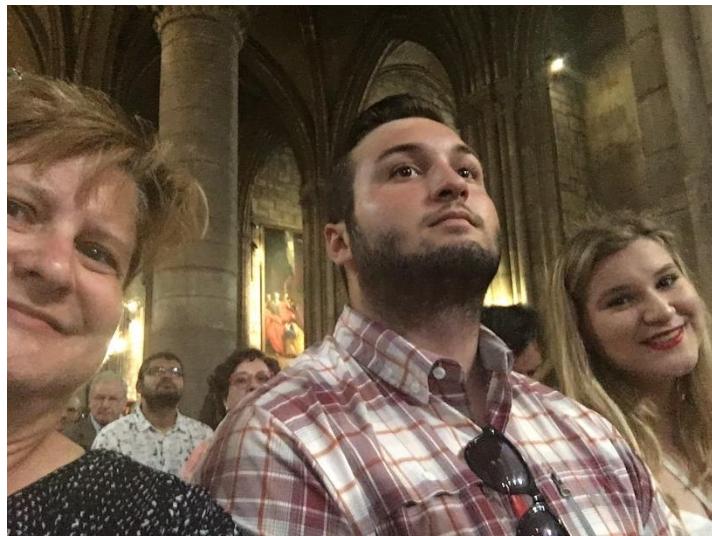


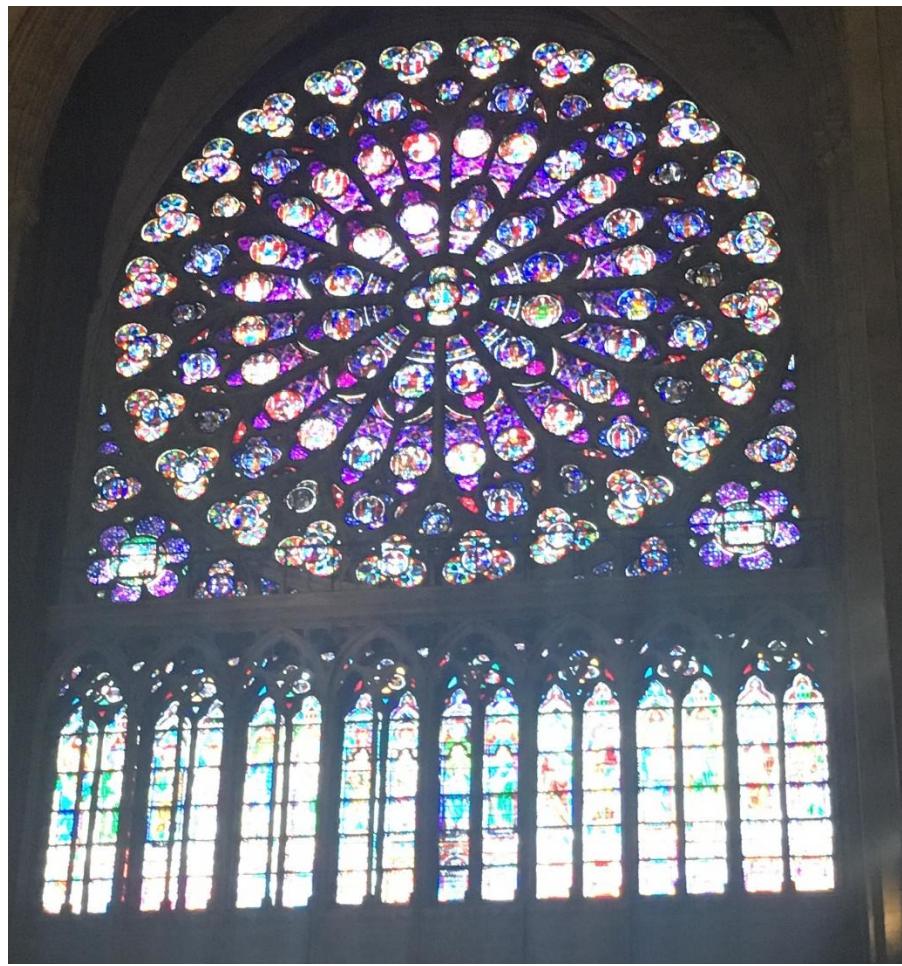
France 2018 – Part #5 PARIS

Notre Dame Cathedral – We had Sunday Mass at the famous Cathedral. The most important Relics of Jesus Christ acquired by the French Monarchy in the Middle Ages which were originally housed at Sainte Chapelle are now housed in the treasury at Notre Dame. The treasury contains a reliquary including parts of