

# France 2020

# Art, culture, nature and gastronomy





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### **Heritage & High Tech**

#### **5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS**







#### **DAY 1: TOULOUSE**

Arrival at Toulouse airport. Welcome by your driver-guide. Enjoy a walking tour of **Toulouse** and discover the main sites and monuments. During the tour, you will be able to admire the **Capitole** town hall and **Saint-Sernin** basilica, as well as many churches and private mansions, and ap-preciate wonderful views along the **Garonne River**. Transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Toulouse.

#### **DAY 2: AIRBUS, SPACE MUSEUM**

Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide and guided tour of the **Airbus assembly line**. The Airbus A380, largest passenger airliner in the world, at your feet! In the middle of this, in Toulouse's eastern suburbs, is the Space Centre - **la Citede l'Espace**. The Space centre features exhibitions, interactive resources, planetarium and IMAX theater. Overnight in Toulouse.

#### **DAY 3: ALBI, ROQUEFORT, PEYRELEAU**

Pick up at your hotel and drive over through the **Gaillac vineyards** to **Albi**, magnificent pink- bricked town on the banks of the Tarn. Admire the fortified **Cathedral of Sainte-Gle**, a masterpiece of the Southern Gothic style, before touring the Toulouse Lautrec museum in the old Bishop's Palace, imposing fortress (13th century). On the road to Millau you will pass the village of **Roquefort** and its famous caves. Visit of the "Papillon" caves to discover the secrets of the Roquefort cheese. Dinner & overnight in your hotel at Peyreleau.

#### **DAY 4: MILLAU, CARCASSONNE**

Visit of Millau and its viaduct. The **Millau Viaduct**: Tallest in the world and taller than the Eiffel Tower. It is currently the longest cable-stayed bridge in the world. It has a steel deck, rather than the more usual concrete roadbed.

#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

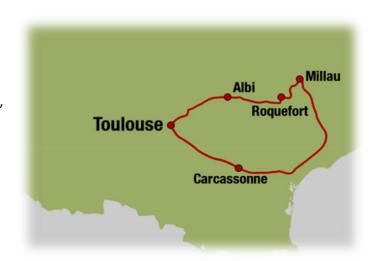
On your way to **Carcassonne**, stop over at the **Abbey of Fontfroide** for a visit. Its architectural entity, diverse and varied, has been amazingly well preserved. You will discover its cloister and its church of the XIIth century as well as the rose and terraced gardens from spring onwards. Carcassonne: Visit of the citadel overlooking the old town. It's a town within a town, a maze of narrow cobbled streets within the ramparts of thick walls. Overnight in your hotel in Carcassonne.

#### **DAY 5 : DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel in Carcassonne. Optional transfer to Toulouse Airport.

#### **OPTIONAL DAY: CATHAR CITADELS**

Departure for **Rennes-le-Château**, small medieval castle village, known internationally for being at the centre of various conspiracy theories. Its story became the ground for documentaries and bestselling books such as **The Da Vinci Code**. Transfer to **Peyrepertuse Castle**; a ruined fortress and one of the socalled Cathar castles. The name of Peyrepetuse derived from the ancient language called Occitan and means Pierced Rock. Your tour continues towards **Quéribus**, Cradle of the Cathar country. It stands on top of the highest peak for miles around. Transfer back to Carcassonne. Overnight at your hotel.



#### - 4 nights hotel accommodations

- 1 dinner
- Daily breakfasts
- Private services & transport in executive minivan with qualified driver-guide with entrances & visits according to the above program: Airbus Cité de l'Espace Albi Cathedral & choir
- Toulouse Lautrec museum •Roquefort Papillon Cave •Viaduct of Millau •Abbaye de Fontfroide

#### **OPTIONAL DAY INCLUDES**

- 1 night hotel accommodation 1 breakfast
- Private services & transport in executive minivan with qualified driver-guide, with entrances & visits according to the above program : Quéribus Castle Peyrepertuse Castle

- Drinks, other meals.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: TOULOUSE**

Arrival Toulouse airport.

Pick up by your driver & guide. Transfer to Toulouse city center. Your guide will take you for a guided tour of **Toulouse** named the Pink City and covered with russet tiles and colored red-orange bricks. Its prestigious past has left an indelible mark on the city center architecture: the **St-Sernin** Basilica, the largest Romanesque church in Europe, the **Church and Cloisters of the Jacobins**, the most complete monastery in France, the **Capitole** with its façade of stone and brick and the marvelous **Salle des Illustres** with the same named square, recently renovated. During the tour you will admire all the main sites and monuments as well as numerous beautiful renaissance town-houses built during Toulouse's golden age, with wealth from the blue dye (pastel or woad) made in the region.

Arrive in **Sorèze** for a welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

### DAY 2: CARCASSONNE, NARBONNE, FONTFROIDE ABBEY

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel and transfer for a guided visit of **Carcassonne.** When you arrive in Carcassonne, you will visit the Medieval Citadel dominating the old town. Originally an Iron age important settlement, the site was used in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century by Romans, before reappearing in the XIth. century as a fortification belonging to the powerful Viscount Trencavel. It is a town within a town, a maze of narrow cobbled streets within defensive walls and towers, bustling with life and color. The spectacular walled town is one of France's most famous national monuments and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.** Then go on to **Narbonne**, 'City of Art and History' with its very rich architectural patrimony. This old and characteristic town has many monuments to look at: its Gothic cathedral, Archbishop's Palace, and the Via Domitia. We suggest you to visit the traditional **Market of Les Halles**, so interesting and colourful

with its 72 traditional shops of fruits, vegetables, fish, cheese and local wines. In Narbonne you will enjoy a wine tasting experience at the **Château l'Hospitalet**, situated in the heart of the La Clape Massif conservation area and overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Next, drive to **Fontfroide**, an unspoiled site. On the foothills of the Corbières, the 12<sup>th</sup> Century site of the **Abbey de Fontfroide** is one of the most lavished and best preserved Cistercian abbey in France. The site includes a magnificent 3000 foot Rose Garden and a succession of Italian style terraced gardens. Back to **Sorèze.** 

Dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 3: ALBI, CORDES-SUR-CIEL**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel and transfer to **Albi**, a magnificent pink-bricked town on the banks of the Tarn. Admire the fortified **Cathedral of Sainte-Cécile**, before touring the **Toulouse Lautrec museum** in the old Bishop's Palace. Later you will visit **Cordes-sur-Ciel**, a beautiful hilltop medieval village fortress. On your way back to Sorèze you will stop in the **Gaillac vineyards** for a visit and some wine tasting. The Gaillac vineyards produce many delicious wines, from red wines to rose' wines and even some surprising 'perlés' (sparkling) wines! Back to your hotel in **Sorèze**, for dnner & overnight.

#### **DAY 4: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel & transfer to **Toulouse** airport.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- The services of a professional guide during the above program.
- 3 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfasts
- 3 dinners at your hotel
- Entrance & Visits: Jacobin Cloister, Toulouse Lautrec Museum, Sainte-Cécile Cathedral, Fontfroide Abbey, Wine tasting session in Château L'Hospitalet and in Gaillac vineyard.

- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other option, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.

### **Cathar Citadels**

#### 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS



### DAY 1: TOULOUSE, MINERVE, CARCASSONNE, LASTOURS, QUILLAN

Arrival at **Toulouse** airport. Welcome by your driver & guide.

Departure for **Minerve** in the Minervois wine region. This extraordinary village perched on a limestone pedestal and surrounded by deep gorges in the Languedoc garrigue is classified as one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages of France.

This afternoon is dedicated to explore the Medieval **Carcassonne** with a visit by foot. Carcassonne was classified as a UNESCO World heritage site in 1997. Originally an Iron age main settlement, the site was used in the 1<sup>st</sup>century byRomans before reappearing in the 11th century as a fortification belonging to the powerful Viscount Trencavel. During the Albigensian crusade new settlements were added as it became an emblem of Royal power. Next stop at the four towers of **Lastours**: an archaeological complex including medieval castles, a working archaeological site and visitor center explaining the strategic, religious and historical importance of the site.

Transfer to **Quillan**. Dinner & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 2: QUERIBUS, PEYREPERTUSE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and departure for **Rennes-le-Chateau**, small medieval castle village, known internationally for being at the center of various conspiracy theories. The story became ground for documentaries and bestselling books such as **The Da Vinci Code**. Then go to **Queribus** and **Peyrepertuse** castles built on impressive rocky outcrop. Back to your hotel in **Quillan** for dinner & overnight.

#### **DAY 3: MONTSEGUR, FOIX, LIMOUX**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and departure for Montségur: Capital of the Cathar church. The famous siege of the citadel in 1244 lasted over 11 months before the 600 Cathars capitulated, 230 Cathars, unwilling to deny their faith, were burnt at the stake. Onward to Foix for a visit of its château, home of the last Count of Foix, Gaston Phoebus. Built on the site of 7th and 8th century fortifications in 1034, the castle became the stronghold of the Count of Foix and played a significant role in medieval military history. Departure for the Bastide of Mirepoix to visit its superb Grand Place with fine half-timbered arcades and houses. Amazing fine sculpted wood facades dating from 1501 are to be found on the Maison de Justice and the Maison des Consuls: coiffured women, bearded faces and tortoises. Return to Quillan, stop en route for a wine tasting in Limoux, home to a champagne-method sparkling white. Back to your hotel in Quillan for dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 4: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel. Private transfer to **Toulouse** airport.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- Services of a professional driver guide during the above program.
- 3 nights hotel accommodation
- · Daily breakfasts
- 3 dinners at your hotel
- Entrance & Visits according to the above program: Château de Foix, Château de Montségur, visit & wine tasting Limoux, Cité de Carcassonne including Château Comtal, Châteaux de Lastours, Quéribus, Peyrepertuse.

- Any other drinks or meals not mentioned in the above program.
- Any other option, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: TOULOUSE**

Arrival Toulouse airport.

Welcome by your driver & guide. Enjoy a walking tour of **Toulouse** and discover the main sites and monuments. During the tour, you will be able to admire the **Capitole**, the actual City Hall and the National Theater are housed in this magnificent building on the square that has the same name. The **St-Sernin Basilica**, which is the largest Romanesque church in Europe and a halt on the pilgrims' way to Santiago de Compostella. You will have the opportunity to admire and discover many churches and private mansions as well. Transfer to your hotel in **Albi**. Welcome dinner & overnight.

#### **DAY 2: ALBI, CORDES-SUR-CIEL, GALLIAC**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel. During the morning you will visit **Albi**, magnificent pink bricked town on the banks of the Tarn. Admire the fortified **Cathedral of Sainte-Cécile**, a masterpiece of the Southern Gothic style, showing contrast between its austere and defensive exterior and its sumptuous interior decoration. Then visit the **Toulouse Lautrec Museum** in the old Bishop's Palace, a main fortress. Later we visit **Cordes-sur-Ciel**, astonishingly setting on a hilltop with its exceptional architectural legacy. This is one of the most significant medieval towns in France and a major site of our European Heritage. The tour ends at **Gaillac** vineyards with visit and wine tasting. Back to **Albi** for overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 3: THE LOT VALLEY**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and Transfer to **Cahors**, famous for having one of the only remaining medieval military bridges of Europe: the 'Pont Valentré' a fortified bridge listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Go to **St-Cirq-Lapopie**, a beautiful village. It is named the cliff-side village since it is perched high above the south bank of the Lot. Then on to **Rocamadour**, a monumental complex dated from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, set on the side of a cliff with seven chapels and a thousand-year old religious history. It is an active pilgrimage site all year round. Transfer to **Sarlat** the capital of Black Périgord.

Dinner in a local restaurant & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 4: THE DORDOGNE VALLEY**

Breakfast at your hotel.

In the morning follow your guide for a walking tour of historic **Sarlat**, an exceptionally well-preserved city.

More than 1.000 years of architecture live in its streets, roof-tiles and stone walls. The wide number of registered or classified buildings as historical monuments makes Sarlat one of the most important European cities in terms of cultural heritage. Then drive to the beautiful village of **Beynac-et-Cazenac** and enjoy a boat ride on the Dordogne on board of an authentic **Gabarre river boat**. Your tour ends with the visit of the medieval bastide of **Domme.** Back to Sarlat. Overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 5: CAVE PAINTINGS**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel & transfer to Montignac to visit **Lascaux II** and its famous cave paintings. Incredibly realistic, this facsimile of the original cave, opened in 1983, since the actual cave has been closed for preservation. It reproduces 90% of the paintings found in Lascaux. Everything is there: the ambience, the paintings which appear to spring off the cave wall, the ceremonial sanctity of the place. This afternoon, go to Les Eyzies, world capital of prehistory listed among the 400 sites of the World Heritage of Mankind by UNESCO. The museum houses the most important paleolithic collection in France. Your tour ends with the visit of **Rouffignac**, massive cave with 8 kms of galleries occupied by bears for a long time and still see showing traces of their presence. Paintings of woolly mammoths and other animals. Back to Sarlat for overnight.

#### **DAY 6: ST-ÉMILION, BORDEAUX**

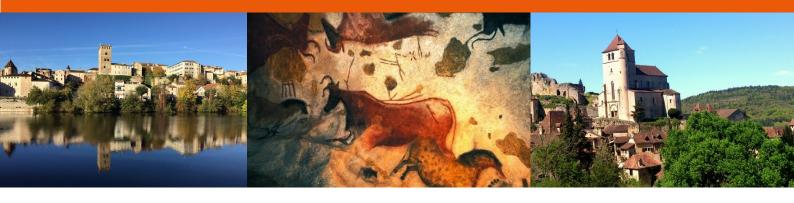
Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and transfer to **St-Émilion**. This medieval city, UNESCO world heritage site, is one of the main place for Bordeaux wine making. A guided walking tour of the village will introduce the medieval monuments that characterize its religious and military background. **Wine tasting** experience in the famous **chateau Franc Mayne**. Transfer to Bordeaux. Guided tour of **Bordeaux** to discover the historical centre of Bordeaux, UNESCO world heritage site. From the vestiges of the Middle Ages to the elegance of 18th century, you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influ-ences.

