



in Marie Antoinette's footsteps

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Tales of Royal parties and Revolutionary guillotine have turned Marie Antoinette's life into a myth, the object of countless interpretations including Sofia Coppola's recent *chick-flick*!

Shot in Versailles, including the renovated Hall of Mirrors, the film's visual beauty is further incentive to go and explore the reality of Marie-Antoinette's life, from the graceful interiors of *Petit Trianon* or *Fontainebleau* she designed, to the *Conciergerie* prison she endured. Here is a selection of itineraries to get you closer to the French Queen!

1/ 2 day NEW! Marie-Antoinette 's [Petit Trianon Estate](#) at Versailles *details below*

1/ 2 day The Queen's Apartments and **NEW!** [The Hall of Mirrors](#) in Versailles *details below*

2 hours The Queen's cell at [Conciergerie](#) at no.1 Quai de l'Horloge, Paris. This 14th century fortress also includes a Gothic Guards'Room and the Museum to the French Revolution. Open 9.30-18.00. Adult €5.50. Free for Under 18s.

2 hours [St Denis Basilica](#) (Paris) Sculpted tombs of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI. Royal burial site of the French Kings. Open 10-18.00 Mon-Sat-12.00-16.30 Sun-Metro: St Denis Basilica-Adult € 6.1- Free for Under 18s

And also

[Chateau de Fontainebleau](#) see Marie-Antoinette 's [Boudoir](#) with mother-of-pearl furniture

See www.musee-chateau-fontainebleau.fr for opening times and tariffs

And [Chateau de Rambouillet](#) see Marie-Antoinette 's [Dairy and Princess de Lamballe's Shell Cottage](#)

See <http://rambouillet.monuments-nationaux.fr> (English version) for opening times and tariffs

VERSAILLES:

Explore newly re-opened [Domaine Marie-Antoinette](#) (Marie-Antoinette's Estate)

start with [Petit Trianon Palace](#), a country retreat given to her by husband King Louis XVI. MA created a romantic décor inspired by Nature with the help of architect Gabriel.

Notice the rural theme running through: wheat motifs on bedroom chairs, fruits and flowers on dining room fabrics, fishing and grape-picking painted scenes, etc.

Don't miss! The boudoir-watch windows turn into mirrors thanks to ingenious mechanism...

Walk through the [French Garden](#) and **Don't miss!** [Le Petit Theatre](#): Marie Antoinette enjoyed acting and music making with her friends in its delicate blue and gold décor in *carton-pâte* (painted cardboard)

Stop by The [Temple de l'Amour](#) on your way to the rustic [Hameau](#), a cluster of miniature houses modelled on a *Normandie* village: the Queen went fishing on the lake and its thatched roofed cottages include a *réchauffoir* (kitchen) where Marie Antoinette and her children drunk milk fresh from her farmed animals.

Don't miss! Younger Children can get close to animals grazing throughout the [Domaine](#): sheep, cow, goat, rabbits and ducks reared in [Marie Antoinette's farm](#) behind the [Hameau](#) help recreate the rural idyll the Queen so loved. Renovated and run by "Assistance aux Animaux", the farm is a teaching foundation.

OPEN: Everyday 12.00-19.30 from 4 July to 31 October 2007— Interiors: 12.00-18.00 only. Last entry: 17.45
Direct Entrance via Porte St Antoine or go to the Château Main Entrance and board their own free shuttle train.
Free access for Under 18s. Adult: €9. (€10.60 from FNAC). Audio guides in English from €6.00.

Château de Versailles: Queen's apartments and Galerie des Glaces (Hall of Mirrors) reopens May 2007

Don't miss! This spectacular setting for Royal weddings and receptions has just been brilliantly restored: glide through the 73metres long gallery and see your reflection in 357 mirrors and 17 arcades! Look up Le Brun historical paintings to the glory of Louis XIV: gilding, stucco work and trompe-l'oeil are the essence of French style!

OPEN: Tues-Sun 9.30-18.30. Last entry 18.00. Adult €13.50 + free-access Under 10s

You can opt to spend the whole day there: a one-day pass costs from €20.00 to €25 at weekends (€21.60 at FNAC). Tickets: on the spot or www.fnac.com to print your own ticket online or www.transilien.com for train+daypass

To get there: by train RER C from Paris to Versailles Rive Gauche+ 8mn on foot (or taxi)

Further info: www.chateauversailles.fr (English version) Note the Royal Opera is closed for renovation

Ready for another KIDS'FRANCE itinerary? CONTACT info@cefinatours.co.uk