Christ’s Crown of Thorns, fragments of the True Cross and one of the Holy Nails. Every first Friday of each month, the Holy Relics are exposed for veneration and adoration before the Cathedral’s high altar.





Famous Rose Windows – They are amazingly nearly 800 years old!



South Rose Window – New Testament and Book of Revelation

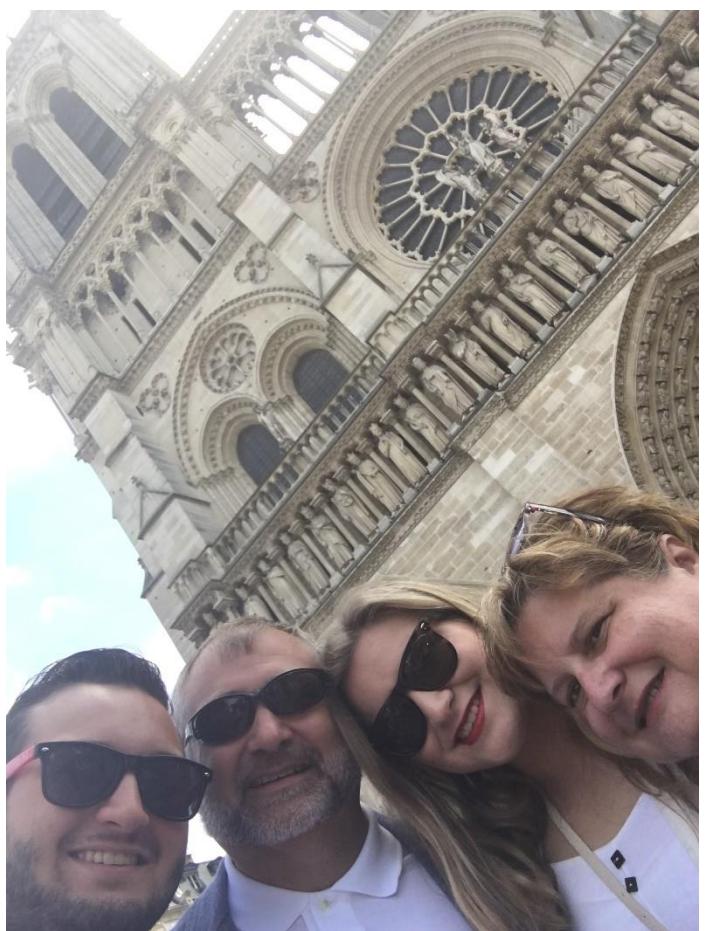
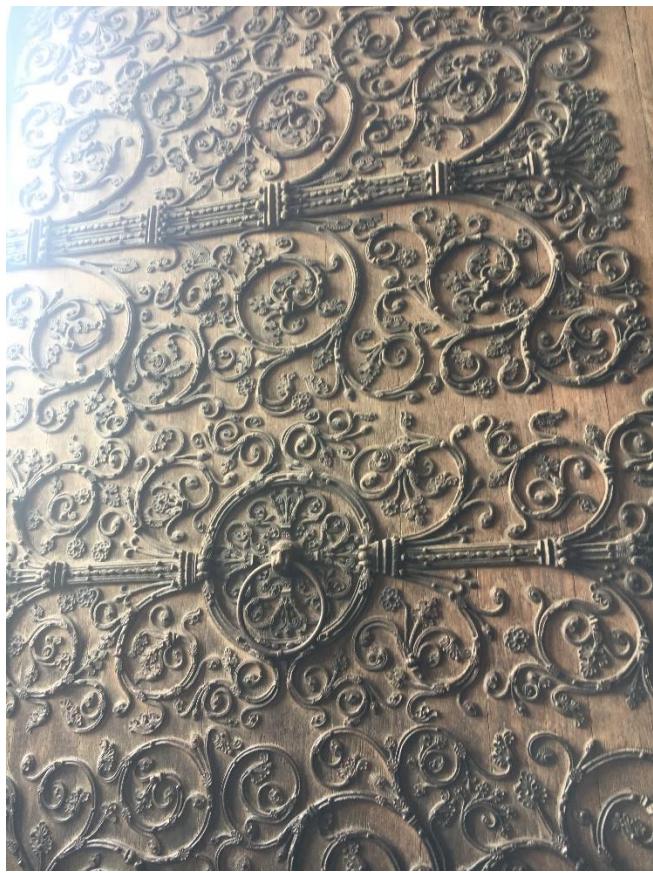


