

INSIGHT VACATIONS







The Art of Travelling in Style

COUNTRY ROADS OF FRANCE





KEY

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Central Hotels + Nights |  Cruise |
| 2 Scenic Hotels + Nights |  Train |
| • Place Visited |  Join/Leave Options |
| ○ Optional Place Visited |  Included Flights |
|  Trip Option |  UNESCO Heritage Site |

Day 1 | Welcome to Paris



On arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport, transfers leave for the hotel at 09:00, 11:30 and 14:00. After checking in, the capital's grand boulevards and world-famous landmarks are yours to explore. At 17:30, meet your Travel Director and fellow guests at the hotel before joining a Welcome Dinner at Brasserie Bofinger, a local restaurant with cuisine inspired by country recipes.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Pullman Paris Centre Bercy.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Seine Cruise and Illuminations - The City of Light really lives up to its name when the city's monuments, buildings and bridges are lit up in all of their glory. First, a specially-designed sightseeing boat takes us for an unforgettable cruise along the Seine and beneath famous bridges to appreciate the Left and Right Banks and the Île de la Cité and St Louis. Then, we'll enjoy an illuminations tour, when the rubies and diamonds of the Champs Élysées and the Eiffel Tower are at their magnificent best.

Adult: 43.00 EUR

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

Day 2 | Champagne Region and on to Dijon



Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Grand Hotel Dijon La Cloche, Dijon.

Day 3 | Free Time in Dijon



Enjoy the Burgundy capital of Dijon. Its many handsome buildings recall the time when the Dukes of Burgundy were more powerful than the Kings of France. Perhaps take the opportunity to visit the wine capital of Burgundy, Beaune? In the evening, don't miss the chance of an optional Burgundy wine tasting and traditional dinner in the Premier Cru village of Fixin.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Hotel Dijon La Cloche, Dijon.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Beaune & the Burgundy Wine Road - We take a scenic drive with our Local Expert through the most prestigious vineyards of Burgundy - the Cote d'Or, where every village sign reads like a premium wine list. Arriving in Beaune we'll discover this charming city on foot, taking in the architectural jewel of the region - the Hospices de Beaune.

Adult: 31.00 EUR

Burgundy Wine Tasting & Dinner - The Premier Cru village of Fixin is your destination for this evening. Our visit begins at a winery, where a third-generation winemaker will take us to see some of his vines before he walks us through the elaboration process. Then he'll take us to a 16th-century cave to taste a selection of his wines. Later, we'll enjoy a wonderful dinner, sampling the rich flavours of Burgundy

Adult: 78.00 EUR

Day 4 | Chamonix



Travel towards the Mâconnais and Beaujolais before turning east into the Alps. A scenic symphony awaits you as you ascend into the high Alps and climb towards Mont Blanc, Western Europe's highest mountain. Your destination is the fashionable ski resort of Chamonix. In the evening you may choose to try a local pierrade at a local trendy eatery in a traditional chalet. This Optional Experience provides the chance to try a typical regional meal, cooked on a table barbecue using on a hot stone.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Mercure Chamonix.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Alpine Drive & Savoyard Dinner - The varied seasonal conditions of the Alps has resulted in an honest, robust cuisine fashioned from local ingredients. A spectacular, scenic drive high into the mountains, takes you through the national reserve of the Aiguilles Rouges, (Red Peaks) to a former farmer's lodge, now lovingly converted into a restaurant. You are welcomed with an apéritif before enjoying a delicious dinner of traditional Savoyard specialties. Wine is included.

Adult: 74.00 EUR

Day 5 | Lakeside Annecy and Grenoble



In the morning, embark on a beautiful journey to the lakeside town of Annecy, dramatically situated between lake and mountains, it's a medieval spectacle and a summer getaway for the French and the Swiss locals. Enjoy free time for lunch in Little Venice, aptly named for the network of canals criss-crossing through the Old Town. Explore the city's many lovely bridges at your leisure. Continue on to your hotel in Grenoble. This evening, savour a delicious dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Park Hôtel Grenoble-MGallery.

