



Dear Travel Friends,

What do Claude Monet, Julia Child and Coco Chanel have in common? Inspiration from Normandy. Read more at www.gutsytraveler.com

After I cross-crossed the Normandy countryside from Giverny to the cobblestoned streets of Rouen, to storybook seaside resorts, I spent a few days in Paris to eat, walk, shop and photograph shoes and people. Here's what I learned during the longest day of the year in Paris.

Insider Packing Tip

Why is a clothes pin important for sleep? To pinch shut the curtains in your hotel room. Sunrise in France was at 5:35am and who goes to bed before midnight?

Best Free Street-Music Festival in Europe

Don't miss the "Fete de la Musique" on the summer solstice in Paris. The Mood is electric as you wander through the neighborhood with free performances of different musical styles and street parties on every street corner, down every alley and boulevard. I heard everything from opera, jazz and rock to hip-hop and electronic music.

Free Culture

Always check the official tourist website for the city or area you are visiting to find free concerts, film series and events.

Cheers,

Marybeth