

# FRANCE

## PARIS, PROVENCE & CÔTE D'AZUR 11 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS

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#### DAY 1: TRAVEL TO FRANCE

- Fly through the night to Paris, France

#### DAY 2: PARIS

- Your Prométour Tour Director will greet you at the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris and remain with your group for the duration of your tour
- Transfer by private, deluxe motorcoach to your centrally located hotel to leave your bags
- Take some free time to stroll on the Champs-Elysées, the most famous avenue in the world
  - Climb the Arc de Triomphe and visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
  - Stroll about the Trocadéro, visit its breathtaking gardens
  - Admire the view of the city from the 3rd floor of the Eiffel Tower
  - Have dinner with your group followed by overnight accommodation in Paris

#### DAY 3: PARIS

- After breakfast, take a guided tour of the Louvre, where you'll see master pieces such as the Mona Lisa
  Notice the Egyptian Obelisk at the center of the Place de la Concorde as you walk towards the Jardin
- des Tuileries
- Take a guided tour of the beautiful Opera Garnier best known as the backdrop for Gaston Leroux's famous Gothic novel, The Phantom of the Opera and all of its incarnations
- Window or souvenir shop at the Galleries Lafayette and Place Vendome
- Head to Le Marais district and see Place des Vosges, Paris' oldest square still with its original buildings, as well as the Centre Georges Pompidou with its exposed skeleton of brightly colored tubes
- Have dinner with your group followed by overnight accommodation in Paris

#### DAY 4: 1/2 DAY EXCURSION TO VERSAILLES / PARIS

- Enjoy breakfast with your group then take the **RER** (Réseau Express Régional) to **Versailles** for a guided visit
- Visit the opulent Grand Apartments, the King's Chamber and the Hall of Mirrors
- Later, discover the **elegantly landscaped gardens** where you can admire massive gilded fountains with mythical creatures, lines of statues, and gardens Return to Paris; see **Notre-Dame Cathedral**, a magnificent masterpiece of French gothic architecture
- On to the Quartier Latin to see the Luxembourg Gardens, Le Panthéon, and the Sorbonne University. Get acquainted with the flower market and the book stalls
- Later in the day, take a "Bateau Mouche" cruise along the River Seine
- Have dinner with your group followed by overnight accommodation in Paris

#### DAY 5: PARIS

- After breakfast head over to **Île de la Cité** to see **Sainte Chapelle**, which is often regarded as the high point of the Rayonnante period of Gothic architecture
- Right close by see the historical **Conciergerie**, the first royal palace in the French capital that was used as a prison during the French Revolution
- Head up to the highest point in Paris, Montmartre, climb the steps to reach Sacré-Coeur
- Have dinner with your group followed by overnight accommodation in Paris

#### DAY 6: PARIS / AVIGNON

- Have breakfast with your group and then transfer to the train station
- Board your high-speed **TGV** (Train à Grande Vitesse) that will take you to **Avignon**. Your bus will be waiting for you upon arrival
  - Check-in at your hotel to drop off your bags & freshen up
- Visit the majestic **Palais des Papes**, one of the largest and most important medieval Gothic buildings in Europe. It's where the Popes lived for much of the 14th Century
- Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring this commune
- Have dinner with your group followed by overnight accommodation in Avignon

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#### DAY 7: AVIGNON / CASSIS / ST MAXIMIN

- After breakfast, see the impressive **Pont du Gard**, a Roman aqueduct built in the middle of the 1st Century A.D.
  - Travel to the quaint Provencal town of **Les Baux-de-Provence**, thought to be one of the most picturesque villages in France
- Visit the Château des Baux, or sometimes called "la ville morte"; be sure to enjoy the view of the Val d'Enfer (Valley of Hell) and even glimpse the Mediterranean in the distance
- Head to Cassis after lunch
- Hop on a boat to explore the spectacular "Calanques", a geologic formation in the form of a deep valley with steep sides, typically of limestone, in part submerged by the sea

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- Continue to Saint-Maximin La Sainte-Baume and check-in at the Couvent Royal
- Have a French gourmet dinner at the on-site restaurant
- Overnight accommodation at the Couvent Royal

#### DAY 8: ST-MAXIMIN / GRASSE / VENCE / NICE

- After breakfast, depart for the Côte d'Azur; make a stop in **Grasse**, considered the world's perfume capital
- Many "noses" are trained or have spent time in the town. It produces over two thirds of France's natural aromas
- Next, enjoy the sandy beaches of Cannes, where the rich and famous play
- This afternoon visit the hilltop walled city of **St-Paul-de-Vence**. The beauty of the surrounding area has inspired numerous famous artists, painters, writers and poets, some of whom took up residence in the village
- Late afternoon continue on to Nice for hotel check-in
- Enjoy dinner with your group and then take an evening stroll along the Promenade des Anglais
- Overnight accommodation in Nice at your centrally located hotel

#### DAY 9: NICE

- After breakfast, explore the lovely old quarter of Nice with your tour director
- Visit the Confiserie Florian to see how the famous "Bonbons Niçois" are made
- Have the rest of the day at your leisure to shop, explore or just people watch at a busy French Café
- Dinner with your group and your Prométour Tour Director
- Overnight accommodation in Nice at your centrally located hotel

#### DAY 10: MONACO / NICE

- Depart by local train for the **Principality of Monaco**, the world's most densely populated country and second-smallest independent nation
- See the Changing of the Guards in front of Prince Rainer's Palace, and see the beautiful interior
- Visit the world renowned **Musée Océanographique**, a splendid aquarium displaying tropical and Mediterranean marine life. There's even a unique coral reef from the Red Sea
- Return to Nice for the afternoon, enjoy the **local beach**
- Enjoy a farewell dinner with your group and your Prométour Tour Director
- Overnight accommodation in Nice at your centrally located hotel

#### DAY 11: RETURN HOME

- After a farewell breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport by private motorcoach
- After an incredible adventure, say "Au Revoir" to your Prométour Tour Director and board your flight back home

**Bon Voyage!**