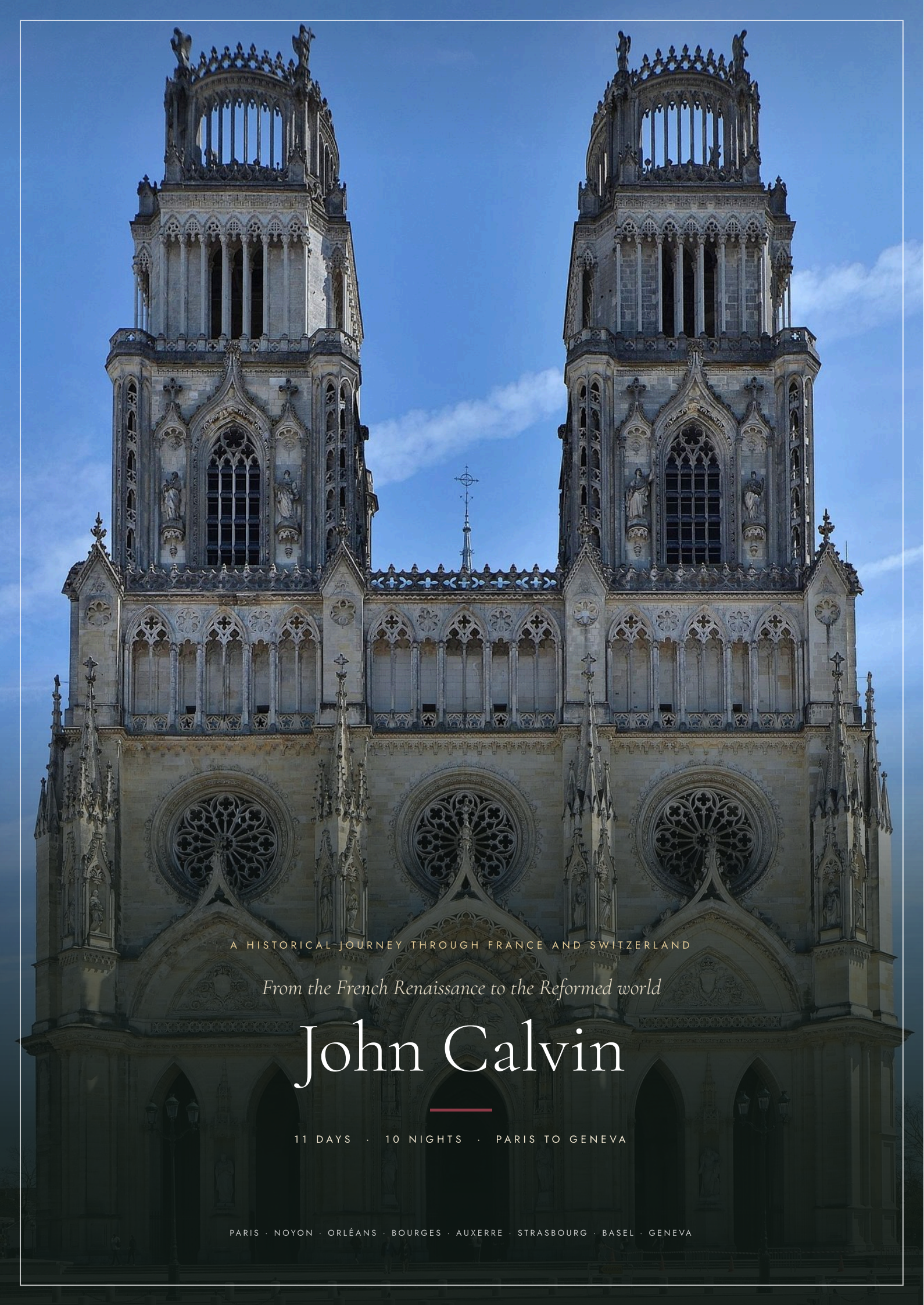


A HISTORICAL JOURNEY THROUGH FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND

From the French Renaissance to the Reformed world

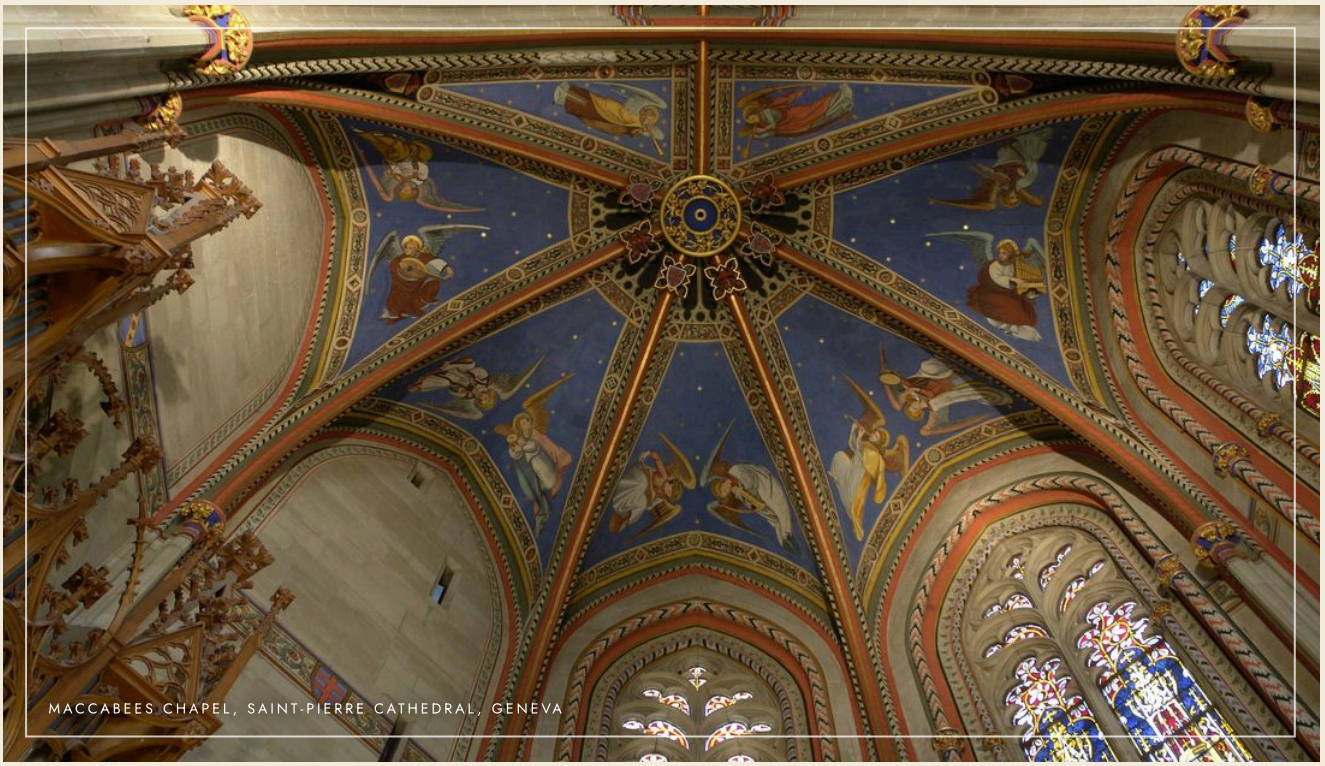
John Calvin

11 DAYS · 10 NIGHTS · PARIS TO GENEVA

PARIS · NOYON · ORLÉANS · BOURGES · AUXERRE · STRASBOURG · BASEL · GENEVA

How did a young scholar *change the Reformation?*

Eleven days to follow one life, in the order it was lived: a cathedral town, three universities, an exile, a book and a city.



