

Country Roads of France

08 - 23 August

16 days from €226 (Lm 97) per day Prices quoted are per person in Euro and may vary without notice. Conditions apply

Tour Pace - A well paced tour with two-night stays in five out of nine cities, with the opportunity for some leisurely later morning departures. The journey by TGV train is a relaxing way to return to the glittering city of Paris.

Hotels - There is a varied selection of modern hotels like the lakeside Marina d'Adelphia in Aix-les-Bains, as well as those which are both historic and modern like La Truffe Noire in the Dordogne and the Sofitel La Cloche in Dijon.

Fellow Passengers - Whether you are a nature lover, history buff or food and wine enthusiast, this tour has something for everyone. A great tour for anyone wishing to delve deeper into the diversity of France and its way of life!

Highlights - The scenic mountain splendour of Chamonix contrasts with the sunshine of the French Riviera, while the magnificent scenery of the Dordogne is followed by the super-fast TGV train ride to Paris.



Take a walking tour in Carcassonne

Day 1 – Malta - Paris.

Meet the tour leader at Malta International Airport where we check in for our Lufthansa flight to Paris where upon arrival we are transferred to our hotel. This evening, join your Tour Director and fellow guests for a Welcome Drink. **Hotel: Concorde St Lazare/Tour Eiffel Suffren.**

Day 2 – Paris – DIJON/Beaune.

Head to the ancient capital of the Champagne region, Troyes: its magnificent centre of medieval buildings is appropriately shaped like a Champagne cork. Continue into Burgundy, once a powerful and virtually independent duchy, and famous for its fine wines. Stop in the world famous wine village of Chablis to taste the local nectar. Continue to Dijon or Beaune for the next two nights. **Hotel: Sofitel La Cloche/ Hotel de la Poste. (BB,D)**

Day 3 – Vézelay Excursion.

After breakfast, set off through the leafy Burgundian countryside to the picturesque town of Vézelay, built along a rocky ridge among the northern Morvan foothills. Tradition has it that Mary Magdalene was buried here and, from the famous basilica, Richard the Lionheart set off for the Crusades. Later, return to your hotel for time at leisure. **(BB)**

Day 4 – DIJON/Beaune – Chamonix.

A scenic symphony awaits you as you head into the high Alps, and climb towards Mont Blanc and the ski resort of Chamonix. **Hotel: Prieuré. (BB)**

Day 5 – Chamonix – Aix-les-bains.

After breakfast this morning, take a breathtaking drive to the lake-side town of Annecy. There's time to have lunch in the Little Venice area or take a boat trip. Continue to your hotel in the spa town of Aix-les-Bains, situated on the edge of France's largest and most celebrated lake, Lac du Bourget and overlooked by Mt Revard. **Hotel: Marina d'Adelphia. (BB,D)**

Day 6 – Aix-les-bains – Nice.

Travel in the footsteps of Napoleon as he made his victorious return from Elba. A scenic, rugged landscape leads from the Alps, down to the French Riviera and elegant Nice. **Hotel: Radisson SAS. (BB)**

Day 7 – Monaco excursion.

On a morning sightseeing tour, journey to the principality of Monaco, see the Grimaldi Palace and visit the cathedral, burial place of Princess Grace and Prince Rainier. Enjoy a drive on the Grand Prix circuit and views of the port with its luxury yachts. The rest of the day is set aside for you to

enjoy the French Riviera. **(BB)**

Day 8 – Nice – Avignon.

Visit the medieval village of St Paul de Vence, which sits high above the Riviera beaches. Get to know the village, revel in its pleasures and experience its art and lifestyle. Continue to Cézanne's home town, Aix-en-Provence to see the elegant mansions and popular Cours Mirabeau. Journey into the Luberon, made famous by Peter Mayle in his book "A Year in Provence", and pass around Cavillon, the melon capital of France, en route to Avignon. **Hotel: Grand. (BB,D)**

Day 9 – Rhône Excursion.

A short distance from Avignon, see the greatest legacy of the Romans' presence: the incredible three tiered Pont du Gard. Head towards the Rhône River and the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape to taste the renowned wine. Back in Avignon, take a little train ride for an overview of the town past the old Palace of the Popes, and the 'Pont d'Avignon'. **(BB)**

Day 10 – Avignon – Nîmes.