North Rose Window – Glorification of Virgin Mary

Paris Point Zero – Just outside Notre Dame Cathedral embedded in the concrete is a small geographic marker from which the distance from Paris to all other places are measured.



The Beautiful Doors have wrought-iron strap hinges and arabesques and date back to the 13th Century.



Arc De Triomphe – The Triumphal Arch is built in honor of those who fought for France and located at the western end of the famous Champs-Elysees.





Arc de Triomphe Memorial Flame – The flame has been lit continuously since 1923. Flowers were still displayed since Memorial Day.

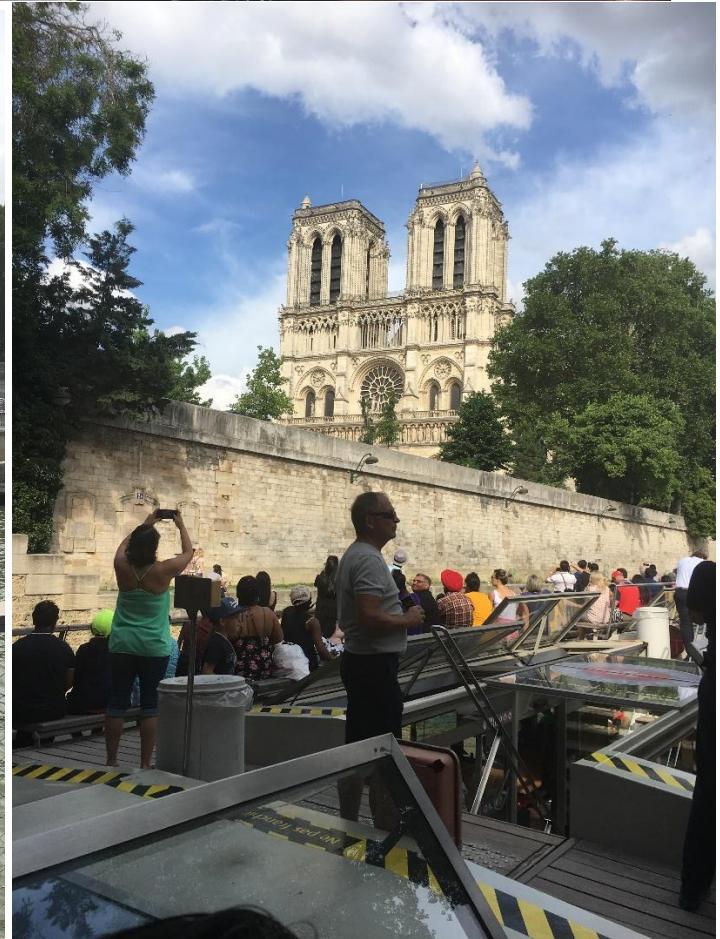


While Lonny and I stayed on the bottom level, Luke and Claire climbed to the top of the Arch. Through a peep-hole they spotted us sitting on the bench below.

