

# Your best trip starts *here.*

Best of France

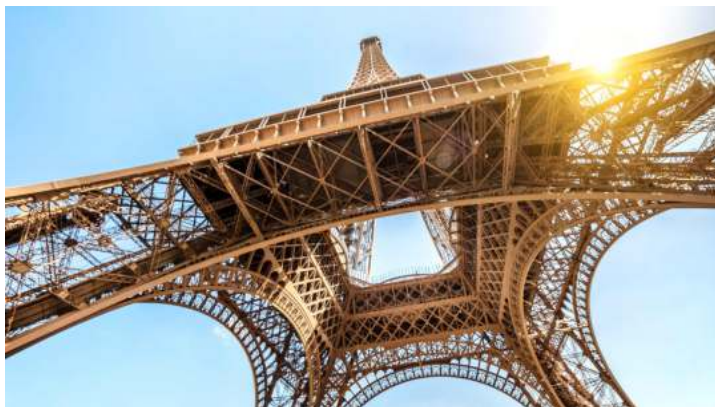


# Your itinerary



- Start Location
- Visited Location
- End Location
- Plane
- Train
- Ferry
- Cruise
- Over night

## Day 1 | Bonjour Paris



All the flavours of France come to life on this unforgettable journey, which kicks off in Paris, the 'City of Light'. Spend your day strolling past its iconic landmarks in search of hidden treasures, before joining your fellow travellers and Travel Director for a Welcome Reception and an orientation drive through the city.

**Meals:** Welcome Reception

**Hotel:** Mercure 17 Batignolles

## Day 2 | Journey through Burgundy to Lyon



We travel south to Burgundy, past the Côte d'Or vineyards of Gevrey-Chambertin and Nuits St. Georges. The colourful geometric roof tiles of the 15<sup>th</sup>-century Hospices are a sight to behold as we arrive in the medieval town of Beaune before continuing to Lyon, the gourmet capital of France. Consider spending your evening delving into the epicurean delights for which Lyon is justifiably famous. Why not wander up the city's narrow lanes lined with pastel pink and yellow façades in search of a cosy bouchon for a tasty dinner with newfound friends?

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Mercure Centre Saxe Lafayette

### Optional Experiences:

**Local Beaujolais Dinner And Old Town Discovery** - Strolling through the maze of hidden courtyards, cobbled streets and hidden traboules with our Local Specialist, we'll step back in time to discover Lyon's secrets. The World Heritage city was formerly home to ancient Gauls, powerful Romans, Gothic Cathedral builders and wealthy Renaissance Silk Merchants. We'll finish the evening with a mouthwatering three-course French feast, paired with local wine.

*Adult: 71.00 EUR*

## Day 3 | Onwards to Avignon, Monaco and the French Riviera



Today we journey to the city of Avignon at the heart of Provence. See the Papal Palace and the bridge made famous by the song - Sur le Pont d'Avignon. Continue through the Provençal countryside to Monaco. Upon arrival we'll view the cathedral where Prince Rainier and Princess Grace were married, then in the evening we'll enjoy a Regional Dinner in Monaco before continuing along the Riviera to our hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Regional Dinner

**Hotel:** Holiday Inn Nice

## Day 4 | The French Riviera Your Way



The sun-kissed shores of the French Riviera are yours to explore today. Consider relaxing on the beach with your fellow sun-worshippers or an Optional Experience could see you visit the hilltop town of Saint-Paul-de-Vence, a popular haunt for actors seeking a relaxing retreat. In your free time, soak up the fresh sea air and perhaps indulge in a delicious Salade Niçoise.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Holiday Inn Nice

### Optional Experiences:

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

**St Paul de Vence and Nice** - Your sublime day on the Riviera starts with a lovely drive to the town of St. Paul de Vence with your Local Specialist. See why this medieval, walled city lured the likes of Pablo Picasso and Marc Chagall. Then, because no visit to the Riviera is complete without it, we'll continue to glorious Nice to enjoy the city, its old town and its colourful provençal markets.