MACCABEES CHAPEL, SAINT-PIERRE CATHEDRAL, GENEVA

In 1509, **Jean Cauvin** was born in the shadow of Noyon Cathedral, the son of a man who worked for its bishop and canons. Church revenues paid for his education. Twenty-seven years later, the same young man published in Basel the **Institutes of the Christian Religion**, a book that would shape Reformed and Presbyterian churches from Scotland to New England.

Between those two dates lies the story this journey tells: the **Latin Quarter** of Paris, the law faculties of **Orléans** and **Bourges**, the humanist excitement of the Renaissance, a sudden flight, three formative years in **Strasbourg** beside Martin Bucer, and finally **Geneva**.

This is a journey for curious minds rather than a course. Each day pairs one meaningful place with time to look and to talk: a cathedral at its best hour, a library, a regional table, an evening of psalms. Selected hotels, a private touring coach and an unhurried pace do the rest.

Four chapters, *one life*

The route follows Calvin's own path, so each new destination answers the question raised by the last.


NOYON CATHEDRAL

CHAPTER I
A Picardy childhood, a Paris education

PARIS · NOYON

Where the boy grew up inside the Church, and where the student met Erasmus, Greek and the new questions of his age.

CHAPTER II
The making of a humanist jurist

ORLÉANS · BOURGES · AUXERRE

Law, philology and the art of argument: the tools Calvin would later turn to theology.


BOURGES CATHEDRAL


STRASBOURG CATHEDRAL

CHAPTER III
Exile, friendship and a book

STRASBOURG · BASEL

A refugee pastor among refugees, the first Reformed psalter, and the Basel printing presses.

CHAPTER IV
Geneva and the Reformed world

GENEVA

The city that called him back, the Academy he founded, and a legacy that crossed the Atlantic.


GENEVA AND ITS LAKE



John Calvin (1509 – 1564)
MUSEUM CATHARIJNECONVENT, UTRECHT

A LIFE IN EIGHT DATES

From Noyon to Geneva

Fifty-five years that took a Picardy scholar to the centre of the Reformed world.

1509 — BORN IN NOYON
Jean Cauvin is born on July 10, in Picardy, to a family in the service of the cathedral chapter.

c. 1523 — STUDENT IN PARIS
Latin under Mathurin Cordier, then the strict Collège de Montaigu.

1528 — LAW IN ORLÉANS AND BOURGES
At his father's wish, he studies law under Pierre de l'Estoile and Andrea Alciato.

1533 — FLIGHT FROM PARIS
After Nicolas Cop's All Saints' address, Calvin leaves the capital.

1536 — THE INSTITUTES
Published in Basel in March; that summer, Farel persuades him to stay in Geneva.

1538 — EXILE IN STRASBOURG
Pastor to French refugees beside Martin Bucer; he marries Idelette de Bure in 1540.

1559 — THE ACADEMY OF GENEVA
Founded the same year as the definitive Latin edition of the Institutes.

1564 — DEATH IN GENEVA
He dies on May 27 and is buried, at his request, in an unmarked grave.

THE STAGES OF YOUR JOURNEY

From the Seine *to the shores of Lake Geneva*

Eight places, each a chapter of Calvin's life, ideas or influence.



1 Paris — DAYS 1 – 3

2 Noyon — DAY 2

3 Orléans — DAY 4

4 Bourges — DAY 5

5 Auxerre — DAY 6

6 Strasbourg — DAYS 7 – 8

7 Basel — DAY 9

8 Geneva — DAYS 9 – 11

Paris, Orléans and Bourges for the student; Strasbourg and Basel for the exile; Geneva for the Reformer.

11	2	4–5★	6
DAYS, 10 NIGHTS	COUNTRIES	SELECTED HOTELS	REGIONAL EXPERIENCES



THE ROUTE

From Picardy *to Lake Geneva*

The whole journey by private touring coach. Noyon is a day trip from Paris (dotted line). Swiss section subject to operational validation.

