



# France Collection

# AIRFRANCE



## FRANCE IS IN THE AIR



## RENDEZ-VOUS IN PARIS

or 25 other destinations in France thanks to our partners.



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# Edito

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Dear Friends of the Tourism Industry, bonjour

A robust approximate of 83 million tourists visit France annually making it a leading tourism destination in the world. These encouraging figures motivate us to put our best foot forward and showcase France's wealth of culture, heritage and its rich repertoire of tourist sites for our visitors to enjoy and experience.

France offers its tourists a unique experience of discovering the world in a country. A multi-faceted destination, France invites its travellers to begin their journey at iconic monuments such as the Eiffel Tower and continue their voyage of discovery to a selection of 13 diverse regions each of which have a unique distinct identity of its own. A plethora of holiday options await the traveller: seaside holidays, vineyard and gastronomy trails, city breaks, adventure escapades, alpine retreats and self-drive getaways. France's overseas territories also lure the traveller with their distinct way of life and picturesque locales. France finds favour with every genre of traveller. From the first time traveller to the discerning globe-trotter in search of experiential holidays to the corporate traveller in search for exceptional venues and locales for meetings and incentives; our destination is perfectly adapted to meet the needs and requirements of all its visitors. An important and intangible aspect that also enhances France's appeal as a tourist destination is its unique art de vivre or way of life. This unique aspect reflects in the everyday life of the French and adds an interesting facet to our culture.

Our recently launched global strategy lays emphasis on highlighting signature tourism brands in France or "Marques Mondiales". These include regions such as Alsace, Alpes-Mont Blanc, Biarritz Pays Basques, Burgundy, Brittany, Bordeaux, Côte d'Azur, Corsica, Champagne, Languedoc-Mediterranean, Lyon, Normandy, Provence, Paris, Toulouse-Pyrénées and the Loire Valley. We have identified France's innate areas of expertise or "poles d'excellence" that include wine tourism, ecotourism, sports, the French Alps, the French savoir-faire and eclectic nightlife. These facets will be consistently interwoven and incorporated across marketing initiatives in a very concerted and focused manner and send out key messages to enhance the recall of France as a leading tourism destination.

The role of the travel agent is of utmost importance in disseminating this information to the potential visitor. To facilitate your sincere efforts at showcasing our destination, we have created this special user-friendly sales manual that provides you with in-depth information on our signature brands. We are certain that this manual will effectively illustrate France's variety of tourism options and will also inspire you to customise diverse travel itineraries for your clients.

I would like to thank you for your continued support towards showcasing our destination and we look forward to working together to reinforce France's positioning as the number one tourist destination in the world.



**Christian Mantel**  
*Managing Director*  
*Atout France - France Tourism Development Agency*

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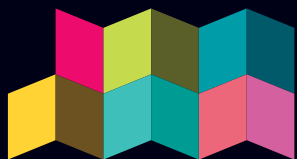
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# Map of France

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# Discover France

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## France in Brief

### THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

The French Republic comprises of Metropolitan France (continental France and Corsica) and 10 overseas territories including four Overseas Departments (Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique and Réunion), three Overseas Territories (The French Southern and Antarctic Territories), four Overseas Collectives (French Polynesia, Mayotte, Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon, Wallis and Fortuna Isles) and one standalone collectivity (New Caledonia).

France has been governed by the Fifth Republic since 4<sup>th</sup> October 1958. The Head of State is elected by universal suffrage for a term of 5 years. Emmanuel Macron is the 7<sup>th</sup> President.

### SURFACE AREA AND POPULATION

France covers an area of about 560,000 km<sup>2</sup>, with a population of close to 66 million inhabitants.

### RELIGION

France is a secular state. The majority religion is Catholicism. Since 1905, the Church and the State have been officially separated.

### CLIMATE

France enjoys temperate climate with four general climatic zones: Oceanic and humid climate with cool summers in the west; semi-continental climate with harsh winters and hot summers in the east and in the mountains; intermediate climate with cold winters and hot summers in Paris and the central regions; and Mediterranean climate with mild winters and very hot summers in the south.

### TIME ZONES

The standard time zone for France is the Central European Time: GMT+1. In summer, when Daylight Saving Time is on, the clock springs forward one hour to become GMT+2. In summer (March to October), India is ahead of France by 3 and a half hours, In winter (November to March), India is ahead of France by 4 and a half hours.

### VOLTAGE

The voltage in France is 220 volts/50 hertz. Plugs have two or three round pins.

### VACCINATION

No vaccination is required to enter France.

### MONEY, BANKS, CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The Euro (€) is the only legal tender in France. Automatic cash machines are found in most commercial centres. Currency exchange is available at banks, post offices or bureaux de change found in large department stores, railway stations, airports and near tourist sites. The exchange rate is fixed but commission remains discretionary and is usually clearly displayed. Most major credit cards are accepted at shops, hotels and restaurants but they may be a minimum purchase amount for credit card use.

### OFFICIAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

All government departments, banks and most shops are closed but a majority of museums, monuments and restaurants remain open.

New Years Day (1 January); Easter Monday (usually in April); Labour Day (1 May); Victory Day (8 May); Ascension Day (usually in May); National Day/Bastille Day (14 July); Assumption Day (15 August); All Saints Day (1 November); Armistice Day (11 November); Christmas Day (25 December).

### IMMIGRATION & VISA

A valid passport with a minimum of 6 months validity is necessary to enter France. Depending on nationality, the duration and the reason for the stay in France, it is necessary to obtain a visa from the local French consulate before leaving the home country.

France in India  
Embassy of France  
<http://www.ambafrance-in.org/Get-a-visa>





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# Recommending France to your clients

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## 10 Key Selling Points

It is no wonder that France is the most visited country in the world. These are the top 10 selling points:

### 1) A RICH DIVERSITY OF LANDSCAPES

France is a mix of a thousand exotic sceneries and experiences that can be visited all year-round.

### 2) FRANCE'S TOWNS AND CITIES

France is not just Paris, even though the City of Lights is a universe of attractions in itself. Beyond Paris, France's other cities and towns all have their own character and unique attractions.

### 3) ART AND CULTURE

France is an open-air museum. Its many museums hold the world's treasures - see the real Mona Lisa or the original Picasso in France and everything from ancient art to post-modern architecture.

### 4) GLORIOUS FOOD

French gastronomy food and wine is legendary, and there is nothing like discovering it in its birthplace. From wine to regional cuisines, sophistication and a proud history is the hallmark. Visitors can discover France's food culture everywhere, from Michelin starred restaurants to bistros to cafés and bustling food markets.

### 5) THE FRENCH STYLE OF LIVING

which celebrates art, romance, luxury, celebrations and warm hospitality. Visitors will experience a unique culture in France.

### 6) EASY ACCESS AND EASY TO EXPLORE

France is easily accessible as it is serviced by many non-stop flights. Its central position and links to other European countries also makes France a most convenient stop on an European tour. Good transportation within France makes it easy for independent travelers.

### 7) FANTASTIC SHOPPING AND FASHION

Shopping is truly an art form in the home country of the world's top luxury brands. France is a shoppers' paradise where beautiful products and creativity go on dazzling display everyday.

### 8) A WEALTH OF FAMILY-FRIENDLY ATTRACTIONS

France is a safe and clean country to visit with many attractions for youth and children. It is a destination for the whole family.

### 9) THE FRENCH DO SPEAK ENGLISH!

### 10) FRANCE CATERS TO A WIDE AUDIENCE

France finds favour with a diverse genre of travellers; from those on a budget to those discerning travellers looking for niche experiences.





# Paris

**PARIS HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE -  
IT IS MULTIFACETED, MAGICAL, MYTHICAL  
AND SOMETIMES A SURPRISING CAPITAL  
THAT IS ALWAYS EXCITING.**

People come to Paris to admire its exceptional architecture and cultural heritage making it one of the world's most beautiful cities. This dynamic heritage is constantly being improved and enriched. A city where something is always happening, Paris is also the capital of gastronomy, fashion and shopping. The city is committed to upholding a high quality of life and sustainable development, offering its inhabitants and visitors a particularly pleasant setting. Innovative, audacious and vibrant, Paris has leapt boldly into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Paris and its region offer a unique and ideal setting for any vacation: from the Eiffel Tower to Notre-Dame to the Moulin Rouge, these traditionally symbolic monuments of Paris rival the equally breathtaking array of châteaux, landscapes, forests and valleys of its surrounding areas.





# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## EIGHT ITINERARIES IN PARIS

The 8 itineraries below offer a wide range of experiences of all that the city has to offer:

**RIVER SEINE PARIS:** Walk along the river and discover the bridges of Paris, its monuments, the riverside booksellers and the various quays. The riverbanks of Paris are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**TIMELESS PARIS:** The historical heart of Paris can be found on the two islands in the Seine River (Ile de la Cité and Ile St Louis), Notre-Dame Cathedral, Jardin des Plantes and the Latin Quarter.

**TRENDY PARIS:** Paris is most fashionable around these neighbourhoods: Marais, Montorgueil, Hôtel de Ville and Les Halles. A good mix of heritage, fashion, art, design and shopping can be found here.

**GLAMOUROUS PARIS:** Experience Paris in all its gold, marble and crystal splendour at the

Palais Royal, Madeleine, Opéra and the Grands Boulevards emanating from the Arc de Triomphe onto the Champs Elysées.

**VILLAGE PARIS:** Enjoy a village ambience at Montmartre, Pigalle, St-Georges, Trinité and Batignolles. Amid the tourist attractions, you will also find chic cafés, galleries and designer boutiques.

**ARTISTS' PARIS:** Visitors can explore the stomping ground of artists. Explore literary cafés, antique galleries and book shops at Musée d'Orsay, St Germain-des-Prés, Luxembourg and Montparnasse.

**MONUMENTAL PARIS:** The top tourist attractions in Paris are its monuments and the fantastic views around them: the Eiffel Tower, Champs-de-Mars, Les Invalides and Trocadéro. Experience People's Paris where people power is celebrated and remembered at areas such as République, Bastille, Oberkampf and the Père-Lachaise cemetery.

## HIGHLIGHT EVENT

Admire the fantastic view over the rooftops of Paris from the steps of the Sacré Coeur in Montmartre, from the top of the Arc de Triomphe, at the top of the Champs Elysées or even from the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Centre Pompidou. Ile-de-France is filled with destinations that are ideal for visiting with friends or family. Famous sites throughout the region include Disneyland Paris, France Miniature, the Musée Grévin wax museum, the City of Science and Industry and the Jardin d'Acclimatation. From the National Museum of Archeology in Saint-Germain-en-Laye to the Château de Versailles, the region is rich with French history.

Inner Paris boasts of nearly 70 Michelin-starred restaurants and a vast number of prestigious establishments worth experiencing! Typical brasseries serve French classics such as streak-frites and pommes parisiennes (Parisian potatoes) as well as more elaborate 'bistro' style dishes. For food on-the-go, opt for a traditional simple baguette sandwich with ham and butter from any local boulangerie or enjoy a picnic on a bench in one of the many parks the region has to offer.

Paris is still resoundingly and forever the capital of fashion, luxury and shopping! Winter and summer sales are the highlights of this key sector. The newly renovated department stores in Boulevard Haussman and Les Halles are good places for shopaholics.

Sunday has also become synonymous with shopping, with the opening in 2016 of shops in twelve tourist areas including Montmartre, the Marais and the Champs-Élysées.

Nightlife is always exciting: the famous Lido de Paris, the Crazy Horse, Moulin Rouge, Paradis Latin and a selection of night clubs, bars, lounges and restaurants always have something new to offer.



## OVER 300 EVENTS TAKE PLACE DAILY IN PARIS, FROM CONCERTS TO EXHIBITIONS TO THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES.

Annual events such as the Paris Plages, where the banks of the Seine are transformed into beaches, the Nuit Blanche all-night art festival and la Fête de la Musique, where the streets fill with music on the summer solstice, are just some of the popular happenings Paris has to offer. Paris and its region host more than 700 events per year: festivals, concerts, exhibitions, performances, fairs, sporting events and more. The city constantly showcases innovative and contemporary artworks as well as ancient and classical art within its many cultural institutions ranging from museums and galleries to the Opera house and theatre houses. Some of the top events that enliven the streets of Paris annually include the Tropical Carnival, Techno Parade and the Gay Pride Parade. Other festivals, such as Jazz à Saint-Germain-des-Prés Festival and the Foire Saint-Germain showcase the city's village-feel. Numerous music festivals give Paris and its region its sense of rhythm: Banlieues Bleues Festival, Solidays, Rock en Seine and much more.



