

## 'Europe'

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### The Word of the Week

Apodyopsis (n)

Definition:

The act of mentally undressing someone.

Pronunciation:

A-poe-de-op-sis

Usage:

Mark practices apodyopsis while he's working at the old folks' home.

without a government.

The next day we were on our way to France. We were staying in an old section of Paris known as the Bibliotheque District, which translates to "Library District" in English. It was named for the National Library that we could see from the streets near our hotel. Four massive buildings were arranged in a square pattern facing inward, they were designed to look like open books.

The day started with our tour guide telling us our destination, but he hadn't told us that the first thing we would see at the top of the stairs leading out of the Metro station would be Notre Dame. I have seen cathedrals before, but this was incredible.

When I turned around there was a statue as tall as my house of St. Michael flanked by dragons. Street performers would be out in the clearing in front of the fountains later, and protestors as well. This area was close to the Latin Quarter where local students would go to have a good time in the evening.

As we drew closer to Notre Dame, the crowds began to swell, and the number of street performers increased. Because of all the tourists there were a dozen armed soldiers patrolling the gardens and the square in front of Notre Dame. I was tempted to take a picture but we were advised it could lead to trouble.

As cool as seeing Notre Dame was, stumbling upon the Eiffel Tower was even more spectacular. We turned a corner and there was the spire, every part lit up with a revolving light fixture you could see in the sky from miles away. Close by was a boat that would take us down the Seine on a night tour of Paris.

On the second day I had the pleasure of going to see the world-famous Louvre, it was odd to find rooms larger than my house entirely filled with statues of classical Greek characters and people. After spending three hours exploring what might have been one eighth of the Louvre, I explored the streets until dinner.

I ended up in one of the smaller districts where even fewer people spoke English, all of the streets were cobblestone unlike the parts of Paris I had been growing accustomed to. Dinner that night had a very French feel to it, I bought a Crepe with ham, egg and cheese, and a bottle of French wine. An ideal ending to my stay in my favorite city so far.

Getting to London was fun but I slept through most of the journey because the train left before the sun had risen. It took us two hours to make it to London, when I woke up I was in a different country.

After getting off of the train we met up with a tour guide and were on the road again, touring much of London. Dinner was satisfying, an English Pub, complete with cheap beer and great food. Afterwards most of the tour group worked its way through the London Underground to find the Theatre in which we enjoyed the hit musical "Wicked."

The final day in Europe was almost completely devoted to free time. We were guided to the Tower of London and let loose into the city. Having seen the Tower before, I spent a little less than an hour reviewing the new innovations before I crossed the Tower Bridge, and sought out the Globe Theater. After seeing this famed attraction I walked alongside the River Thames while I planned the next adventure, which ended up being a trip to the other side of the city to see the Sherlock Holmes Museum and the London Zoo.

The following morning our plane took off bright and early and flew back to the United States. I think we were all ready to go home; everyone was exhausted from all that we had done.

Most of the people on the tour would start walking mid morning and not stop moving until the late evening. I think my comrades would agree that all the aches, colds, and exhaustion were all worth it. I would do it all again, and I recommend such a tour to any college student given the opportunity.

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*Many children begin drinking as early as age 12. That's two years before they've tried geometry. Research indicates that children are less likely to drink when their parents are involved in their lives and when they report feeling close to their parents. So next time you complain about how fast they're growing up, consider that it might be in your power to slow them down.*

For advice on talking with your children, visit [stopalcoholabuse.gov](http://stopalcoholabuse.gov) or call 1-800-729-6886

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