1 Paris
DAYS 1 – 3

2 Noyon
DAY 2 · DAY TRIP

3 Orléans
DAY 4

4 Bourges
DAY 5

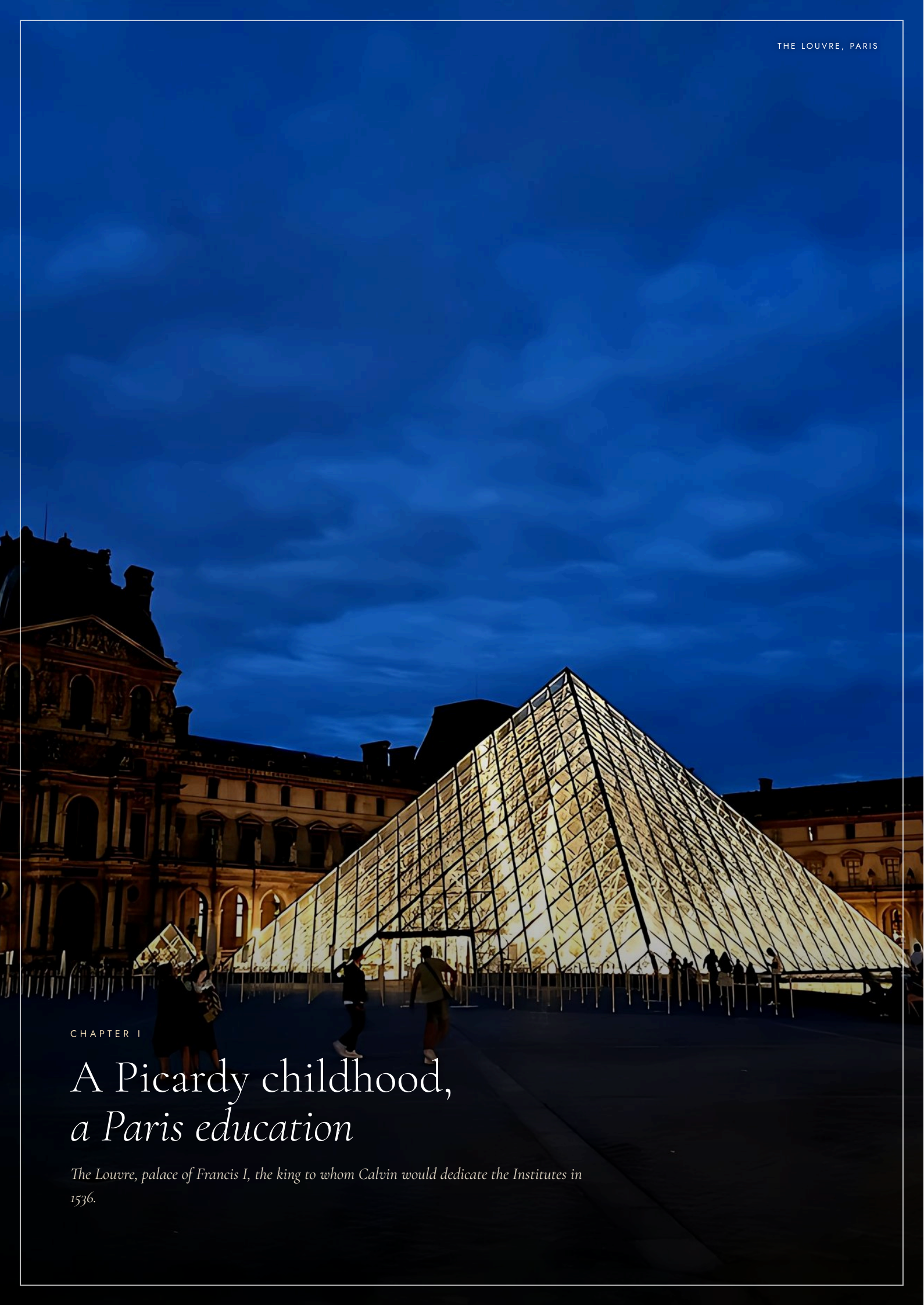
5 Auxerre
DAY 6

6 Langres
DAY 7 · LUNCH STOP

7 Strasbourg
DAYS 7 – 8

8 Basel
DAY 9

9 Geneva
DAYS 9 – 11

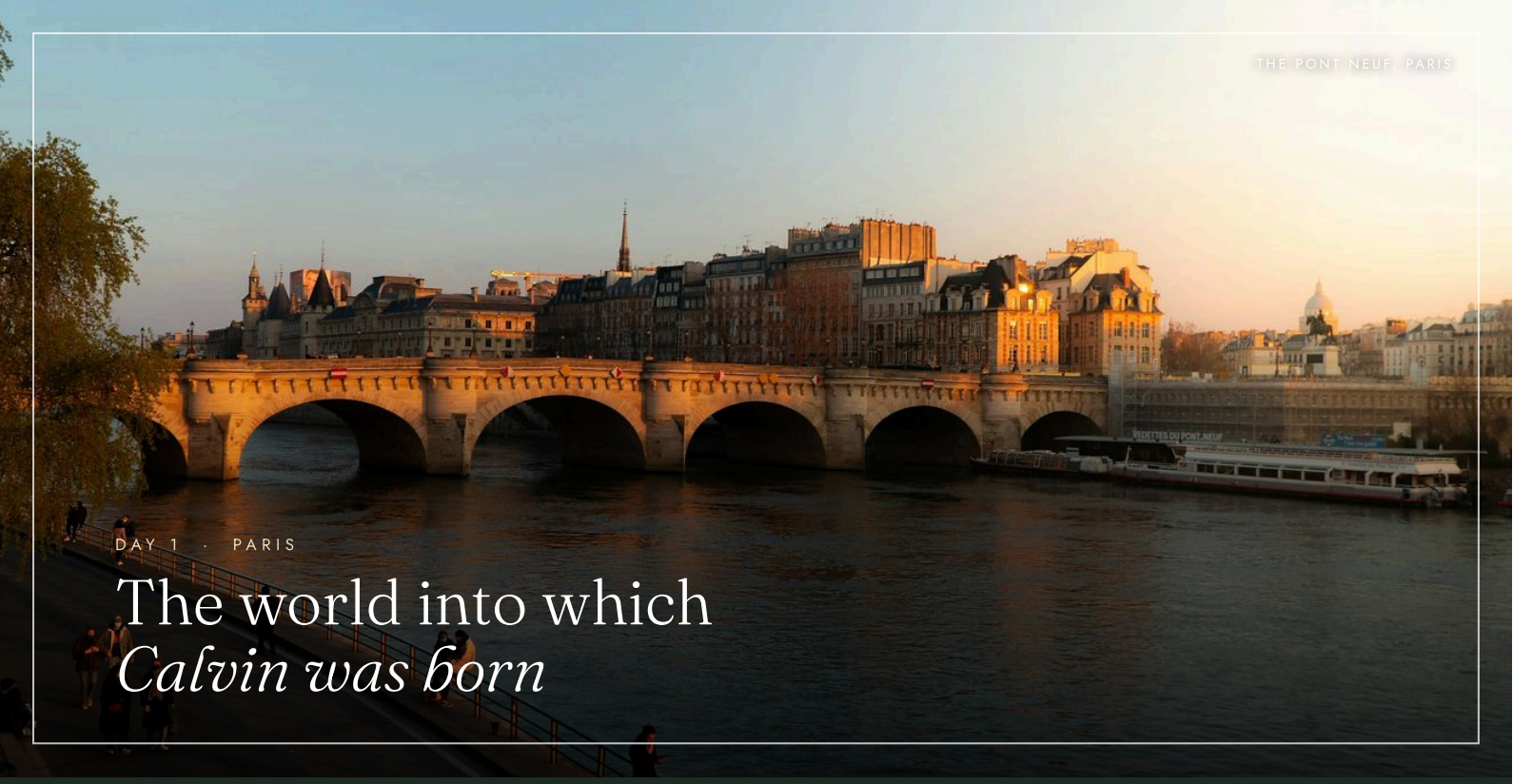


THE LOUVRE, PARIS

CHAPTER I

A Picardy childhood, *a Paris education*

The Louvre, palace of Francis I, the king to whom Calvin would dedicate the Institutes in 1536.



THE PONT NEUF · PARIS

DAY 1 · PARIS

The world into which *Calvin was born*

MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Arrival at Paris Charles de Gaulle *Welcome by your tour leader*	Private coach to the hotel (approx. 1 hr) *Check-in and rest*	Welcome dinner *Overnight in Paris*

DID YOU KNOW?

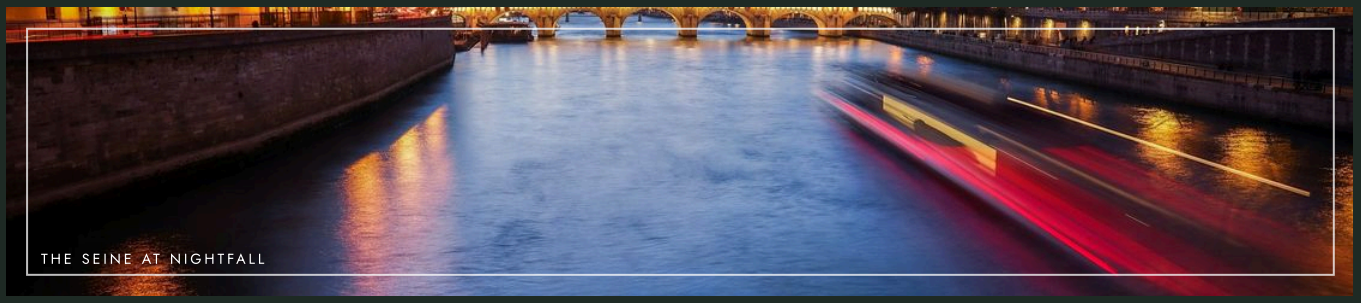
1515

Francis I came to the throne six years after Calvin's birth. Calvin would one day address the Institutes to him.

Renaissance France, as the journey begins.

Your **tour leader** meets the group at the airport and the coach brings you into the heart of **Paris**. The afternoon is left free to rest after the flight.

At the **welcome dinner**, an introduction sets the scene: the France of **Francis I**, the printing press, the rediscovery of Greek, and a Church both powerful and questioned. This is the world the young Jean Cauvin entered.