Dinner in a traditional restaurant. Overnight at your hotel in Bordeaux.

#### **DAY 7: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel & transfer to **Bordeaux** airport.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- The services of a professional guide during the above program.
- 6 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- 2 dinners at a local restaurant 1 dinner at your hotel
- Entrance & Visits according to the above program: Toulouse Lautrec Museum, Lascaux II, Rouffignac Caves, Prehistory Museum in Les Eyzies, Gabarre cruise on the Dordogne river, Wine tasting Gaillac & St-Émilion.

- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program
- Any other option, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.





#### **DAY 1: BORDEAUX**

Arrival in Bordeaux.

Pick up by your driver & your guide. Guided tour of **Bordeaux** UNESCO heritage: from the vestige of the Middle Ages, to the elegance of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences.

Transfer and settle into your hotel in **Bordeaux**. Welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 2: ARCACHON, BIARRITZ**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up by your driver and departure for the **Arcachon** basin, a vast lagoon on the Atlantic coast some 45 minutes west of Bordeaux. On the way stop at the **Dune de Pyla** –highest sand dune in Europe –to catch the beautiful views over the ocean and the interior forested in pines. **Short cruise** to see the famous 'tchanquées',picturesque oyster breeders' cabins on stilts. On the way to Bordeaux, stop at a sturgeon farm for a visit and some caviar tasting. Transfer & settle into your hotel in **Biarritz.** Overnight in Biarritz.

#### **DAY 3: BAYONNE, BIARRITZ**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up by your driver & your guide.
Today transfer to the Basque Country. Drive to **Ba**yonne, the Basque Country capital and discover its characteristic arcades, façades of stone, half timbered houses and Sainte-Marie Cathedral. Retrace the fabulous history of chocolate with l'Atelier du **Chocolat.** From the tropical forests, where the cacao trees grow, to the windows on the production line where you can see the confectioners making the chocolate specialties. At the end of the visit, you will taste different chocolates from around the world. Visit the **Atelier de Jambon** where you will discover the techniques for preparing and smoking this famous specialty in the Basque Country. Your tour ends in Biarritz. This renovated seaside resort has always remained a fashion hot spot. Famous visitors included Coco Chanel, Charlie Chaplin and Frank Sinatra. Today, the town is sprinkled with some of the most beautiful 'Belle Epoque' villas of France. Back to your hotel in **Biarritz** for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 4: ESPELETTE, AINHOA, SARE, ST-JEAN-DE-LUZ, SAN SEBASTIAN

Breakfast at the hotel.
In the morning, departure for **Espelette.** 

Watch the walls disappearing under scarlett rows of hot pepper! Don't miss the **Atelier du Piment**.

Ramuntxo, the Peppermaster tells the story of hot pepper and how it is used in multiple ways for cooking and invites you to taste some specialities of the Basque Country

Your tour continues with short stop overs in **Ainhoa** and **Sare**, typical villages of the Basque Country. Then you will be heading to **St-Jean-de-Luz.** Guided visit of the harbour and the Historic city with its natural heritage, sites and museums. Stroll around the pedestrian shopping streets and discover the traditional fishing harbor, ship owners' houses of the XVIIth century, without forgetting the church **St-Jean-Baptiste**, where the marriage of Louis XIV and the Infanta Maria Teresa has been celebrated in 1660.

Transfer to **San Sebastian** on the Spanish side of the Basque Country & settle into your hotel. Dinner & overnight at your hotel.

### DAY 5: GUERNICA, GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM, BILBAO, SAN SEBASTIAN

Breakfast at the hotel.

In the early morning, pick up by your driver & your guide. Departure for **Guernica**, a Spanish city devoted to peace that is also sheltering **Picasso's famous antiwar painting** that has been inspired by the bombing in 1937. You will learn more about the history of the Spanish civil war and the independent Basque spirit by visiting the **Biscayan Assembly & the Guernica tree.** We continue our tour to Bilbao to visit the well-known Frank Gehry's designed **Guggenheim Museum** which is recognized as one of the greatest modern art galleries in the world. Your guide will show you around and let you discover the Museum's best collection of Basque art as well as other architectural and artistic masterpieces. After the museum, you will have the time to explore **Bilbao** and especially its **old quarter**, the **Cathedral of Santiago** and **the Plaza Nueva**.

Back to **San Sebastian**. Your guide will take you on a walking tour to give you an impression of the typical Basque life and traditions while exploring the city's Old Quarter, rich with historical treasures and its narrow, cobbled streets and specialty shops. You can also visit the city's oldest church: **the Basilica de Santa Maria del Coro** or walk the promenade down to San Sebastian's beautiful beach.

Back to your hotel.

Dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 6: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel & transfer to Bordeaux.

### Dordogne Discovery & Cave Paintings 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS



#### **DAY 1: BORDEAUX, ST-ÉMILION, SARLAT**

Arrival in Bordeaux.

Pick up at Bordeaux Airport by your driver guide and transfer to Bordeaux for a panoramic tour of **Bordeaux** UNESCO heritage: from the vestige of the Middle Ages, to the elegance of the 18th century, you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences.

On the way to Sarlat, stop in **St-Emilion**. The village is now a UNESCO World Heritage site and is one of the centres of Bordeaux wine-making. Transfer to Sarlat. Leisure time to visit the historic city: rich merchant town of the 13th century. The town of Sarlat can be discovered through its gastronomy as it is the capital of an exceptional "terroir".

Overnight in Sarlat.

### DAY 2: ROCAMADOUR, BEYNAC & CAZENAC, DORDOGNE BOAT RIDE

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning meet your driver guide and departure for **Rocamadour.** The holy city clings to the steep rocky cliffs at a dizzying height, displaying layer upon layer of houses and chapels.

Then transfer to the beautiful village of **Beynac-et-Cazenac** and enjoy a ride on the Dordogne River on board of an authentic Gabarre river boat. Then on to the small village of **Domme**. This medieval bastide is entered through a gateway flanked by stout limestone towers. Walking tour in the village, free time and return to Sarlat.

Overnight in Sarlat.

#### **DAY 3: CAVE PAINTINGS**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Meet with your driver and departure for Les Eyzies, world capital of prehistory, listed among the 400 sites of the World Heritage of Mankind by UNESCO. It shelters the most important Palaeolithic collection in France.

Stop at **Rouffignac**, massive cave with 8 kms of galleries, previously occupied by bears, for a long time, and still showing traces of their presence. Paintings of woolly mammoths and other animals. Some 15,000 years BC unknown painters created the breath-taking cave paintings of Lascaux. Visit **Lascaux IV**, a perfect reproduction of the main cave (now closed to the public for preservation). Before returning to Sarlat, drive through the Vézère Valley, known as the «Valley of Men». Back to Sarlat & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 4: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel.
Optional transfer to **Bordeaux Airport** or train station.

### OPTIONAL DAY 4: ST-CIRQ-LAPOPIE, PECH MERLE, CAHORS

Breakfast at your hotel.

Meet with your driver guide and departure for a delightful drive up the Lot valley to St-Cirq-Lapopie, classified as one of 'most beautiful villages of France' clings on to the cliff face overhanging the Lot River. The narrow cobbled streets are lined with very beautiful half-timbered stone and wood houses dating from the 13th to 16th centuries.

In the afternoon plunge below ground at Pech Merle, underground caves known to man for over 25,000 years.

Departure towards Cahors. Here you can admire one of the only medieval military bridges left in Europe, the Valentré bridge.

Back to Sarlat & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 5: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel.
Optional transfer to **Bordeaux Airport** or train station.

### Dordogne Discovery & Cave Paintings 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- 3 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfasts
- Private transfer from Bordeaux to Sarlat with guided visit of St-Emilion
- Full Day Shared tours on day 2 & 3 in executive minivan (8 participants maximum) with qualified driver-guide
- Entrances and visits according to the above program : Gabarre cruise on the Dordogne river Lascaux IV Les Eysies archaeological museum Rouffignac

#### **OPTIONAL DAY INCLUDES**

- 1 night hotel accommodation
- Full Day Shared Tour on day 4 in executive minivan (8 participants maximum) with qualified driver-guide
- Entrances and visits according to the above program : Pech Merle Guided visit of Cahors.

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

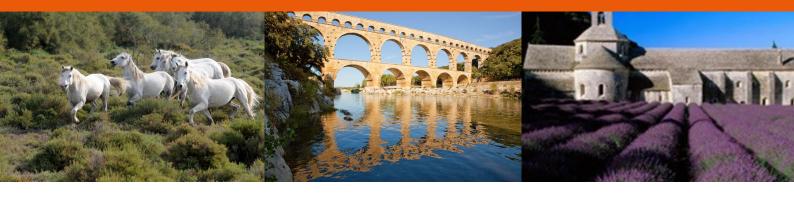
- Drinks, other meals.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



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### **Provence & Camargue**

#### **5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS**



#### **DAY 1: MARSEILLE**

Arrival at Marseille airport.

Pick up by your driver & guide. Transfer to your hotel in Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume. Welcome dinner & overnight in your hotel.

### DAY 2: ST-MAXIMIN-LA-SAINTE-BAUME, MARSEILLE, CASSIS

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and transfer for a walking guided tour of **Marseille** city centre. Marseille, with its 26 centuries of history, is a city rich of art and culture, with lot of monuments, places of interest and museums to visit, combining tradition and modernity. You will discover the original **Vieille Charité** situated in **Panier** district, an ancient popular area completely renovated. Enjoy a guided visit of **Mucem Museum**, focusing primarily on the Mediterranean cultures. According to weather conditions you will have the opportunity to take a mini-cruise discovering the **Calanques where** marine valleys have deepened, creating miniature fiords, flooded by a rise in sea level since the last glaciation. Back to **St-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume**. Dinner & overnight in your hotel.

### DAY 3: ARLES, AIGUES-MORTES, SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA- MER

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver & your guide. Today you will enjoy a **full day tour** of **Camargue**, a place of encounters: it offers a rich biological diversity with unique breeds of horses, bulls and more than 400 species of birds. Guided tour of **Arles** that is known for the wealth of its Roman and Romanesque heritage and where Van Gogh and Picasso lived. In Arles you can discover the magnificent **amphitheatre** and the **ancient theatre**.

Then go to **Aigues-Mortes**: a city wanted by Saint Louis in 1240 since it was closed to his kingdom in order to have a direct access to the Mediterranean Sea. At the end you will visit **Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer**, a legendary site and village built where the Rhone meets the Mediterranean Sea.

Back to **St-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume.** Dinner & overnight in your hotel.

#### DAY 4: AVIGNON, PONT DU GARD, AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Breakfast in your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver & your guide. Today you will enjoy a **full day tour.** Starting from **Avignon** and discover its breath-taking **Palace of the Popes**, the famous '**Pont d'Avignon'**, the Ramparts, the Petit Palais, the Cathedral and the **Pont du Gard** the best preserved part of the Roman aqueduct which drove the water to Nîmes. At the end you will visit **Aixen-Provence**, a town founded by the Romans. Back to **St-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume**. Dinner & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 5: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel & transfer from your hotel to **Nice / Marseille** airport.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- The services of a professional guide during the above program.
- 4 nights hotel accommodation
- · Daily breakfasts
- 4 dinners at your hotel
- Visits & activities as mentioned: Mucem Museum Les Calanques Arles amphitheatre & theatre antique Avignon palace of the Popes & Pont d'Avignon

- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other option, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: NICE**

Arrival at Nice Airport.

Pick up by your driver & guide and departure for a panoramic tour and a guided visit of Nice. You will see the major sites of the town and walk down the Promenade des Anglais, a beautiful seaside avenue, one of the most famous streets in France. Welcome dinner in a traditional restaurant & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 2: MONACO, MONTE CARLO, ÈZE**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up at the hotel and transfer to the glamorous town of **Monaco**. Walk through the small streets of the old town on the rock. See the **Prince's Palace** and the changing of the guards. In the afternoon, discover the famous Casino and race-track of **Monte Carlo** and enjoy a game in the Casino. Drive back to Nice via **Eze Village**, old medieval village perched like eagles nests. Back to your hotel & overnight in Nice.

### DAY 3: ST-PAUL-DE-VENCE, GRASSE, CANNES

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, your guide will take you for a walking tour of Nice's old town and its famous Marché aux Fleurs. It is the charismatic heart of the city and contrasts well with the Belle Epoque buildings that line the waterfront and the west of the city. Transfer to St-Paul-de-Vence and walk around the narrow and picturesque streets. This charming village is well-known for its modern and contemporary art museums and galleries. Enjoy a traditional **Petanque game** with some delicious tapas. Then on to Grasse for guided visit of the well-known Perfumery Fragonard. Your tour ends with a discovery of Cannes, the star of the Riviera, which is famous for its film festival, glitzy hotels, shopping, the old port, beaches, exotic sport cars and yachts. Walk through the renowned 'Croisette Promenade'. Back to Nice & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 4: AIX-EN-PROVENCE, AVIGNON**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up by your driver to head to the Provence. We will stop in **Aix-en-Provence** and enjoy a walking tour to see the hot thermal springs & visit the Musee des Tapisseries and **Paul Cezanne's studio** (almost as he left it in the 1900s).

Transfer to **Avignon** city center. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the fortified city of Avignon, including a visit to the **Palace of the Popes**, built in the 14th century over-looks a lively square. Not too far away stands the

#### famous Pont d'Avignon.

Transfer & settle into your hotel in **Avignon**. Welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 5: CAMARGUE**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up for a full day excursion in **Camargue**, a place of encounters: between the earth and the water, the sky and the swamps, the salt and the silts. It offers rich biological diversity with unique breeds of horses, bulls and more than 400 species of birds. Guided tour of **Arles** known for the wealth of its Roman and Romanesque heritage and where for a time, Van Gogh and Picasso lived. Then on to **Aigues-Mortes**, an extraordinary medieval fortified city in the Gard. Back to **Avignon** & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 6: PONT DU GARD, NÎMES**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and transfer to **Pont du Gard**, the best preserved part of the Roman aqueduct which drove the water to Nîmes. Then on to **Nîmes**, where the important monuments are impressive Roman buildings: the **Arena**, the best-conserved **Roman amphitheater** in the world, 2000 years old and it could hold more than 24,000 spectators. The **Maison Carrée**, the main temple of the Gallo- Roman city. We continue on to **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** where grapes were first planted in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by the Avignon Popes. We tour a local winery and enjoy some of the finest wines. Back to **Avignon** & overnight at your hotel.