Paris invites you to share in the thrills of many great sporting events: The Hermès Show Jumping at the Grand Palais, the Roland-Garros tennis tournament, the finish line of the Tour de France on the Champs-Élysées and the final of the Top 14 rugby at the Stade de France.

## GETTING THERE

2 airports: Orly and Roissy Charles de Gaulle, Europe's largest transport hub.  
6 international train stations: Lyon, Nord, St-Lazare, Est, Montparnasse, and Austerlitz.  
A comprehensive metro and bus network.







**ENJOY A SPARKLING STAY IN CHAMPAGNE,  
HOME TO THE BUBBLY THAT OFFERS YOU  
A MÉLANGE OF FLAVOURS AND ENCOUNTERS  
WITH EXCEPTIONAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE.**

Lush vineyards, heritage monuments and medieval towns greet you in Champagne located less than an hour from Paris by train. Home to the most iconic beverage in the world - Champagne - the bubbly in its manifold forms awaits you in its UNESCO World Heritage classified vineyards, famous champagne houses, champagne cellars and unique landscapes on the Champagne Tourist Route. And your heady experience with the region does not end with the bubbly...

History comes to life with visits of its medieval towns home to graceful cathedrals, abbeys, imposing forts and châteaux. Relive France's royal past with a visit to the famous Reims Cathedral that has witnessed the coronation of many French Kings and is a must visit on any tourist itinerary.

Go further and explore towns such as Epernay and Troyes. Nestled in the heart of the vineyards, Epernay invites you to discover its Champagne Avenue dotted with champagne houses on both sides of the street, while Troyes charms you with its half-timbered houses, old-world charm and its discounted shopping outlets.

Its verdant landscapes and stunning topography are ideal venues for outdoor activities. Lovers of the great outdoors can enjoy long walks, hiking trails, cycling etc. Golfers can tee off at any of the 10 golf courses that the region offers. Feel on top of the world with adventure parks prettily perched on trees or experience the joys of hot air ballooning! Its lakes give you plenty of opportunities to enjoy aquatic sports and activities.



# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 REIMS

Champagne is the only region in the world to produce champagne. It is known for its champagne and gastronomy. Champagne is also a land of rich culture that offers a remarkable heritage and a diversity of unique sites. Discover Reims - the coronation city of France where 33 kings of France were coronated in the Cathedral of Reims.

Must see attractions in Reims include:

- Notre-Dame Cathedral
- The Tau Palace: Visit the residence where the Kings of France stayed during their coronation. Sculptures, tapestries, costumes and pieces of gold and silver create an exceptional collection of treasures
- Saint Remi Basilica
- Prestigious champagne houses such as Vranken, Pommery, Ruinart or Mumm...

## HIGHLIGHT



Recently classified as UNESCO World Heritage, Champagne invites you to discover its famous champagne houses and cellars and unique landscapes on the Champagne Tourist Route.

Champagne is also a land of culture with iconic sites such as the Cathedral of Reims, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the medieval alleys of Troyes, the studio of Renoir in Essoyes and many more.

The Champagne region also promises a soothing experience for those with wellness on their agenda. Prepare to completely unwind and look forward to a rejuvenating experience at the region's spa centres and hotels offering world class spa facilities. Champagne offers a treasure trove of epicurean experiences, cellar dinners with food and champagne pairings. Visit well known châteaux such as Dom Pérignon, Moët et Chandon, Pommery and also artisanal brands. Discover the region's vineyards with a 4x4 vineyard trail or a 2cv ride and for the outdoor enthusiasts there are bicycle tours.



## DAY 2 EPERNAY

Located in the heart of the vineyards, 1h30 mins away from Paris, Epernay is internationally known as the 'Capital of Champagne'.

Must see attractions in Epernay include:

- 'Avenue of Champagne' which is equivalent to the Champs Elysées in Paris
- Prestigious champagne houses such as Moët & Chandon, Pierre Jouet, Mercier and De Castellane...
- Perching Bar - a tree top bar for champagne tasting amongst trees and acrobanching
- Champagne tasting in C Comme Champagne

## EVENT

### THE TOURISTIC ROUTE OF CHAMPAGNE FESTIVAL



Held annually during the first weekend of August, this event provides a unique experience. An initiative of the wine producers, this concept involves the gathering of several villages within the same area, all of which come alive with festivities centered around champagne.

A champagne flute is the passport for tastings in the open cellars of the Route de Champagne. The owner of this passport will discover the magnificent heritage of the region while interacting with wine growers who share their experience and passion.

The Habits de Lumière are 3 days of festive entertainment orchestrated by the City of Epernay and champagne houses. Street performances, tastings in champagne bars and musical entertainment, fireworks and the illumination of the Avenue des Champagne and the champagne houses form part of the celebrations.



## DAY 3 VISIT TROYES

The city offers a wide range of famous brands at attractive prices in more than 200 boutiques.

Famous outlet stores in Troyes:

- MacArthur Glen Troyes
- Marques Avenue Troyes



## GETTING THERE

Champagne is located east of Paris and extends from the border of Belgium to the gates of Burgundy. It benefits from having an easy and fast access thanks to the principal French highway network and the TGV - the modern and comfortable French High Speed Train.

From the Paris Charles-de-Gaulle Airport, you will reach Reims, in the heart of Champagne, in 30 minutes, thanks to the TGV. The latter also links the center of Paris to the center of Reims and its famous Champagne houses in only 45 minutes! All the other cities of the region are also accessible by train. Both Reims and Troyes, the two biggest cities of Champagne, are only 150km away from Paris!

### TGV TRAIN (HIGH SPEED TRAIN)

Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport to Champagne-Ardenne TGV station (3 km from Reims): 30 minutes  
Paris - Champagne-Ardenne TGV station (3 km from Reims): 40 minutes  
Paris - Center of Reims: 45 minutes  
Paris - Chalons-en-Champagne: 1 h 05  
Paris - Charleville-Mezieres: 1 h 35  
Paris - Sedan: 2 h 00

### TER TRAIN (LOCAL TRAIN)

Paris - Troyes: 1 h 30  
Paris - Epernay: 1 h 15





**NESTLED BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND LATIN WORLDS, THE HERITAGE REGION OF FRANCE - ALSACE - IS A MOSAIC OF HILLS, MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS, DOTTED WITH CASTLES, VINEYARDS AND TRADITIONAL VILLAGES LIKE RIQUEWIHR AND HUNSPACH.**

One of the many popular tourist destinations in the region the Regional Natural Park of Ballons des Vosges, is perfect for hiking, as is the Regional Natural Park of North Vosges. Medieval castles and Renaissance houses line flower-bedecked roads of its picture-postcard villages making the Alsace Wine Route one of the best-known of its kind in France. It was officially recognized as a tourist route in 1953. In Strasbourg, one of the most charming cities in France, travel and explore the famous Notre-Dame Cathedral. Couples visiting this destination could enjoy a stroll along the banks of the river in the Petite France neighborhood, while culture buffs may explore the city's museums including the Strasbourg Fine Arts Museum.

The captivating city of Colmar, also promises a vacation that is filled with exciting discoveries from the cultural wealth of the Unterlinden Museum to the picturesque charm of the town of Little Venice and the medieval 16<sup>th</sup> century Maison Pfister.

Mulhouse, one of the most famous cities in Alsace, hosts the National Automobile Museum, Train City railway museum and the Zoological and Botanical Gardens. Unique gastronomy, world famous French wines, charming villages and wonderful hospitality: Alsace has the very best to offer all within a beautiful setting.



# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 STRASBOURG

Begin your stay in Strasbourg, the European capital. Its large island is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travel through the gates of the great doors of the Notre-Dame Cathedral a gem of Gothic art. For enthusiasts who wish to continue their visit, the Oeuvre Notre-Dame Museum, Place du Château, are sure to charm you. Indulge in a visit of Strasbourg on a riverboat. Head towards the pier of Palais des Rohan, a remarkable building that was once home to Marie-Antoinette when she arrived in France. You will sail from the Petite France a tourist area renowned for its half-timbered houses to the parliamentary district. In the evening, Strasbourg offers many choices for nightlife: in the centre of town you will find traditional restaurants, Bierstubs and Winstubs, while the student districts of Krutenau, of the Palais Universitaire or of the Esplanade are settings of many cafés and bars with a relaxed ambience.

## HIGHLIGHT

Alsace, rich in its heritage, is firmly anchored in modern Europe. It is home to a number of towns that preserve its character and its unique art de vivre making it amongst the most beautiful sites in France. The region's complex history come to life within the walls of the Vauban Museum or the Haut-Koenigsburg Castle and Hohlandsbourg Castle as well as at the Mont Sainte-Odile Monastery.



The Alsace region is home to a multitude of gourmet specialties, each more appetizing than the next! The history of gingerbread can be explored at the Museum of Ginger Bread and Folk Art as well as the Ginger Bread Palace. The winstubs (Alsatian restaurants), particularly those awarded Alsace Stars, offer traditional menus with dishes like the Kouglof, the Baeckeofe, the tarte flambée (flammekueche) and dishes made with the famous Munster cheese.

For true wine enthusiasts, exploring the Alsace Wine Route along with a visit to the Museum of Vineyards and Alsatian Wines, reveals the secrets and flavors of artisanal French wines such as the Sylvaner, Pinot Blanc, Noir or Gris, Riesling and Gewürztraminer.

Alsace is also an ideal destination for family vacations offering outings such as: the Bioscope, Eagle Park or Monkey Mountain which are sure to appeal to both children and adults.



## DAY 2 COLMAR AND THE WINE ROUTE

Start your visit of Colmar with the Petite Venise: a charming maze of small canals which you can visit in a flat-bottomed boat. Don't miss the old towns, Gothic or Renaissance gems, particularly the Saint-Martin Collegiate Church where you can see beautiful terraces during summer or the Unterlinden Museum which displays the renowned Retable d'Issenheim (the Issenheim Altarpiece). From Colmar, it is quite easy to discover the Alsace Wine Route. Totalling 170km, it offers many vineyard footpaths. The Eguisheim trail offers a superb panorama over the village and its three castles.

## EVENT



The rich collection of events the region has to offer culminates with the grand Strasbourg Christmas Market taking place since 1570, or you can say with a history dating back to 1570. In fact, during the Advent, the magic of Christmas takes over all of Alsace under Saint Nicolas' tutelage.

The region's traditions of gastronomy and craft-making are often on display at one of the many outdoor fairs:

- The Alsace Wine Fair has a history of 260 years. This popular event, with over 350 exhibitors each year invites you to sample some of the products and delicious vintages of the region.
- The Mulhouse Fair: Held annually each spring, this International Exhibition Fair attracts around 150,000 visitors to its many shows, demonstrations, theme exhibitions...
- The Strasbourg European Fair: Receiving more than 220,000 visitors every year, the European Fair is considered the most popular autumn event for the region. Every year, one country is invited as a guest of honor and for 11 days visitors explore the customs and traditions of the guest country, its crafts and culture - not to mention its gastronomy - and much more.



## DAY 3 MULHOUSE

Mulhouse, listed as a town of art and history, is the favourite hunting ground of enthusiasts of technical museums: don't miss the Automobile Museum, the Railway Museum or the Electropolis Museum. After lunch in the town-centre at the top of the Tour de l'Europe or on the Place de la Reunion where the Renaissance town hall proudly stands, enjoy discovering the contemporary side of Mulhouse.

## GETTING THERE



### Strasbourg BY TRAIN

TGV Est Européen high-speed rail: 2h from Paris Charles de Gaulle or Paris Gare de l'Est. Direct rail connections to Paris, Lille, Rennes, Nantes, Bordeaux, Stuttgart and Zurich...

### BY PLANE

Strasbourg-Entzheim International Airport (10km from Strasbourg)

### Colmar BY TRAIN

TGV East: 2h50 mins from Gare de l'Est in Paris

TGV Rhine/Rhône: 3h20 mins from Gare de Lyon in Paris

### BY PLANE

Strasbourg-Entzheim International Airport: 60 km (37 miles)

Bâle-Mulhouse International Airport: 59 km (36.5 miles)

### Mulhouse

#### BY TRAIN

TGV Mulhouse station (2h40 mins from Paris - 1h from Strasbourg)

#### BY PLANE

Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg airport



# Burgundy

**BURGUNDY HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A PLACE OF ARTISTIC AND HISTORICAL INTEREST. FAMOUS FOR ITS ROMANESQUE HERITAGE AND EXCEPTIONAL WINES, THE REGION ALSO HOLDS MANY SURPRISES.**



Burgundy showcases with great élan its climats (plot of land used for vines) that have recently been bestowed with the UNESCO World Heritage Classification. Wine routes take you through the wine-growing areas of Nuits-Saint-Georges and Chablis by way of the Côtes de Beaune or Pouilly-Fuissé. Renaissance châteaux and medieval castles stand tall amongst the vineyards: Ancy-le-Franc, Bazoches, Sully or Châteauneuf-en-Auxois. Should you fancy something out of the ordinary, take a trip to the Puisaye and visit Guédelon, where a medieval castle is being constructed using nothing but period techniques.