THE SEINE AT NIGHTFALL



CHOIR OF NOYON CATHEDRAL

DAY 2 · NOYON

Noyon, *where it all began*

MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Coach to Noyon (approx. 1 hr 45)	Picardy lunch	Return to Paris (approx. 1 hr 45)
Notre-Dame Cathedral with a English-speaking local guide	*The John Calvin Museum (subject to opening days)*	*Overnight in Paris*

A cathedral town, and a boy raised inside the Church.

Jean Cauvin was born here on **July 10, 1509**. His father, Gérard, served the bishop and the **cathedral chapter**, and the boy received his first Church benefices at the age of twelve. The early Gothic **Notre-Dame Cathedral**, begun around 1150, was the backdrop of his childhood.

After a **Picardy lunch** of regional specialities, the **John Calvin Museum**, built on the site of the family home after the First World War, presents editions, documents and portraits from the Reformer's century.

DID YOU KNOW?

768

Long before Calvin, Noyon saw Charlemagne crowned King of the Franks in 768.



READING ROOM, SAINTE-GENEVIÈVE LIBRARY

DAY 3 · PARIS

Humanism, learning *and religious debate*

MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
The Latin Quarter and the old colleges *English-speaking local guide*	The Louvre: Renaissance collections *Guided visit*	Free evening *Overnight in Paris*

The streets where a student discovered new questions.

Around 1523, the boy from Noyon arrived in the **Latin Quarter**. He learned Latin from **Mathurin Cordier**, then entered the austere **Collège de Montaigu**, where Erasmus had studied before him. Its site is now occupied by the **Sainte-Geneviève Library**, whose reading room is one of the most beautiful in Paris.

After **Saint-Germain-des-Prés**, the afternoon belongs to the **Louvre**: a guided visit focused on the Renaissance, the age of Francis I, the printing press and the humanists Calvin read.

DID YOU KNOW?

1533

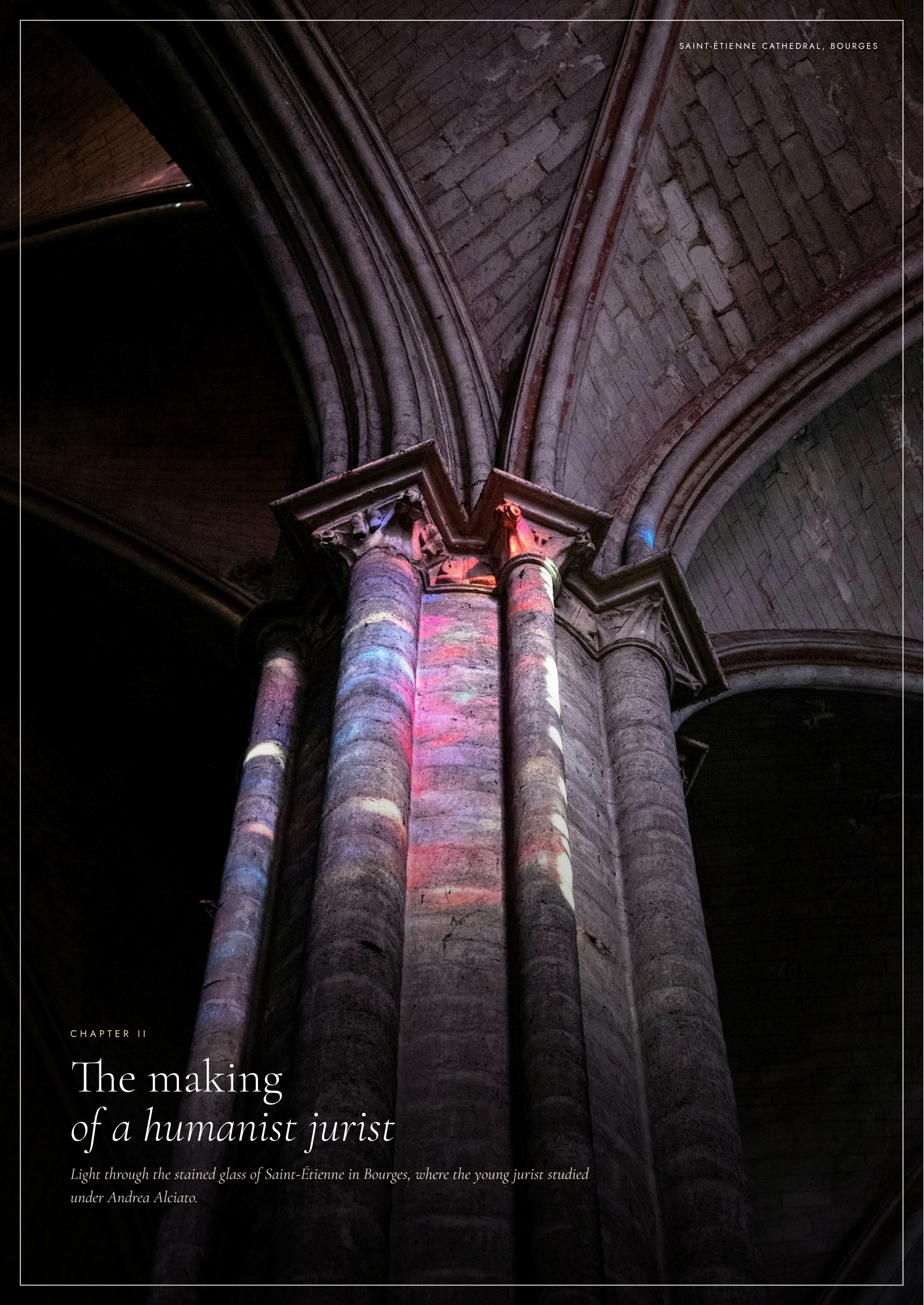
On November 1, Calvin's friend Nicolas Cop gave a rectorial address calling for reform. Both men had to flee Paris.



SAINT-GERMAIN-DES-PRÉS



THE LOUVRE'S PAINTED GALLERIES



SAINT-ÉTIENNE CATHEDRAL, BOURGES

CHAPTER II

The making *of a humanist jurist*

Light through the stained glass of Saint-Étienne in Bourges, where the young jurist studied under Andrea Alciato.



THE VAULTS OF SAINTE-CROIX CATHEDRAL, ORLÉANS



HÔTEL GROSLOT, ORLÉANS

DAY 4 · ORLÉANS

Orléans, *the education of a jurist*

MORNING	Coach to Orléans (approx. 1 hr 50) *Sainte-Croix Cathedral, English-speaking local guide*
AFTERNOON	The university's Salle des Thèses (upon request) *Hôtel Groslot*
EVENING	Dinner in the old town *Overnight in Orléans*

Law, at his father's wish.

In 1528, Gérard Cauvin sent his son to read **law** at Orléans, then the most renowned law school in France, under **Pierre de l'Estoile**. Calvin earned his licence here. The **Salle des Thèses**, the fifteenth-century library of the university, is its last surviving building.

Sainte-Croix Cathedral, damaged in the Wars of Religion and rebuilt in Gothic style, dominates the city. The Renaissance **Hôtel Groslot**, where young King Francis II died in 1560, completes the day.

DID YOU KNOW?