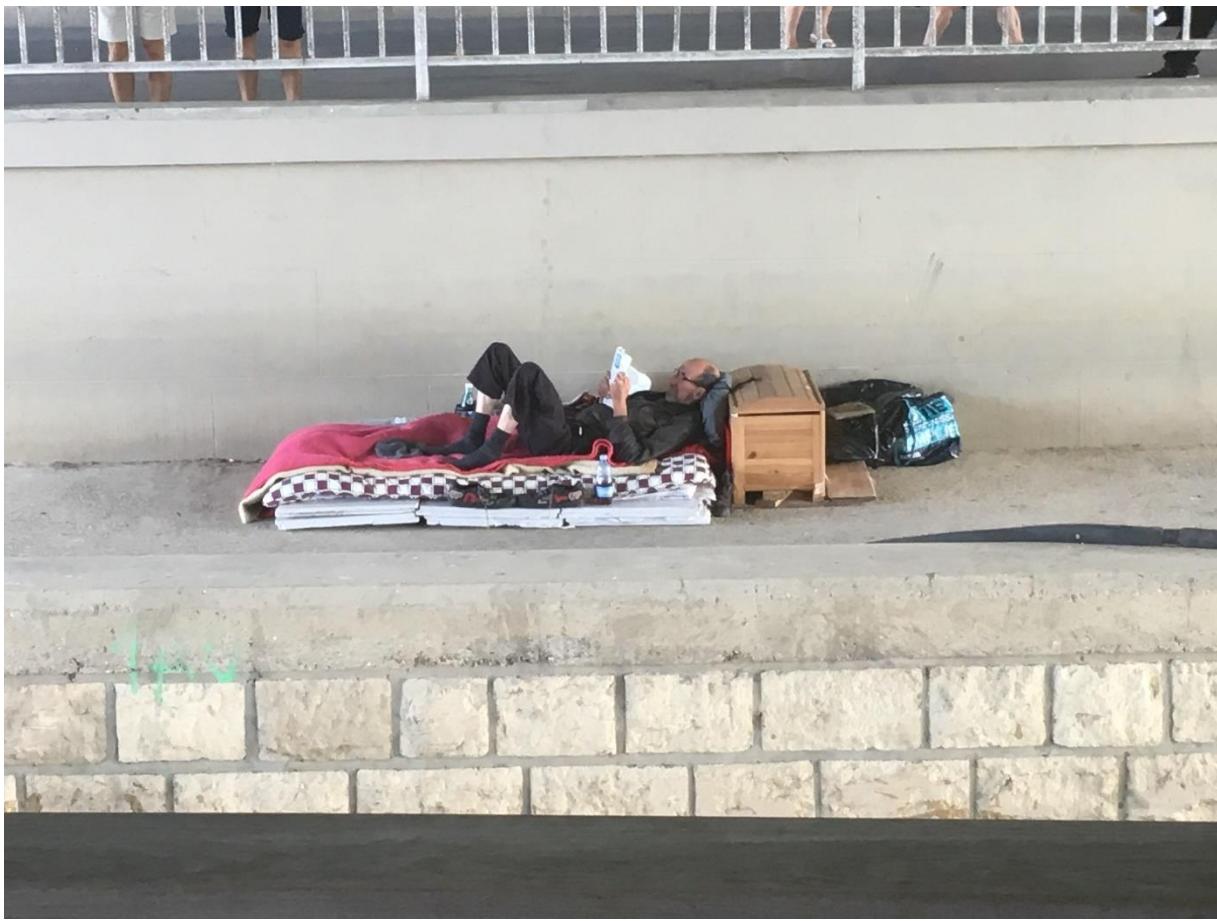


Bateaux Parisiens – Beginning at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, we took a Riverboat Cruise down the River Seine through the heart of Paris. Such a magical way to see the city.





We did see some interesting things along the Riverbanks!



There are many beautiful bridges over the River Seine!