From the fortifications at Bibracte to the temple of Janus in Autun, a number of historical treasures bear witness to the region's influence over the centuries. In Cluny, Vézelay, La Charité-sur Loire and Fontenay, you can contemplate the spiritual heritage of the Clyniac and Cistercian orders. In the region's historic capital, Dijon, take time to admire the glazed tile roofs and the Ducal Palace.

Burgundy offers the very best in river tourism, having the largest network of inland waterways in France. Sail along the renowned Canal de Bourgogne or take a trip on the Canal du Nivernais where you can admire the ingenious series of locks known as the 'Echelle de Sardy'.



# ITINERARIES

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DAYS



## DAY 1 DIJON

Explore the history of Dijon and savour the charm of the former capital of the Dukes of Burgundy. Follow the owl who takes you on a 22-stage trail allowing you to discover the key areas of this very beautiful city. Explore the surrounding streets and you'll soon come across the St-Michel church with a twin-towered façade unlike any other you'll see in France. Finally, the Mustard Museum will answer all your questions about this product which is authentic to the region and is also reputed to be Dijon's most famous culinary product.



## DAY 2 AROUND BURGUNDY

First you'll escape through the rolling Auxois countryside along the Burgundy canal... In about an hour's time, you will reach the medieval town of Semur-en-Auxois. Enjoy your time walking in the street and stop for pâtisseries and a spectacular view of the city's fortress walls. Then, follow this with a visit to the Abbaye de Fontenay (12<sup>th</sup> century) listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Or choose to discover the Cunny abbey, ruins of a spiritual centre, the seat of the largest medieval monastic order in Western Europe. A 3D film and virtual reconstructions illustrate the majestic glory of what was Christianity's largest church.



## DAY 3 BEAUNE

Explore the French history in Beaune, once the capital of Burgundy and which still preserves some excellent historic monuments. The Hôtel-Dieu, one of the most prestigious historical monuments in France, is a medieval masterpiece with a fanciful tiled roof and much of the old city wall is intact.

A walk through the winding streets of the city center is a great way to spend the day while the evening offers all sorts of culinary temptations in this renowned hotspot of gastronomy and viticulture.

## HIGHLIGHT EVENT



Choose from many different bike paths possible on the 'Voies Vertes'. Along five different routes, from the banks of the Yonne to those of the Saône, guesthouses and hotels with the 'Tour de Bourgogne à Vélo' quality label pull out all the stops for touring cyclists. Freewheel to the spa town of Bourbon-Lancy in the Saône-et-Loire, the Renaissance châteaux of Tanay in the Yonne and Cormatin in the

Mâconnais, or take time to explore the Romantic poet Lamartine's house in Milly.

Thrill seekers can try driving on the legendary race track at Magny-Cours or night time bungee jumping at the Grotte de Champ-Retard in the Yonne. If you need a tranquil yet unusual place to stay try a gypsy caravan, yurt or house boat. You can even spend the night in a tree-top hammock amidst the rivers and lakes of the Morvan!

Whether on holiday or just passing through be sure to savour a gourmet meal in a Michelin starred restaurant. Try some of the local specialties such as Charolais beef, snails, Bresse chicken or the famous Dijon mustard. Burgundy also offers an array of options for vegetarians.



Burgundy hosts a wide range of exciting activities all year round. From the Fleurs de Vigne in Auxerre to the Journées Gourmandes de Saulieu in the Côte d'Or, not forgetting the Chalon dans la Rue, a street festival at Chalon-sur-Saône and historical spectacles and other wine events, many of which also involve outdoor performances and exhibitions.

The Hospices de Beaune also owns a vineyard whose produce is sold in an auction on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of November to connoisseurs and professionals from all over the world. This public event provides a perfect opportunity to savour Burgundy wines.

Music lovers can enjoy the vibrant jazz scene in Nevers. If Blues is more your thing, don't miss Le Creusot festival. Dijon attracts world-wide audiences for its Sacred Music festival. The International Festival of Baroque Opera takes place in the impressive courtyard of the Hospices de Beaune.

Discover the wealth of activities that the region has to offer - from unusual outings to street festivals, from inland waterway trips to cycling holidays Burgundy's many treasures await you!

## GETTING THERE



### BY ROAD

A-5 : Paris - Sens - (Troyes) - (Dijon A5/A31 junction)  
A-6 : Paris - Sens - Auxerre - Avallan - Saulieu - Pouilly-en-Auxois - Beaune - Chalon-sur-Saône - Tournus - Mâcon  
A-77 : Paris - Cosne-sur-Loire - Nevers

### BY TRAIN

The TGV network gets you here in no time at all (Paris-Dijon: 1h 40 mins). Dijon also has direct TGV links to Disneyland-Paris and Charles de Gaulle airport. Dijon is now only 1h20 mins from Lyon and 3 hrs from Marseille.

### BY AIR

Airports at Paris (Roissy Charles de Gaulle and Orly), Lyon (Saint-Exupéry), Geneva and Basel-Mulhouse are all close to Burgundy, with motorway and/or TGV rail links





**A TWO THOUSAND YEAR OLD CITY, SITUATED AT THE JUNCTION OF THE RHÔNE AND SAÔNE RIVERS, LYON RESTS BELOW THE IMPRESSIVE FOURVIÈRE AND CROIX ROUSSE HILLS.**

In Lyon, visitors can take a unique journey through time and across cultures by strolling down its narrow streets, crossing its traboules (narrow secret passages), walking along its bustling docks, passing through its impressive squares and seeing over 200 sites illuminated at night.

**Lyon, Capital of Gastronomy**

Lyon is famous all over the world for the art of fine living. With many Michelin-star restaurants, famous chefs, typical 'bouchon' restaurants, café bistros and avant-garde dining experiences: whatever your taste, there's something for you. Vibrant flavours and colours can also be found throughout the open-air markets or in the Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse, a covered market with permanent stalls where famous chefs stock up.

**Lyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**

With a rich history, the town has a remarkable architectural heritage. Spreading eastward over the centuries, without building over existing sites, the city has 500 hectares in the heart of town listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1998. Across its various districts, Lyon exhibits a wide range of architecture, from the Roman vestiges in the Fourvière district to the 'traboule' passageways of the Vieux-Lyon Renaissance district, the stylish peninsula between the Rhône and Saône rivers as well as the contemporary projects of Renzo Piano (Cité Internationale), Jean Nouvel (Opera House) and Santiago Calatrava (the TGV train station at Lyon Saint-Exupéry Airport).



# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 LYON

Start your day at the Fourvière Basilica or in La Croix Rousse, with its silk-weaver workshops. Continue in one of the museums of the city: Musée des Confluences, Fine Arts Museum, Cinéma Lumière or Textile Museum. Spend the afternoon with some shopping on the Presquile or walking along the Rhône and the Saône. After a dinner in a typical 'bouchon' restaurant, enjoy at night, a walk in the city with 200 sites illuminated each evening.



## DAY 2 BEAUJOLAIS

Famed throughout the world the Beaujolais wine region is home to an infinite number of treasures and flavours at the doorstep of Lyon. The Beaujolais wine route will introduce you to the richness and conviviality of the region with its châteaux, beautiful hilly landscapes and delectable wines. Don't miss Villefranche-sur-Saône and its renaissance courtyards, Oingt village and the Beaujolais des Pierres Dorées area, Mont Brouilly and its panoramic views, Hameau Duboeuf, the first wine park in Beaujolais or Château de la Chaize at Odenas.



## DAY 3 1 OR 2 HOURS FROM LYON

Cocooned between mountain and known as the "Venice of the Alps", Anancy charms with its placid lake and its quaint flower decked quays intersected with canals. Discover local sights such as the 12<sup>th</sup> century Palais de l'Isle - an island fortress - located in the River Thiou which offers splendid views of the Old Town.

For a green escape go canoeing in the Drôme or in the Ardèche Gorges around the Arc Bridge or swimming in the great Alpine Lakes, golfing on prestigious greens such as the Evian Masters Golf Club (where the tournament of the same name is held)...

# HIGHLIGHT EVENT

## MUSÉE DES CONFLUENCES IN LYON



Narrating the story of humankind, the Musée des Confluences is a nebulous structure made of glass, concrete and steel, sitting on the tip of a peninsula, on the Confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers. This futuristic monument is worthy of its ambition to unveil knowledge and provide the keys to understanding the intricate field of human knowledge. In fact, the Museum inherited over two million pieces collected from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to date. Referred to as 'The 21<sup>st</sup> Century's Cabinet of Curiosities', the institution's finds relate to paleontology, mineralogy, zoology, entomology and ethnography.

Visitors keen to understand the origins and evolution of life will be thrilled to discover the Museum's treasures which include mammoth and dinosaur skeletons.

This is also the second most starred region in the French Michelin Guide - think of Paul Bocuse or the Troisgros brothers. The Lyonnais bouchons (traditional and authentic restaurants associated with Lyon) offer 'cochonailles' (a pork speciality), quenelles (ground fish dumplings), cervelle de canut (fresh cheese seasoned with herbs), praline tarts and the Lyonnais coussins (a dessert made of chocolate and marzipan).



## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS IN LYON: BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY

History tells us that in 1643, Lyon made a vow to build a statue of the Virgin Mary if she spared the city from the scourge of the plague. A vow was made and the promise kept. Centuries later, the city commemorates it with 4 days of illuminated parties at night, with a strong root in the religious and secular traditions of the former capital of the Gauls.

Every night, Lyon turns into an open-air theatre. From candles in the windows to light shows from artists from around the world, Lyon is completely illuminated. The walls of the monuments become bright paintings and works of evanescent art. Multimedia artists showcase the architecture of Lyon's monuments with laser technology. The sculptures dance and walls come alive: the shows narrate a musical and truly flamboyant story.

## GETTING THERE

3 high-speed-train stations: Lyon Part Dieu, Lyon Perrache and Lyon Saint-Exupéry (2 hrs from the centre of Paris and 1h30 mins from Marseille)

Lyon Saint-Exupéry Airport (40 mins from the city centre)

Motorways: A6, A7, A46, A42, A43 (460 km, 285 miles from Paris)







**AN INVIGORATING ALPINE RENDEZVOUS  
TINGED WITH THE CHARM OF THE  
QUINTESSENTIAL FRENCH ART DE VIVRE.**

Located at the crossroads of 3 countries, France, Switzerland and Italy and situated midway between Paris and Nice, the Alps Mont-Blanc, mainly comprising of the French Alps and the Rhône Valley is a haven of gorgeous landscapes.

The Alps are the largest mountain chain in Europe, extending for almost 1,000kms. The most symbolic peak of the mountain range is the iconic Mont-Blanc, located at an altitude of 4,810m.

The capital of this region is Lyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At an hour's drive from Lyon, you reach the heart of the Alps, quaint villages or modern resorts full of French charm. (Choose from a romantic ski resort, a ski resort preferred by families and children or a resort replete with celebrities). These resorts offer more than 40 afer-ski activities suited to everyone's taste.

The region is also famous for its alpine summer activities, wine tours, gastronomy, its lakes and the luxurious Mediterranean fragrance that wafts from lavender fields. Adventure lovers have a host of activities to choose from. Go trekking in Vanoise Park, horseback riding in the Regional Natural Park of Pilat or take a trip to the Sea of Ice with the Montenvers Train. Try spelunking in the Isère caves or go canoeing in the Drôme or in the Ardèche Gorges around the Arc Bridge, swimming in the great Alpine Lakes, golfing on prestigious greens such as the Evian Masters Golf Club...



# ITINERARIES

3 DAYS



## DAY 1 CHAMONIX MONT BLANC

Chamonix Mont Blanc is a French alpine town with a distinct European character located at the crossroads of 3 countries - France, Switzerland and Italy. It is the third most visited site of natural beauty in France.