1429

Joan of Arc lifted the siege of Orléans a century before Calvin arrived; the city still celebrates her every May.



SAINT-ÉTIENNE CATHEDRAL, BOURGES

DAY 5 · BOURGES

Bourges, *law and humanism*

MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Coach to Bourges (approx. 1 hr 40) *Saint-Étienne Cathedral, English-speaking local guide*	Palais Jacques-Cœur *Free time in the old town*	Berry regional dinner *Overnight in Bourges*

Where Greek opened the door to Scripture.

In 1529, Calvin followed the Italian jurist **Andrea Alciato** to Bourges. Here he also learned **Greek** with the German humanist **Melchior Wolmar**, a reader of Luther: the language of the New Testament, studied in the original.

Saint-Étienne Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, astonishes with its five-aisled nave and stained glass. The **Palais Jacques-Cœur** recalls the merchant who financed a king. In the evening, a table of **Berry** specialities, with wines of Sancerre or Menetou-Salon.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wolmar

Melchior Wolmar also taught the young Theodore Beza, who later became Calvin's successor in Geneva.



TIMBER-FRAMED BOURGES



THE FIVE-AISLED NAVE

Auxerre, *the medieval Church Calvin inherited*

MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Coach to Auxerre (approx. 2 hrs) *Lunch by the Yonne*	Abbey of Saint-Germain and its crypts (subject to availability) *English-speaking local guide*	Optional Chablis tasting *Overnight in Auxerre*

A context stop: a thousand years of Christian Burgundy.

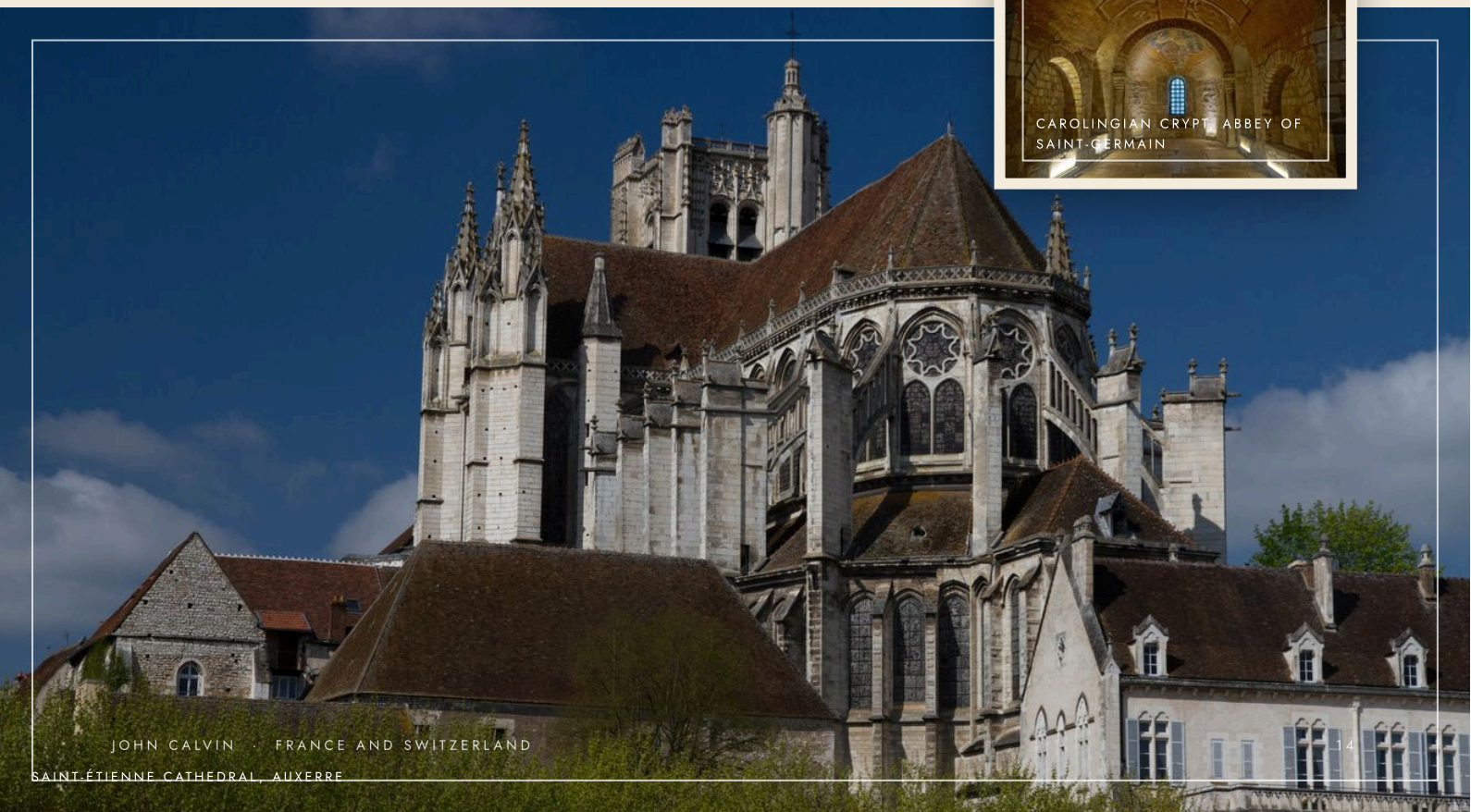
Auxerre is not a documented Calvin residence. It is here for another reason: to show the **medieval Church** whose devotion, art and institutions the Reformers inherited and questioned.

The crypts of the **Abbey of Saint-Germain** keep Carolingian wall paintings from the ninth century, among the oldest in France. Above the river Yonne, **Saint-Étienne Cathedral** shines with thirteenth-century glass. For those who wish, a **Chablis** estate is only twenty minutes away.

DID YOU KNOW?