*Adult: 43.00 EUR*

**St Paul, Corniche Drive, Perfumery and Meal** - Today, with our Local Specialist, let's discover the artists' and shoppers' paradise that is medieval St. Paul, consistently named the most beautiful hilltop town in this region. Next, we'll travel the Corniche roads, to witness spectacular views of the area's gorgeous landscapes and lavish villas. We'll then pay a visit to a traditional French perfumery and finish our excursion at a local restaurant for a delicious meal with wine.

*Adult: 86.00 EUR*

## Day 5 | Admire Arles and Continue to Carcassonne



Visit Arles with its honey-coloured façades, Roman ruins and Camargue culture, and enjoy some time at leisure to explore this beautiful city. Alternatively, choose an Optional Experience to gain a deeper understanding of Vincent van Gogh and local history with our resident expert before winding your way to the fortified city of Carcassonne. Join a Local Specialist to explore this exquisite ancient town, view the Cité, and see the double ring of ramparts and 52 towers.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Mercure La Cité

### Optional Experiences:

**On the trail of Vincent Van Gogh** - You simply can't come to France without seeing all of the treasures the Romans left behind. Marvel at the Amphitheatre they built 2000 years ago. Then, switch gears with your Local Specialist to learn about Arles' other great claim to fame – the locations where Vincent Van Gogh produced some of his most famous works in Provence, including The Starry Night.

*Adult: 23.00 EUR*

## Day 6 | Pilgrimage to Lourdes and on to Biarritz



We drive toward the Pyrenees this morning and arrive in Lourdes, the global centre of the Marian pilgrimage. You will have an opportunity to see the Basilica, perched atop St. Bernadette's Grotto, where the young girl, turned saint, is said to have seen visions of the Virgin Mary. Then, travel west to the Basque Coast, where we spend the night.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Radisson Blu

### Optional Experiences:

**Biarritz Train Ride & Basque Country Dinner** - All aboard! We'll take a private train through the streets of the elegant seaside resort of Biarritz, taking in spectacular coastal viewpoints. We'll arrive at a typical Basque chalet in the nearby countryside to enjoy tasty local specialities for dinner. You might even catch the locals playing their favourite sport: Jai alai!

**Adult: 69.00 EUR**

## Day 7 | Venture to Bordeaux



Journeying through Les Landes, we arrive in the wine capital of Bordeaux, whose stunning Garonne riverfront and Age of Enlightenment history and architecture have made it one of France's most visited cities. Bordeaux wine has been produced in the region since the 8<sup>th</sup> century and the biannual wine fair attracts buyers from all over the world. Spend some time seeing the sights during your orientation of the city.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Mercure Centre Ville

### Optional Experiences:

**A Morning in Spain - Jewels of the Basque Country** - Cross the border into Spain to discover the charming Basque town of Hondarrabia. Stroll through the maze of cobblestoned streets with our Local Specialist, who will reveal the secrets of this medieval town, known for its beautiful Basque houses and colourful wooden balconies. Discover its role on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route and the impressive Castle of Charles V, today a parador. Later we will cross back into France and on to St. Jean de Luz, a wealthy Basque port town with an intriguing past filled with pirates, a royal marriage and closely-guarded family recipes. Taste this city's world-famous creation - the macaron, and enjoy free time for lunch or to explore the local craft shops and the beautiful beach.

**Adult: 44.00 EUR**

## Day 8 | Discover Scenic Dordogne



The lush green valleys and hills of the Dordogne take centre stage today during a scenic half-day included excursion. We drive to Saint-Émilion, whose wine heritage dates back to Roman times and return to Bordeaux this evening for some free time to explore the city. Perhaps, tease your taste buds with delicious Bordelaise cuisine or stroll through the city's historical centre admiring its beautiful architecture by night.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Mercure Centre Ville

### Optional Experiences:

**Secrets Of The Bordelaise** - After this morning's drive, you'll understand why Bordeaux is often described as the most beautiful wine region in the world. We'll take you inside the World Heritage Monolithic Church of Saint-Emilion, before heading to our favourite French Chateau Estate. The hostess will take you on a tour of the vineyards and the cellar, before we sit down to enjoy a Bordelaise-style feast with local wine.