### DAY 7: ST-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE, GORDES, ROUSSILLON

Breakfast at the hotel.

stayed in 1889.

Pick up at the hotel and departure for **St-Rémy-de-Provence**, which highlights include 'Les Antiques', Grecian and Roman archaeological ruins as well as **St-Paul-de-Mausole**—the mental hospital where Van Gogh

In the afternoon, you will enjoy a panoramic tour of the most beautiful hilltops villages in Provence. Start with **Gordes**: discover this tophill medieval village, completly made with the local dry stones called 'lauze', classified among one of the most beautiful villages in France. Continue to **Roussillo**n, tophill village, surrounded by red, orange and yellow ochre cliffs, natural unusual landscape.

Back to **Avignon** & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 8: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel & transfer to **Nice** airport.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- The services of a professional guide during the above program.
- 7 nights hotel accommodations
- Daily breakfasts
- 2 dinners in traditional restaurants.
- Entrances & Visits according to the above program: Monte Carlo Casino Petanque game & tapas Fragonard Perfumery Tapisserie Museum Paul Cezanne Studio Avignon Popes Palace & Bridge Pont du Gard Bridge Nîmes Arena & Maison Carrée Wine tasting session in Chateauneuf-du-Pape.

- Optional Perfum creation in Fragonard Perfumery : 45 Euros / pax
- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other option, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



### Paris, Normandy & Loire Valley Castles

#### 6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS



**DAY 1 : PARIS, GIVERNY, BAYEUX**Pick up at your hotel in **Paris**. Transfer to **Giverny** for a guided visit of **Monet's house and gardens**. Claude Monet lived for forty-three years in this house in Giverny. With a passion for gardening as well as for colours, he conceived both his flower garden and water garden as true works of art. Walking through his house and gardens, visitors can still feel the atmosphere which reigned in the home of the Master of Impressionism and marvel at the floral compositions and nymphéas, his greatest sources of inspiration. Then on to Bayeux for a visit of the Bayeux Tapestry, which is a 70 metres long embroidery, made in the 11th century. It is listed as a 'Memory of the World' by UNESCO. Transfer to Bayeux.

Welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 2: MONT-ST-MICHEL**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up and transfer to Le Mont-St-Michel: perched on a rocky islet in the midst of vast sandbanks, exposed to power-ful tides between Normandy and Britain stand the 'Wonder of the West'. Visit this exceptional site formed by a granite island with its village houses huddled close together and encircled by walls. On top lies the Abbey of the Mont-St-Michel, a Gothic and Benedictine abbey dedicated to the archangel St Michael.

Transfer & settle into your hotel in **Tours**. Overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 3: CHEVERNY, CHENONCEAU, AMBOISE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up for a full day of discovery of the Loire valley and visit of **Cheverny**, one of the finest castle in the Loire Valley. The castle exhibits a range of artworks by Titian as well as fine tapestries by David Teniers. Visit of the castle of Chenonceau, known as "Château des Dames" or "the castle of six ladies" for the succession of powerful French noblewomen of Chenonceau who each made an impact on the castle forming it into the lovely château we see today. It is certainly one of the most romantic Châteaux in Loire Valley. Visit of **Clos** Lucé, a mansion in Amboise located 500 meters from the Royal château d'Amboise, to which it is connected by an underground passageway.

In 1516, King François I invited Leonardo Da Vinci to Amboise and provided him with the Clos Lucé as a place to stay and to work. Today the Clos Lucé mansion is a museum that reflects the prestigious history of the region and includes forty models of the various machines designed by Leonardo. Guided visit of Château d' Amboise from the XV and XVIIII centuries -an Italian touch! Visit of the Royal House, the Chapel (Leonardo da Vinci's tomb) and the gardens. Back to Tours.

Dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 4: CHARTRES**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up to transfer to Chartres and a guided visit the Chartres Cathedral. Masterpiece of religious art of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, known worldwide for its 176 stained glass windows and 9 carved portals. The first cathedral in France registered on the World Heritage List (1979) by UNESCO.

Transfer & settle into your hotel in Paris. Overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 5: PARIS**

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning you will enjoy a panoramic tour of Paris where we will discover the essentials: Invalides, Orsay Museum, Notre-Dame and Ste Chapelle, Hôtel de Sully, Bastille, Hôtel de Ville, the Louvre, Opera, Madeleine, Tuileries Garden, Concorde Place, Champs- Elysées Avenue, Arc of Triumph, Trocadéro and the Eiffel tower. This afternoon, you will visit the Louvre Museum. The Louvre Museum, the former residence of the kings of France, is one of the biggest museums in the world. Its collections are spread over 8 departments: Near Eastern Antiquities, Islamic Art, Egyptian Antiquities, Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities, Paintings, Sculptures, Decorative Arts, and Prints and Drawings dating from the Middle Ages to 1848. At the end the day, get picked up at your hotel by your driver and transfer to the Seine River banks and board for a dinner-cruise on the Seine. Enjoy typical French food while admiring Paris main monuments by night. Back to & overnight in your hotel in Paris.

#### **DAY 6: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel & transfer to **Paris** airport.

### Paris, Normandy & Loire Valley Castles 6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- The services of a professional guide during the above program.
- 5 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfasts
- 2 dinners
- Cruise dinner on the Seine River (drinks are included)
- Entrances & Visits according to the above program: Château de Chenonceau Château d'Amboise and Clos Lucé Château de Cheverny Chartres' Cathedral Monet's house and gardens Louvre museum Bayeux Tapestries Mont-St-Michel Abbey

- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.







#### **DAY 1: AJACCIO**

Transfer to your hotel on your own.

Meet with your guide at your hotel for a guided visit of **Ajaccio**, a city with plenty of mellow-toned buildings, buzzing cafes and a large marina. Ajaccio is the birth-place of Napoleon Bonaparte and was labeled 'City of Art and History' in 2012 with its colorful historic center. We suggest to discover on your own the citadel built by the Genovese, the baroque cathedral and the National Museum of the Bonaparte's House. Dinner in a local restaurant near the hotel. Overnight in Ajaccio.

#### **DAY 2 : FILITOSA, SARTÈNE**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and stop at a small local **biscuit** factory in Omelto. After a short visit you will have the opportunity to taste the specialities of the region. Transfer to Filitosa, a truly open-air museum, a megalithic and architectural site and the largest center of Corsican statuary and the most prodigious of the Mediterranean. You will visit the 'Big prehistoric sites' of Filitosa.

Transfer to **Sartène** & settle into your hotel. Dinner & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 3: CAURIA, DOMAINE SAPARAL, SAR-**TÈNE

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up by your driver and transfer to the Sartenais sites for a visit of Cauria. You will find megalithic monuments consisting of menhirs and standing stones of granite, which are the evidence of the occupation of the site by Neolithic people. Continue your tour for a visit and tasting at the Domaine Saparal. Transfer back to Sartène to visit the pre-historic museum, which presents the most characteristic parts of the island's prehistory since the 8<sup>th</sup> millennium BC to the beginning of the Roman period to the Iron Age. Back to your hotel.

Dinner & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 4: LEVIE, ZONZA**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up by your driver-guide at your hotel and transfer to Levie. On your way, you will stop for a visit & honey tasting in a local honey production store. In Levie, you will visit a local handcraft cutlery shop called 'Atelier du Lotus'. For lunch, enjoy a food tasting in a local delicatessen restaurant in Levie.

After lunch, transfer to the archaeological sites of Cucuruzzu and Capulla. These archaeological sites of the bronze age will put you in a magic atmosphere since they shelter the oldest human remains found in Corsica. Transfer to Zonza & settle into your hotel. Dinner & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 5: PISCIA DI GHJADDU, PUNTA DI VAC-CA MORTA**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up by your driver and transfer to the Ospedale Forest. Hike through the forest to see the beautiful Piscia di Ghjaddu waterfall which springs from a mineral wall and makes a drop of 70 meters. The tour continues with a hike to see the plateau of Punta di Vacca Morta that is 1,314 meters above sea level and offers a marvelous panoramic view.

Back to **Zonza**. Dinner & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 6: BAVELLA MOUNTAIN**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up by your driver and departure for a day hiking on the Bavella mountain and to discover the famous 'Trou de la Bombe', a natural curiosity due to erosion: a large hole through a cliff. Following the route of the 'Col de Bavella', you pass through the **Alta Rocca mountains**. These provide a dramatic landscape of rocky needles, spires and cliffs that follow the horizon, the scenery here at Bavella is among the most distinctive and impressive to be found in Corsica. Back to **Zonza**. Dinner & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 7: BONIFACIO**

Breakfast at your hotel.

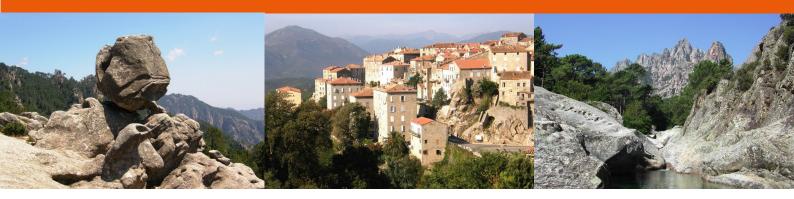
Pick up by your driver and transfer to **Bonifacio** where you will enjoy a walking tour on the cliffs. Bonifacio is perched high on the cliffs, approximately 70 meters above the harbor and offers an exceptional view over the turquoise Sea. Then, enjoy a walk in the **Bouches de Bonifacio Natural Reserve**. Within this extended landscape, you can find a cosmopolitan flora, a large proportion of the population of the Mediterranean's birds (cormorants, puffins, gulls...) come to the archipelago to

Accommodation in your hotel in Bonifacio. Dinner in a local restaurant & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 8: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by a private taxi organised by your hotel & transfer to Figari Airport.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- The services of a professional guide during the above program.
- 7 night Hotel Accommodation
- Daily breakfasts
- $\bullet$  Meals : 1 Buffet lunch (day 4) + 5 dinners at your hotel + 2 dinners in local restaurants.
- Entrances & Visits according to the above program: Biscuit tasting in Filitosa Prehistoric Sites of Filitosa Cauria sites Prehistoric Museum Sartène tasting at Domaine Saparal Honey tasting & visit Atelier du Lotus Cutlery Cucuruzzu & Capulla

- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.





#### **DAY 1: BORDEAUX**

Pick up at Bordeaux Airport by your driver-guide and transfer to Bordeaux for a panoramic tour of **Bordeaux**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. From the Middle Ages to the elegance of the 18th century, you'll discover the various golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade. Explore Bordeaux's historical city center and discover attractions such as the Monument aux Girondins, the splendid Grand Théâtre, the elegant Place de la Bourse with the "Miroir d'Eau" and the picturesque Garonne River.

Welcome dinner and overnight in Bordeaux.

#### **DAY 2: ARCACHON, BIARRITZ**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Depart for the **Arcachon basin**, a vast bay on the Atlantic coast, about 45 minutes west of Bordeaux. On the way, stop at the Dune de Pyla – the highest sand dune in Europe – to enjoy beautiful views over the ocean and the pine-forested shores. Embark on a traditional boat for a **cruise** around the bay to see the iconic "cabanes tchanquées"—the oyster breeders' stilt houses – and then enjoy an **oyster tasting** session before heading to Biarritz. Settle into your hotel and overnight in Biarritz.

#### **DAY 3: BIARRITZ, BAYONNE, ESPELETTE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Today you'll explore the **French Basque Country**, starting with a visit to **Biarritz** with your driver-guide. Half ritzy coastal resort, half summer surfers' hangout, the seaside resort of Biarritz has been a favorite getaway ever since Napoléon III and his Spanish-born wife Eugénie arrived during the mid 19th century. Lined with elegant villas and heritage-listed residences that glitter with *belle époque* and Art Deco details, it's been a glamorous spot ever since, with other famous visitors including Coco Chanel, Charles Chaplin, and Frank Sinatra. Drive to **Bayonne**, one of the prettiest towns in southwest France, and the capital of the French Basque Country. A strategic location, since medieval times, with the ramparts still visible around the outskirts of the old town, but it's Bayonne's pretty half-timbered buildings, riverside restaurants and shady cobbled streets that make it worthy of exploration.

It's also a gourmet's paradise. The first **French chocolatiers** came to Bayonne in the 17th century, and so you can retrace the fabulous history of chocolate with L'Atelier du Chocolat. Learn about the origins of the cocoa beans, watch the confectioners making the chocolate specialities, and finish with a tasting of different chocolates from around the world. We also recommend a visit to the '**Atelier de Jambon'** where you will discover the techniques for preparing and smoking the famous Basque ham. Your tour ends in **Espelette** – famous for its peppers. You'll see the walls of buildings disappearing under strings of hot peppers drying in the fresh air. Don't miss the **Atelier du Piment**, where Ramuntxo, the Peppermaster, tells the story of hot pepper and how it can be used in multiple ways and invites you to taste some Basque specialties. Back to Biarritz and overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 4: ST-JEAN-DE-LUZ, SAN SEBASTIAN**

Breakfast at your hotel.

