

TRAFALGAR

Best of France

Your itinerary



● Start Location

✈ Plane

🚢 Cruise

① Over night

● Visited Location

● End Location


🚆 Train

🚢 Ferry

Day 1

Bonjour Paris

All the flavours of France come to life on this unforgettable journey, which kicks off in Paris, the 'City of Lights'. 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.

 **Hotel** - Mercure 17 Batignolles

 **Included Meals** - Welcome Reception

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 15th-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?


 **Hotel** - Mercure Centre Saxe Lafayette

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast

Day 3

Onwards to Avignon, Monaco and the French Riviera

We stop in the heart of Provence and the city of Avignon, once the Papal Seat in the 14th century. See the Papal Palace and the bridge made famous in the song - Sur le Pont d'Avignon. Journeying through the fields of Provence, immortalised in the great works of such artists as Van Gogh and Cézanne, we arrive in the sophisticated Principality of Monaco, where we will view the cathedral where Prince Rainier and Princess Grace were married. This evening, we enjoy a Regional Dinner in Monaco before arriving at our hotel.

 **Hotel** - Holiday Inn Nice

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast, Regional Dinner

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.

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast

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.

 **Hotel** - Mercure La Cité

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast, Dinner

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast

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.


 **Included Meals** - Breakfast

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 Villandry before arriving at our special hotel for the night - one of Trafalgar's Stays With Stories.

 **Hotel** - Château de Beauvois

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast, Be My Guest, Dinner

TODAY'S INCLUDED HIGHLIGHT EXPERIENCE


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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.

 **Hotel** - Mercure Omaha Beach

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast, Dinner

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.

 **Hotel** - Mercure 17 Batignolles

Day 6

Pilgrimage to Lourdes and on to Biarritz

We drive through 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.

 **Hotel** - Radisson Blu

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast

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 8th 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.

 **Hotel** - Mercure Centre Ville

All optional experiences for this trip

Book with your travel director when you travel

AVAILABLE ON DAY 2

Local Beaujolais Gourmet 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 & wealthy Renaissance Silk Merchants. We'll finish the evening with a mouthwatering three-course French feast, paired with local wine.

Adult Price: **€69.00***

*** The Optionals and pricing listed here are a guideline only and subject to change.**

AVAILABLE ON DAY 4

St Paul de Vence and Nice

A lovely drive into the Esteral Heights bring us to the quaint walled hilltown of St Paul de Vence. Our walk through the village's winding streets with a Local Specialist reveals elegant fountains, vine-covered ramparts and interesting galleries. Then, because no visit to the Riviera is complete without it, we continue to glorious Nice to enjoy the city, its old town and colourful provençale markets.

Adult Price: **€43.00***

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 **Included Meals** - Breakfast

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.

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

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 trafalgar.com/freetransfers.

 **Included Meals** - Breakfast

St Jean De Luz, Jewel Of The Basque Country

Truly the jewel of the Basque Country, St. Jean de Luz is a wealthy port town with an intriguing past filled with pirates, a royal marriage and closely-guarded family recipes. Our local specialist will guide you through it all and give you the chance to taste this city's world-famous creation – the macaron. Later, you'll have time to explore the local craft shops and the beautiful beach.

Adult Price: **€40.00***

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AVAILABLE ON DAY 8

Secrets Of The Bordelaise With Lunch Or Dinner

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 Price: **€81.00***

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AVAILABLE ON DAY 11

French Culinary Discovery

AVAILABLE ON DAY 4

St Paul, Corniche Drive, Perfumery and Meal

First we'll travel to the medieval hilltop town of St. Paul to visit this artists' paradise. We'll continue along the Riviera, travelling on corniche roads with their spectacular views, to a local restaurant for a delicious meal, including drinks.

Adult Price: **€83.00***

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AVAILABLE ON DAY 5

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 Price: **€23.00***

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AVAILABLE ON DAY 6

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: Jaï alai !

Adult Price: **€69.00***

*** The Optionals and pricing listed here are a guideline only and subject to change.**

AVAILABLE ON DAY 7

Highlights Of The Pyrénées

Join us on a beautiful drive up into the Pyrénées, where we'll catch a funicular train to ascend through mountain pastures to the top of these magnificent mountains, finding ourselves in Spain. You'll have time to enjoy some Basque hospitality before our descent, with a drink included. Weather permitting.

Adult Price: **€42.00***

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AVAILABLE ON DAY 7

Today we'll explore the Montorgueil neighborhood on a foodie walking tour with our knowledgeable guide. We'll sample some of the city's finest bread, charcuterie, cheese and pastries; meeting local vendors and artisans along the way. n.b. There is a minimum of 10 guests and a maximum of 20 for this optional.

Adult Price: **€73.00***

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AVAILABLE ON DAY 11

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 Price: **€37.00***

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AVAILABLE ON DAY 12

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

Adult Price: **€38.00***

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AVAILABLE ON DAY 12

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. Please note: this optional is subject to availability and involves reservation and entrance pre-payments. Cancellation within 24 hours will incur a 50% cancellation fee.

Adult Price: **€73.00***

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