- Take a ride in the famous Mont-Blanc tramway, a little red vintage train, from Montenvers to Mer de Glace.
- Pas Dans le Vide - a unique overhanging glazed floor from which visitors can soak in stunning views of the panorama that surrounds them
- Take the cable car to visit the Aiguille du Midi, the imposing peak towering at 3842 metres above the Chamonix valley.
- Adventure - Helicopter rides, Ballooning, Paragliding (tandem)
- Ride on the Alpine Coaster: a two-person sled that offers an adrenaline pumping experience



## DAY 2 ANNECY

Annecey - a picturesque location nestled between lakes and mountains.

Must see attractions in Annecey include:

- A guided visit of the old town of Annecey
- The Château of Annecey
- Cruise on the lake of Annecey on a sailing catamaran / A lake safari in a jetty
- A discovery of Annecey in a 2CV Cabriolet or a convertible beetle
- A hot air balloon ride over lake Annecey and the Aravis mountains / Scenic flights on board a gyrocopter
- Recreational options such as: Walking, cycling, rollerblading, kayaking, tandem paragliding, bungee jumping and canoeing.



## DAY 3 SKI IN THE ALPS

During the winter season (December to March), you can enjoy skiing in France's famous historic ski resorts such as Chamonix and Megève as well as its major skiing areas such as the Trois Vallées (Courchevel, Méribel and Les Ménuires), Paradiski (Les Arcs, La Plagne and Peisey-Vallandry), Val Thorens, Morzine and Les 2 Alpes.

The Alps are the ideal destination for a whole host of leisure and outdoor activities - skiing, hiking, mountaineering, water rafting, mountain biking, thermal baths and much more.

## HIGHLIGHT



From the mythical Mont Blanc to the majestic Pont d'Arc in the gorges of Ardeche nature puts on a show while you recharge body and soul at Evian or on the shores of alpine lakes. Mont-Blanc overlooks the Alps, which are home to the largest ski area in the world. Here you can enjoy downhill or cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snowshoe walks, sled rides, ice diving, curling, etc.

Non skiers can also enjoy an unforgettable holiday because the mountains in winter and summer offer much more. There are amazing landscapes to discover, unique experiences to try and intense pleasures to enjoy. All these ingredients ensure a fun time with friends and family.

Those who enjoy the great outdoors will enjoy a hike in the high mountains. The more adventurous might want to try a snowmobile or dog sled. Enjoy a night in a chalet or even an igloo for an unforgettable experience! Take advantage of a stay in the Alps to explore the majestic Mont Blanc, the highest peak in Europe. The valley of Val Ferret, which is highly appreciated by hikers, is known for its wonderful view of the French and Italian slopes of the Mont Blanc range.

Thanks to a strong age-old tradition, alpine regions have retained their authenticity when it comes to gastronomy. The well known classics are cheese fondue, scalloped potatoes and tartiflette (cheese, bacon and potato pie). There are many other Alpine specialities awaiting discovery such as crozets (buckwheat pasta), diots (sausage), ravioli and tourtons (fritters) not to mention liqueurs made from larch or wormwood such as Génépi. A holiday in the mountains can also be a perfect moment to unwind. The mountains are not only synonymous with pure air and water, but are conducive to a zen attitude. That is why many famous health spas and fitness centres are located here. The internationally famous Evian springs yield a mineral water with recognised virtues. The town therefore has numerous centres for water cures, such as the Thermes d'Evian and spas in luxury hotels such as the Evian Royal Resort complex.



The Rhône-Alpes offers many possibilities for outdoor activities and is also an idyllic retreat for wellness experiences.



## GETTING THERE

### BY ROAD

**Lyon:** Direct access from Paris to Lyon via A6.  
(Total distance 465 kms; Total time: 4h 15 mins)

**Annecey:** Direct access from Paris to Lyon via A6.  
(Total distance 540 kms; Total time: 5h 50 mins)

### Chamonix:

From France: Direct access to the valley via the Autoroute Blanche (E25-A40) with connections to the European network  
From Switzerland: 80 kms southeast of Geneva and driving time from Geneva Airport to Chamonix Mont Blanc is about 1h via the Autoroute Blanche (A40) motorway.

From Italy: Italy is only 15 kms away via the Mont Blanc Tunnel

### BY AIR

**Lyon:** Air France via Paris CDG

**Annecey:** Air France via Paris CDG

**Geneva:** Air France via Paris. It also has connections to Lyon Saint Exupery International Airport and Haute Savoie Mont Blanc Airport (Annecey)

### BY TRAIN

**Lyon:** Paris (Gare de Lyon)-Lyon (Part Dieu) by TGV, 2H

**Annecey:** Paris (Gare de Lyon)-Annecey by TGV, 3h 45 minutes

### Chamonix:

From France: Annecey - St Gervais-Le Fayet (TER) / St Gervais Le Fayet - Chamonix - Vallorcine - Swiss Border to Martigny on board the scenic MONT BLANC EXPRESS Railway  
From Switzerland: The Swiss Travel System ticket (Swiss Pass, Swiss Card, etc.) is valid to travel on the Mont Blanc Express, from Martigny to Chamonix Mont-Blanc





**MARVEL AT A FASCINATING BLEND OF THE SEA, MOUNTAINS, BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SITES, QUAIN VILLAGES AND DELECTABLE GASTRONOMY IN PROVENCE.**



In the South of France, between the contemplative mountains and the Mediterranean Sea, is nestled a region of light and vibrant colours. Just three hours by train from Paris, the sky here is azure and the sun always shines. In Provence, the sea is at your feet and the Alpine peaks are just a few hours away. You know you are in Provence when lavender fields stretch as far as the eye can see. But it's not just lavender that awaits you here... You have a rendezvous with cosmopolitan Marseille, a cultural encounter with Avignon in the shadow of the Palais des Papes or with the Roman Arena in Arles and a breathtaking experience with the region's famous hilltop villages.

Provence can be explored on foot, by bike or on horseback. The region will delight visitors searching for unique art de vivre experiences, with its stunning landscapes, evocative scents and impressive natural scenery. From the Calanques of Marseille to the port of Saint-Tropez, the Mediterranean will gently rock you in its sapphire waters.

Provence also offers a wide range of outdoor activities. Numerous National Parks and its mountain range reveal a maze of paths and tracks ideal for hiking, walking, canoeing, rafting and other white-water sports. In winter, the ski resorts of the Alps in the Haute Provence area offer all kinds of snow sports, from snowboarding to the luge, to skiing, snow kiting and snowshoeing.



# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 MARSEILLE

The port city of Marseille is the third largest city in France presenting a good mix of style and history. Must see attractions in Marseille include:

- Visit of the Old City: Old Port and Notre Dame de la Garde Basilica - Marseille's iconic figure that watches over sailors, fishermen and the entire city. Enjoy the views from the top of the hill
- Discover the Museum of the European and Mediterranean Civilisations (MuCEM), at the entrance of the Old Port
- Visit the island of Frioul in the evening - Walk up as much as possible to get the best views of the port, the sky and the Mediterranean!
- Boat excursions to Château d'If - the famous island fort facing Marseille immortalised by Alexander Dumas in The Count of Monte Cristo



## DAY 2 SAINT-TROPEZ

Excursion to St Tropez (135 km from Marseille by road - 2 hours) - an upscale sea side resort with a historic Provençal charm.

Must see attractions in St Tropez include:

- Place de Lices market
- Chapel of Sainte Anne
- Old Port
- L'Annonciade Museum - a 16th century château converted into a museum housing an impressive collection of modern art
- The legendary beaches of St Tropez



## DAY 3 AIX EN PROVENCE - AVIGNON

Visit Aix en Provence (32 km from Marseille by road - 40 mins) - a beautiful city lying at the centre of a region dotted with picturesque villages and mountains. Must-see attractions in Aix en Provence:

- Old Aix
- Cours Mirabeau
- Vasarely Foundation

Visit Avignon which was the seat of the French popes during the Middle Ages. The city boasts of historical sites that include the Palais des Papes, the famous Pont d'Avignon, ramparts, churches and chapels. Today, Avignon is a vibrant city in Provence.

## HIGHLIGHT EVENT



Wander off from Marseille to discover surrounding Provence - lavender fields, the quaint hilltop villages of the Luberon or the Alpilles such as Gordes, St. Rémy de Provence, Les Baux de Provence for best views of the surrounding countryside.

The stunning natural landscapes of Provence: Saint Rémy de

Provence, Aix en Provence, Avignon, Nîmes, Mont Ventoux and Gordes, one of the most beautiful villages in France, and its Renaissance castle and traditional old buildings.

Savour Provençal cuisine that offers a striking contrast between the hearty mountain fare (gratins dauphinois, ravioles, rissoles, and creuzets d'Ecrins) and the light, perfumed dishes of Provençal and Mediterranean cuisine (ratatouille, aioli, pesto, bouillabaisse and bouride) that put a healthy dose of sunshine onto your plate. On the sweet side, try the honey, calissons (candy made melon), chocolate mendiants and quince paste. The Apéritif is a big part of local culture in Provence. Try a Pastis or a cold glass of one of the famous local Rosé wines (Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Côtes-de-Provence, Rasteau and Bandol). You will find these products, as well as olive oil, in the markets of Provence.

## CELEBRATE PROVENCE'S COLOURFUL TRADITIONS

Enjoy the Easter Feria in Arles and the 'Pilgrimage of the Saintes-Maries-de-la-Merare' events that proudly highlight the colourful traditions of Provence and Camargue. The Chorégies d'Orange classical music festival, the Avignon Festival, the International Lyric Art Festival of Aix en Provence and the Festival in Ramatuelle attract culture vultures and art lovers from all over the world.

Created in 1929 and made an annual event in 1946, the famous 'Corso de la Lavande' in Digne les Bains is a spectacular lavender parade that annually accentuates the heady aromas of these purple flowers that are so typical of Provence.

You can watch the parades all day and night, the exhibitions of decorated floats and fragrant lavender, led by majorettes and musicians from all over Europe. A huge funfair, one of the ten largest in France, provides the backdrop for this traditional festival in the South of France.

## GETTING THERE

### BY ROAD

Direct access from Paris to Marseille via A6 (Total distance: 773 km; Total time: 7h45 mins)

### BY AIR

Air France flies to Marseille via Paris CDG. Marseille also has daily connections from main cities in Europe.

### BY TRAIN

TGV - High speed train: Paris (CDG) - Marseille (St. Charles) : 3h50 mins  
Paris (Gare de Lyon) - Marseille (St. Charles) : 3h22 mins



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# Côte d'Azur

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**DISCOVER THE CAPTIVATING BEAUTY OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA, FROM MOUNTAINS TO SANDY COVES. REVEL IN THE NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS AND BE INSPIRED BY ITS ART DE VIVRE AND CULTURE.**

Come and be amazed by the Côte d'Azur or the French Riviera, in the heart of Europe between the Southern Alps and the Mediterranean sea.

The French Riviera enjoys exceptionally sunny weather with many treasures to unravel: an outstanding cultural heritage, sublime landscapes that have inspired greatest artists, magnificent and well preserved countryside, tranquil hilltop villages, pristine beaches with blue azure waters, sun-soaked Mediterranean cuisine and an indulgent lifestyle.

Capital of the French Riviera, Nice is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, combining an authentic charm with the Mediterranean conviviality, and offering a host of activities and sites to visit. Whether soaking in the glamour of Cannes, experiencing the discreetly elegant lifestyle of St. Tropez with its luxury hotels and sailing opportunities, indulging in one of the glittering casinos of Monaco, or wandering in Grasse - the world capital of perfume making, the French Riviera promises many delights...

Inland, a few twisting mountain roads take visitors past breathtaking views and up to quaint villages perched prettily on hilltops such as Eze and Saint Paul de Vence, huddled into narrow valleys or clinging resolutely to the sides of steep slopes.



# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 NICE

Nice is an outstanding tourist destination nestled between the sea and the mountains with an authentic French Mediterranean charm.