Day 6 | The French Riviera to reach Nice



Glorious mountain scenery will be yours to enjoy as you travel along a spectacular route, used by the Emperor Napoleon when he returned from his first exile to try to take the throne of France once more. Continue to the French Riviera to reach the elegant resort of Nice. The rest of the afternoon is free for you to explore as you wish. In the evening, why not walk through old town Nice, ending in Cours Saleya where dinner is at your leisure at one of the many lovely bistros?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Radisson Blu Hotel, Nice.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Nice Old Town at Night - Enjoy a walk with your Local Expert through the historic and colourful maze of alleyways and streets of the Old Town in Nice. See Piazza Rozzetti, stroll along Rue Droite and finish in Cours Saleya for dinner at leisure in one of the hundreds of bistros and outdoor restaurants. Coach transfers are included.

Adult: 22.00 EUR

Day 7 | Monaco and the Côte d'Azur



Wake up ready to rub shoulders with the jet-set on the glamorous Côte d'Azur. Unlock the secrets of the French perfume industry with a visit to a perfumery, where fragrance experts waft exclusive scents from stoppered bottles. Then enjoy a drive along part of the Grand Prix circuit in Monaco and walk with your Travel Director through the old town to see the Royal Palace and yacht-filled harbour. Your exploration continues as you visit inside Monaco Cathedral, housing the tomb of Princess Grace. The rest of the day is set aside for you to enjoy the French Riviera at your own pace. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to visit to the medieval village of Eze and its hill-top Botanical Gardens for a spectacular view of the coastline?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Radisson Blu Hotel, Nice.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Eze & Botanical Gardens - Today we'll follow the narrow winding cobbled alleys through Eze village; a medieval gem filled with old stone archways, flower decked houses, shady squares and gurgling fountains. Visit the hill-top Botanical Gardens, where an impressive collection of cacti, sculptures and other rare plants surround the remains of an ancient chateau. After resting our feet by the contemplation pool, we'll reach the high point of our visit, literally, with fabulous panoramic views over the coast.

Adult: 27.00 EUR

Traditional Niçoise Dinner - Provence wouldn't be Provence without sampling the local fare. Tonight, a nirvana of Niçoise specialties will be spread before you, colourful salads and meat dishes paraded from the kitchen, all made with fresh seasonal produce. Wine, beer and soft drinks are included but make sure you leave room for dessert!

Adult: 71.00 EUR

Day 8 | Picturesque Provence



Visit the medieval village of Saint-Paul de Vence, perched high above the Riviera beaches. A walk through its winding streets reveals elegant fountains, vine-covered stone walls and views of mountains and sea. Enjoy a lesson in the French sport of pétanque. Steady your hand and get ready to test your newfound skills as you take part in a game, completed by a glass of pastis, a French apéritif. Continue to Aix-en-Provence to see the sumptuous mansions lining the Cours Mirabeau and on to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Aquabella Hotel & Spa, Aix-en-Provence.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Wonders of Aix - Bathed in the special light of Provence, we'll discover the elegant city of Aix with a Local Expert. Wander around its beautiful narrow streets and charming squares, embellished by fountains or hot springs. Each 17th or 18th Century house has a story to tell. You will feel the presence of the painter Paul Cézanne, visiting his art studio nestled in a charming garden and passing by the places which marked his life. Aix - a canvas of joyful impressions.

Adult: 35.00 EUR

Day 9 | Avignon and Pont du Gard



Journey to Pont du Gard to see the magnificent ancient Roman aqueduct bridge. Continue on to Avignon to enjoy views of the remaining arches of the Pont d'Avignon and the fortified Papal Palace.

Stop at the beautiful Domaine de la Vallongue for a tasting of its renowned wines and gastronomic olive oils. A MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, the estate uses traditional practices throughout, creating a sustainable business for future generations.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Aquabella Hotel & Spa, Aix-en-Provence.

Day 10 | Carcassonne and to Albi



Head to beautiful Arles and learn about its historical connection to Vincent Van Gogh, who produced over 300 artworks during his time in the city. Cross the fertile Languedoc region, before journeying inland to the fortified town of Carcassonne. Travellers are often amazed at their first sight of this medieval gem, known for its fortress - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a complete set of ramparts and a medieval keep. Travel to Albi, the birthplace of the Toulouse Lautrec. During your orientation with your Travel Director, marvel at iconic sites including the views of Toulouse Lautrec Museum and the famous awe-inspiring cathedral, before spending the remainder of the day at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hôtel Saint Antoine, Albi.

