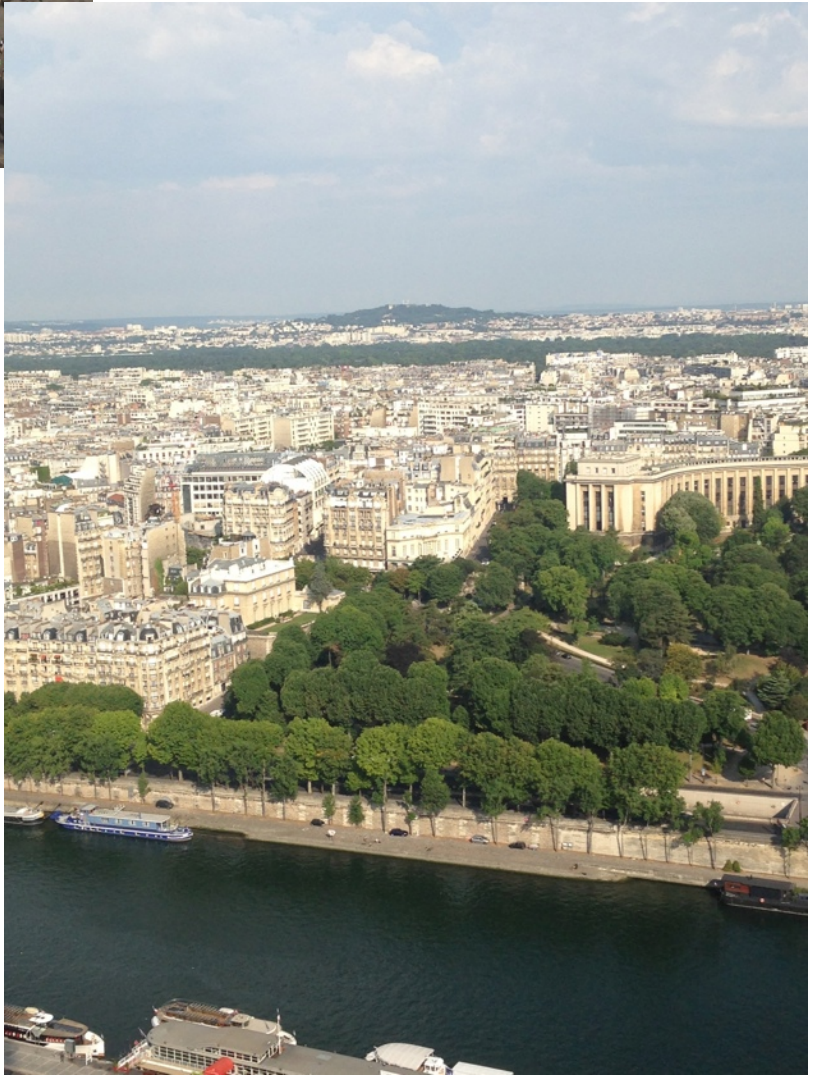


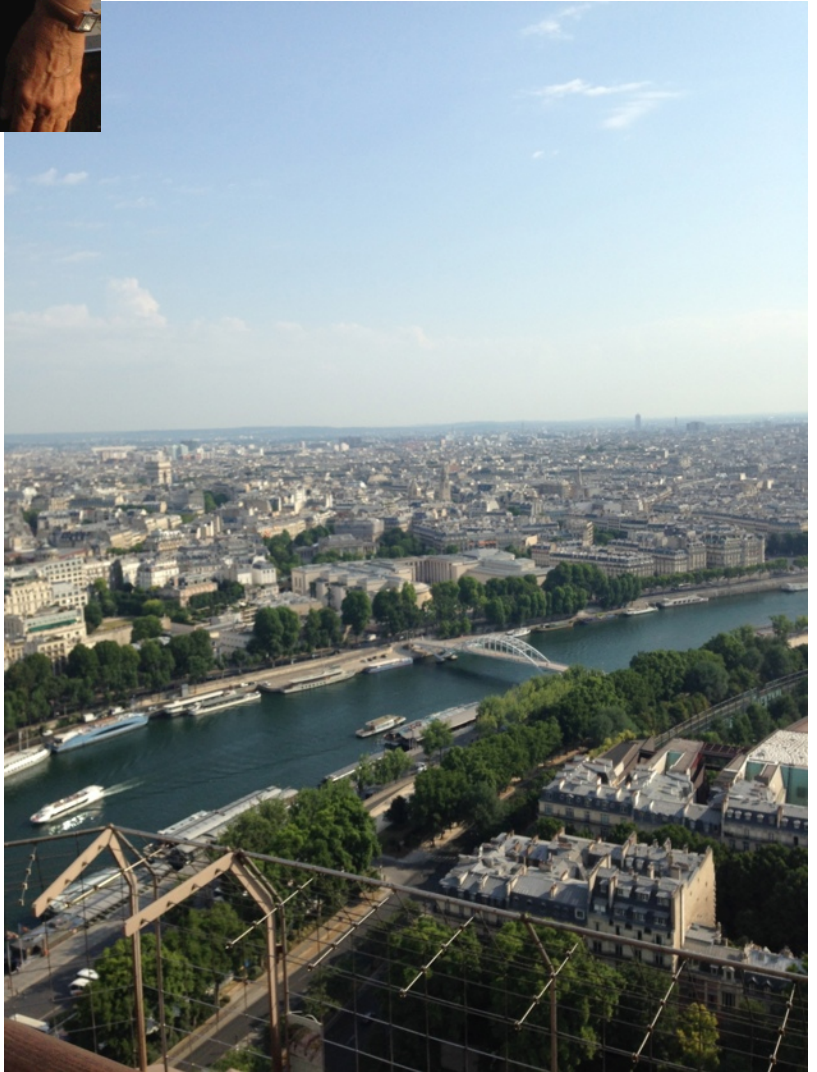


I bought this pink stuffed French poodle wearing a beret and a dog tag that says "Paris" for Ariya at the gift shop on the second floor. I named her FiFi.