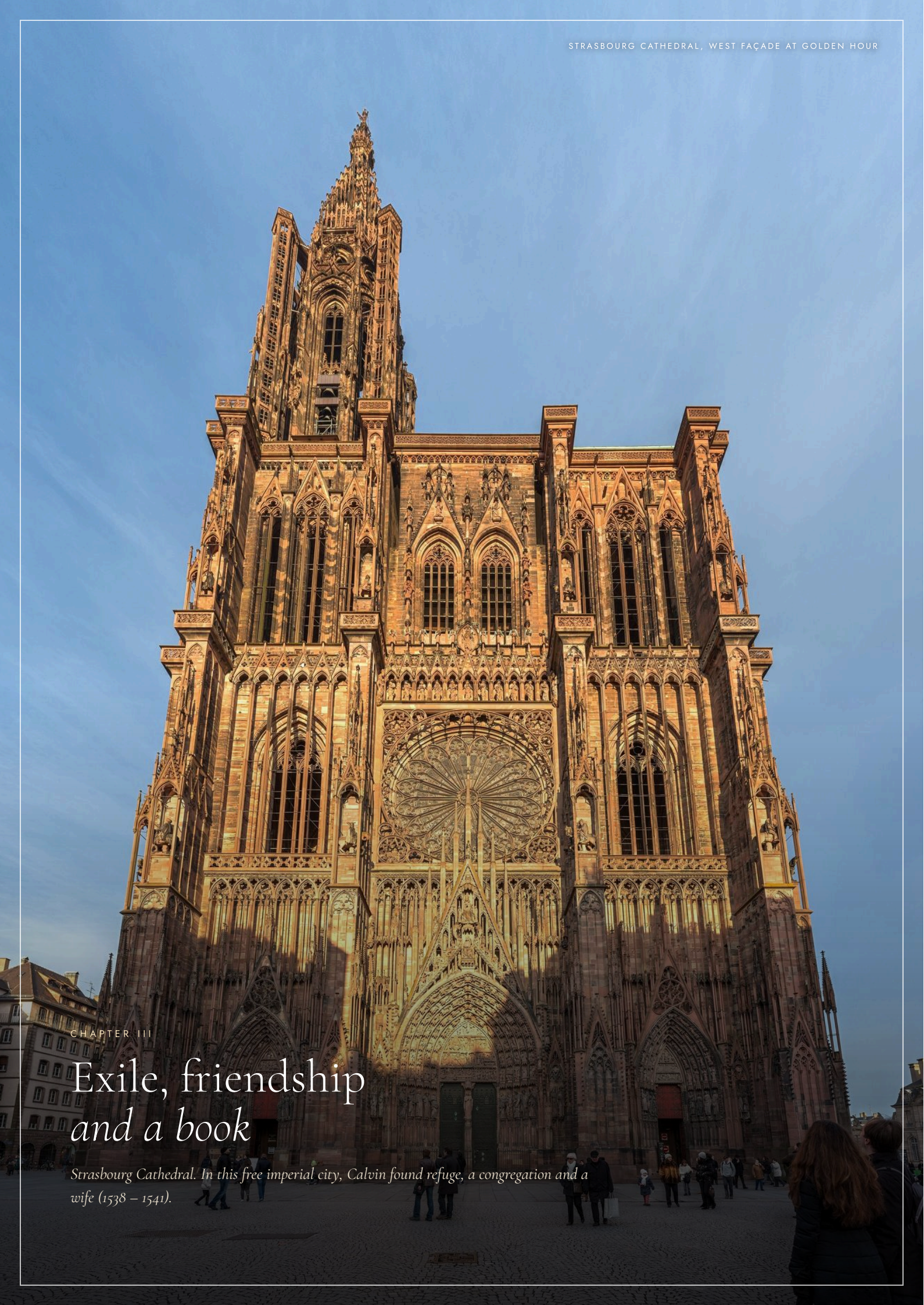
c. 850

The date of the paintings of Saint-Germain's crypts, which show the martyrdom of Saint Stephen.



CAROLINGIAN CRYPT, ABBEY OF SAINT-GERMAIN

SAINT-ÉTIENNE CATHEDRAL, AUXERRE



STRASBOURG CATHEDRAL, WEST FAÇADE AT GOLDEN HOUR

CHAPTER III

Exile, friendship *and a book*

Strasbourg Cathedral. In this free imperial city, Calvin found refuge, a congregation and a wife (1538 – 1541).



MAISON KAMMERZELL AND THE CATHEDRAL, STRASBOURG

DAY 7 · LANGRES AND STRASBOURG

Eastward, *the road of exile*

MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Coach to Langres (approx. 2 hrs 30) *Walk on the Renaissance ramparts*	Lunch, then on to Strasbourg (approx. 3 hrs 45)	Arrival in the evening *Overnight in Strasbourg*

DID YOU KNOW?

1538

Banished from Geneva in April, Calvin planned a scholar's life in Basel. Martin Bucer insisted he come to Strasbourg instead.

A longer travel day, deliberately kept light.

This is the journey's one long transfer. A midday stop in **Langres**, a hilltop town ringed with ramparts, breaks the road with a walk and an unhurried lunch.

The group reaches **Strasbourg**, the free imperial city where Calvin arrived in 1538 after being expelled from Geneva, in time for a quiet evening.



LA PETITE FRANCE, STRASBOURG



CHURCH OF SAINT-THOMAS, STRASBOURG

DAY 8 · STRASBOURG

Strasbourg, *pastor, teacher and husband*

MORNING

Church of Saint-Thomas, Martin Bucer and the French congregation

English-speaking local guide

AFTERNOON

La Petite France

Specialist talk on Calvin's writings

EVENING

Optional psalmody presentation

Overnight in Strasbourg

The three years that made Calvin a pastor.

In Strasbourg, Calvin served the **French refugee congregation**, lectured at Johannes Sturm's new school and learned from **Martin Bucer** how a Reformed city could organise its church. At **Saint-Thomas**, Bucer's church, the visit traces that friendship.

In 1539 he published a revised **Institutes** and a first small book of **psalms set to music** for his congregation. An optional evening presentation brings these sung psalms back to life *(upon request)*.

DID YOU KNOW?

1540

Calvin married Idelette de Bure in Strasbourg, the widow of a refugee he had won over to the Reformed faith.



INSIDE SAINT-THOMAS



MAUSOLEUM OF THE MARÉCHAL DE SAXE, SAINT-THOMAS



BASEL MINSTER



CLOISTER OF BASEL MINSTER

DAY 9 · BASEL AND GENEVA

Basel, *a book that changed religious history*

MORNING	Coach to Basel (approx. 1 hr 50) *The Minster and Erasmus's tomb, English-speaking local guide*
AFTERNOON	Coach to Geneva (approx. 3 hrs 15)
EVENING	Arrival in Geneva *Overnight in Geneva*

The city of printers, and the Institutes of 1536.

Calvin found refuge in **Basel** in 1535. In March 1536 the printers **Thomas Platter** and **Balthasar Lasius** issued the first edition of his **Institutes of the Christian Religion**, in Latin, prefaced by a letter to Francis I.

In the red sandstone **Minster** lies **Erasmus**, who died in Basel that same year. After a walk above the Rhine and lunch, the coach continues to **Geneva** (*Swiss section subject to operational validation*).

DID YOU KNOW?

1536

Erasmus died in July, the year the Institutes appeared: two generations of humanism in the same city.



GENEVA, THE JET D'EAU AND A BELLE ÉPOQUE STEAMER

CHAPTER IV

Geneva *and the Reformed world*

Geneva and its lake. Here Calvin preached, taught and organised a church whose influence reached Scotland, the Netherlands and North America.



SAINT-PIERRE CATHEDRAL, GENEVA

DAY 10 · GENEVA

Geneva, *Calvin's lasting legacy*

MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Saint-Pierre Cathedral and the Auditoire	International Museum of the Reformation	Farewell dinner
English-speaking local guide	*The Reformation Wall*	*Overnight in Geneva*

The city where a scholar became a Reformer.

Geneva voted for the Reformation on **May 21, 1536**. That summer **Guillaume Farel** persuaded the passing Calvin to stay. Recalled in 1541 after his exile, he preached at **Saint-Pierre** until his death, and taught in the **Auditoire**, where John Knox later preached to English refugees.

The **International Museum of the Reformation** stands where the vote was taken. In the Parc des Bastions, the **Reformation Wall** honours Farel, Calvin, Beza and Knox. A **farewell dinner** brings the journey to a close.

DID YOU KNOW?