In the morning, departure for **Saint-Jean-de-Luz**. Enjoy a walking tour through the historic centre with its picturesque narrow streets, lively fishing harbor, and museums. Stroll around the pedestrian shopping streets and discover the 17<sup>th</sup> century ship owners' houses, and also the **Saint-Jean-Baptiste church**, where the marriage of Louis XIV and the Infanta Maria Teresa took place in 1660. You'll also have the time to walk along the sparkling sandy beach and admire its charming beachside villas. You'll then head to the Spanish Basque Country and visit **San Sebastian**. Your driver-guide will introduce you to the Parte Vieja, or the old town, rich with historical treasures, narrow, cobbled streets and specialty shops. You can visit the city's oldest church - the Basilica de Santa Maria del Coro - and enjoy a walk along the beach. Back to Biarritz and overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 5: BIARRITZ**

Breakfast at your hotel.
Optional transfer to **Bordeaux** Airport or train station.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- 4 night hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- 1 welcome dinner
- Private services & transport in executive minivan with qualified driver-guide and entrances fees according to the above program: Cruise in Arcachon Oyster tasting visit & tasting at Atelier du Chocolat and at Atelier du Jambon in Bayonne
- Guided tours of Bayonne, Biarritz, Espelette, St-Jean-de-Luz & San Sebastian.

- Drinks, other meals
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.







#### **DAY 1: BORDEAUX**

Arrival at the airport.

Welcome by your driver-guide and transfer to your hotel.

On the road you'll enjoy a panoramic city tour of Bordeaux, a UNESCO World Heritage site. From vestiges of the Middle Ages to the elegance of the 18th century, you'll discover the golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade.

Welcome dinner & overnight in Bordeaux.

#### **DAY 2: FULL DAY TOUR MÉDOC**

Breakfast at your hotel. This morning, you'll depart for the Médoc, the most famous of the Bordeaux vineyard areas – located north-west of Bordeaux city, with a vast spit of land between the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Gironde estuary to the east. Its geographical location allows a temperate climate ideally suited to wine-growing.

This optimal symbiosis of viticulture and environment has created 60 *Grand Crus Classés* and 400 *Crus Bourgeois* in the AOC of the Médoc. Enjoy visiting and tastings in prestigious Château: *Grand Cru Classé, Appellation Margaux, Appellation Pauillac, Appellation Pessac, Appellation Saint- Julien, Appellation Saint-Estephe*.

Back to Bordeaux and overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 3: FULL DAY TOUR ST-ÉMILION**

Breakfast at your hotel. This morning, you'll depart for Saint Emilion. Enjoy a walking tour of the medieval city of Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the centres of Bordeaux wine-making.

Saint-Émilion's other speciality is the macaron - unlike the brightly coloured filled macarons of today, these were created in 1620 by Ursuline nuns. The secret recipe was passed down through the centuries, and today Nadia Fermigier is the only custodian of the authentic recipe. You'll enjoy a visit at the Fermigier shop, followed by a macaron tasting session.

In the afternoon, enjoy a visit and wine tasting at Château Ferrand (*Grand Cru Classé, Appellation Saint-Émilion*). Following this, you'll visit the medieval city and UNESCO World Heritage site of Saint-Émilion, one of the main centres of Bordeaux wine-making. Back to Bordeaux, with dinner in a gourmet restaurant and overnight at the hotel.

#### **DAY 4: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by a private coach and your guide and transfer to **Bordeaux** Airport or train station.



#### **INCLUDED IN PRICES**

- 3 nights hotel accommodation
- 2 dinners (including 1 gourmet dinner)
- Private transfers on day 1 & 4
- Full Day tours on day 2 & 3 in executive minivan with qualified driver-guide (Private Tour with pick
- up at your hotel: Shared Tour: Meet your driver-guide at Bordeaux Tourist Office, land visits & tastings in wineries at Pauillac Margaux Saint-Julien Saint-Estephe Saint Emilion Château Ferrand (or similar) and visit and tasting in Fermigier shop.

#### **NOT INCLUDED IN PRICES**

- Drinks, other meals
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: TOULOUSE, CARCASSONNE**

Arrival in Toulouse airport.

Pick-up by your driver-guide and departure to Carcasonne for a guided visit.

Visit of the citadel overlooking the old town. It's a town within a town, a maze of narrow cobbled streets within ramparts of thick walls.

Then you will visit Minerve. Historical capital of the Minervois, that rises up in the middle of the limestone plateaus. Protected by the deep gorges of the rivers Cesse and Brian, where the water shaped the astonishing natural bridges. Intact and captivating, with its terraced gardens and cobbled streets, Minerve is ranked among the most beautiful villages of France. Arrive at your hotel for the overnight

#### **DAY 2: GOURMET TRAIL**

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning you will enjoy hands-on authentic cooking class under the expert guidance of Head Chef Magali and his team. For all ages and abilities the perfect place to learn how to be a chef in your own home. Always in good mood and friendliness. The key word: SHARÉ, indeed, Magali always has small tricks to share! Start with a tour of the market to discover local products. Then, you'll create the menu and you will eat the fruits of your own labor over lunch, including wine. This afternoon you will be introduce to the Languedoc wines. This region is not only the biggest wine-producing region in France but it's also the one that has made the most progress in terms of quality over the past two decades During this tour, you will have the amazing opportunity to be guided by a driver guide Sommelier, expert in Languedoc wines and participate to wine tasting sessions.

Back to your hotel.

#### **DAY 3: THE CATHAR COUNTRY**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by a private coach & your guide. Transfer to visit Narbonne (Narbo Martius), founded in the year 118 BCE, it was the largest Roman colony outside of Italy. Strolling down its streets, the city's 2,500 years of history make you feel like traveling back in time. The well-worn paving stones of the Via Domitia are the original ones since the city's creation. Narbonne's rich past runs from classical antiquity through the Middle Ages into the Renaissance and up to the golden age of wine-making in the late 19th century. The power of Narbonne's religious leaders is simbolised by the archiepiscopal complex of palace, cloister, and Gothic cathedral, one of the tallest in France. Then you will visit the Abbey Fontfroide. Its diverse architectural entity, has been amazingly well preserved. You will discover its cloister and its church of the XIIth century as well as the rose and terraced gardens. In the afternoon, you will visit the Château Villerouge-Termenès

South of Carcassonne and Narbonne, **Villerouge-Termenès** is the Mediterranean door to the High Corbières. Located in the heart of the medieval village, the imposing rectangular castle with four towers commands respect.

The eastern wing of the building houses a very original audiovisual tour: "The World of Guilhem Belibaste, the last Cathar Perfect". The tour puts you directly in the Middle Ages: The destinies of Bélibaste (burned in 1321 in Villerouge) and the archbishop of Narbonne, Bernard de Farges (lord of the domain) mention the Cathars, the power of the archbishop of Narbonne and the daily life in the 14th century.

On the road stop in Lagrasse, another beautiful village of France.

Back to your hotel.

#### **DAY 4: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check out. Private transfer to Toulouse or Carcassonne airport or train station.

#### **INCLUDED ISERVICES**

- Private transfers & transport in air-conditionned minivan with the services of a qualified English speaking driver-guide according to the above program.
- 3 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Entrance & Visits according to the above program:
- Château Ostal Cazes Cooking class Abbaye Fontfroide Château Villerouge Termenes 2x Visit and Tasting Guided visit: Carcassonne, Minerve, Narbonne, Lagrasse

- Drinks, other meals
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: NICE**

Arrival in **Nice**. Transfer from airport or train station to your hotel in Nice. Overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 2: FRENCH RIVIERA**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide & departure to explore the French Riviera landscape. Following the coast road, drive to the old **Antibes** the incredible harbor and its 'ramparts'. Explore **Cannes** and discover its magnificent palaces along the Croisette boulevard. Join the typical medieval and fortified village from 11<sup>th</sup> century of **St-Paul-de-Vence** made famous by actors and artists living there. Upon your arrival in **Monaco**, make your first stop to discover the medieval village of **Eze** taking the opportunity to visit the **Perfume Factory Fragonard**. Driving through the village **La Turbie**, also called the 'Monaco terrace'. Reach the luxurious principality of **Monaco** with Prince's Palace, the **Monte Carlo** Casino, the gardens and the Grand Prix circuit. Back to **Nice** & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 3: ST-TROPEZ, PORT GRIMAUD**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide you will agreeably discover **St-Tropez** in a **full day tour**. Your tour will start driving along the Estrel, mountains formed by beautiful red rocks, you will join **Port Grimaud** called the little Venice. Arrive at Saint Tropez and enjoy the atmosphere, the beaches, the Provençal market on Tuesday, choosing where you can have your meal among local restaurants.

Back to **Nice** & overnight at your hotel.

#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- 3 nights hotel accommodation
- Private transfers on day 1 & 4
- Full Day Shared tour on day 2 & 3 in executive minivan (8 participants maximum) with qualified driver-guide

#### **OPTIONAL DAY INCLUDES**

- 1 night hotel accommodation
- Full Day Shared tour on day 4 in executive minivan (8 participants maximum) with qualified driver
- guide
- Private transfer on day 5

#### **DAY 4: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to Nice Airport or train station.

### OPTIONAL DAY 4 : COUNTRYSIDE & WINE TASTING

Pick up at the hotel by your driver-guide and departure to **Countryside full day tour.** You will begin discovering **Grasse**, a city once known for its leather production, and over the centuries it became the capital of perfume, and through a guided visit you will stop at the **Perfume Factory Fragonard**. By the countryside road reach **Valbonne**, a medieval village built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century with beautiful handicrafts and cafés. Fancy the road to the medieval village of **Gourdon** the 'Eagle's Nest' appreciating the fabulous view on the whole Côte d'Azur. On your way back you will explore an authentic **wine tasting** of the original wines of French Riviera. Back to **Nice** & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 5: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to **Nice** Airport or train station.

- Drinks, other meals
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.





### DAY 1 : ARRIVAL IN AVIGNON (private transfer)

Pick up by a private minibus & your driver-guide & transfer to your hotel in Avignon. Accommodation and overnight at your hotel in Avignon.

### DAY 2: TREASURES OF PROVENCE (full day shared tour)

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide and departure to **Arles**, known for the wealth of its Roman and Romanesque heritage. Walk through the city to discover the great Roman monuments: the amphitheater, the Roman theater and the ancient sites still well preserved and painted by Van Gogh between 1888 and 1890. Enjoy the market in Arles on Saturday morning; Your tour continue to Les Baux-de-Provence, superb stone fortress to be admired from the Val d'Enfer panoramic view. Enjoy the audiovisual show in the Carrières de Lumière: a multimedia exhibition of famous paintings are displayed on the walls of the white quarry accompanied by music. Picasso will be the theme in 2018. The Carrieres de Lumiere are closed from January to beginning of March: more time will be allowed in the village of Les Baux during this period. Then proceed to Saint-Remy-de-Provence, take a look at Saint-Paul de Mausole to see some sites painted by Van Gogh. Your tour continue with a panoramic view of the city of **Orange** and discover the Roman Arch of Triumph, symbol of the Roman imperialism glory. Visit the impressive Roman Theater. Drive through the vineyards between Orange and Chateauneuf-du-Pape, and stop for panoramic view on the Rhone river valley from the old-castle of Chateauneuf-du-Pape. Wine tasting in a property in Chateauneuf du Pape. Back to Avignon. Overnight at your hotel in Avignon.

### DAY 3: AVIGNON & VILLAGES IN LUBERON (morning private & 1/2 Day Afternoon shared tour)

Breakfast at your hotel. Meet your guide at your hotel for a 2 hours private guided tour of Avignon, known as the City of Popes. Avignon sits on the leafy banks of the majestic **Rhône River**. In the 14th century, Avignon was the capital of Christianism. The city's well preserved ramparts and pedestrian alleys in the centre, give Avignon the feeling of a small medieval town. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the city's historic centre including a visit to Palais des Papes and the famous Pont d'Avignon. This afternoon, you will enjoy a panoramic tour of the most beautiful hilltops villages in Provence. Roussillon, surrounded by red, orange and yellow ochre cliffs, natural unusual landscape. Gordes: discover this medieval village, completely built with the local dry stones called 'lauze'. Its fortified castle and church overlook the typical houses of the village, classified as one of the most beautiful villages in France. Drive to Fontaine **de Vau-luse**: walk up to the cave from which the River Sorgues emerges. This impressive resurgence spring hasn't revealed its secrets yet and many speleologists have searched in vain the exact depth of the well. Markets on tuesdays in Gordes and on thursdays in Roussillon Back to Avignon. Overnight at your hotel in Avignon.

### DAY 4: PONT DU GARD, NÎMES, UZÈS (half day shared tour)

Breakfast at your hotel.

Morning a leisure This afternoon you will enjoy the visit of Nimes, where you will discover the impressive Ro-man buildings. You will visit the Arena, the best preserved Roman amphitheatre in the world, 2000 years old and it holding more than 24,000 spectators. (still used today for bullfighting). If the amphitheatre will be closed due to concert or bullfight, the visit will be replaced by a video in the Maison Carree, one of the best preserved temples in the Roman world. Then you will explore Uzès, charming medieval town, set in the garrigues countryside. **Uzes** has preserved its layout as a medieval stronghold, embellished in the 17th and 18th centuries. See the Place aux Herbes (picturesque square), the Bishop's and the Ducal Palace, the Fenestrelle Tower (a unique bell-tower) and SaintTheodorit Cathedral. Your tour end with a visit at the splendid Pont du Gard, amazing vestige of a Roman aqueduct which drove the water to Nîmes. Back to Avignon. Overnight at your hotel in Avignon

### DAY 5 : AIX-EN-PROVENCE, NICE (Private transfer & tour)

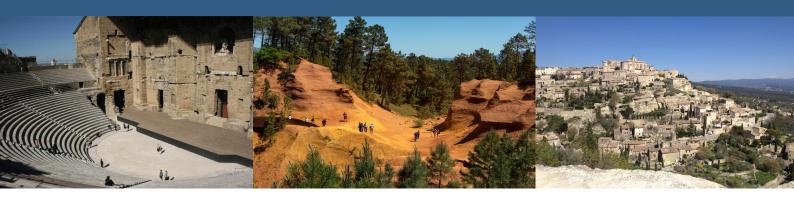
Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver- guide & transfer to **Aix en Provence** where you will enjoy a 2 hours guided walking tour of its historic centre and walk along the famous Cours Mirabeau which is lined with many trees, fine houses and fountains to walk around. Aix has sumptuous 17th and 18th century architecture mansions and ornate fountains springing everywhere, lively streets and lovely squares. Transfer to Nice. Accommodation and overnight at your hotel in Nice.