Must see attractions in Nice include:

- Guided tour of the city: Visit the Promenade des Anglais, Bay of Angels, The Old Town, Massena Square, Cours Saleya (fruit and flower market) and the Matisse Museum
- Old Nice on the 'Trains Touristiques de Nice': Take a 40 minutes tour in a toy train departing from Promenade des Anglais in Nice and visit the Castle Hill village perched on a hill top
- Bellet Vineyards (located on the hills of Nice): Guided tour of the Estates and tasting of the Château's wines by the owners
- Villa Massena: An ancient villa devoted to the history of Nice



## DAY 2 AROUND NICE

- Visit Antibes (12 km from Cannes by road - 20 min), a Greek fortified ancient town and discover the old town, Billionaires Quay and the Picasso Museum
- Visit to Juan-les-Pins, passing by the famous seafront and the Pine grove with trendy boutiques, a seaside resort and nightlife area of sandy beaches, boutiques, night clubs and Casino
- Visit the Mediterranean hilltop villages of Grasse, Eze and St Paul de Vence
- Visit Monaco and it's Old Town, the changing of the guards at the palace (11H55am), the cathedral and the Cousteau Oceanographic Museum. Take a lap on Monte Carlos' famous Formula One Grand Prix circuit
- Discover Monaco's Casino Square, where you can shop for designer merchandise, see stunning gardens, marvel at sleek white yachts or try your hand in the Casino



## DAY 3 CANNES

- Visit Cannes (33 km by road from Nice - 30 min): Your Cannes diary includes discoveries of popular attractions such as the Croisette for magnificent views of the bay and it's public beaches. Outside the Palais des Festivals, home to the International Film Festival, take a walk along the Path of Stars that has more than 300 frozen casts of tinsel-town celebrities
- A visit to Le Suquet - Cannes' oldest neighbourhood - for bird's eye views of the city. Visit it's medieval streets and the Forville market for a feel of all things local
- A boat ride to the Lérin Islands of Sainte Marguerite and Saint-Honorat that allow many opportunities to connect with nature. Include visits to the Royal Fort, the Sea Museum and the abbey of Lérins during your time here

## HIGHLIGHT EVENT



Cannes, Saint-Jean Cap Ferrat and Nice have long been the favoured hunting grounds of international aristocracy which has left an indelible stamp on these towns. It's the apotheosis of elegance and luxury from the Promenade des Anglais to La Croisette and from yachts to palaces.

The Côte d'Azur is the perfect destination for all golfers fond of taking a swing with the Mediterranean as a backdrop. Discover 21 golf courses including eleven 18-hole courses, within little more than a half-hour radius, whether you are in Mandelieu-la-Napoule, Cannes, Nice or Monaco. The

mountains, in the heart of the Mercantour massif, also offer the pleasure of high-altitude golf. Designed by top international architects such as Robert Trent Jones, Harradine father and son, Van Hagge, Pete Dye, Fream and Gayon, these 21 courses are open all year round.

Discover the full range of flavours of Provençal cuisine with local recipes such as: pissaladière (similar to pizza), niçoise salad, raviolis, gnocchi, daube (a red meat stew marinated in red wine), stockfish (dried fish, usually cod), ratatouille, farcis niçois (vegetables stuffed with meat and herbs), tourte de blette (Swiss Chard Tart). Indulge in lavender infused dishes, delicious tapenades and honey.

Options for your must-do list include a fragrant day out at the Musée International de la Parfumerie (International Perfume Museum) in Grasse which exists since 1989. Make your own perfume at the perfume factories of Fragonard, Galimard and Molinard.

Visit an original reconstruction of an ancient Greek abode on the French Riviera - Villa Kérylos that takes you on a fascinating journey and pays a tribute to Greek civilisation.



The Nice Carnival is a major wintertime event on the Côte d'Azur that takes place every February around Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday). For the event, a procession of flowered floats and world-renowned floral competitions take over the city. The hugely popular Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix descends on the Principality of Monaco every spring. The Mimosa Festival, The Lemon Festival in Menton and the Nice Carnival, all these summer pyrotechnics lend a festive colour to your stay in the Riviera. The Cannes International Film Festival opens the season with a series of prestigious cultural and artistic events, followed by the Nice Jazz Festival and Jazz in Juan, a reference point for all jazz fans.

## GETTING THERE



Located in southern Europe and at the most south-eastern tip of France, Nice is a privileged junction between the Alps, Provence, Corsica and Italy.

### BY AIR

The Nice Côte d'Azur airport is France's largest after Paris.

Air France flies to Nice via Paris CDG.

Nice also has daily connections from main cities in Europe, North Africa, Middle East and the American continent.

### BY TRAIN

TGV high speed train: Paris (Gare de Lyon) to Nice, duration 5h30 mins.

A 'car-train' service links to the major French cities: vehicles are transported at the same time as their owners who travel in couchettes.





## LA CORSE, A MOUNTAIN IN THE SEA

Whether you arrive by sea or by air, the Isle of Beauty appears as if it were a mountain that is surging out of the waves. With 1000km of coastline made up of creeks and rocky islets, beaches of fine sand, nature reserves and wetlands, Corsica is a paradise for walkers, lovers of water sports and nature enthusiasts. The Maquis exudes its aromas as the seasons roll by, with 121 native plant species that create its unparalleled fragrance. Discover a well-preserved religious heritage, unforgettable landscapes and clear waters which are perfect for nautical activities and diving.

When it comes to the famous Corsican seaside resorts, their art de vivre and their entertainment will charm everyone. Don't leave without sampling the unmissable Corsican charcuterie (cold cuts) or having tasted specialities made with chestnuts!



# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 AJACCIO, ALL YEAR ROUND!

Did you know that Ajaccio was the birthplace of French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte? Capital of Corsica, bustling city Ajaccio boasts of numerous boutiques and prestigious museums. A luminous city that opens out onto the Mediterranean, Ajaccio is sheltered by a remarkable natural environment, backed by mountains and flanked by sandy beaches, all blessed with perfect mild climate. Take a boat trip out to the Iles Sanguinaires, located about 15 km from the city centre, and so called because they are formed of granite that glows red at sunset.

Once night falls, the city adorned with its lights invites you to enjoy what the locals call "farniente", relaxing in one of the many wine bars and sampling a glass of excellent AOC Ajaccio wine all year round.

Ajaccio is waiting for you!



## DAY 2 NATURE

Corsica is a paradise for nature lovers with a number of sites listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In the South of the island, you might want to discover the Col de Bavella, a great place to appreciate the stunning scenery of the Alta Rocca mountains.

In the North, The La Balagne region is home to a beautiful coastline and imposing mountains. If you find yourself by the sea, don't miss the UNESCO-classified Scandola Nature Reserve and 'Calanche di Piana' at Porto.



## DAY 3 BONIFACIO THE CITY OF CLIFFS

Bonifacio boasts of an extraordinary setting at the southern tip of Corsica, overlooking the spectacular site known as "Les Bouches de Bonifacio" (The Strait of Bonifacio). The limestone and granite cliffs here create a vast natural façade opposite the Lavezzi and Cerbicales islands, famous for their superb marine life. The Bonifacio region has 70km of coastline, dotted with numerous beaches of crystal-clear water.

## HIGHLIGHT

### CORSICA IS HOME TO MANY TRADITIONS AS WELL AS ARTS AND CRAFTS

Corsican music and culture has always been passed down through word of mouth. The local popular type of singing uses two (sometimes three) registers of voices that are brought together (known as secunda, bassu and terza). The Paghélla is a very special type of singing where the secunda voice comes in as a solo, followed by the bassu voice and shortly afterwards by the terza. This type of popular polyphonic singing has stood the test of time. Enjoy one of the many festivals that are held such as Festivoce in Pigna (from Corsican polyphonies to medieval singing and opera...) or the Rencontres Polyphoniques in Calvi and many more!



Numerous artists have made their home in the historic town centres and villages and offer a range of genuine works of art: Corsican knives, pottery, jewellery and leather goods.

## EVENT

### CALVI ON THE ROCKS



Every July don't miss 'Calvi On The Rocks', a festival with the biggest DJs in the world that offers non-stop concerts. Calvi on the Rocks is a unique festival which combines digital arts, electronic music and the easy-going, sun-soaked Corsican lifestyle.

By following an artistic trail through the city, revelers can enjoy the many cultural and festive events taking place, from the traditional to the very contemporary. Festival-goers can not only spend their time attending parties and dancing to wild sets by internationally renowned DJs, but also relaxing by the sea, enjoying an apéritif with a suitably chilled out sunset soundtrack.

## GETTING THERE

Corsica is located in the heart of the Mediterranean, 170 km off the French coast and 80 km from Italy. Corsica is accessible throughout the year by air and by sea with 4 international airports (Bastia, Calvi, Figari and Ajaccio) served by over twenty scheduled and charter airlines with direct 1h30 mins flights from Paris.





**MILES OF FINE SANDY BEACHES ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN AND A HINTERLAND RISING UP THE FOOTHILLS OF THE MASSIF CENTRAL AND THE PYRÉNÉES - THESE ARE CLASSIC IMPRESSIONS OF A LAND OF SUN-FILLED CHARM.**

This is also a land replete with vineyards where the land and climate is especially favourable. The seaside resorts along Languedoc's 220 km-long coastline tempt visitors to relax by the sea. Make your way to the Cévennes foothills and explore the area on foot, on the back of a donkey or by a steam train.

The region is abundant with natural landscapes such as Causses and Cévennes (UNESCO Classified), La Côte Rochoise (with Collioure, Banyuls and Port-Vendres), and the rocky coast of the Pyrénées (the Canigou) and ski stations such as Font-Romeu. Many great artists have represented this variety, notably the contemporary painters and sculptures (Musée Fabre in Montpellier, Carré d'Art in Nîmes and the Museum of Modern Art in Céret). Thanks to the Mediterranean and numerous springs, the Languedoc is rich in thalassotherapy centres, spas and fitness centres.

Do not miss: the fortified city of Carcassonne; the 49 metre high Roman aqueduct Pont du Gard, the Canal du Midi, all on the UNESCO World Heritage List; the university town of Montpellier with its historic centre; the Roman city of Nîmes and for those wanting natural encounters: on the nature side, the picturesque canyons of the Tarn Gorges and the Camargue Regional Park where bulls and horses roam.





# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 NÎMES - PONT DU GARD

Nîmes gained a significant heritage from the presence of the Romans. Among the most remarkable remains are the Maison Carrée, a wonderfully preserved Roman temple, the Tour Magne, not forgetting the majestic amphitheatre that hosts concerts and shows.

30 kms from Nîmes, the Pont du Gard aqueduct, a true masterpiece of ancient architecture, is one of the most beautiful Roman constructions in the region and is also noted for its remarkable natural beauty.



## DAY 2 MONTPELLIER

The Three Graces decorate the fountain that you can admire in the famous Place de la Comédie. Montpellier is a city of designers that you will discover in the Saint Roch district and its workshops and boutiques. Montpellier is also home to the oldest university of medicine still functional in Europe, as well as more than 70 private mansion courtyards. Include a visit to the Fabre Museum where you can admire paintings, sculptures, graphic and decorative arts.



## DAY 3 CARCASSONNE

Visit the medieval city of Carcassonne, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and walk along the galleries, the fortified walls and the ramparts; discover the archeological museum and many other attractions. Relive the Cathar saga and admire the surrounding vineyards from the top of its 52 towers.

# HIGHLIGHT EVENT

## MAJESTIC NATURE



An authentic area such as the Gorges du Tarn and Gorges de la Jonte, are natural and spectacular gems. Further south stretches Camargue, bathed in sunshine, with its white horses, black bulls and pink flamingos populating the lagoons.

Closer to Montpellier, the Pic Saint Loup rears its sharp spine and towers over the scrubland. More

sinuous, with their startlingly steep slopes, jagged walls and narrow passes, the Gorges de l'Herault are a backdrop to the beautiful medieval village of Saint Guilhem le Désert. Towards the south awaits the discovery of the precious jewels of the Côte Vermeille with Collioure, Port-Vendres and the terraces of Banyuls, a landscape of vineyards planted on terraced hillsides. The backdrop is formed by the Mont Canigou which the Catalans take great pride in and which forms a bridge between sea and mountains.

The Cevennes National Park, with its low mountains in the heart of Cevennes, at 91,500 hectares, is the largest of the seven national parks of France. It is also the only national park that is inhabited and on the list of UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves.



The Pentecost Holiday and the harvest festivals in Nîmes or the Féria of Alès showcase the strong celebratory spirit of the people of the Languedoc. The Festival of Carcassonne, the Festival of Nîmes and the Musical Nights of Uzès punctuate the summer. The Mediterranean equestrian events raise the flag for sports and the Printemps des Comédiens (Spring Festival for Actors) and the International Festival of Noir Novels do their part for art and culture.



## GETTING THERE

### Montpellier

High-speed train: 3h15 mins from Paris  
Airport: Montpellier Méditerranée

### Nîmes

High-speed train: 2h50 mins from Paris, 1h20 mins from Lyon, 1h from Marseille  
Air: Nîmes Alès Camargue Cévennes Airport.