Drive to Arles, one-time home to Van Gogh and Roman legionnaires, and visit the amphitheatre. Continue through the Camargue to Stes Maries-de-la-Mer, where Gypsies gather annually to honour their patron saint. You may see flamingos and wild horses on the way to Nîmes where, on arrival, an orientation tour shows you the Roman Arena and 2,000-year-old Roman Temple, Maison Carrée. **Hotel: Imperator Concorde. (BB)**

Day 11 – Nîmes – Albi.

Cross the fertile Languedoc region this morning, before heading inland to the fortified town of Carcassonne. Like stepping back in time, the city has a complete set of ramparts and a medieval keep. After your walking tour, continue to your hotel in Albi, know for its Cathedral and the birthplace of Toulouse Lautrec. **Hotel: Hostellerie Sainte Antoine. (BB,D)**

Day 12 – Albi – Dordogne.

Stop in Cahors, famous for its 'Black Wine', before continuing to Rocamadour. A resting place for pilgrims on their way to Spain, this tiny medieval town is perched on a cliff side above the Alzou River. After exploring the beautiful town and its sanctuary, drive on to your hotel in the Dordogne. For dinner tonight there is a selection of restaurants to choose from. During the evening, enjoy a short informative presentation on the regional wines that compliment your meal. **Hotel: La Truffe Noire/Relais de Castelnaud. (BB,DA)**

Day 13 – Dordogne Valley Excursion.

A morning drive will take you into the stunning Valley of the Dordogne to visit the town of Sarlat-la-Canéda with its fine historic golden limestone houses. Make your way to the prehistoric site at Lascaux to view the world-famous cave paintings. **(BB,D)**

Day 14 – Dordogne – Paris.

Your first stop today is at the town of Limoges to visit a porcelain showroom. Then continue to historic Poitiers to board your TGV train for the fast and comfortable journey to Paris. **Hotel: Concorde St Lazare/Tour Eiffel Suffren. (BB)**

Day 15 – Paris Sightseeing.

With a local guide, see Notre Dame Cathedral before driving past the façades of the Louvre and along the Champs Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe. Stop for a photo of the Eiffel Tower before enjoying a scenic cruise along the River Seine. The tour concludes with a visit to Napoleon's tomb in the gilded Église du Dôme. Perhaps celebrate the tour with a farewell bistro dinner. **(BB)**

Day 16 – Paris.

Transfer to airport for our flight to Malta.



Enjoy Your Included Tour Features

Premium Highlights

Enjoy an excursion to elegant Monaco, playground of the rich and famous
 See all the sights of the papal city on your little train ride in Avignon
 Visit Sarlat-la-Canéda and see the prehistoric cave paintings of Lascaux in the Dordogne Valley
 View Paris from a unique perspective on a leisurely Seine cruise and visit Napoleon's tomb

Personal Insights

Discover the heritage of contemporary art at medieval hilltop Saint-Paul de Vence
 Enjoy a short group tutorial on the wines that compliment your evening meals in Rhone

Additional Excursions & Sights

Visit medieval Vézelay, Champagne capital of Troyes and the wine village of Chablis
 Stay in alpine Chamonix and visit lake side Annecy and Aix-les-Bains
 Visit charming Aix-en-Provence • Drive on part of the Monaco Grand Prix circuit
 See the Roman aqueduct of Pont du Gard • Visit the Roman Amphitheatre in Arles
 See the Maison Carrée and Arena in Nîmes • Visit Stes Maries-de-la-Mer in the Camargue
 Enjoy a walking tour of Carcassonne • Visit cliff top Rocamadour
 Visit lovely Cahors • Visit a Limoges porcelain showroom
 See Notre Dame and Eiffel Tower • Wine tasting in Burgundy and at Châteauneuf-du-Pape
 Scenic Drives – Burgundy, High Alps, Route Napoleon, French Riviera,
 The Luberon National Park, Camargue, Dordogne Valley

First Class Services

Escorted by a professional Tour Director
 Luxury air-conditioned coach with onboard toilet
 Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portorage
 Airline Taxes, Fuel Surcharge and Service Charge
 Train journey by TGV from Poitiers to Paris
 Traveller document wallet, map book journal and information pack
 Airport arrival and departure transfers

More Included Meals

Dine-Around evening at your own choice of restaurant from our selection in the Dorgogne (DA)
 14 Buffet Breakfasts (BB) and 5 three-course table d'hôte Dinners, or Buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

Triple	€ 3619	Lm 1554
Twin	€ 3809	Lm 1635
Single	€ 4979	Lm 2137
Child 5- 11	€ 3389	Lm 1455
Youth 12-17	€ 3459	Lm 1485



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