



Hamilton

IN THE FOOTSTEPS
OF VOLTAIRE
& ROUSSEAU

Geneva, Neuchâtel, Paris

with John C. O'Neal
Professor of French

September 6 to 15, 2017



Hamilton

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

You are cordially invited to join me in September 2017 on a ten-day trip to Switzerland and France to follow in the footsteps of Voltaire and Rousseau—two very different thinkers who made equally important contributions to their times. There are many great conversations and discoveries awaiting us as we explore these countries, savor meals, and enjoy wine together at some fabulous sights. No knowledge of French is necessary, nor is any prior knowledge of these two authors.

Because of their radical thinking for their day, Voltaire and Rousseau led lives of exile, traveling from place to place, country to country. We will follow them as they moved from the city to the countryside, beginning in Geneva and concluding in Paris, along the way viewing some lovely landscapes—the kind that afforded both men quiet contemplation and much-needed respite from their stormy lives. Even if you, like me, have been to some of these places before, this trip will take us on an insider’s tour, one that will carry us back in time and enable us to see familiar locales with new eyes.

In many ways, ours will be a storytelling trip about the search for freedom, justice, and happiness by two *philosophes* who greatly influenced not only French thinking, but also American ideas leading up to our own revolution. I hope to share my expertise in eighteenth-century Europe so that you come to a greater understanding of life during these fascinating times and the major contributions made by these two outstanding figures.

The prospect of discovery and relaxation in the company of interesting people certainly appeals to me, and I hope it does to you as well. Won’t you come with us for the adventure?

John C. O’Neal
Professor of French



Photo by Aila Yumusakaya

Geneva, Switzerland

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF VOLTAIRE & ROUSSEAU

September 6 to 15, 2017



Statue of Jean-Jacques Rousseau on Île Rousseau, Geneva

U.S.A.

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Wednesday, September 6 Depart on an overnight flight to Geneva, Switzerland.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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Thursday, September 7 On arrival in Geneva, transfer to your hotel in the city's historic old town. Superbly situated on the shores of Lake Geneva, the surrounding snow-capped alpine peaks create a stunning backdrop to Switzerland's third largest city, seat of the United Nations and headquarters of the International Red Cross. After lunch at leisure, take a guided stroll to the *Île Rousseau*, a small island park in the middle of the Rhône River, and along the lake's right bank to admire the view of the Alps. Gather at the hotel for a reception and welcome remarks by John O'Neal, followed by dinner.

GENEVA

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Friday, September 8 Today's city tour highlights the importance of both Rousseau and Voltaire in Geneva. Visit *Les Délices*, the lovely château and home of Voltaire from 1755-1760. Now a museum dedicated to Voltaire's work, it also houses the library of the Jean-Jacques Rousseau Society. Returning to the old town, see Rousseau's birthplace before continuing to the Maison Tavel, showing the city's fortifications as Voltaire and Rousseau would have known them. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. Enjoy traditional Swiss specialties at La Cave Valaisanne Restaurant.

FERNEY-VOLTAIRE, FRANCE | PRANGINS, SWITZERLAND

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Saturday, September 9 Travel just across the border to Ferney-Voltaire in France to visit the gardens and chapel of the Château de Voltaire, where he spent his last years. Continue to Prangins for lunch before visiting the Château de Prangins, where Voltaire lived before his years at *Les Délices*. Dating from 1730, the magnificent château and its English-style park have been meticulously restored. View its permanent exhibition *Noblesse Oblige! Life at a Château in the 18th Century*. Return to Geneva, where you may wish to dine at Il Vero, with its lake and mountain views, or another of the city's many fine restaurants.