1559

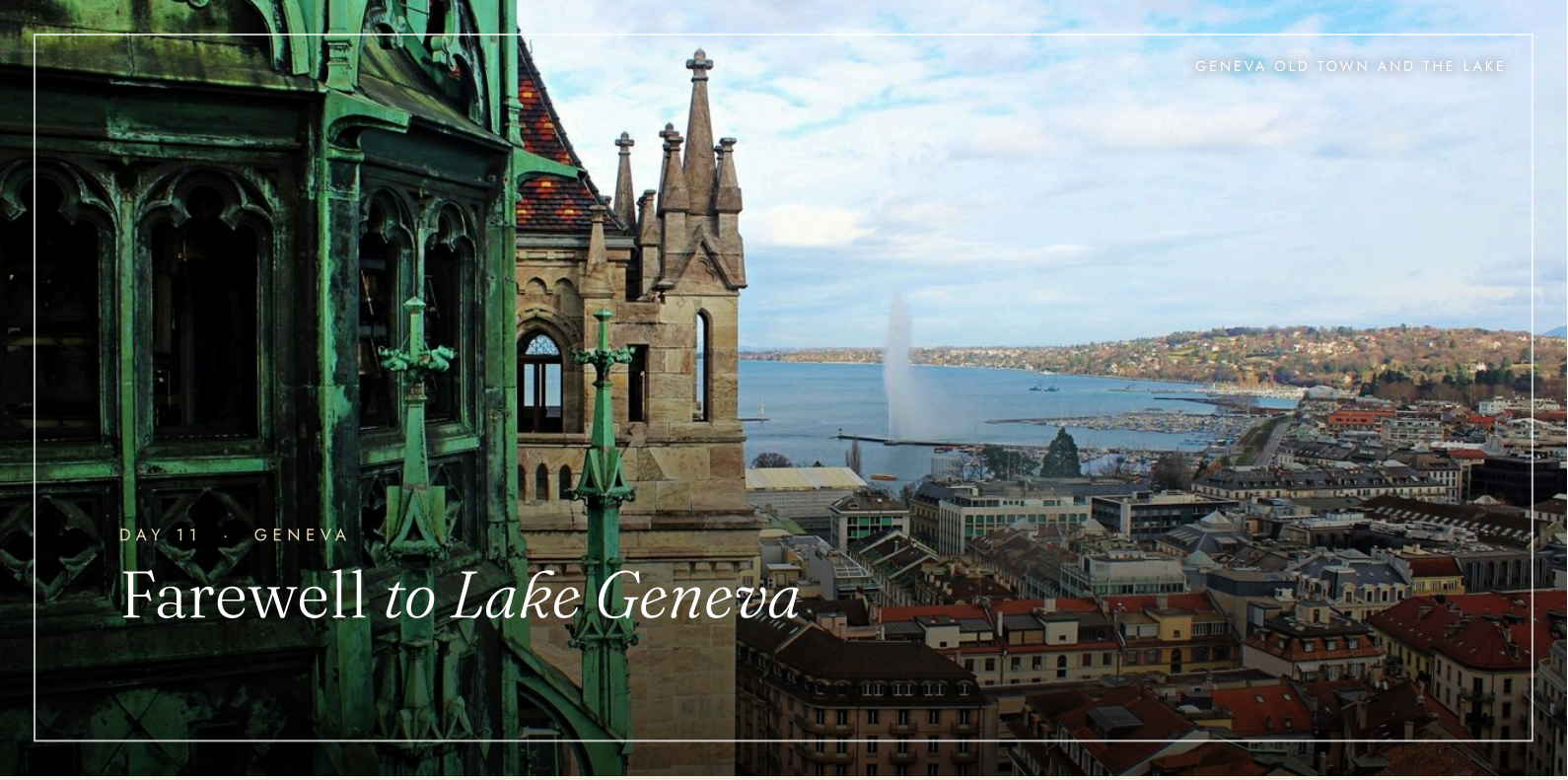
Calvin founded the Academy of Geneva, ancestor of today's University, where students from all over Europe trained.



THE PULPIT OF SAINT-PIERRE



THE REFORMATION WALL



DAY 11 · GENEVA

Farewell *to Lake Geneva*

MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Free time according to flight schedules	Transfer to Geneva Airport	Onward flights, with Paris CDG connections possible

Departure.

Depending on flight times, a last walk in the **old town** or along the lake, before the private transfer to **Geneva Airport**.

IN CLOSING

A life read *on the spot*

Few lives can be followed so closely on the ground. In eleven days the group has seen the cathedral of his childhood, the libraries and law schools of his youth, the cities of his exile and the pulpit of his maturity.

Whatever one's own tradition, the journey leaves a clearer sense of how ideas travel: through teachers, friendships, printers and cities, and through one scholar who chose to write **for others**.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Six reasons *to follow Calvin*

Places where the story is not only told but can be seen.


NOYON CATHEDRAL

01
Calvin's birthplace

NOYON

The cathedral of his childhood and a museum devoted to his life and century.


SAINTE-GENEVIÈVE LIBRARY, PARIS

02
The Latin Quarter

PARIS

The colleges of the young student and a Renaissance-focused visit of the Louvre.


BOURGES CATHEDRAL

03
A UNESCO cathedral

BOURGES

Saint-Étienne, in the city where Calvin learned Greek and law.


SAINT-THOMAS, STRASBOURG

04
Bucer's city

STRASBOURG

Saint-Thomas and the refugee church where Calvin became a pastor.


BASEL MINSTER

05
The Institutes of 1536

BASEL

The city of printers, and Erasmus's tomb in the Minster.


AUDITOIRE DE CALVIN, GENEVA

06
Saint-Pierre and the Auditoire

GENEVA

The pulpit, the lecture hall and the museum of the Reformation.

A scholar's journey, *a traveller's pleasures*

Regional experiences are chosen for their quality, not presented as part of Reformation history.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

- **Picardy table** in Noyon: regional specialities at lunch.
- **Renaissance Louvre**: a guided visit centred on the age of Francis I.
- **Berry dinner** in Bourges, with wines of Sancerre or Menetou-Salon.
- **Chablis** estate visit and tasting near Auxerre *(optional, subject to availability)*.
- **Reformed psalmody**: a private musical presentation in Strasbourg *(upon request)*.
- **Printing and early books** in Basel, the city of the 1536 Institutes.
- **Swiss dinner** in Geneva for the farewell evening.

WHO THIS JOURNEY IS FOR

Designed for travel professionals selling to:

- Reformed, Presbyterian and evangelical church groups.
- Protestant heritage travellers and Christian history enthusiasts.
- Seminaries, alumni and adult-education groups.
- Cultural travellers drawn to the Renaissance and to intellectual history.
- Travellers with French or Swiss Reformed family roots *(no genealogical research is provided)*.

The tone of the programme is historical and cultural. Moments of worship or community encounter can be added on request for church groups.

One standard, *high-end throughout*

Every departure is built to the same upscale, premium standard, with selected 4- and 5-star hotels.

AT A GLANCE

- **Duration:** 11 days, 10 nights.
- **Arrival:** Paris Charles de Gaulle. **Departure:** Geneva Airport.
- **Countries:** France and Switzerland.
- **Overnights:** Paris (3), Orléans, Bourges, Auxerre, Strasbourg (2), Geneva (2).
- **Transport:** private touring coach throughout.
- **Accompaniment:** English-speaking tour leader, local specialist guides.
- **Recommended group size:** 15 to 35 travellers.
- **Seasons:** April to June, September to October.