#### **DAY 6: NICE (Half day Shared Tour)**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver guide and departure for a 3 hours guided visit of the city of **Nice**. The centre of Nice is easy to explore. The **Promenade des Anglais**, the waterfront boulevard, is one of the most famous streets in France. Behind the pebbly beach is the old town with its rambling old lanes and its famous **Marché aux Fleurs**. This is the charismatic heart of the city and it contrasts well with the belle époque buildings that line the waterfront and the west of the city. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight at your hotel in Nice



### DAY 7: FRENCH RIVIERA (Full day Shared Tour)

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver guide and Following the coast road, drive through **Antibes** and the old town where Picasso lived, the incredible harbour and its ramparts built by Vauban. Stop in **Cannes**, the star of the Riviera, famous for its film festival, glitzy hotels, old harbor and the Marina and its yachts. Walk the renowned "Croisette Promenade". Your tour continue to Saint **Paul de Vence**, walk around the cobbled stone streets of one of the oldest medieval towns on the French Riviera. It is well-known for its modern and contemporary art museums and galleries

Before your arrival in **Monaco** you will stop in **Eze** to discover this old medieval village perched like eagles nests; take the opportunity to visit the **Perfumerie Fragonard.** 

Driving through the village of **La Turbie** with its Roman Trophy of the Alps, reach the luxurious principality of **Monaco** with the Prince's Palace, the Monte-Carlo Casino, the gardens & the world famous racetrack for the Grand Prix Circuit. Back to Nice. Overnight at your hotel in Nice.

#### **DAY 8: DEPARTURE (Private transfer)**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by a private minibus and transfer to Nice Airport or train station

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

 Drinks, other meals - Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling -Insurance

#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Private transfers on Day 1, 5 & 8. Transport in air-condition minivan (8 participants maximum) with the services of a qualified Englishspeaking driver-guide according to the above program. 7 nights hotel accommodation Daily breakfast Visits according to the above program: 1 Full Day tour of Provence 1/2 Day Tour Luberon 1/2 Day Tour of Pont -du-Gard, Nîmes, Uzès 1 Full Day tour of French Riviera Guided visit of Avignon (2hrs) Aix-en-Provence (2hrs), Nice (3 hrs),
- Entrances according to the above program : Orange Antic Theater Nîmes Arena or Maison Carrée Pont du Gard Wine-tasting in Chateauneuf-du-Pape Audiovisual show in the Carrières de Lumière





#### **DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE**

Private transfer from airort or train station. Accommodation and overnight at your hotel

### DAY 2: HALF DAY TOUR - AIX-EN-PROVENCE & GOURMET WALKING TOUR

Breakfast at your hotel. Morning at leisure.

Meet your English speaking guide at your hotel and start your gourmet walking tour in the historical center of **Aix en Provence.** Thanks to this guided tour, you will be able to discover this charming provencal town and also to please yourself with the diversified scents and flavours of the region. Let your senses be amazed by the colors and the smells of several local products, be tempted by some **Calisson**, the **sweetest candy** of all time created in Aix en Provence, appreciate a toast of green or black **tapenade**, taste a piece of **cheese** or a glass of wine from one of the local wine appellations. Everything is organized in order to allow you to discover what Provencal gastronomy truly means. End of the tour in the old town.

Overnight at your hotel.

### DAY 3: FULL DAY TOUR - CASSIS & CA-MARGUE (This tour is valid only Thursday)

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick-up at your hotel.

Pick-up at your hotel by your driver guide and transfer to Cassis. Some places let you fall in love at first sight, and Cassis is part of them! Drive from Aix to the Cape Canaille, the highest maritime cliff in France and enjoy the panoramic view on the bay. Spend some free time at leisure in the charming fishermen harbor. Join a cruise to discover the calanques, limestone cliffs diving in the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean sea and creating natural coves (fat, rocky claws that resemble Norwegian fjords and poke out into the sea).

This afternoon, drive through Arles, to the **Regional Natural Park of Camargu**e where bulls and horses roam free in wide spaces. Arrival in **Saintes-Maries - de-la-Mer**, the capital of Camargue, along the wild and picturesque **Route de Cacharel**. Visit the fortified church with its famous legend and free time in the village (possibility of swimming or sunbathing) before going back to Aix-en-Provence.

Overnight at your hotel.

### DAY 4: FULL DAY TOUR - VALENSOLE, MOUSTIERS-SAINTES-MARIE, VERDON

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick-up at your hotel by your driver-guide, and drive through the **valley of the Durance** river, and discover the **Plateau of Valensole** specialised in the cultivation of « lavandin », where small roads are winding through the fields of flowers. Many stops are included by the fields in bloom. Stop at a farmer/ producer's place: lavender and lavandin essential oils, olive oil, lavender honey....Stop in the perched village of **Moustiers-Ste-Marie**, so famous for its earthen ware workshops (free time for visit and lunch not included on your own). In the afternoon, continue to the breathtaking opening of the Grand Canyon of the River **Verdon**. Photo stop in the lavender fields. Free time in the picturesque village of Sainte Croix du Verdon settled by Sainte Croix Lake (possibility of swimming or sun-bathing: don't forget your swimsuit) before going back to Aix. Overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 5: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out. Private transfer to the train station or airport. End of our services.



#### **INCLUDEDSERVICES**

- Private transfers & transport in air-conditionned minivan with the services of a qualified English-speaking driver-guide according to the above program.
  - 4 nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast
  - Entrance & Visits according to the above program:

- Shared Tour: Aix-en-Provence Historical & Gourmet walking tour (This tour is valid: Wed-
- Shared Tour: Alx-ell-Flovence installed a statement of the st to Sunday ) \* All tours are sheduled from 01/04/2018 to 31/10/2018

- Drinks, other meals
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.

### **Normandy & The Mont-Saint-Michel**

#### 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS



#### DAY 1: PARIS, GIVERNY, BAYEUX (Private **Transfer**)

Pick up by a private minibus & your driver-guide at your hotel or airport/ train station in Paris. Transfer to Giverny for a guided visit of Monet's house and gardens. Claude Monet lived for forty-three years, from 1883 to 1926; with a passion for gardening as well as for colors, he conceived both his flower garden and water garden as true works of art. Walking through his house and gardens, visitors can still feel the atmosphere of the Master of Impressionism and marvel at the floral compositions and nympheas, his greatest sources of inspiration. Transfer to Bayeux. Accommodation and overnight at your hotel

#### **DAY 2: NORMANDY TOUR**

Breakfast at your hotel.

### Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide. PACKAGE 1: FULL DAY TOUR US SECTOR

#### (Shared Tour)

Today you will discover an interesting area, stopping to visit all major sites in the U.S sector: Visit of **St Mére-Eglise** Strategically situated on the main N13 highway to Cherbourg and only a few miles away from the coast, this farming community became the center of the huge airborne operation (with 15.000 U.S paratroop-ers) that started during the night before D-day.

-Airborne Museum Built at the location where a house was on fire during the night before D-day, this museum has been gathering an amazing collection of memorabilia, in particular in the form of donations from the veterans themselves.

-Utah beach Closest to the Germans around Cherbourg, and quite separated from the other beaches, it could have been a disaster. Utah was rather lightly defended and had the great privilege to be protected by the American paratroopers (who had been in the area for several hours already). A quick stop at **German cemetery** that was originally started as an American cemetery in 1944 (for both Americans and Germans). After the war this cemetery became the largest German one in Normandy with over 21.000 soldiers buried here.

-Pointe du Hoc One of the largest German coastal batteries with six cannons. Being of 6-inch caliber and of a range of about 10 miles, these cannons would be a threat to both Omaha and Utah beaches. Thanks to the first help of a group of locals to make this incredible site a place of memory, it has been well preserved since, with its monuments and a number of bunkers and also bomb craters all over this 30-acre battlefield.

-Omaha Beach The most famous and most difficult of the five D-day beaches. It took the highest casualties, due in particular to its topography: it was the only beach with high ground just beyond.

**-US cemetery** The Normandy American Cemetery is the final resting place for 9.387 Americans. It covers 172 acres and is an actual battleground as it overlooks the "Easy Red" sector of Omaha Beach. Soldiers of all ranks honored here were buried after the war was over, by their families' request. Your guide will give you time on your own at the end, to either stay longer in the cemetery or save time for the Visitor Center that was opened in 2007 by the American Battle Monuments Commission and was designed to put the D-Day invasion of June 1944.

#### **PACKAGE 2: HALF DAY TOUR CANADIAN SEC-**TOR (Shared Tour)

Today, you will discover the places where the principal events and battles made up the Battle of Normandy, in particular all major sites in the Canadian sector.

Visit of the **Juno Center** 

This museum, the only Canadian one in Normandy, commemorate the contributions and sacrifices of Canadian soldiers during the liberation of Europe in WW2. Divided in seven parts, it explains what Canada was before the war started, how the country turned completely toward the war effort, the different Canadian campaigns in Europe and the total human cost.

- Grave/Courseulles-Sur-Mer

Western part of the assault on Juno Beach, three sectors were given to different regiments to attack: Canadian Scottish / Royal Winnipeg Rifles/ Regina Rifles. The troops landed on either side of the Seulles river and the small fishing village of Courseulles-Sur-Mer was liberated in the afternoon.

- Bernieres/St-Aubin

On this eastern side of Juno Beach, two other infantry regiments attacked: the Queen's Own Rifles and the North Shore. At Bernières, where La Chaudière Regiment later landed, is located the main monument close to the famous big Norman house that is in so many D-day pictures, and which still permanently flies a Canadian flag.

- Canadian Cemetery

Located between Bény and Reviers, inland from Juno Beach on top of the little hill that overlooks the coast, this cemetery is beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Enjoy a visit of the Abbaye d'Ardenne, beautiful Norman Abbey from the 12th century. A number of Canadian prisoners were brought here and executed on June 7th and 8th. Back to your hotel in Bayeux.

Overnight in Bayeux

DAY 3: THE MONT-SAINT-MICHEL (Shared **Tour** 

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide and departure to Le Mont Saint-Michel. Perched on a rocky islet in the midst of vast sandbanks exposed to powerful tides between Normandy and Britain stand the 'Wonder of the West'. Visit this exceptional site formed by a granite island with its village houses huddled close together and encircled by walls. On top lies the **Ab-bey of the Mont-SaintMichel**, a Gothic and Benedic-tine abbey dedicated to the archangel St Michael. The breath-taking view from the top that is worth the number of steps you have to come up! Transfer back to your ho-tél in Bayeux. Overnight at your hotel.

DAY 4: DEPARTURE (Private transfer)
Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel by a private taxi and transfer to Bayeux train station

### **Normandy & The Mont-Saint-Michel**

### 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Private transfers on Day 1 & Day 4 - Transport in air-conditional minivan (8 participants maximum) with the services of a qualified English speaking driver-guide according to the above program - Day 2: Full Day Shared Tour Normandy Landing Beaches US Sector or Half Day Shared Tour Normany Landing Beaches Canadian Sector - Day 3: Full Day Shared Tour Mont Saint-Michel. - 3 nights hotel accommodation and daily breakfast - Entrances according to the above program : • Juno Beach Museum (Day 2 Canadian Sector) • Airborne Museum (US Sector)• Entrance & private guided visit of Monnet's House & Gardens in Giverny

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

- Entrance to the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel: Estimate 10 Euros per person. - Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling - Insurance





#### **DAY 1: TOURS**

Arrival in Saint-Pierre-des-Corps. Pick up by your driver & transfer from Saint-Pierre-des-Corps TGV train station to your Hotel in **Tours.** Check in & overnight at your hotel.

### DAY 2: AMBOISE, CHEVERNY, CHAMBORD, CHENONCEAU

Breakfast at your hotel.

Meet your driver-guide for a full-day tour of some of the most magnificent châteaux of the Loire valley, wandering through ancient castles filled with history and strolling around gardens. You'll visit the royal Château **d'Amboise,** an elegant Renaissance palace overlooking the Loire River and the medieval city of Amboise. Continue to Cheverny, one of the finest castles in the Loire Valley and which represents the zenith of French classical architecture, and then Chambord, the largest château in the Loire Valley and one of the most recognisable châteaux in the world due to its very distinctive French Renaissance architecture blending traditional French medieval forms with classical Renaissance structures. End your tour with a visit to Chenonceau, which spans the Cher River atop a supremely graceful arched bridge. It's known as the 'Château des to the work of several remarkable thanks women through the years, and is one of France's most elegant and romantic châteaux.

Return to Tours and overnight at your hotel.

### DAY 3: AZAY-LE-RIDEAU, VILLANDRY, USSE, LANGEAIS

Breakfast at your hotel.

Meet your driver-guide and start your tour by visiting the Château of **Azay-le-Rideau**, one of the purest gems of Renaissance architecture in the Loire Valley. Romantic, Azay-le-Rideau is famed for its elegant turrets, perfectly proportioned windows, delicate stonework and steep slate roofs.

Built in the early 1500s on a natural island in the middle of the Indre River, it's one of the Loire's loveliest castles and one of the foremost examples of early French renaissance architecture. Then discover the **Château de Villandry** and its magnificent gardens. This castle is one of the last built du-ring the Renaissance period in the Loire Valley, and Villan-dry's six glorious landscaped gardens, covering over six hec-tares, are some of the finest in France. Then it's off to Ussé at the edge of the Chinon forest with its sweeping views and delightful formal gardens designed by André Le Nôtre, land-scape architect of Versailles – and it was also the inspiration for Charles Perrault's classic fairy tale, *Sleeping Beauty*. The last stop on your tour is the **Château de Langeais** – perhaps the most authentically medieval in architecture and furnis-hings and helping visitors to imagine the daily life of Royalty at the end of the Middle Ages. Back to Tours and overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 4: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer from your hotel in Tours to Saint-Pierre-des- Corps Train Station.

#### **INCLUDEDSERVICES**

- Private transfers on day 1 & 4
- 3 nights hotel accommodation and daily breakfast
- Full Day Shared tour on day 2 & 3 in executive minivan (8 participants maximum) with qualified driver-guide and visits according to the above program.