Château de Voltaire, Ferney-Voltaire

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND | NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND

Sunday, September 10 Depart Geneva, driving along the shores of Lakes Geneva and Neuchâtel en route to Lake Bièvre and St. Peter's Island, inspiration for much of Rousseau's last work, *The Reveries of the Solitary Walker*. See his chamber in the former 12th-century monastery, now the Klosterhotel, where lunch is included. Little has changed on the island; its gentle slopes, covered with oak trees and vineyards remain an idyllic retreat. Contemplate nature and Rousseau's *Reveries* as we stroll. In the village of La Neuveville, enjoy dinner at the Hotel Jean-Jacques Rousseau before continuing to Neuchâtel for two nights.

NEUCHÂTEL | MOTIERS, SWITZERLAND

Monday, September 11 In Neuchâtel, visit the university library's Rousseau Museum, where the only extant version of his *Reveries* is kept. Then drive to nearby Môtiers, Rousseau's home from 1762 to 1765. His small 15th-century apartment is now the Rousseau Museum, housing a rich iconographic collection. The philosopher loved to wander in the countryside and after lunch we will follow in his footsteps to one of his favorite meditation spots, a waterfall just outside the village. Enjoy vistas of the Alps and the Jura Mountains before returning to Neuchâtel. Dinner is at leisure.



Académie Française, Paris

NEUCHÂTEL | PARIS, FRANCE

Tuesday, September 12 Return to Geneva to board the high-speed TGV train to Paris, with lunch served onboard. Arrive mid-afternoon and transfer to the Hôtel Prince de Conti in the Saint-Germain-des-Prés district. After checking in, take a short guided walk to the Seine to see the Académie Française and a statue of Voltaire. You may wish to drop in to one of the Left Bank's renowned cafés for a cocktail or dinner tonight.



Photo by Christophe Crissey

Panoramic view of the Alps and Lake Neuchâtel from Le Chasseron

MONTMORENCY, FRANCE | ERMENONVILLE, FRANCE

Wednesday, September 13 This morning visit Montmorency, outside of Paris, where Rousseau lived from 1757 to 1762, one of his most prolific periods. Far from the noise and activity of Paris, Rousseau was best able to concentrate on his writing here at Mont-Louis, his modest country home surrounded by a lovely garden. Today Rousseau's works are showcased in a museum adjacent to his former bedroom. After lunch at a traditional country inn, drive to the Château d'Ermenonville, best known for its English garden park named after Rousseau, who lived here for six weeks before his death in 1778. The evening is at leisure in Paris.



Photo courtesy of Groupe Freres Blanc

Le Procope



Photo by Stéphane

Parc Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Ermenonville

PARIS

Thursday, September 14 Today focus on 18th-century Paris including the quai Voltaire, the Palais Royal, the rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and the Panthéon. Admire the lovely architecture of the Hôtel de Soubise, an 18th-century mansion in the Marais district, before exploring the charming collection of paintings, furniture, and decorative arts from the period at the Musée Cognacq-Jay. Lunch at leisure in the Marais. Afterwards, return to the Left Bank for a final visit to the crypt of the Panthéon, where the remains of Voltaire and Rousseau were transferred during the Revolution. The rest of the afternoon is free. Celebrate a memorable journey at a farewell dinner this evening at Le Procope, the oldest restaurant in Paris. It is celebrated as the world's first literary café, and Rousseau and Voltaire were regulars, along with many other luminaries of the arts, letters, and politics.

PARIS | U.S.A.

Friday, September 15 Transfer to the airport for return flights home. ■

HAMILTON COLLEGE ALUMNI TRAVEL | RESERVATION APPLICATION

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF VOLTAIRE & ROUSSEAU | SEPTEMBER 6 TO 15, 2017

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,500 per person (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10018-3721.

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT _____ CLASS YEAR / AFFILIATION _____

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT _____ CLASS YEAR / AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____ (BUSINESS) _____

FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

Accommodations

I wish to share a room with _____

Double Twin Single (at a supplement of \$1,265)

Form of Payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*).
 Credit card (for deposit only — final payment must be made by check).