Our standard

Upscale, premium travel throughout: selected 4- and 5-star hotels, centrally located wherever possible; a private touring coach; an English-speaking tour leader from arrival to departure; specialist local guides; carefully chosen regional tables.

PLANNED INCLUSIONS

- Selected 4- and 5-star hotels, upscale and premium.
- Transportation as specified in the programme.
- Professional tour leadership throughout.
- Guided visits included in the final programme.
- Selected meals, including welcome and farewell dinners.
- Entrance fees and experiences listed in the confirmed quotation.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

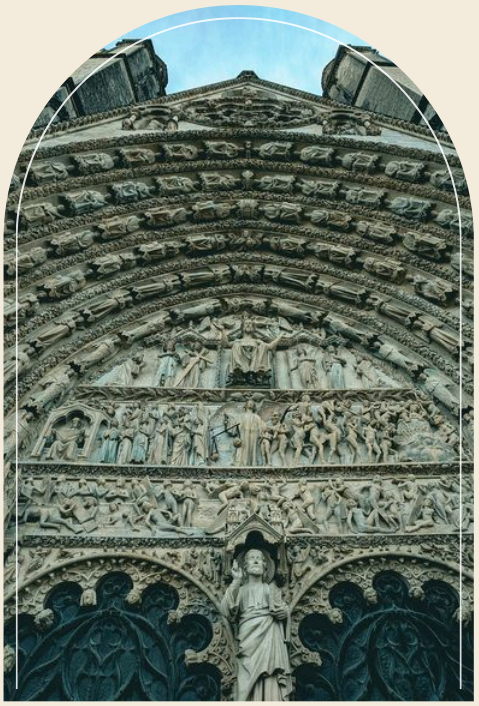
- Chablis estate visit and tasting.
- Private Reformed psalmody presentation in Strasbourg.
- Specialist discussion or encounter with a local Reformed community in Geneva.
- Lake Geneva cruise.
- Additional night in Paris or Geneva.

Programme non-contractual. Visits, private presentations and tastings are subject to availability and confirmation at the time of booking.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

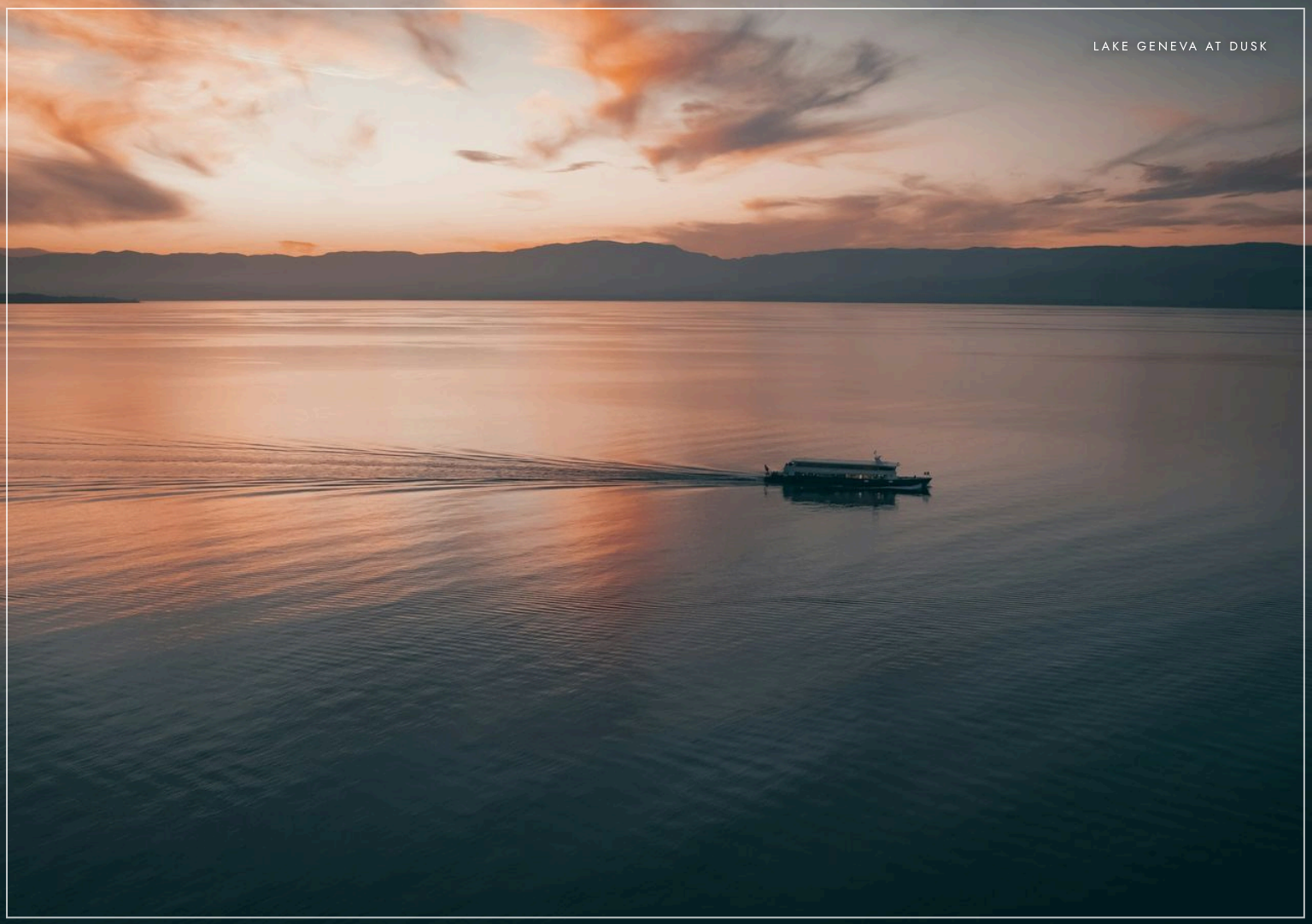
Travelling *well*

> *A measured pace: one main visit each morning, one each afternoon, and time to rest.*



BOURGES CATHEDRAL, WEST PORTAL

PACE	Moderate. Coach legs of under two hours on most days; one longer day (Day 7) with a lunch stop, and a Basel–Geneva afternoon transfer on Day 9.
STAIRS AND ACCESS	Crypts, old university buildings and cathedral towers involve steps. Please share any mobility needs at booking.
DEPARTURE	Geneva Airport, Day 11; connections through Paris CDG are possible.
OPENING DAYS	Some museums close one day a week. The final day order is adjusted to opening times.
WALKING	Moderate walking in historic centres, on cobblestones and uneven paving. Comfortable shoes recommended.
ARRIVAL	Paris Charles de Gaulle, Day 1. Morning arrivals allow time to rest before dinner.
SWITZERLAND	Valid passport required; Swiss francs in Switzerland. Cross-border coach arrangements are subject to operational validation.
BEST SEASONS	Spring and early autumn: mild weather and lighter crowds.



LAKE GENEVA AT DUSK

THE MEANING OF THE JOURNEY

Ideas have *addresses*

A cathedral in Picardy, a reading room in Paris, a law school in Orléans, a printer's shop in Basel, a pulpit in Geneva. Calvin's thought did not appear from nowhere: it was formed in places that can still be visited, among teachers, friends and books.

To travel through them is to understand, with one's own eyes, how a young French scholar came to shape churches and societies far beyond the lake where his journey ended.

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