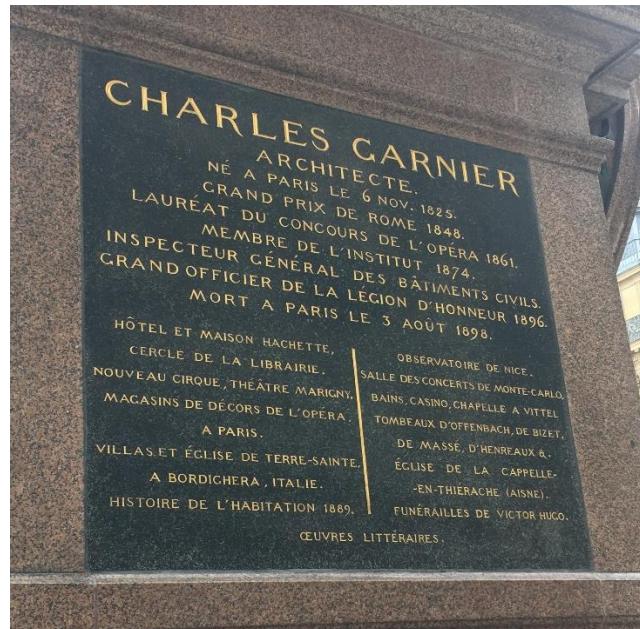
Parisian Patisseries - We sampled some of the local Pastries at Galleries Lafayette!



Palais Garnier -- Since Claire was a very small girl and began taking ballet classes, she has said she wanted to go to see the famous Opera House in Paris. This was definitely on our Must-See Things To Do! The top of the Main Façade is adorned with golden statues of Apollo, Poetry and Music. Below those are statues of classical music legends Mozart, Beethoven, and many others.



Charles Garnier Monument – French Architect of the Opera House

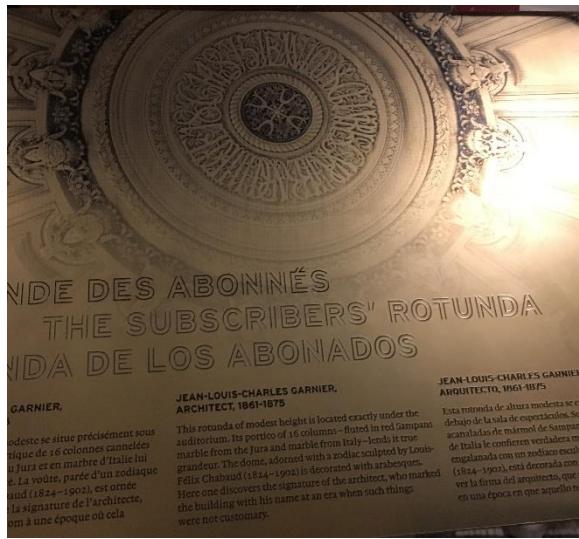


Grand Staircase – Where Parisians were to see and to be seen and what they were wearing. This is where the real drama took place.





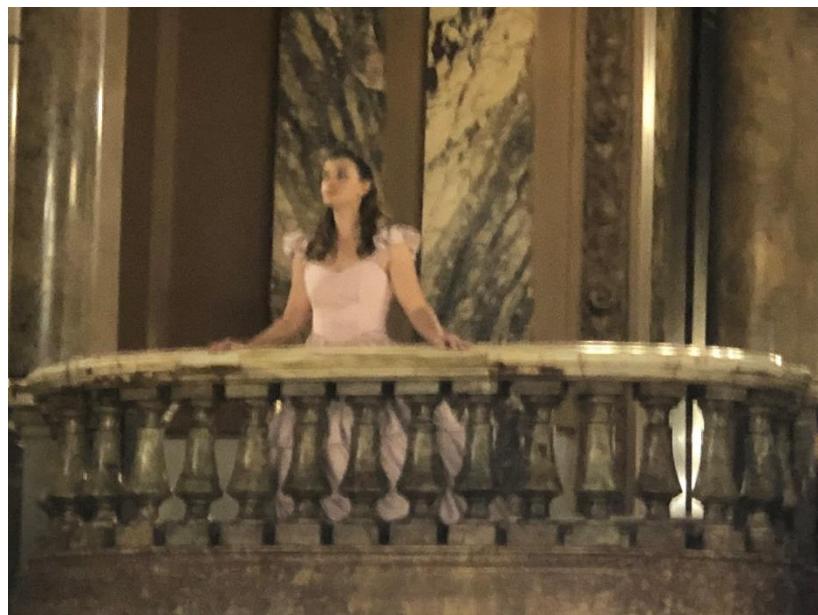
Rotunda – Located on the ground floor exactly under the Auditorium