#### **NOT INCLUDED IN PRICES**

- Entrances to Amboise Cheverny Chambord Chenonceau
- Entrances to Azay-le-Rideau Vil-landry Usse- Langeais
- Drinks, other meals
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling



### The Best of Burgundy

#### 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS



#### **DAY 1: DIJON**

Arrival in Dijon. Pick up by private minibus & driver at Dijon train station. Transfer to your hotel. Check in & overnight at your hotel in Dijon.

### **DAY 2: FULL DAY TOUR CÔTE DE NUITS** Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning, meet with your driver-guide for a full day tour visit of the **Côte de Nuits**. You will start the tour with a short stop to get in the mood for a real wine day: enjoy the breathtaking view over the Corton Grand Cru hillside in **Côte de Beaune** which is a famous site in Burgundy for red and white Grand Cru wines. During the day, your driver-guide will make you discover all the secrets about wine making and the Burgundy vineyards. You will enjoy a Prestige wine tasting of exceptional Premier Cru and Grand Cru wines as well as a second tasting in a Pinot Noir paradise where you will visit the cellars.

Lunch at leisure in Beaune.

This afternoon, you will discover **Beaune**, the capital of the Burgundy region. Beaune is not only a city of art, history and wine but also it is popular for its gastronomy. The town counts over a hundred restaurants offering pleasant moments for your taste buds. The tour continues with a drive through Burgundy's 'Champs Elysées' with its famous vineyard plots: Romanée Conti, Chambertin, Clos de Vougeot, Echezeaux. Stroll around the Côte de Nuits. Back to Dijon & overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY 3: HALF DAY TOUR BURGUNDY**

Breakfast at your hotel.

In the morning, departure for a half day tour to indulge your taste buds. You will start with a tasting of a selection of the finest red and white wines paired with local cheese and delicious chocolate. Then on to a **Pinot Noir** wine tasting at a wine estate. The tour ends with a short stop in the charming village of **Gevrey-Chambertin**, which is also called the 'King of Burgundy wines'. Back to Dijon.

Afternoon at leisure.

We suggest you to stroll around Dijon and discover its historical centre, which is classified as UNESCO world heritage. Enjoy a nice walk through the medieval streets and admire the influence of the wine history and traditions on the city, featuring museums, nicely decorated hotels and attractive specialties shops. Overnight in your hotel in Dijon.

#### DAY 4: DEPARTURE

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer from your hotel to Dijon Train Station.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- 3 nights hotel accommodation - Private transfers on day 1 & 4. - Full Day Shared Tour of Côte de Nuits & Half Day Shared Tour Burgundy in executive minivan (8 participants maximum) with qualified english speaking driver-guide and visits according to the above program.

- -Drinks, other meals
- -Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- -Insurance



#### **DAY 1: FULL DAY TOUR CHAMPAGNE**

Pick-up in Paris by minibus and your driver-guide, and depart to explore the **Champagne region**, world famous for its eponymous sparkling wine – Champagne - and its magnifi-cent landscapes. This morning you will travel through Champagne vineyards around Reims and enjoy a visit and champagne tasting at a small boutique champagne produ-cer, together with the gracious hospitality of your hosts, the wine growers. Lunch in a traditional restaurant in **Reims**. Your tour continues with the discovery of the magnificent Gothic architecture of the Cathédrale de Notre-Dame de Reims. A UNES-CO World Heritage Site, the cathedral was built in 1211 and was the coronation site of 25 French kings, from Louis VIII in 1223 to Charles X in 1825. Then you'll visit one of the most famous Champagne houses in Reims and its underground chalk cellars, where you'll discover the traditional secrets of the Champagne region and wine making, concluding with a taste of a glass of champagne. Arrival at your hotel for the overnight

#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- 1 night hotel accommodation and breakfast
- 2 lunches in local restaurants
- Full Day Shared tour on day 1 & 2 in executive minivan with qualified driver-guide and visits and tasting according to the above program

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

- -Drinks, other meals
- -Any other options, tips or per-sonal expenses, luggage handling
- -Insurance

#### **DAY 2: SECRET FAMILY PRODUCERS**

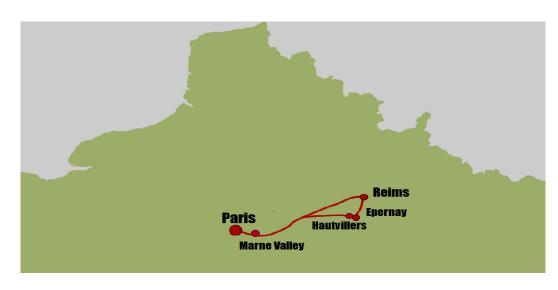
Breakfast at your hotel and check-out.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver guide and departure for a full-day tour of the **Champagne vineyards** Your day begins at a domaine located in the Marne Valley, where you'll discover the processes behind Champagne making. During an oenology class, you'll taste and learn about the three grape varieties that can only be grown according to appellation rules in specifically designated areas for the production of Champagne, and how to recognize their typical aromas, together with the art of blending. You'll then head to Hautvillers - a charming UNESCO listed village nestled on the historical hillsides of Champagne, and the home of **Dom** Pérignon, the Benedictine monk whose work in winemaking helped develop Champagne. Trace the history of Champagne and visit the **church** where Dom Pérignon is buried.

Next stop for the most charming restaurant in the village. Lunch features a delicious tasting menu of regional specialties, paired with three single varieties of cuvées. In the afternoon, you head to **Epernay** for a walking tour along the Avenue de Champagne, where the opulent mansions of the great Champagne houses are located, including **Moët & Chandon**, Pol Roger and Mercier, among others. Stop at the magnificent property of a top-range Champagne producer in the Côte des Blancs area for a guided tasting of three Champagnes.

Your day in the Champagne vineyards ends with a drive along the La Route du Champagne, which winds among the vineyards and through the steep slopes where the villages, castles and churches perch. A final tasting is scheduled : discover the unique aromas of three Champagnes from this area, renowned for the quality of its Pinot Noir.

Then it's back to Paris.





#### **DAY 1: PARIS, REIMS**

Arrival in Paris.

Pick up at Paris airport by your private driver & transfer to

Arrival in Reims and guided walking tour of the city. Reims offers a unique example in France of the architectural style of the 1920s, with its Art Deco style facades: wandering through the streets and discover the city of kings coronation and a main gastronomic centre of France. Enjoy a visit of its Notre Dame Cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic art dated from the 13th century as a reminder of the christening of Clovis. Adorned with over 2,300 statues, this is the only cathedral displaying angels with open wings. Enjoy a visit & wine-tasting at a **Champagne House**. For a while, take a dip into the heart of the House, the "savoir-faire" and discover the making-process of the "cuvée". The tour includes a tasting of the Brut Yellow Label cuvée.

Continue the tour by discovering the vestiges of the abbey Saint-Nicaise dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, then to down 18 meters deep, in sumptuous Gallo-Roman Crayères forming part of the Coteaux, Houses and Caves of Champagne, included on UNESCO's World Heritage List. At the end of your visit, you will appreciate a prestigious wine tasting.

Back to your hotel in Reims, for a welcome dinner and overniaht.

#### **DAY 2: REIMS, HAUTVILLERS**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and departure to Reims Mountains. Today you will discover the champagne path through the vineyards of the Reims Mountains.

Lunch in a local restaurant.

Enjoy a Guided tour of Hautvillers, a charming village classified at **Unesco** which is nested on the historical hillsides of Champagne. Discover the history of **Dom Perignon** who finalized the process to elaborate Champagne.

Continue to **Epernay** capital of champagne with its Avenue du Champagne, headquarter of the major winemaker trade and production. This magnificent street is considered as one of the most world prestigious Avenues. Enjoy the visit of the cellars of **Moet & Chandon** with tasting.

Back to Reims.

Overnight in Reims.

#### **DAY 3: REIMS, BEAUNE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out. Pick up at your hotel and departure. Crossing the champagne vineyards with visit and tasting **of champagne** at a small producer. This **Family Estate** is a wine grower since the 16th century and

produces Champagne under their own brand since 1875. Far from the commercial aspect of the Grandes Maisons you will discover here the ancestral methods for the making process of champagne and meet passionate neonle.

Stop in the historic center of Troyes.

Continue towards Burgundy with stop in Chablis for visit and wine tasting in Chateau Testut.

Transfer to Beaune.

Accommodation for 3 nights B&B in Beaune. Overnight in Beaune.

#### **DAY 4: BEAUNE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and departure for the route of the vineyards of "cotes de nuits". Today you will discover the Grand Crus of Bourgogne. Stop at a small producer to visit the cave and wine tasting Chateau Entre-deux-Monts in Nuits Saint Georges.

**Lunch** in а gastronomic restaurant in Vosne-Romanée.

After lunch, walk to the mythical Romanée Conti vineyard. Then you will visit the Clos Vougeot, former cellar of the Cistercian monks. Discover the ancient winemaking facilities and the monk's cellar, constructed between the 12th and 16th centuries.

Back to Beaune.

Overnight in Beaune.

#### **DAY 5: BEAUNE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Meet your private guide at your hotel, for today's guided tour in the medieval town of **Beaune** and visit the famous and beautiful Hospices de Beaune (Hotel Dieu), built in the 15th century XV.

Then go to a guided visit of a traditional Mustard Factory Fallot with tasting.. Discover how to protect the know-how of the craftsman mustardmaker: the grinding of seeds in the stony grindstone which protects

all the gustative qualities of the dough.

Enjoy a tour to the north of the Côte de Beaune. Stop off on the Corton hillside, a unique location in Burgundy for red and white Grands Crus. Then **visit & tasting** at the Château de Santenay.

Overnight in Beaune.



#### **DAY 6: BEAUNE, LYON**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick-up at your hotel by your private driver and route through the vineyards of southern Bourgogne and Beaujolais.

Enjoy a visit and wine tasting in Chateau Montmelas. The beautiful outline of this castle is made up of numerous turrets, which is why it's often called Sleeping Beauty's castle, and it is surrounded by 70 ha of vineyard in the Beaujolais Appellation. You will visit the interior of the château with tapestry and furniture. Then you enjoy a Buffet lunch of Beaujolais Specialties: "Machons" in Chateau Montmelas. After lunch transfer to Lyon, capital of French gastronomy. Meet your local guide and en-oy a walking tour of Lyon. Visit to the Basilica Notre Dame de Fourviere and discover the quarter of Vieux Lyon considered a UNESCO world heritage site. Accommodation and overnight in your hotel.

#### **DAY7: LYON, CLERMONT-FERRAND, LIBOURNE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out.

Pick up at your hotel and transfer to Libourne. Route through the central Magico and the park of volcanoes with its magnificent mountainous landscapes.

Stop in the historic medieval town of Clermont Ferrand. Visit on your own the Cathedral, distinctive by its charcoal grey colour resulting from the Volvic lava stone used to build it. The interior conceals a remarkable collection of stained-glass windows and murals. Discover Notre-Dame-du-Port Basilica, listed on UNESCO's World Heritage, which takes visitors into the

**World Heritage**, which takes visitors into the spellbinging world of Romanesque art. Continue to the region of **Aquitaine**.

In the late afternoon arrival in **Puisseguin Saint Emilion** to visit the cellar and garden of the **Chateau de la Vaisinerie** followed by a typical harmonized **dinner**. Overnight in Libourne.

#### **DAY 8: LIBOURNE, BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out. Pick up by your private driver and departure.

Discovery of the **wine route of Medoc**, through the famous vineyards of Margaux, Saint Estephe, Saint Julien, Pauillac. Stop at **two grands vineyards** Classes of 1855 for a visit of the cellar with wine tasting (Château Lynch Bages, Château Giscours, Château Pontet Canet (...) or similar).

Transfer to Cité du vin in Bordeaux.

Discover **Cité du Vin,** a new **unique cultural facility** where wine comes to life through an immersive, sensorial approach, all set within an **evocative architectural design**. Cité du Vin gives a **different view of wine**, across the world, across the ages, across all cultures and all civilisations.

Enjoy a panoramic tour in Bordeaux.

Bordeaux UNESCO heritage; from the vestige of the middle ages, to the elegance of the 18th century, you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences.

Accommodation and overnight in Bordeaux

#### **DAY 9: BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel.

You will appreciate a **private cruise** through the heart of the estuary and stopover on **Patiras island**.

Enjoy the musical atmosphere and **taste specialities** from the Gironde estuary.

You will discover the view of islands, sailing channels, Médoc vineyards, as well as the history of the people who used to live on the islands.

Today, Patiras also invites you to relax in a deckchair and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of the island.

Overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 10: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out.

Transfer to the Railway station or the airport.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- The services of a professional guide during the above program.
- 8 nights hotel accommodation
- daily breakfast
- Meals : 3 lunches in local restaurant + 1 lunch cruise + 2 dinners
- 1 wine tasting Veuve Clicquot, 1 wine tasting Taittinger, 1 wine tasting Moët et Chandon, 1 wine tasting in a family estate, 1 wine tasting Chablis, 1 wine tasting Côte de nuits, 1 wine tasting Beaujolais, 1 wine tasting in « Château de la Vaisinerie », 2 wines tasting in Grand Cru Classé Medoc
- Entrances & visits according to the above program: Benedictine Abbaye in Hautvillers, Hotel Dieu (hospice) in Beaune, Mustard Factory Fallot with tasting, Basilica « Notre Dame de Fourviere », Cité du Vin
- 1 full day cruise

- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: BORDEAUX**

Arrival in Bordeaux.

Welcome by your driver and your guide.

Transfer to Bordeaux for a Panoramic tour of **Bordeaux UNESCO heritage**: from the vestige of the Middle Ages, to the elegance of the 18th century, you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences.

Settle into your hotel.

Welcome dinner & overnight in Bordeaux.

