

DR. MONIQUE Y. WELLS – FULL VERSION BIO

Over the past eleven years, Dr. Monique Y. Wells has created self-guided itineraries and customized, private, guided walking tours for Anglophone travelers on topics as diverse as Art Nouveau architecture and Paris' 20th-century literary women. She has developed Afro-centric itineraries, self-guided African-American history walking tours, a comprehensive Black Paris bus tour, and African-American-hosted culinary activities for a niche market of [Discover Paris!](#) clients wanting an in-depth, Afro-centric travel experience in the City of Light. Her book, ***Paris Reflections: Walks through African-American Paris*** (McDonald & Woodward, 2002; co-authored with Christiann Anderson), contains abbreviated versions of the walks that Discover Paris! proposes to its clients. Dr. Wells has provided private, guided tours of African-American Paris for student groups from Syracuse University, Stanford University, and the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Wells writes and edits articles on many aspects of life in Paris for the Discover Paris!, Soul of America, and Bonjour Paris Web sites. Her articles on the African-American experience in Paris have been published by the International Herald Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, France Today, and other American newspapers, magazines, and web publications. One of these articles was published in the anthology *France, A Love Story* (Seal Press, 2004). Dr. Wells has recently created a blog entitled "Entrée to Black Paris™" (<http://entreetoblackparis.blogspot.com>) to further her efforts to increase awareness of Paris as a Black heritage destination.

Dr. Wells has presented her lecture on “Black Paris and the Myth of a Colorblind France” at Barnard College, Rice University, Texas Southern University, the American Library in Paris, and Alliance Française de San Francisco, as well as to numerous private groups. Her latest endeavor to promote Paris as a Black heritage destination is the creation of an introductory-level training course for travel professionals wishing to tap into the enormous African-American travel market by learning how to sell Paris as a Black heritage destination. The course was launched in partnership with ASTA (American Society of Travel Agents).

Dr. Wells is also the president of the French non-profit association Les Amis de Beauford Delaney (<http://lesamisdebeauforddelaney.blogspot.com>), an organization that seeks to preserve the French gravesite and the memory of painter Beauford Delaney – an African-American expatriate who was born in Knoxville, TN in 1901 and died in Paris in 1979.