NAME AS ON CREDIT CARD _____ 3- OR 4-DIGIT SECURITY CODE _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program. I/We agree to full payment by check 120 days prior to departure. *Each participant must sign below.*

SIGNATURE REQUIRED _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED _____ DATE _____

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 Telephone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944 ■ Fax: 212-344-7493 ■ E-mail: trips@arrangementsabroad.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

PROGRAM RATE \$6,525 per person, double occupancy
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1,265 (limited availability)

Rate Includes

- Three nights accommodations at the Hotel Longemalle, Geneva; two nights at Hotel Beaulac, Neuchâtel; and three nights at Hotel Prince de Conti, Paris
- Buffet breakfast daily, five lunches, four dinners; bottled water and coffee / tea with all meals; house wine with dinners and with lunch in Prangins
- First-class TGV ticket from Geneva to Paris
- Airport / hotel group transfers
- Escorted sightseeing via private motorcoach
- Entrance fees for all included visits
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers; taxes, service, and portage charges

Not Included in Rate Airfare; passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than wine at included dinners and lunch in Prangins; personal items and expenses; airport transfers for those not on group flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

AIRFARE Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements for this program, including specially negotiated group airfare when available, suggested group flights or your own individual requests, for a processing fee of \$40 per person. Complete details will be provided in your confirmation mailing.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE A deposit of \$1,500 per person, payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Balance due by check or wire transfer 120 days prior to departure.

HEALTH All participants must be in good health. This program involves walking over uneven surfaces, climbing stairs at monuments and other locations not handicapped accessible, and climbing in and out of various conveyances. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation.

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Cover: *Panthéon, Paris. Photo by Jean-Pierre Lavoie*



Highlights of our journey include an insider's tour of 18th-century Switzerland and France, stays in two major European capitals, and several side trips to beautiful countryside in these two countries. As we follow in the footsteps of Voltaire and Rousseau, we will explore such diverse themes as the search for freedom and happiness, justice, progress, censorship, 18th-century culture wars, safe havens in exile, the contemplation of nature, nature as refuge, and walking as psychotherapy. Many of these ideas are just as relevant today as they were in the 18th century.

BACKGROUND ON VOLTAIRE AND ROUSSEAU

Two equally important but very different thinkers, Voltaire and Rousseau made monumental contributions to the French Enlightenment, which, in turn, gave currency to many of the foundational ideas, especially liberty, informing our own American Revolution. Born in 1694 and formally educated, Voltaire became early on one of the leading *philosophes* of his time. His leadership in the effort to combat the period's dogmatism, intolerance, and fanaticism is best summed up in the motto attributed to him: "*Écrasez l'infâme!*" or, to put it generally, "Crush whatever is intellectually repugnant!" Although he believed deeply in social and political progress and the possibility of transformative change in the Old Regime, he maintained his faith in culture as a means toward greater refinement.

A native of Geneva and a self-taught man, Rousseau came to Paris in 1742 at the age of 30, greatly admiring the older Voltaire. After at first participating in the enormous, multi-volume *Encyclopédie* project of his fellow *philosophes*, Rousseau soon distanced himself from his hero with his award-winning *Discourse on the Arts and Sciences* (1750), in which he repudiated civil society and culture as the root causes for the corruption and degradation of humankind. His direct thrust at the very heart of European civilization—as unexpected and as audacious as it was, even for his confreres—aimed to effect a salutary return to a presumably lost, natural state of affairs and to restore transparency and authenticity to the everyday interactions of men and women in society. In a word, nature trumped culture, and Rousseau would often seek refuge in it. His walks in nature proved nothing less than therapeutic for his often tormented soul.

Because of their radical ideas for these times—when censorship still prevailed—and their fierce defense of freedom, both Voltaire and Rousseau led lives of exile, traveling often from one place or country to another. The two died in the same year, 1778. After burials elsewhere, their remains were moved to the crypt of the Pantheon in Paris during the French Revolution, whose leaders idolized the two thinkers.



View of St. Peter's Island from Ligerz, Switzerland