#### **DAY 2: MEDOC VINEYARDS**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by a private coach & your guide. Departure for the **Médoc** for a guided visit of the city. The most famous of the Bordeaux vinevards which lies to the North-West of Bordeaux city, a vast spit of land between the Atlantic Ocean to the West and the Gironde Estuary to the East. A geographical location that confers on it a temperate climate suited to wine-growing. This symbiosis of plant and environment has given 60 prestigious Grand Crus Classés and 400 Crus Bourgeois in the 8 AOC of the Médoc. During your tour you will have three visits and wine tastings at prestigious vineyards and wineries in **Pauillac**, **Margaux** & **Saint-Julien** wine appellations of Origin (AOC). Lunch in a typical restaurant to discover the Médoc gastronomy. These places are immersed in a remarkable views of vineyards landscapes and they are based on soils which have been laboured and transformed by the winemakers' industry and savoir-faire like the distinguished. Back to & overnight at the hotel in Bordeaux.

#### **DAY 3: SAINT-ÉMILION, POMEROL**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by a private coach & your guide. Transfer to **Saint-Émilion** for a guided visit of the city. According to UNESCO 'the Jurisdiction of Saint-Émilion is an outstanding example of an historic vineyard landscape that has survived intact and is in activity to the present day'. Enjoy a visit and a unique lunch -buffet in a prestigious Château. Your tour pursues with one visit and wine tasting at Grand Cru Classé Saint-Émilion vineyards and the last visit in the Pomerol Appellation.

Back to & overnight at your hotel in Bordeaux.

#### **DAY 4: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer to **Bordeaux** airport or train station.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Services of a professional guide during the above program Transport in executive coach according to the above program 3 nights hotel accommodation

- 3 flights fotel accommodation
  daily breakfast
  1 welcome dinner
  2 lunches
  Entrance & Visits according to the above program: 3 Wine tastings Grand Cru Classé Medoc & 2 Wine tastings Grand Cru Classé St Emilion & 1 wine tasting in Pomerol.

- · Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: DIJON, BEAUNE**

Pick up at **Dijon** train station by your driver and transfer to your hotel in **Beaune**.
Settle into your hotel.
Welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 2: CÔTE DE BEAUNE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver & guide and transfer to the **Côte de Beaune**. Walk around the city, capital of the Cote d'Or, in its medieval quarter, courtyards of private mansions. Guided visit of the **Hotel Dieu**, also called **Hospice of Beaune**, a masterpiece of Flemish – Burgundian architecture. It is a former charitable almshouse and has now become a museum. Continue the day by enjoying the visit of a **family domain** in the **Montrachet** Grand Cru Appellation. This domain has been owned for three generations by a Burgundian family. They will explain wine-growing techniques as well as offer an enjoyable tasting-session. For lunch, enjoy an original Burgundy setting in a **Cellier**. Finish the day by a visit and tasting-session at **Santenay Domain**. Back to & overnight at your hotel in **Beaune**.

#### **DAY 3: CÔTE DE NUITS**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver & guide and departure for the **Côte de Nuits**. Start the day by a visit of a **dairy farm** in Brochon and enjoy **tasting different cheeses**, from the mildest to the strongest in flavour.

For lunch, enjoy an outstanding **gourmet meal** with delicious dishes in an amazing domain! Of course prestigious wines will accompany your lunch.

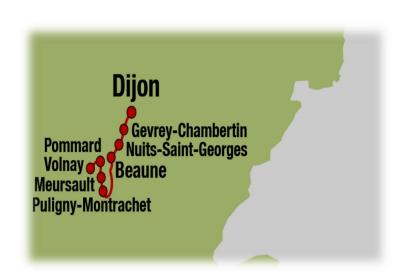
Continue into the heart of the **Pinot Noir Grands Crus vineyards** of Gevrey Chambertin. Learn about the unique Burgundian appellations. Visit and **wine-tasting** at one prestigious domain.

Transfer back to & overnight at your hotel in Beaune.

#### **DAY 4: BEAUNE, DIJON**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver & transfer to Dijon. Enjoy a guided visit of **Dijon** and appreciate the richness and elegance of its architecture heritage from the Palace of the Dukes of Burgundy to the neighbourhood of Parliament, and from the area of Notre Dame to the medieval streets. Transfer to **Dijon** train station.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- The services of a professional guide according to the above program.
- 3 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- 1 welcome dinner & 2 lunches
- Visit & tastings according to the above program: 2 visits & wine tastings in Côte de Beaune, 2 visits & wine tastings in Côte de Nuits & cheese tasting.
- Guided tour of Beaune & Dijon.

- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: LYON**

Pick up at **Lyon** train station by your driver. Transfer to Lyon city centre and enjoy a **guided walking tour** of the city and its historical centre. The historical site of Lyon was selected by UNESCO as World Heritage: from the breathtaking panoramic views to the museums and the famous dance theatre. Lyon is a city full of life, dotted with cobblestoned narrow streets and exquisite places to wine and dine. Admire the **St Jean Quarter**, stroll in the "traboules", covered narrow lanes crossing buildings from one street to the other, and the "hotels "particuliers", beautiful mansions built by Italian merchants in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. Settle into your hotel in Lyon.

Welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 2: CÔTES DU RHÔNE VINEYARDS**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver.

Transfer to visit and discover the northern vineyards of Côtes du Rhône and its landscapes, as well as Ampuis, Condrieu, Côte Rôtie, and Tain l'Hermitage. Explore several domains and enjoying different wine tastings in these AOC areas. Visit a characteristic family estate and its magnificent vineyards in Côte-Rôtie where the winemaker will introduce the group to the cellar's care and treatment processes. Continue down to the Côtes du Rhône pursuing the aim to offer the best portrait of the 'terroir', and stop in the Maison Chapoutier, a winegrower and producer of the finest Rhône Valley appellations. Of course this fascinating day will be accompanied by a traditional lunch in a local restaurant. Transfer to **Avignon.** Settle into & overnight at your hotel.

#### DAY 3: CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, RASTEAU, GI-**GONDAS, BEAUMES DE VENISE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver.

Transfer to Châteauneuf du Pape, one of the most impor-

tant wine appellation in Southern Rhône where grapes were first planted in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by the Avignon popes, for a **visit** & **wine tasting experience** in an ancient and renewed cellar: Maison Ogier. A delightful experience in learning about oaks, barrel making, seeing and comparing wine of the different terroirs. Then departure for another two visits and wine tasting sessions in Rasteau and Gigondas AOC. Be witnesses of the best wines sharing their history and different techniques. Enjoy a **buffet-lunch** with local specialities in Gigondas cellar. Your amazing day-tour ends with the last visit and wine tasting experience in Beaumes de Venise cellar and its vineyards. Back to & overnight at your hotel in **Avignon**.

#### **DAY 4: AVIGNON & DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning enjoy a guided visit of Avignon. The skyline of Avignon is a magnificent urban landscape. Overlooking the city and the Rhône river, the Rocher des Doms presents an exceptional set of monuments including the Saint Bénezet Bridge, (the famous « Pont d'Avignon »), the Ramparts, the Petit Palais, the Cathedral and the impressive walls of the Popes' Palace flanked by four mighty towers. This architectural group has been ranked by UNESCO as World Heritage for humanity. Transfer to Avignon train station.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- •Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- •The services of a professional guide according to the above program.
- •3 nights B&B in hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- •1 dinner
- •2 lunches
- •Entrance & Visits according to the above program: Guided walking tour of Lyon, 4 visits & wine tastings in Côtes-du-Rhône, 4 visits & wine tastings in Châteaueuf-du-Pape, Rasteau, Gigondas, Beaumes de venise, Pont d'Avignon & Popes' Palace.

- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: PARIS, REIMS**

Arrival in Paris.

Pick up at Paris airport by your driver & transfer to Reims.

Transfer to **Reims** for a **guided walking tour of the city**. Reims offers the most important example in France of an entire town in the architectural style of the 1920s with its Art Deco style facades: wandering through the streets and discover the city of coronation and one of the main gastronomic and Champagne wine centres of France. Enjoy a visit of its **Notre Dame Cathedral**, a masterpiece of Gothic art dates from the 13th century as a reminder of the christening of Clovis. Adorned with over 2,300 statues, this is the only cathedral that displays angels with open wings.

Then you will enjoy a **visit & a wine-tasting** at a **champagne house**. For a while, take a dip into the heart of their House, their heritage, their « savoir-faire ». And discover the making-process of their cuvées. The tour includes a tasting of their Brut Yellow Label cuvée. Your tour continues through **another vineyard**. This journey will lead you in turn to the vestiges of the **abbey Saint-Nicaise** dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, then to 18 meters deep, in sumptuous Gallo-Roman Crayères forming part of the Coteaux, Houses and Caves of Champagne Inscribed on **UNESCO's World Heritage List**. At the end of your visit, you will appreciate a **prestigious wine tasting**. Transfer & settle into your hotel in Reims. Welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 2: OFF THE BEATEN PAST**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver & Transfer to **Hautvillers** 

Enjoy a **Guided tour of Hautvillers**, a charming village classified at Unesco which is nested on the historical hillsides of Champagne. Enjoy the visit of the Abbaye and discover the history of **Dom Perignon** who finalized the process to elaborate Champagne.

Transfer to the little village of Damery for a **wine tasting** at a family estate. The house was created in 1875 and are focus on the respect of both traditions and ancestral working methods.

Transfer to **Ambonnay** for a **lunch & wine tasting** at another family estate, a wine grower since the 16<sup>th</sup> century which own 4 hectares of grand cru vineyard, especially reknown for their Pinot Noir.

Your tour continues with another **wine tasting** at **Maison Canard Duchêne.** The Canard-Duchêne signature perfectly befits its setting in Ludes. The park, with its centuries-old trees, magnificent views over the vineyards, vast residence hosting more than 6km of chalk-carved underground cellars, make this a truly unforgettable visit. Back to Reims and overnight at your hotel.

#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- 2 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- 2 lunches and 1 welcome dinner
- Visits & Wine tasting according to the above program
- Guided tour of Reims, Hautvillers & Epernay

#### **DAY 3: EPERNAY CAVES, PARIS**

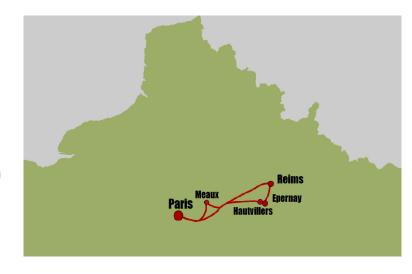
Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your driver and enjoy a visit of several different domains and cellars where the famous Champagne is produced. Located in the heart of the Champagne vineyards, **Epernay** is the capital of Champagne with its **Avenue du Champagne**, headquarter of the major wine-maker trade and production. This magnificent street is considered as one of the most world prestigious Avenues.

This morning your day enjoy **two visits & wine tasting** sessions in distinguished and ancient cellars learning about the production techniques, & the different types of wines. You will appreciate **two Grand cru tasting** at different vineyards.

The wine-growers will share their passion with the group and will be glad to answer any question.

Enjoy the **lunch** in one traditional restaurant in Epernay. Your tour continues with a **visit & cheese tasting** at **Meaux**. You will discover the different stages of the manufacture of Brie de Meaux, from the harvesting of milk to maturing in the cellar. Then you will understand the current stakes of this PDO cheese proudly represented by his Brotherhood. Transfer to Paris city center or airport.



- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: BORDEAUX, CADILLAC**

Arrival at Bordeaux airport.

Pick up at the airport by a private coach and departure for a **panoramic tour of Bordeaux UNESCO heritage**: from the vestige of the Middle Ages, to the elegance of the 18 th century, you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences.

Transfer and check-in at your hotel in **Cadillac**. Welcome dinner & overnight.

#### DAY 2: CASTETS EN DORTHE, AGEN, TOU-LOUSE

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by your private coach and discover the **lock keeper's house** in **Castets en Dorthe**.

Your tour continue towards the vineyards of

Sauternes where you will enjoy a visit and wine tasting at Chateau Raymond-Lafon. Lunch in a local restaurant. On to Agen where you can admire the aqueduct which at the time of its completion was the longest navigable aq-ueduct in France. The aqueduct was built entirely of stone blocks from Quercy, under the direction of the en-gineer Jean-Baptiste de Baudre. Transfer to Toulouse, Capital of the Midi-Pyrenees region. Short visit of Les Pont Jumeaux, the twin bridges, where the canals meet.

Settle into your hotel in Toulouse.

**Dinner** at a local restaurant & overnight in your ho-tel in Toulouse.

#### **DAY 3: TOULOUSE, ALBI**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel by a private coach and your **local guide** and transfer to Blagnac for a guided tour of the **Airbus assembly line.** You will discover the Airbus A380, largest passenger airliner in the world! Your tour continues to **Gaillac** to discover its vineyards. Visit a wine estate, discover the surrounding vineyards and partici-pate in a **wine tasting session**. Buffet lunch in the Gaillac vineyard.

Your tour ends by a visit of **Albi**, the magnificent pink-bricked town on the banks of the Tarn is classified as a **UNESCO World Heritage** Site. Admire the fortified **Cathedral of Sainte-Cecile**, a masterpiece of the Southern Gothic style. Back to Toulouse.

**Dinner** in a local restaurant & overnight it your ho-tel in **Toulouse**.

#### **DAY 4: TOULOUSE, CARCASSONNE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and enjoy a **guided tour of Toulouse**. Discover the main historical sites such as the **Capitole** with its popular hall 'Salle des Illustres' inspired
by the Galerie Farnese in Rome and the Henri IV
courtyard.

Discover the **St-Sernin Basilica**, largest romanesque church in Europe and a halt on the pilgrims' way to Santiago de Compostella.

Transfer to Carcassonne.

You will stop at **Port Lauragais** & Naurouze, where the streams & torrents water arrived at the splitting point: the **Seuil de Naurouze**, the highest point of the Canal's journey at 189m above sea level.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Then you will discover the **Lac St-Férreol** which was also created as a reservoir to feed the Canal with water. Settle in **your hotel** in Carcassonne.

**Dinner** in a local restaurant where you will taste the local speciality: the Cassoulet. Overnight in Carcassonne.

#### **DAY 5: CARCASSONNE, MARSEILLAN**

Breakfast at your hotel.