So I heard someone say, "Can you imagine having to be the guys that have to paint this!"

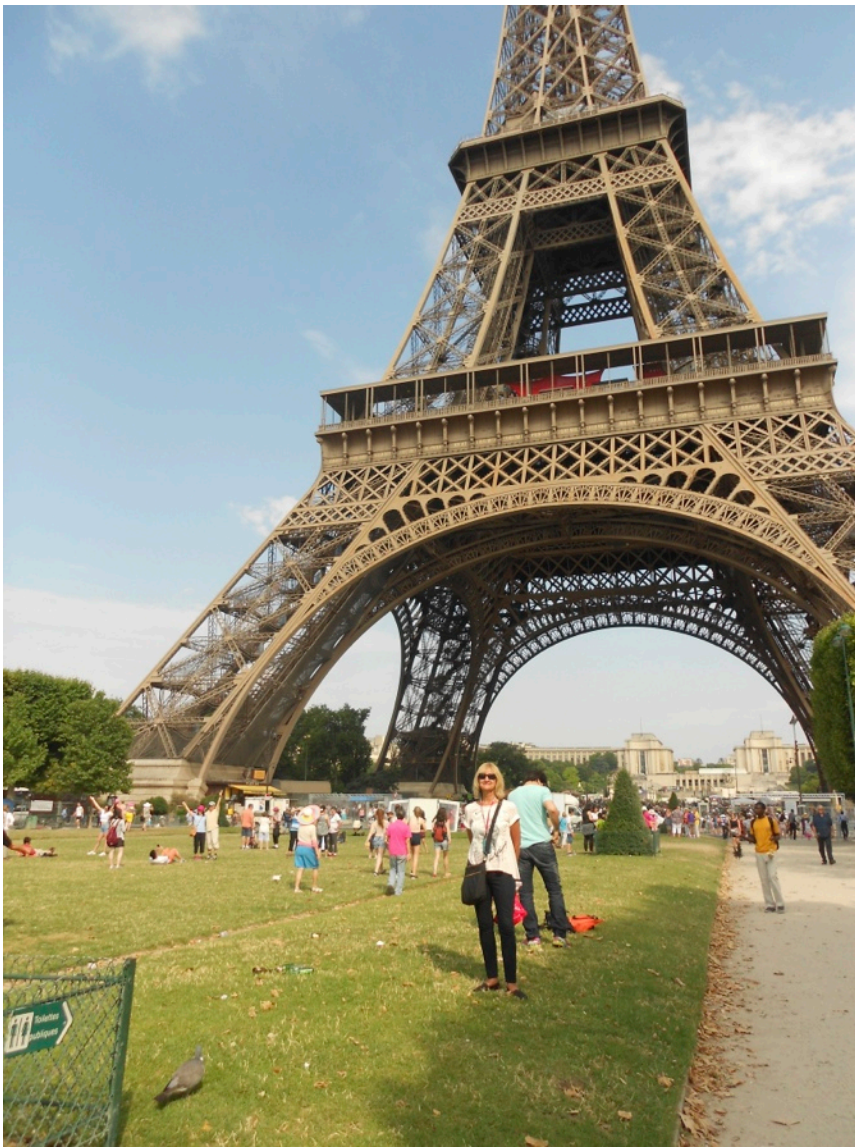






We could choose to go down on the elevator when we were finished sightseeing from the second floor. We did have an appointed time to meet back at the bus. I wanted to take a few pictures from the long green lawn area.





There I am posing on the lawn area. We got back on the bus and drove through the Paris streets. I snapped a few photos through the bus window.







Napoleon Bonaparte is buried in this building.





It's in front of this building that we had our tour group photo taken. There was a photographer waiting for us to show up. He said, "Say cheese." And I yelled out, "Fromage!", which is the French word for cheese. They presented each of us with a print of this photo at our farewell dinner later that evening. When I got home since I don't have a photo scanner, I took a photo of the printed picture with my iPhone, so I could get it on my computer and into this travel journal.





I've seen these gold statues and this particular bridge in many films that were filmed in Paris. I can see why they use it in films. It's awesome.







This building is a museum.







Then we drove past The Louvre Museum but not on the side where the glass pyramid is. The Louvre building is huge.





More of this side of the Louvre
and an arched entrance.





We drove past so many buildings. I can't remember the significance of some. Below is the building where Marie Antoinette spent a few months imprisoned before being beheaded.





Not a great photo from
the bus window of Notre
Dame on the left.







That's a statue of Charles de Gaulle. Then below we turned onto the Champs Elysees and you can see the Arc de Triomphe in the distance.





We drove towards it, as it got closer and closer.





Until we got right on top of it in the crazy free for all circle of traffic around it!! I'm glad I wasn't driving here. There are no lanes and no signs. It really is a free-for-all drive at your own risk around this circle. Just enough time to take a few photos and those of us going onto the Palace of Versailles got back on the bus and headed out of central Paris.