### Perpignan

High-speed train: 5h15 mins from Paris, 1h50 from Montpellier  
Air: Perpignan-Rivesaltes airport





**HOME TO PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPES AND  
BREATHTAKING LOCALES, TOULOUSE-PYRÉNÉES  
PROMISES AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES  
CHARACTERIZED WITH THE ESSENCE OF THE  
SOUTH-WEST.**



The Pyrénées region, located in the largest of all French regions, the Midi-Pyrénées, spreads across South-Western France. Exceptional is the perfect word to describe the Great Sites that await you: Albi, Cahors and its vineyard, Rocamadour, the Cirque de Gavarnie, Millau Viaduct and the region's capital city Toulouse amongst others.

In the Pyrénées region, there is no shortage of inspirations for stays, whether for relaxation, adventure or for something more cultural. Imagine a weekend strolling through the streets of Toulouse basking in the reddish reflections of the city's brick and the sparkle of the Airbus planes built there, a few days in the Pyrénées mountains to catch your breath at the Pic du Midi observatory, a breakaway in the Aveyron to visit some of the villages hailed as the most beautiful in France, or a cruise on the UNESCO classified Canal du Midi - the list is endless.

For anyone who likes a constantly changing horizon, the Pyrénées offers a number of themed circuits- the route includes major touristic sites, gourmet routes where you can interact with producers as you taste the wonders of the region, or a circuit of fortified villages full of historical features, arcades and timbered buildings with local markets basking in the midday sun.

Here celebrations take place at the drop of a hat and the region is well-known for its spontaneous, friendly hospitality and culture.



# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 TOULOUSE

Pink City Toulouse, the capital of the region, promises many fascinating adventures for families.

Must see attractions in Toulouse include:

- The historic city center of Toulouse
- Capitole City Hall
- St Sernin Basilica
- Airbus Factory - home to the majestic A350s and A380s
- Aeroscopia - an aeronautical museum located on the Airbus factory premises. Kids can climb aboard a real Concorde or admire a collection of aircrafts, go behind the scenes of an aircraft or navigate their own flight thanks to a simulator session
- The Cité de l'Espace - an adventure park dedicated to space



## DAY 2 PIC DU MIDI

Excursion to Pic du Midi located 2hrs 30 minutes from Toulouse:

- Admire a 360 degree panoramic view of the Pyrénées mountain range and the plains of the South-West
- Revel in the Starry Night Experience (Apr-Oct) at the astronomical observatory



## DAY 3 CIRQUE DE GAVARNIE

Excursion to Cirque de Gavarnie (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) located 2 hours from Toulouse. Kids are sure to enjoy the ride from the village of Gavarnie on horses, donkeys or ponies who will lead you to the foot of the Cirque.

## HIGHLIGHT



Capital City of the Pyrénées region, Toulouse is synonymous with the Airbus. A visit to the Airbus factory acquaints you with this mighty giant of the skies.

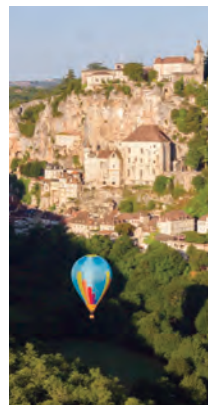
The wines of South-West France offer a wide array of flavours and are a true treasure trove for the dedicated oenophile. Tourists can explore the 'Route de l'Armagnac' that winds through the vineyards while experiencing the different tastes and sensations from this brandy, known for its unique finesse and roundness. The Pyrénées is

home to the iconic French specialties - Foie Gras and Roquefort cheese.

Pink City Toulouse introduces you to all things pastel. Your initiation starts at the elegant 'Graine de Pastel' boutique which offers you a range of cosmetic products made with this blue treasure of the Midi-Pyrénées. Experience Pastel in a holistic way at 'Terre du Pastel' which offers different experiences all under one roof: spa, museum and restaurant that complete your exquisite rendezvous with pastel!

Lourdes, a world bastion of spirituality, welcomes over 5 million visitors from over 140 countries every year. With 189 hotels, Lourdes is the second biggest hotel town in France.

## EVENT



The Montgolfiades (hot-air ballooning competition) in Rocamadour, together with the Intercontinental Festival of Fireworks, will fill the sky over the Midi-Pyrénées with a thousand colours. The Siestes Electroniques festival marks the beginning of a musical summer in Toulouse, a prelude to the notes of Jazz in Marciac, the Cahors Blues Festival and the Jazz Festival in Montauban.

### Visit the Fête de la Violette

Since the late 19th century, the violet flower has been an emblem for Toulouse. Every year, its arrival in late February is celebrated with aplomb. The Festival of Violets, held at the Place du Capitole, is the venue for the gathering of the 'Confrérie de la Violette' or the brotherhood of violets - producers and propagators of this flower. This festival sees celebrations and markets where you can find artisanal products made from this flower, including soaps, fragrances, cordials and nectars, confections and more.

## GETTING THERE

**BY ROAD** Direct access from Paris to Toulouse via A20 (Total distance: 676 km; Total time: 7 hrs)

**BY AIR** Air France flies to Toulouse via Charles de Gaulle and Orly Airports in Paris

**BY TRAIN** TGV High Speed Train - Paris (CDG) - Toulouse (Matabiau) via Bordeaux : 6h40 mins

Paris (Montparnasse) - Toulouse (Matabiau): 5h30 mins

IC Train (Local Train) - Paris (Austerlitz) - Toulouse (Matabiau) : 6h45 mins







**BIARRITZ HAS AROUND 6KMS OF OUTSTANDING BEACHES ALONG THE COAST WITH CLIFFS, ROCKS, SAND COVES AND STRETCHES ALL THE WAY TO WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE MOUNTAINS AT LOW TIDE.**

The town is also rich in culture and history. Include a visit to some of the health spas where you can relax in a comfortable ambience. Biarritz prides itself as the "capital" of seawater therapy. Sea bathing in warm waters, mud and seaweed baths, tonifying showers, seawater steam baths and water physiotherapy are today some of the sophisticated techniques of seawater therapy.

Biarritz has an amazing location on the Bay of Biscay and yet it is just a short distance from the mountains. Get to discover the Basque country from Biarritz with an escape to Bayonne, the historic capital of chocolate, Anglet with its 11 beaches and the pine forest or Saint-Jean-de-Luz a fishing port and a scenic town with a pedestrian centre.

Biarritz has state of the art facilities and also has numerous accommodation options available which makes this vacation spot a good suggestion for tourists of all ages.





# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 BIARRITZ

After a morning spent relaxing or surfing, at the beach, enjoy your day with a visit to the must-sees of Biarritz:

- The Sea Museum and Ocean World, an innovative concept in oceanographic museums worldwide, located in a building designed by New York architect Steven Holl
- Biarritz's lighthouse which is 73 meters (nearly 240 feet) high
- The 'Virgin's Rock' (Rocher de la Vierge), connected to the land by a metal footbridge attributed to Gustav Eiffel
- The fishing port, a colourful site that boasts of fish and seafood restaurants

After a dinner facing the sea, enjoy your evening at the Casino.



## DAY 2 DISCOVER THE BASQUE COUNTRY, SETTING OUT FROM BIARRITZ

You can head to Bayonne, the cultural capital of the Basque Country... Bayonne is also proudly known as the French capital of chocolate and of its world renowned Fêtes de Bayonne in summer!

At the heart of the Basque Coast, pay a visit to Bidart, a village that has retained its authentic character complimented with a Basque architectural heritage. Anglet offers a protected natural setting with 4.5 km of sandy beaches and 230 hectares of pine forest.



## DAY 3 ESPELETTE AND SAINT JEAN-DE-LUZ

Espelette is famous for its red pepper that you will see on the walls of its houses by the end of summer. A village to visit in October for the Chili Festival and all year round for its charming streets.

In Saint Jean-de-Luz, wander around the old port, along the pier and visit the old church. Along the seashore, the mansion houses stand next to the former ship-owners' residences and the wonderful seaside villas. Most of the streets are pedestrian.

## HIGHLIGHT

### BIARRITZ - A SPORTING PARADISE

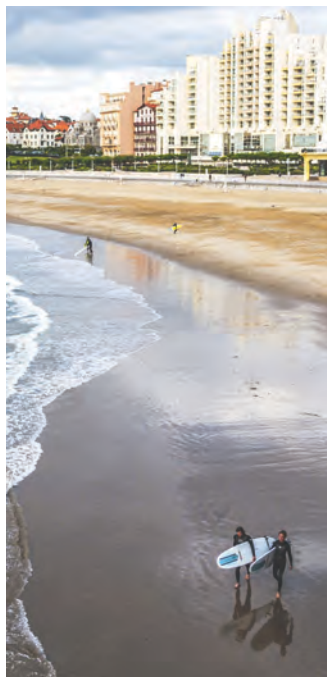
#### A worldwide famous surf spot

The American scriptwriter Peter Viertel came to Biarritz in 1957 with his wife Deborah Kerr to shoot his film 'The Sun Also Rises'. He brought his surf boards to practise surfing, an original sport imported from Hawaii, on Biarritz' 'Côte des Basques'. Very quickly, Biarritz gained a reputation as one of the best spots for surfing in Europe and now attracts surfers from all over the world. Surf schools and beach clubs for children are available on every beach. The Biarritz Surf Festival is a popular annual event that takes place every July in this seaside resort.

#### A stunning place to golf

Biarritz is a meeting point for all golf players as there are exceptional courses (ten courses within a 15 mile radius) and weather conditions which allow outdoor activities all year round. Biarritz has the second oldest golf courses on the European continent, the 'Golf du Phare', created in 1888 by the British colony, but also the modern international golf-training centre at Ilbarritz and 12 other golf courses located within a radius of 12 kilometers (8 miles) of Biarritz.

And if you are looking for more traditional activities, you can watch local people practising the basque pelota!



## SHOPPING



Biarritz is an elegant town and likes its delectable cuisine. It has a love affair with chic shop windows and trendy boutiques: clothes, shoes and accessories, jewellery, Basque household linen, antiques, delicatessens or fine chocolates...

The streets are ideal for leisurely window shopping, from the Clémenceau to the Port Vieux, from Les Halles to the Saint Charles quarter - but that special find may equally await you in Saint Martin or the area around La Négresse!

## GETTING THERE

### BY PLANE

International airport of Biarritz : 3 km (2 miles)

### BY TRAIN

Train station TGV of Biarritz : 5h20 mins from Paris, 2h15 mins from Bordeaux

### BY CAR

A63 and A64







**AT AN HOUR'S DISTANCE FROM PARIS BY AIR AND THREE HOURS BY TRAIN (TGV), BORDEAUX IS THE CAPITAL OF FRENCH WINE.**

Its distinct and exceptional 18th century architecture has earned Bordeaux its title of 'Little Paris' around 200 years ago, and more recently its World Heritage status by UNESCO.

Recent urban developments have culminated in a city where life is pleasant, and where its rich gastronomy, culture, and shopping can all be enjoyed adjacent to the famous vineyards of the world's finest wines. Many discovery tours and gourmet strolls are available to indulge in the local produce and particularly the prestigious wines.

Did you know that every two years, the Bordeaux Wine Festival takes place in the last week of June? It was the first tourism event for wine enthusiasts in France and its very unique agenda boasts of many festivals.

Bordeaux won the title of 'Best European Destination 2015', with 429326 votes in its favour.





# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 BORDEAUX

Enjoy a stroll in the town and admire at least one of the many medieval gates that were at one time protecting the town. Then, enjoy the beautiful architecture of the city center, its palaces, its squares and the beautiful shops. Rue Sainte-Catherine, the longest shopping street in Europe, is a popular shopping district, but if you are interested in vintages and antiques, the Quartier des Chartrons is the place to visit. There are trendy furniture and clothing shops, next to antiquities shops, small bars and restaurants. Head to the heart of Bordeaux, the Place de la Bourse, the most famous and iconic square of the town.

Take in the view of Bordeaux from the sky before enjoying a walk along the river Gironde. In the Place de Quinconces you will be able to admire a beautiful fountain and monument and from the panoramic wheel, one of the best views of Bordeaux. Finally spend the evening walking along the river enjoying the picturesque sunset over the town. At night, head to the trendy quarter of Chartrons, where you can enjoy the local nightlife in one of the many bars, restaurants and boutiques for a more relaxed atmosphere.



## DAY 2 BORDEAUX - SAINT EMILION

This day starts with a visit to Bordeaux Cathedral and then to the beautiful Museum d'Aquitaine, one of the most beautiful little museums in France. The Museum will acquaint you with an understanding of the history of Bordeaux and the region. After visiting the Museum, walk alongside the river Garonne to enjoy one of the most iconic corners of Bordeaux at the historic Café Bar Grand Castan and the monumental Place de la Victoire.