In the morning, guided tour of the **Medieval Citadel of Carcassonne** classified as a UNESCO World Herit-age Site. At the centre of the Citadel lies the **Chateau Comtal**, a fearsome castle where the lords of Carcassonne lived and ruled.

Lunch at a local restaurant in **Argeliers**.

Continue to Gruissan and discover the **Salins de Gruissan (Iles St-Martin)** at the the foot of the Clape mountain range and surrounded by the sea.

Your tour continues to **Marseillan** were you will visit the **Noilly Prat factory** & learn how to enjoy one of the finest French vermouths.

Transfer to the Canal du Midi last lock 'Les Onglous'and you will see the canal continue in Etang de Thau. Transfer to Cap d'Agde just near Marseillan.

Settle into your hotel in **Cap d'Agde**.

**Dinner** & Overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 6: PRIVATE CRUISE ON CANAL DU MIDI**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up at your hotel and transfer to Béziers. Meet with your **local guide** and get on board on a barge for a cruise on the Canal du Midi. You will discover the Locks of Orb (the highest of the Canal du Midi), Pont du Canal sur Orb (the longest), the Malpas tunnel (dug into the rock) and the locks of Fonserane, a masterpiece of creativity. You will enjoy a local meal on board. Transfer to **Lignan-Sur-Orb** & settle into your hotel. Dinner & overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 7 : DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

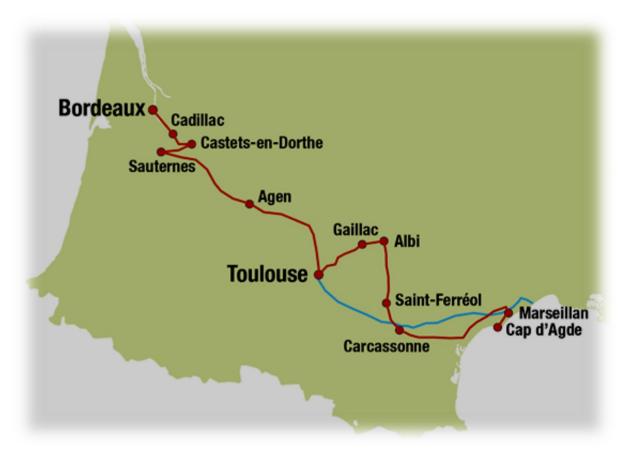
Pick up at your hotel by a private coach & transfer to Toulouse airport.



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Transport in executive coach according to the above program.
- The services of a professional guide during the above program.
- 6 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfasts
- ullet Meals: ullet 5 lunches + 1 lunch during the cruise ullet 3 half board dinners in hotel + 3 dinners in local restaurants
- Entrance & Visits according to the above program: •Airbus factory •Salins Îles St-Martin
- Noilly Prat factory •visit & wine tasting in the Gaillac vineyard Cruise (09:00-16:00) on the Canal du Midi

- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the program
- Any other option, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



### **'Live like a Prince': Cuisine & Wine**

#### 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS



**DAY 1 : TOULOUSE, CARCASSONNE**Arrival in Toulouse and welcome by your driver-guide. Transfer to **Carcassonne**. Guided tour of the mediaeval citadel of Carcassonne, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Originally an Iron age oppidum the site was used in the 1st Century for a Roman villa before reappearing in the XIth century as a fortification belonging to the powerful Viscount Trencavel. It is a town within a town, a maze of narrow cobbled streets within ramparts of thick walls and towers, bustling with life and color. The spectacular walled town is one of France's most famous national monuments and Unesco Heritage Accommodation in your hotel in Carcassonne where you will stay for 2 nights. **Dinner** & overnight at your hotel

#### **DAY 2: FULL DAY TOUR VINEYARDS**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel for a short drive to Château Auzias (or similar) in Pennautier. With a history of wine production stretching back to 1111, and with an extension of 160 hectares of vines, this château is one of the greatest private vineyards in the Languedoc region. Enjoy a guided visit of the vineyard, followed by a wine tasting in the château's cellars. Lunch at leisure (we suggest the restaurant at nearby Château Pennautier, with a visit to their cellars). Drive to Minerve, located in the foothills of the Montagne Noire. A fortified medieval village perched high above a canyon, Minerve is an old Cathar bastion destroyed by Simon de Montfort in 1210, and is also famous for its wine produced here for centuries. You'll enjoy a visit and a wine tasting in the wine cellars of Ostal Cazes (or similar) in La Livinière. Owners of Château Lynch-Bages, the Cazes family are passionate about wine, and have devoted themselves to researching and developing this outstanding terroir. Return to Carcassonne. Dinner in a **traditional restaurant**. Overnight at your hotel in Carcassonne.

#### **DAY 3: MONTAUBAN, CAHORS & SARLAT**

After breakfast, departure for **Montauban**, France's oldest "bastide" or fortified town, founded in 1144 and built in the distinctive pink bricks of the region. Arrive in **Cahors**, with its Roman monuments, medieval quarter and famous 14th century fortified **Pont Valentré bridge.** This afternoon features a visit and wine tasting at **Château Lagrézette** (or similar) in the Cahors vineyards. This 15th century château was rediscovered by luxury entrepreneur Alain Dominique Perrin in 1979, and his love for the region and its wines has helped him to develop the elegant and refined vintages of Château Lagrézette. Drive to Sarlat. Settle in your in Sarlat where you will be accommodated for 2 nights. Dinner in a traditional restaurant. Overnight at your hotel in Sarlat.

#### **DAY 4: LASCAUX IV & SARLAT**

Breakfast at your hotel and departure for a tour of Sarlat, a well-preserved medieval city and capital of the Périgord Noir region. Then it's back in time to **Lascaux IV,** for an immersive experience of Europe's most stunning prehistoric cave paintings, followed by a visit to the Musée National de Préhistoire at Les Eyzies-deTayat. Built on the face of a striking cliff and containing over 18,000 prehistoric items discovered in the neighbouring Vézère Valley, the Museum's unique archaeological collections offer an extensive overview of the Paleolithic past of this region of France. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight at your hotel in Sarlat.

#### **DAY 5: ST-EMILION, BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel and departure for Saint-**Émilion**. Enjoy a walking tour of the medieval city of Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site and famous for Bordeaux winemaking. Saint-Émilion's other speciality is the macaron - unlike the brightly coloured filled macarons of today, these were created in 1620 by Ursuline nuns. Nadia Fermigier is the only custodian of the authentic recipe today. You'll enjoy a visit at the **Fermigier shop**, followed by a tasting session. In the afternoon, enjoy a visit and wine tasting at Château de Sales, ranked Grand Cru Classé Saint-Émilion. Back to Bordeaux, where you will be stay for 4 nights. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight at your hotel in Bordeaux.

#### **DAY 6: COOKING CLASS & BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel for a drive to a Michelin-starred restaurant **Le Saint-James** participating in a cooking class under the expertise of Head Chef Nicolas Magie. For all ages and abilities, classes include forays into sweet and savoury themes, introductions to oenology and gastronomic classics the perfect place to learn how to be a great chef in your own home. You'll enjoy the fruits of your labour over lunch, including wine. Afternoon guided tour of **Bordeaux** – discover how the city was dominated by the wine trade from the Middle Ages to the prosperous 18th century and beyond. Dinner at leisure. Overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 7 : ARCACHON**

Breakfast and departure for the Bassin D'Arcachon, a vast bay on the Atlantic coast some 45 minutes from Bordeaux. Embark on a traditional boat for a cruise around the bay, and see iconic "cabane tchanquée" stilt houses, and views of the Île aux Oiseaux and the Dune du Pilat – the highest sand dune in Europe. Savour a lunch of local oysters and white wine before an afternoon at leisure, in Arcachon. Back to Bordeaux and overnight at your hotel.

### **Live like a Prince': Cuisine & Wine** 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS



#### **DAY 8: FULL DAY TOUR OF MEDOC**

Breakfast at your hotel and departure for the famous 'Route des Vins' where you'll discover some of the most prestigious names and châteaux – and of course, wine tasting sessions are on the programme today! From Pauillac to Margaux along the banks of the Gironde river, you'll visit **Château Haut-Brion** (or similar) in Pessac Leognan, Château Pichon Longueville Baron (or similar) in Pauillac and Château Lascombes (or similar) in Margaux – all ranked Grand Cru Classé. Return to Bordeaux. To-night, enjoy a gourmet dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight at your hotel

#### **DAY 9: BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel and transfer to Bordeaux airport or train station



#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Private transfers & transport in air-conditionned minivan with the services of a qualified Englishspeaking driver-guide according to the above program.
- 8 nights accommodation
- Daily breakfasts
- 6 dinners (drinks are not included)
- Entrance & Visits according to the above program: 7 x Wine tastings: Cabardes, Minervois, Cahors, Saint-Émilion & Medoc
- •Lascaux IV Cave Paintings• National museum of Prehistory Fermigier shop Cruise •Hands on cooking lesson with lunch and drinks included (only: Wednesday, Friday & Sunday) • Guided visit of Carcassonne, Minerve, Montauban, Cahors, Sarlat, Saint-Emilion & Bordeaux.

- Drinks, other meals not as mentionned
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



#### DAY 1: BORDEAUX, ST-EMILION & SARLAT Pick

up at Bordeaux and transfer to Saint-Emilion. Guided **visit of St Emilion**, medieval city, UNESCO world heritage site and one of the centres of Bordeaux winemaking.

Visit and tasting to the Château Ferrand, Grand Cru classé of Saint Emilion.

Transfer to **Sarlat**, medieval town in a region known in France as the *Périgord Noir*. It has been exceptionally well-preserved and is one of the town's most representative of the 14th century in France. More than 1000 years of architecture live in its lanes, roof-tiles and stone walls. **Gourmet dinner** where you will discover a range of typical dishes.

Overnight at your hotel

### DAY 2: TRUFFLE EXPERIENCE & PERIGORD VILLAGES

Today is dedicated to the « **Black Diamond** », the truffle of Perigord. Departure to St Cyprien for visit and initiation of "cavage" that will show the techniques of findings the truffles with a dog. "Truffled" lunch at the Ferme Auberge Pechalifour.

Then transfer to the beautiful village of Beynac-et-Cazenac and enjoy a river ride on an authentic Gabarre boat.

Back to Sarlat

Dinner at leisure & Overnight at the hotel.

### DAY 3: MARKET IN SARLAT & DOMME (Every Wednesday & Saturday)

Breakfast at your hotel.

Today you will discover Sarlat through its gastronomy as it is the capital of an exceptional "terroir".

You will experience the famous **Farmer's market**, a not to be missed spot and one of the most interesting in all of the South West. Stroll through and tast all the delicious specialties

You will then enjoy a guided **walking tour of historic Sar-lat**, rich merchant town during the 13th to 16th century.

This afternoon, you will discover the small medieval village of Domme and you will visit and tour a local farm which will introduce you to the production of foie gras, walnuts, shelled walnuts and walnut oil. Your tour will end with a foie gras tasting session. Gourmet Dinner.

Overnight at the hotel.

#### **DAY 4: BORDEAUX & DEPARTURE**

After breakfast transfer to Bordeaux; You will enjoy a guided **visit of Bordeaux**, UNESCO Heritage.

You will be able to discover the new heart of the City. From the vestiges of the Middle Ages to the elegance of 18th century, you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences.

Private transfer to airport or train station.

#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- Private transfers & transport in air-conditionned minivan with the services of a qualified English speaking driver-guide according to the above program.
- 3 nights hotel accommodation-Daily breakfasts-2 dinners-1 lunch
- Entrance & Visits according to the above program: •1 x Wine tastings: Saint Emilion •Ferme de Turnac (or similar) Cruise Fermigier shop Cruise Hands on cooking lesson with lunch and drinks included (only: Wednesday, Friday & Sunday) Guided visit of Saint-Emilion, Sarlat, Domme & Bordeaux.

- Drinks, other meals.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.



#### **DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN TOULOUSE**

Arrival at Toulouse airport. Private transfer and settle in your hotel located in the heart of the city.

**Welcome dinner** in a gourmet restaurant, as an introduction to the region's gastronomy.

Overnight in Toulouse.

#### **DAY 2 : GOURMET TRAIL TOULOUSE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning your guide will introduce you to the famous **Victor Hugo Market**, great food and wine, and spectacular ambiance. You will discover and taste authentic french food from south west France.

Lunch in a **typical restaurant**, with the market products. This afternoon, you will enjoy a walking guided tour in Toulouse. The walk encompasses the history and stories about the most famous landmarks. During the walk we will pause, wonder & enjoy: the immense **Place Capitôle** & Toulouse's stunning town hall; **Basilique St-Sernin** – a key stop on the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela; a stroll along the scenic Garonne; private town houses built during Toulouse's "Golden Age"; and some good local stories and inside knowledge to complete and colour your walk! Ideal as a first initiation to Toulouse. Overnight at your hotel.

#### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- -3 nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfasts
- -Private transfert day 1 & day 4.
- -Welcome dinner (without drinks)
- -Full Day Private tour of Toulouse to discover the market(the market is closed on Monday 2 hours) and the main monuments with qualified guide (3 hours) Lunch in typical restaurant (without drinks)
- -Full Day Private tour of Albi & Carcassonne in executive minivan with qualified driver-guide and

entrances to : ● Albi Cathedral & choir ● Toulouse Lautrec museum ● guided visit of Albi & Carcas-sonne

#### **DAY 3: ALBI, CARCASSONNE**

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pick up by your driver-guide to discover **Albi** magnificent pink- bricked town on the banks of the Tarn. Admire the fortified **Cathedral of Sainte-Cécile**, a masterpiece of the Southern Gothic style, before touring the Toulouse Lautrec museum in the old Bishop's Palace, imposing fortress (13th century).

This afternoon you will discover **Carcassonne**. Visit of the citadel which dominates the old town. It's a town within a town, a maze of narrow cobbled streets within severe ramparts of thick walls.

Back and overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 4: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check out. Private transfer to the Toulouse airport or train station. End of our services.

- Drinks, other meals.
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling.
- Insurance.

# France 2020



### **GT Experiences**

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