*Adult: 82.00 EUR*

## Day 9 | Explore a Château in the Loire Valley



We journey through the 'Garden of France', before we Connect With Locals for a delicious lunch and Be My Guest experience. Dive Into Culture and visit the remarkable gardens at Château de Villandry before arriving at our special hotel for the night - one of Trafalgar's Stays With Stories.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Be My Guest

**Hotel:** Château de Beauvois

## Day 10 | Off to Mont-Saint-Michel and the Normandy Beaches



We travel through the patchwork landscapes of Brittany, to the island settlement of Mont-Saint-Michel on the Normandy coast, where we visit the island town and view the impressive Norman Benedictine Abbey. Follow the Liberty Highway to St. Lô and on to Omaha Beach. Reflect on the bravery of the young men who sacrificed their lives for freedom and visit the D-Day Landing Zone to learn how the operation was planned and executed. Arrive later at your hotel where you dine tonight.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Mercure Omaha Beach

## Day 11 | Journey to Paris



We travel east towards Paris, stopping at Giverny to visit the house and gardens that once inspired Claude Monet's exquisite Impressionist works of art. This evening, consider a trip to one of the city's renowned cabarets.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Mercure 17 Batignolles

### Optional Experiences:

**Montmartre Village and Artists' Square** - Many people go to Paris, but only a few are lucky enough to experience what it's really all about. Join us for a stroll with our Local Specialist through Montmartre – an artists' village once home to Picasso and Toulouse Lautrec, tucked away from the modern city. The paint will still be wet on the canvasses, as we watch apprentices work before our eyes in the famous Artist's Square. Mingle, barter, and stand in awe of Sacré Coeur Basilica in this historic, bohemian neighbourhood.

**Adult: 37.00 EUR**

**Moulin Rouge Cabaret and Dinner** - It's world famous for a reason, and this is your chance to see the real-life inspiration behind the award-winning movie. This Parisian institution features 60 dancers and entertainers with over 1,000 costumes to create a dazzling spectacle. You'll enjoy wine, dinner and Champagne during this unforgettable soirée at the original Parisian Cabaret!

**Adult: 165.00 EUR**

## Day 12 | Discover the Delights of Paris



Join your Local Specialist on a journey through the historic neighbourhoods of Paris to see where the locals live and shop. Visit the remarkable church of Saint-Sulpice. Spend the rest of the day enjoying the sights on your terms. See the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo at the Louvre, enjoy a leisurely café au lait in quiet surrounds or consider an Optional Experience to the opulent Palace of Versailles. This evening, we celebrate an epic adventure with your Travel Director and newfound friends at a Farewell Dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

**Hotel:** Mercure 17 Batignolles

### Optional Experiences:

**Versailles Palace And Gardens** - Built for the Sun King, Louis XIV, the Palace of Versailles was the envy of every European ruler, but loathed by the French commoners, which led to the French Revolution. Step inside the opulent world of Versailles and our Local Specialist will take you through the palace's Hall of Mirrors and State apartments. Then, enjoy free time to wander the symmetrical, tree-lined gardens.

**Adult: 73.00 EUR**

*\*This optional involves reservation and entrance pre-payments. Cancellation within 24 hours will incur a 50% cancellation fee.*

*\*\*This optional is subject to availability.*

**Seine Cruise and Paris Illuminations** - To truly see Paris in all its glory, you need to see it from the Seine. Enjoy a cruise along this famous river and take in unmatched views of the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower. Afterwards, we'll drive through the City of Lights to see some of the fascinating sights this beautiful city has to offer. **Adult: 43.00 EUR**

*\*In summer, this trip may take place before sunset.*

## Day 13 | Farewell Paris



For now it's time to bid a fond au revoir to the Best of France and your fellow travellers at the end of a magical and memorable holiday. Find out more about your free airport transfer at [trafalgarcruises.com/freetransfers](https://trafalgarcruises.com/freetransfers).

**Meals:** Breakfast