



# THE WAYFARER *Special*

By Dawn M. Wayand

## The Beginning of the End - the Place de la Concorde



The Place de la Concorde, formerly known as the Place de la Revolution and located close to the Seine River, landmarks a gruesome point in history for the French: the French Revolution. It was here in 1793 that Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were beheaded

when the government was overthrown by the people and 2,800 others were also beheaded during the two subsequent years.

Marie Antoinette spent her last night in the Notre Dame Cathedral before being condemned to death. The next day she was carted off to the guillotine, along with Louis XVI to their final destination: at that time, known as the Place de la Revolution. Her journey to the square began crossing



over the Pont Neuf (a famous bridge in Paris), then passing the Louvre Musee, which was once her former Royal Palace along with Louis XVI before it was seized

by the people. She passed the backyard of the palace, known as the Tuilleries Gardens, before finally arriving at her last stop.



In 1836, the statue of Louis XV was replaced by a 3,500 year old, 230 ton Egyptian obelisk of Luxor. Located at each corner of this roundabout encompassing the square with the obelisk and fountains are statues representing each of the large French cities Lille, Strasbourg, Lyon, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Nantes, Brest and Rouen.

Although no longer appearing as the circle of death, the Place de la Concorde is located between the Louvre Museum and the starting point of the Champs Elysees. It is also the center point of La Madeline and the Assemblee Nationale. Although the Place de la Concorde today does not, in appearance, seem like much, it is a site to remind us of the failure of the French Revolution and the birth of reconciliation.

## Backpackers Digs in Paris



The Hotel du Commerce is a hostel in the heart of St. Germaine with an Internet cafe, many restaurants and a short walk to the nearest metro stop: Maubert Mutualite, all just around the corner! In my case, I asked for a single room and that is precisely what I got: a small room with a twin size bed. Most hostels in Europe will allow you to see a room before you

decide to stay if you ask. As for me, I do not use my room for anything but a roof over my head, a shower and a place to sleep, so I go cheap. My cost for December 2004 was 37€ per night. My stay for 4 days only cost me 148€ for all 4 nights. Some hotels charge that for just one night! The downside is that you have to share common facilities (toilette and shower) but the upside is that the location is only a few blocks away from Notre Dame and the Luxembourg Palace, and the staff is very friendly, intelligible and reception is open 24 hours a day, which is important to any traveler.

### Hotel du Commerce

14 rue de la Montagne Sainte Genevieve  
75005 Paris France  
+33 (0) 143548969

## The Art of Dining

Located in the 1st Arrondissement, a couple of blocks northwest of the Louvre Museum is a restaurant that I have visited in Paris the last three years in a row (now becoming a tradition). It's a place that locals go that has excellent authentic French food. There are usually one or two servers as well as the owner, who walks around making conversation at every table.



As always in France, I like to order the fixed menu, which consists of an entree (appetizer), a plat (main course) and a dessert. Here it was 16,50€. I started off with a half bottle of chardonnay at 13€. For my "entree", I ordered a salad with fromage (cheese.) I highly recommend this salad to goat cheese lovers as it is one of the best salads I have ever tasted. It is a small green salad mixed with quartered tomatoes, black olives and slivered almonds. It's then topped with a crusted roll of goat cheese, placed on top of a very thin, small slice of melba toast and then topped again with more slivered almonds. The "plat" was even more amazing and is the same thing I order every year: Poulet e Frommage, which is a large thin slice of grilled chicken in a creamy blue cheese sauce, served with pommes fritas (baked slice of potatoes) and green beans sauteed in a heavy garlic and olive oil mix. Garlic.. cheese... what more could you ask for?

For dessert, I ordered the chocolate mousse, one of the many well-known fine French desserts. Their creme brulee is also very good. To top off the night and in French tradition, an espresso was appropriate and ordered. My entire bill with tip came to 42€. L'Auberge du Louvre is an excellent local restaurant located on the corner of rue Sauval and rue Saint-Honore in the vicinity northwest of the Louvre.

For a tasty meal that will satisfy your palate for cheese and/or garlic as well as the best chocolate mousse on the planet, make a stop here for dinner.

### L'Auberge Du Louvre

98-100, rue Saint-Honore, 75001 Paris  
0145 08 44 69

**Travel Fact**

In Paris, you can get a studio apartment for as low as \$450 € (\$655 USD) and two-bedroom apartment for as low as \$1,000 € (\$1,334 USD).

**Special Edition Section:  
Mystery Solved**

Here are the answers you've been waiting for. Every year I probably have at least 100 people ask me: "*How do you afford to go to Europe for 3 weeks every year?*" Travel is a great love of mine and income from my part-time second job as well as my side business usually pays for my trips.

The second most commonly asked question is: "*How much does a trip like yours cost?*" Well, this year I wrote down every single Great British Pound, Euro and Swiss Franc that I spent and what I spent it on. Keep in mind, when in Europe, I eat like a Queen. Once you've been there, you'll understand why! The food really is better on the other side... of the Atlantic Ocean. I also completely cut out my clothing budget here in the States so I can buy clothes over there every year.

This year I spent three weeks touring: Paris, Versailles, Venice, Rome, Zurich, Bern, London, Stonehenge, Salisbury and Bath (10 destinations) and here is what I spent in THREE weeks:

<b>The Essentials:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Round trip airline ticket to London	\$429.00
Accommodations for 3 weeks	\$926.00
Dining like a Queen for 3 weeks	\$915.00
Laundry Service	\$ 17.00
All Ground Transportation for 3 weeks (Eurorail tickets, Metro passes, bus tour to Stonehenge & the vaporetta in Venice	\$932.00

<b>Flexible:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Groceries (bottled waters & snacks)	\$ 67.00
Museum & Attraction Admissions (10 cities)	\$181.00
Educational Books (for attractions & museums)	\$102.00
Internet Access	\$ 22.00
Phone Calls (I made the mistake of using my credit card instead of calling card - Ooops!)	\$185.00
Shopping - Clothes	\$275.00
Souvenirs for Myself & Others	\$255.00
<b>Total for My Essentials + Flexible:</b>	<b>\$4,306.00</b>

**Spending Tip**

Try to use your credit card as little as possible. Most banks charge an international transaction fee every time you use it abroad. I usually try to use the ATM and take out 2-3 days worth of currency at a time so that I'm only charged when I make that withdrawal. Hide your credit card away from your wallet as a backup.