Then take the train (approximately 40 mins travel time) to one of the most legendary vineyards in France and visit the historic village of Saint Emilion. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the town attracts more than 1 million visitors each year. Saint Emilion is considered to be one of the best preserved towns in the world for wine production.



## DAY 3 ARCACHON - CAP FERRET

Start your day by going to Arcachon Bay area. Go first to the 109 meter high Great Dune of Pilat. Begin your discovery with a visit to the the incredible panoramic views over the ocean, forest and bay.

Continuing on to the Arcachon pier, you'll board a ferry for a ride across the bay. Arrive in the secluded, laid-back French oyster capital of Cap Ferret, a haven of seaside sophistication. Take a break here for lunch. After a short ferry ride back, you'll stop in Arcachon, a luxury resort that attracted Spanish royalty, Russian dukes and international artists when it was founded in the 19th century.

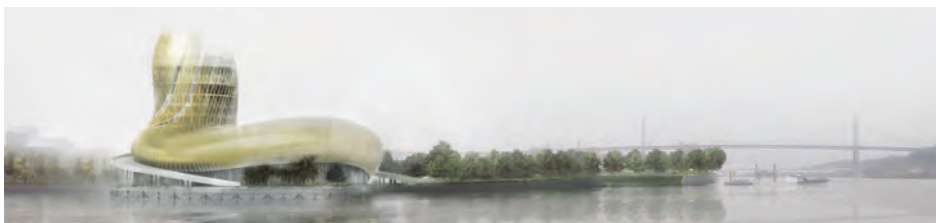
Explore the town and admire its mix of neo-classical, neo-Gothic, colonial and Swiss chalet-style houses. Spend some time at the shops or try your luck at the casino, which is located in a castle.

## HIGHLIGHT EVENT

### CITÉ DU VIN

Open since June 2016, the Cité du Vin is the world's largest cultural centre dedicated to the universal, living heritage of wine; around the world, throughout the ages and across countless cultures and civilisations. This immense new cultural landmark, with a surface area of nearly 14,000m<sup>2</sup>, is destined to be the jewel in the crown of Bordeaux's tourist attractions.

- Antiques Fair (January), the most important event of the year in this region
- Horsemen of the World Cup (February), international horse-jumping show
- Carnival of the Two River Banks (March)
- The Travelling Photographer's route and book stop (April)
- Biannual event of architecture (April)
- International Golf Open of Bordeaux (May), the rendez-vous of champions!
- Bordeaux Wine Festival (June), a biannual event and the largest gathering of Bordeaux wine connoisseurs
- International Organ Festival (July/August), a large musical gathering
- The stage for the Tour de France (July) - International cycling event (August)
- European Heritage Days (September), and Heritage Night
- Wine festival of Brocante (October), a very festive and friendly weekend
- Christmas Market (December), the traditional market in the prestigious passageways of Tourny



## GETTING THERE



### BY TRAIN

Train Station: 3 hours from Paris, 5 hours from Lille by the TGV (10 mins from downtown by tram)

In 2017, travel time from Paris to Bordeaux will be reduced to 2h5 mins

### BY AIR

1 hour from Paris (approximately 30 mins from downtown)

### BY ROAD

Highways: A10 (580km/360 miles arriving from Paris), A62 (arriving from Spain), A63 (arriving from Italy)



# Loire Valley

**THE LOIRE VALLEY REGION IS THE LARGEST AREA IN FRANCE EVER TO BE INCLUDED IN UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE LIST.**

Discover France's leisure and tourism haven, the Loire Valley and its châteaux that range from Sully-sur-Loire as far as Nantes. Discover Renaissance châteaux, medieval fortresses, remarkable gardens, etc. Kings, artists and famous authors have fallen under the spell of the Loire and taken up residence on its banks in droves. Here the local stone and slate are reflected in the water of the river.

Travel by foot, by bicycle or onboard a barge... Enjoy the harmonious landscape at the heart of the unspoiled natural world. The variety of artisanal French wine of the Loire region as well as its renowned cuisine, can be savoured in the most idyllic atmosphere, whether it's a troglodytic cave dug out of the rock, at the table of a local restaurant or at a gourmet village market.





## ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



### DAY 1 CHÂTEAU DE CHAMBORD - CHÂTEAU DE CHEVERNY - CHÂTEAU DE BLOIS

Discover the Sologne and châteaux of Loir-et-Cher: an approximate 50 km round-trip from Blois. Architecture lovers should not miss a guided tour of the world-famous Château de Chambord which has been twinned with the stately Udaipur City Palace. The Château de Cheverny also finds a mention as Marlinspike Hall (Château de Moulinsart) in Herge's famous comic, The Adventures of Tintin. The town of Blois and its castle is the meeting point of all lovers of French history.



### DAY 2 CHÂTEAU DE CHENONCEAU - ROYAL CHÂTEAU DE AMBOISE - CLOS-LUCÉ

A full day driving tour of the east of Touraine, around 70 km, round-trip from the city of Tours (with Chaumont-sur-Loire: 100 km). Chenonceau is certainly the most popular castle in the Loire Valley. Known as the 'Château of the Ladies' (Château des Dames) it is the most visited château after Versailles. If French history, architecture or beautiful gardens interest you, then Chenonceau is just right for you! Amboise is a charming little town located in the heart of Loire Valley. People come from all over the world to meditate at Leonardo da Vinci's grave. Visit the manor house of Clos-Lucé (near the royal château) with the amazing machines filled with Leonardo da Vinci's stunning creations. It was at the Château du Clos-Lucé, that Leonardo da Vinci spent the last three years of his life, devoting his time to perfecting his inventions.



### DAY 3 DISCOVERING TOURS

City of Art and History, Tours has benefited from an active programme of restoration in the 1960's, which allows the city to enjoy the benefit as one of Europe's largest protected areas of special historic interests:

- The Musée du Compagnonnage: a unique collection of masterpieces from the craftsman's guild
- The Plumereau Square and its half-timbered houses; the medieval streets; the Châteauneuf Quarter
- The Saint Martin Basilica
- The Saint Gatien Cathedral
- The traditional markets
- The Vinci International Congress Centre
- The Prébendes d'Océ garden

## HIGHLIGHT EVENT



Be enchanted by the largest of all the heritage châteaux of the Loire, the Château de Chambord. Overlooking the Loire, the Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire and its domain offer one of the most beautiful panoramic views over the royal river. Every year, the Gardens Festival, is the site of amazing sciences for any gardening enthusiast. At Azay-le-Rideau, watch reflections ripple in the water and at the

Park of the Château de Valençay, lose yourself in the largest maze in France! Visit this region and be amazed by all it has to offer, including its astounding light show.

Celebrated by Rabelais and venerated by Gargantua, the cuisine of the Loire Valley region, is an institution in itself. Among the numerous specialties, you must taste the andouillettes (sausage) from Jargeau, Orléans poultry, game from Sologne, freshwater fish from the Loire and green lentils from Berry. Fans of cheese will be in heaven in this region, with the crottin de Chavignol, chèvre from Selles-sur-Cher and the Valençay pyramide. For those with a sweet tooth, a tarte tatin or a slice of Pithiviers (an almond pastry) are sure to tempt the tastebuds. The choice is endless! From Touraine to Sancerre, the artisanal Loire vineyards are distinguished by their variety and authenticity.

The Loire Valley conjures up a dreamlike landscape of majestic châteaux and cathedrals along the Loire, a wild river which can also be explored by boat. Discovering this region by bike is also a 'must-do'.

The Loire Valley moves to the beat of its many music festivals, the most popular being the Printemps de Bourges. Jazz plays an important role in this heritage area of France, which is showcased in the Jazz en Touraine festival and the Jazz en Val de Cher festival. The refined elegance of these cathedrals and the châteaux of the Loire makes for an ideal atmosphere to enjoy classical music. Several heritage festivals are held at these venues such as the Renaissance Music Festival at Clos-Lucé, the Festival de Sully and Loiret and the Chartres International Organ Festival. In Bourges, Chartres, Orléans and Tours, you can witness the rich religious heritage of the region with its many Gothic cathedrals.



### GETTING THERE

Tours is one of the major French cities, situated at the crossroads of central France and at the heart of European communication lines.

#### BY TRAIN

Take the train to the Gare de Tours Centre or to the Gare de Saint-Pierre-des-Corps (with shuttle trains to Tours).

#### BY AIR

International airport just outside Tours

#### BY ROAD

Freeways: A10 - A85 - A28





**BRITTANY IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN BOTH THE LAND AND THE SEA, OFFERING BREATHTAKING LANDSCAPES AND A VARIED CLIMATE. IT IS A GREAT DESTINATION TO DISCOVER BEACHES, CLIFFS, MOORLAND AND MEDIEVAL TOWNS.**

Start in Rennes, the capital of Brittany. Explore the spectacular, wild Breton coastline: between the Côte d'Emeraude (Emerald Coast) of the Corsair City of Saint-Malo and the mysterious Pink Granite Coast. The Breton coast looks like no other. Amble through the Brocéliande Forest and discover its links to the Arthurian legend. These links between legend and heritage are also reflected in the megaliths of Locmariaquer and in the aligned stones of Carnac. Take a boat trip to one of the many Breton islands for true inspiration: the Ile de Groix, Ile de Bréhat, the Glénan Archipelago, the Ile d'Ouessant and Belle-Ile en Mer. The Seven Isles constitute the largest bird sanctuary on the French Coastline. Visit Pont-Aven, a favourite haunt of famous artists such as Paul Gauguin. Rejuvenate at one of the major Thalaosotherapy centers (Dinard, Saint-Malo, Port Crouesty, Quiberon...).

Visit Saint-Brieuc Cathedral, the Locmania district and Quimper Cathedral, not forgetting Concarneau, the Pays Bigouden and the Pointe du Raz. Offering views over the Golfe du Morbihan, Vannes is the ideal base to explore southern Brittany. The old town is surrounded by sturdy walls which will transport you back to the Middle Ages. Get a real sense of authentic Breton culture at a 'festnoz'. And experience Brittany to the full through an unforgettable 'Brittany Experience'...



# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 RENNES

Start your trip in Rennes, that boasts of a 2,000 year old history and a lively cultural scene. Every Saturday morning, the Marché des Lices, France's 2nd largest market, gathers over 300 local and regional farmers as well as food producers. Visit one of the top cultural sites such as: The Champs Libres (Museum of Brittany and Scientific Cultural Centre), the Fine Arts Museum or the Parliament building.

Enjoy a leisurely ramble at the Thabor garden. Rennes owes its well-earned reputation to its festivals, concert halls and the sheer amount of events that take place here. However, the city vibrates to the sound of all types of music.



## DAY 2 SAINT-MALO - DINARD - MONT SAINT-MICHEL

Escape to Upper Brittany for the day. Recharge your batteries in the bracing sea air of Saint-Malo, the city of the Corsairs, a coastal capital and the jewel of the Emerald Coast or in Dinard, with its stately British villas and filmset atmosphere. Taste the famous Cancale oysters. The Mont Saint-Michel is a stone's throw from here.



## DAY 3 PERROS-GUIREC - CARNAC

Head to the Perros-Guirec and the Pink Granite Coast that offers you a protected natural site of astounding beauty, in which the land and sea are scattered with pink granite rocks that have been shaped by the wind and waves over millennia. Or choose to go to Carnac. Laid out over 6,000 years ago, the stone alignments at Carnac are one of the most important Prehistoric sites in Europe. The 3,000 standing stones are spread over 40 hectares and stretch for 4 km.

## HIGHLIGHT EVENT



Taste Breton culinary specialties, which range from deli meats to products of the sea. Observe fishermen as they unload their catch of coquilles Saint-Jacques (scallops) on the Port d'Erquy, then head to one of the local restaurants to taste them. Try also the mackerel rillette or splurge on a tray of seafood. You'll find France's most esteemed flat oysters on the Port of Cancale.

Bretons also prepare a wide variety of cured meats: pork rillette, smoked ham, Henaff pâté even Guémené andouille, a type of sausage made from chitterlings.

In Gourin, applaud the dexterity of crêpe-makers during the competition for the biggest crêpe. Other Breton delicacies: the plum-based Breton far (a flan-like dessert), the Pont-Aven galette (a flat cake), and the kouign-amann, a round, buttery crusty cake from Douarnenez.

Taste the Royal Guillevic, the sole cider with a red label, Breton beers and chouchen - a liqueur made by fermenting honey in water or wine.