Ceiling above the double Grand Stairway is beautifully painted with scenes of music



Escape Game – Life-size game adventure in the footsteps of the Phantom of the Opera trying to solve the Curse and set him free by deciphering series of riddles. Various actors were in period costumes bringing the game to life while we were there.



Phantom of the Opera – Based on a true story. During one of the performances in 1896, the chandelier came loose, flying down to the crowd and killed an audience member. You can actually peek through the famous No. 5 booth and still see him!



Birds of the night, bats and owls, circling the ceiling from a small room off the Grand Foyer



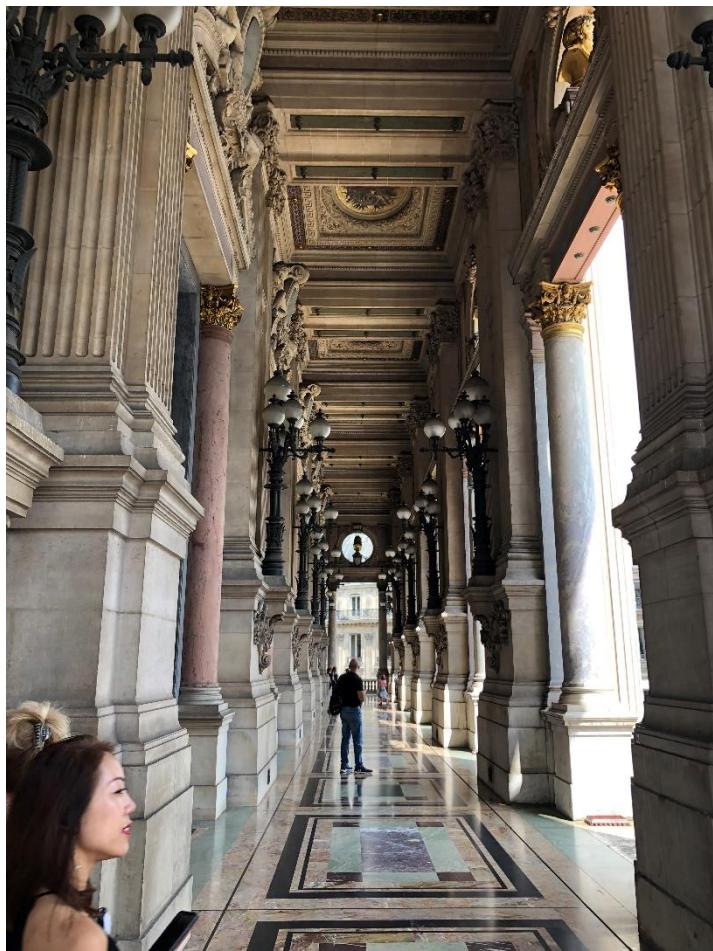
Grand Foyer – Amazingly much like the Hall of Mirrors at Chateau Versailles in the Neo-Baroque Style



Grand Foyer Ceiling – inspired by the Sistine Chapel



Grand Foyer opens into an outside loggia where you can see all the way to the Louvre.



Greek Muse Melpomene – Tragedy (Drama)



Greek Muse Erato – Lyrical Poetry



Apollo and Three Graces (Splendor, Mirth, and Good Cheer) – Mozart and Charles Granier also appear here



Greek Muse Calliope – Epic Poetry



Greek Muse Euterpe – Music – With Sleeping St. Cecilia



Greek Pegasus the immortal winged horse



Costume Gallery from the Nutcracker Ballet