Day 11 | Free Time in Albi



Enjoy a full day at leisure, to relax and soak up the atmosphere of Albi.

This evening savour a delicious dinner of carefully selected fresh ingredients, at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hôtel Saint Antoine, Albi.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Village in the Sky - Driving through the vineyards of Gaillac, we'll soon arrive at Cordes-sur-Ciel, a medieval village that rises into the sky like a mirage. Together with our Local Expert, we'll enjoy a guided tour of the 13th century streets lined with Gothic houses sheltered behind timber doors. Shops filled with traditional crafts, art galleries and panoramic views ensure that Cordes-sur-Ciel fascinates all those who visit - a place not to be missed.

Adult: 40.00 EUR

Day 12 | Cahors and Rocamadour



Stop in Cahors, famous for its Black Wine, and see the Pont Valentré. You'll also have the opportunity to explore the open air market - full of fresh, seasonal produce and local delicacies, it's an experience to delight all of the senses. Travel to Rocamadour and enjoy free time to explore this medieval town perched on a cliff side above the Alzou River and known as a resting place for pilgrims on their way to Spain. Continue to the beautiful town of Sarlat-la-Canéda, its medieval core blessed with fine historic golden limestone houses.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hotel Le Perigord, La Roque-Gageac.

Day 13 | Exploring the Dordogne Valley



Start the day with a morning drive into the stunning Valley of the Dordogne to visit Lascaux II, where the world-famous prehistoric cave paintings have been faithfully reproduced.

Enjoy a delicious Farm-to-Table Dinner, prepared with locally sourced ingredients and served with wines from the region.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hotel Le Perigord/Hotel Anne d'Anjou.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

An Evening on the Dordogne - Locally known as the "Grande Aygue", the River Dordogne wends through the local countryside. For centuries the river was the commercial centre of the valley and river boats known as gabarres transported goods to towns and villages

along its banks. Join us for a cruise on a replica gabarre and admire the magnificent views of the valley from the water, including some of the most prestigious chateaux of Perigord, all while enjoying a drink with your companions.

Adult: 32.00 EUR

Day 14 | Paris, The City of Light



Travel onwards to immerse yourself in the beautiful city of Paris where on arrival you are free to explore this fascinating city as you wish. As evening descends, the City of Light lives up to its name as the monuments, buildings and bridges are lit up in all their glory. For that special touch of excitement and glamour don't miss the chance to join an Optional Experience to one of the world-famous cabaret shows.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Le Méridien Etoile, Paris.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Moulin Rouge Cabaret and Dinner - Enjoy dinner and cabaret, including wine and champagne, at the world-famous Moulin Rouge – the original Paris cabaret. Immortalized by the award-winning film of the same name, this Parisian institution features 60 dancers and entertainers and over 1000 costumes!

Adult: 177.00 EUR

Day 15 | Romantic Capital on the Seine



During your time in Paris, see the impressive Eiffel Tower, the imposing facades of the Louvre, the obelisk in the centre of the Place de la Concorde and enjoy a drive along the Champs Élysées to Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe. Today enjoy an Insight Choice experience. Choose to shop in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian for fashion, perfume or cosmetics with your Local Expert. Alternatively, join a Local Expert, an avid foodie, as you head into areas where Parisians go about their daily lives to explore small shops and sample local treats and delicacies. You are in for a memorable evening starting with a delicious Celebration Dinner at the historic restaurant La Coupole, serving delicious French cuisine and wine.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Le Méridien Etoile, Paris.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Giverny Excursion - A lovely drive takes us along the Seine to the village of Giverny, where the impressionist artist Monet lived for the last 43 years of his life. Enjoy a visit to see his fascinating house with its blend of colours. However, it's in the garden where the spirit of the artist is most revealed. A spectacular array of colour is created by poppies, delphiniums, lupins, peonies, irises and roses, while the water garden is a wistful dream of bamboo, willow and rustic bridges sweeping over the water lilies, one of Monet's favourite subjects.

Adult: 49.00 EUR

Day 16 | Au Revoir Paris

Your departure transfer will arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 or 11:00.

Meals: Breakfast