## BRITTANY, A LAND OF FESTIVALS

The homeland of the fest-noz (traditional evening dance) invites its visitors to join in with numerous celebrations. The Festival du Bout du Monde (End of the World Festival), the Festival des Vieilles Charrues (a major rock festival), the Festival de Cornouaille, the Festival des Filets Bleus (Blue Nets Festival) and the Inter-Celtic Festival of Lorient are just some of the events that fill the summer season in Brittany.

Among the many key sailing events are the Route du Rhum, the Solitaire du Figaro race or the Gulf of Morbihan Week all celebrating the maritime spirit of Brittany. Even more, the Festival Etonnants Voyageurs (Astonishing Travellers Festival) is a unique event that celebrates the spirit of curiosity. Not to forget the famous Transmusicales in Rennes.



## GETTING THERE

### Rennes

High-speed train: 2 hours from Paris  
Airport Rennes Bretagne

You can also easily access south of Brittany by Nantes (2 hours train from Paris with high-speed train or by plane).







**THE FRENCH HERITAGE REGION OF NORMANDY OFFERS VISITORS A CHOICE BETWEEN THE ELEGANCE OF THE QUIET SEASIDE RESORTS ON THE CÔTE FLEURIE AND THE WILDER SHORES AND FISHING VILLAGES ALONG THE COTENTIN PENINSULA.**

The island of Mont Saint-Michel, with some of Europe's highest tides, dominates the surrounding landscape and is a must-see destination for visitors coming to the region. Don't miss the Côte d'Albâtre with its dramatic white cliffs and secluded creeks and fishing ports: Étretat, Fécamp, Dieppe and Veules-les-Roses. Enjoy a cycling experience along the rural paths or driving through the countryside of bocage hedgerows. Take a minute to wander along the Manor Trail and absorb the peace and tranquility in the Perche area or in the Suisse Normande. Take time to stroll around Giverny, once home to Claude Monet, father of the Impressionist Movement. For the true gourmand at heart, Normandy is a treasure trove of delectable experiences, with Camembert, Calvados, cider, scallops et al.

Normandy became popular during World War II for the Normandy Landing that resulted in the devastation of the region. It has since then built a reputation for being a cultural and culinary hub for France. The region has two capital cities: Caen in the lower region and Rouen in the Upper region. There are a total of 5 sites that have been earmarked as UNESCO World Heritage Sites i.e. Le Havre city center, the Vauban Tower on Tatihou Island, Alençon, the Bayeux Tapestry and Mont Saint-Michel and the bay.



# ITINERARIES

3  
DAYS



## DAY 1 VISIT LE HAVRE, HONFLEUR, DEAUVILLE AND CABOURG

From the port in Le Havre, where Monet painted "Impression Soleil Levant" in 1872, embark on a journey through the birthplace of the greatest Impressionist masterpieces. Travel from Honfleur to Cabourg via Deauville and Trouville, pointing out remnants of the Belle-Epoque and reliving those colourful, carefree days! Much like the artistic movement itself, these charming resorts are bathed in both Norman tradition and modernity. Deauville shares a strong connect with fashion, equestrian pursuits and also offers golfing and a casino that promise unlimited entertainment.



## DAY 2 VISIT ROUEN AND THE LANDING BEACHES OF NORMANDY

Take the Normandy highway and make your first stop at Rouen for a visit of the old town before going to Honfleur. On the way between Rouen and Honfleur, enjoy the view of the newly built Normandy bridge.

Continue to the beaches of Normandy and the American Landing Beaches of Omaha. Then visit the American Cemetery of Saint-Laurent and Arromanches and the Caen Memorial Museum. Dinner and overnight stay in Caen.



## DAY 3 ABBEY OF MONT SAINT-MICHEL

It is one of the most remarkable examples of medieval religious and military architecture. Discover its abbey church, the cloister, the refectory and the gardens of what has been known as the "Merveille". It is one of the most important religious sites in France.

# HIGHLIGHT EVENT

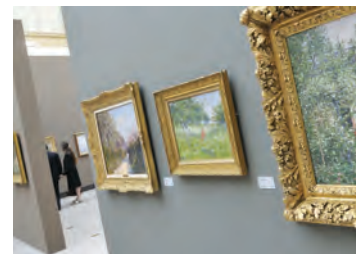


Enjoy a cycling experience along rural paths or drive through the countryside of bocage hedgerows. Take a minute to soak in the tranquility along the Manor Trail in the Perche area or in the Suisse Normande. The top most visited sites in Normandy include the Abbey of Mont Saint-Michel and Giverny. Normandy ranks 2nd in the number of gardens with more than 100 gardens and parks within the region. The region is also the 5th largest

golfing destination in the country with more than 38 golf courses. You can't leave Normandy without visiting its scenic coast. The Normandy coastline is ranked amongst the world's most famous coasts with an expansive beach bordered by cliffs. This coast became infamous because of the Battle of Normandy and D-Day during World War II. Normandy gained a reputation as the spiritual birthplace of Impressionism. There are many great artists who gained inspiration living and working in the region. Monet, one of the greatest Impressionist Masters lived in Giverny.

Normandy is well known for having some of the best dining addresses in France. The region boasts of having 38 Michelin-starred chefs. Normandy is a true haven for gourmands with its treasures such as Camembert, Calvados, cider, scallops, etc.

Normandy hosts various annual festivals and events that are internationally renowned. Normandy hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Alltech FEITM in 2014. The American Film Festival is an annual event that has been taking place in Deauville since its inception in 1975. From 16<sup>th</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016, The Normandy Impressionist Fair reflected this region's cultural heritage and proudly displayed its Impressionist history by staging large exhibitions of the Impressionist movement's art. Masterpieces from around the world were brought together in the region.



## GETTING THERE

### BY TRAIN

TGV trains leave from Paris' Gare Saint Lazare many times a day to many Norman cities.

Paris - Evreux: 1 hour

Paris - Rouen: 1h30 mins

Paris - Caen: 1h45 mins

Paris - Le Havre: 2 hours

Paris - Alençon: 2h30 mins

### BY AIR

Because Normandy is located so close to Paris, it is definitely not worth flying from Paris to this region of France.

### BY ROAD

From Paris take the A13, that takes about 2 hours and passes through Normandy.





# A broader view of France

**A THOUSAND LEAGUES FROM DAY-TO-DAY LIFE, IN THE HEART OF THE PACIFIC, THE ATLANTIC, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND IN SOUTH AMERICA, EXPLORE UNFORGETTABLE FLAVOURS AND EXPERIENCE MAGICAL MOMENTS.**

Equatorial forests with dormant volcanoes, roaring waterfalls with waters as clear as a lagoon, France's overseas territories feature a variety of climates, flora and fauna that can be wild, relaxing and lively. Ramblers and lovers of water sports can indulge their passions in breathtaking landscapes.

Gourmands can sample local flavours while history buffs will be astounded by the authentic lifestyles, traditions and festivities of the local people.

Each of the natural sites and heritage of the overseas territories is protected by national legislation and three are classified by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

Perfect for when winter descends upon Europe, French overseas destinations boast high levels of comfort and the same levels of service as mainland France, but they are a lot warmer at that time of the year.







## RÉUNION ISLAND

Réunion can provide visitors with simple enjoyable pleasures such as enjoying an apéritif at sunset or a stroll along almost 14 miles of lagoons on the western coast. But there are also more dramatic exciting distractions such as flying over the island by helicopter, or exploring the pitons, cirques and ramparts that have been classified by UNESCO. There is also the chance to explore the lagoon on a glass-bottomed kayak looking for the marine life of the Indian Ocean or sail out in a catamaran in search of whales from June to September.



## FRENCH GUIANA

With nearly eight million hectares of rainforest, most classified as protected areas, and a rich natural heritage consisting of some 1,300 types of trees, 190 species of mammals, 720 species of birds, and 480 species of fish, the French Guiana remains one of the last great wilderness areas. On the edge of the Amazon basin, a Regional Natural Park covers 2,702 square miles, with two focuses: to the east, the Kaw marshes, and to the west, the communes of Mana and French Guiana Awala-Yalimapo. The Marais de Kaw-Roura is a bird-watcher's heaven. It is a wetland zone perfect for observing water birds including the Hoatzin, the world's only species of ruminant bird. The park is one of the favourite spots for Luth turtles to lay their eggs (around 10,000 per year). It is easy to explore by travelling up the rivers in a pirogue canoe. During the stopovers, you can sleep in a hammock under the Carbet's peak or in a floating eco-lodge.



## TAHITI AND ITS ISLANDS

Perhaps already the best known of the French overseas territories, Tahiti and its islands have long been a romantic magnet for honeymooners. The hotels that welcome newlyweds are generally made up of luxurious, traditional thatched-roof bungalows built with all the amenities of a first-class hotel room and perched above the turquoise waters of the lagoon. Activities among the islands include swimming and world-class snorkeling in the safe and crystal-clear lagoons that are scattered around this romantic getaway. And for men, a visit to a farm of pearl oysters is essential to find a souvenir gift for their sweetheart.



## SAINT-MARTIN

Ideally situated in the centre of the Antilles Arc, in the vicinity of numerous other islands, Saint-Martin has earned a great reputation in terms of cruising and pleasure boating over the years. With its 10 marinas, it can welcome up to 1,400 boats. Luxurious and modern, the four marinas on the French side (Fort Louis, Port-la-Royale, Anse Marcel and Captain Oliver's) offer all the comforts and facilities that sailors require. Sailing enthusiasts can take part in numerous regattas; the most famous of them, the Heineken Regatta, convenes over five days during the month of March, bringing together hundreds of the world's best sailors in an ambience that is both competitive and festive. Thanks to its shared French and Dutch sovereignty, a double culture has evolved on St Martin, where sophistication mixes day to day with a laid-back style, creating a way of life that is particular to this isle.



## NEW CALEDONIA

Hidden away in the Pacific, this stunning archipelago plays host to perfect beaches and endless UNESCO-protected coral reefs in the world's largest lagoon. Outdoor activities such as walking or mountain biking respect the local biodiversity while its architecture is reminiscent of Europe and the culture is distinctly Melanesian. The bustling capital of the territory is Nouméa, on Grande Terre, home to the five star Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Resort & Spa. Other options include the five-star Le Meridien Noumea and the five star Le Meridien Isle of Pines. Take a 40 minute flight from Nouméa to access the four-star Paradis d'Ouvea which is located on a beach.



## MARTINIQUE

This 'Island of Flowers' offers an immense diversity of landscapes, with its beaches of white and black sand, volcanic landscape, verdant mountains and a tropical forest blanketing the hills. And travelers can be the envy of all when they treat themselves to a well-being week under the Martinique sun at the five-star Cap Est Lagoon Resort & Spa. A member of Relais & Châteaux, the resort is set on a peninsula just five miles from the town of Le François. At the hotel, everything is taken care of to ensure guests enjoy a relaxing break, with well-being and discreet luxury.

## THE ISLANDS OF GUADELOUPE : A UNIQUE ARCHIPELAGO IN THE WORLD

In Basse-Terre, climb up to La Soufriere volcano summit, still active, and discover at Grande-Terre architectural treasures. Enjoy a sunbath at wonderful white and golden sand beaches...

La Désirade singles out its exceptional geological reserve.. At Saintes Islands, marvel at its breathtaking bay which is one of the most beautiful in the world. And it is at Marie-Galante, where you will discover sweet fragrances and flavours of the oldest rum of the archipelago.

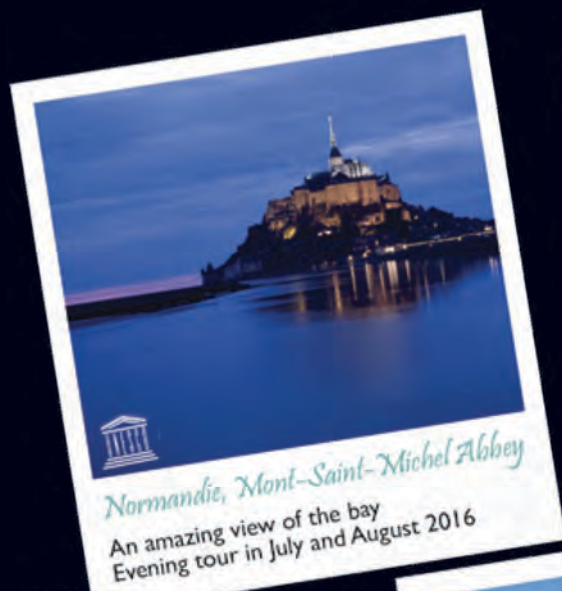




# FRENCH NATIONAL MONUMENTS

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