



## France: Bon Voyage!

August 28 – September 6, 2025  
\$6,875; Single Supplement Applies



Photo by Sunny Reynolds

*Champs-Élysées*

**DAY 1 – Thursday, August 28: Evening departure U.S. to Paris, France (3 nights in Paris)**

**DAY 2 – Friday, August 29: Morning Arrival, Tour Notre Dame, the Île de la Cité and Île Saint Louis**

Arrive in Paris. You will be welcomed to this enchanting and historic city and transferred to our elegant boutique hotel. Once you are settled, you will begin your journey with a visit to the iconic Notre Dame, where you can admire the incredible restoration efforts that have brought this masterpiece back to life.

Marvel at the intricate details of its façade and the breathtaking views from its tower. Afterward, wander through the historic Île de la Cité, the very center of Paris, where you can discover the rich history and stunning architecture that define this island. Continue your adventure by crossing over to the Île Saint-Louis, a peaceful oasis known for its quaint streets and charming boutiques.



Photo by Sunny Reynolds

**Overnight at Hotel Parc Saint Severin or similar in the Latin Quarter (Breakfast included)**

## DAY 3 – Saturday August 30: Arc de Triomphe, Champs-Élysées and Musée d'Orsay

### The Arc de Triomphe

Discover a unique view of the Champs-Élysées, the world's most beautiful avenue. The Arc de Triomphe was begun in 1806, on the orders of Napoleon I to honor the victories of his Grande Armée. Inspired by the great arches of antiquity, the monument combines the commemorative with the symbolic and it has always played a major role in the national republican consciousness. Every evening, the flame is lit on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the Great War

### Stroll the Champs-Élysées

On the other side of Place de la Concorde are the Champs-Élysées: one of the world's most famous avenues, a huge tree-lined boulevard with some of the best shopping and dining in the city as well as beautiful architecture. Enjoy window shopping as we walk along this historic avenue.

### Musée d'Orsay

Internationally renowned for its rich collection of Impressionist art, the Musée d'Orsay also displays all Western artistic creations from 1848 to 1914. Its collections represent all expressive forms, from painting to architecture, as well as sculpture, the decorative arts, and photography. With your map, you can make your own way around inside the museum without missing out on any masterpieces: Degas' "Small Dancer Aged Fourteen," Manet's "Luncheon on the Grass," Renoir's "Dance at Le Moulin de la Galette" and many more! This is a great segue to our trip to Provence!

### Overnight at Hotel Parc Saint Severin or similar in the Latin Quarter (Breakfast included)





## **DAY 4 – Sunday, August 31, 2025: Montmartre Neighborhood, Opera Garnier and Seine River Dinner Cruise**

### **Explore the Montmartre Neighborhood**

Montmartre refers to the 18th arrondissement of Paris. The hill in the north of the French capital with its imposing white basilica is the highest elevated neighborhood of Paris.

This artists' district has a lot to offer: in addition to a great view over the entire city, it also is home to hidden small vineyards, narrow cobblestone streets and numerous romantic places, not to mention its interesting history, extraordinary stories and famous people who lived and loved in Montmartre, then and now.



Photo by Sunny Reynolds

### **Opera Garnier Highlights Private Guided Tour**

In this two-hour tour, you will learn about history, Opera and Ballet. The Palais Garnier, an architectural masterpiece inaugurated in 1875 at the request of Napoleon III, is without doubt one of the most dazzling monuments in Paris. A world of elegance, not to be missed! To visit the Palais Garnier is to enter a realm of pomp and refinement in which the poetry, audacity and genius of Charles Garnier have managed to create a unique harmony between the sculpture, painting and architecture. A showcase for dance and opera, the building dazzles with its balconies in onyx, its luxurious marble, its delicate frescoes and its rich gilding. A real gem in the heart of Paris. From the monumental staircase to the majestic Grand Salon, each room of the Palais Garnier is full of elegant details that compose a magical decor. An architectural symphony, created by using several styles. And an architectural 'first' at the time, it was to inspire other buildings, making it an exceptional monument! Along with your guide, you will discover the entire Opera Garnier: the salons, the library, the showroom, the terrace and more.

### **Dinner cruise on the Seine River**

Wrap up Paris and see the City of Lights as it was meant to be seen. At dusk, Paris transforms into a glittering light show. Climb aboard a boat for a dinner cruise along the Seine river in central Paris, and enjoy a 3-course meal as you take in views of the lit monuments. The entirely glassed-in boat is of a contemporary design, with onboard toilets for your comfort. See the historic quays of the Seine and cruise past the golden dome of Les Invalides. Marvel at the impressive buildings of the French Parliament and the Musée d'Orsay, the former Beaux-Arts railway station, and of course the sparkling Eiffel Tower. Get up close to the Gothic façade of Notre Dame Cathedral, see the imposing former prison of the Conciergerie and cruise under some of the city's most historic bridges.

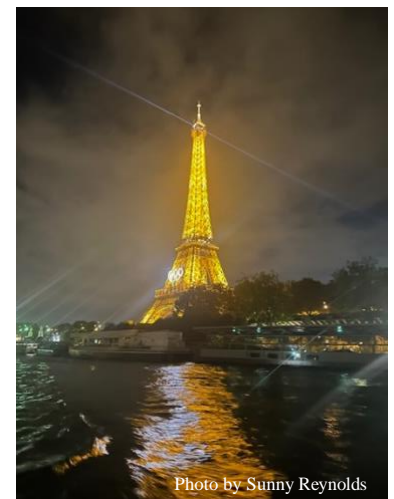


Photo by Sunny Reynolds

**Overnight at Hotel Parc Saint Severin or similar in the Latin Quarter (Breakfast and Dinner included)**

## **DAY 5 – Monday September 1, 2025: DEPART Train TGV, Paris to Avignon (5 nights in Avignon)**

Depending on train departure, we will have breakfast at the iconic restaurant Le Train Bleu which is located inside Le Gare de Lyon train station.

Embark on an exciting journey aboard one of France's most impressive feats of engineering—the TGV, or Train à Grande Vitesse to Avignon. Enjoy first-class seating as this high-speed train will whisk us across the beautiful French countryside with efficiency and comfort. Approximately 2 hours and 40 min.



### **Welcome to Avignon: Avignon Private Walking Tour**

Explore Avignon's most charming corners and unmissable attractions on this 3-hour private walking tour. You'll learn about the Papal city's fascinating history. Enjoy vistas over the Rhône River Valley, wind through the cobblestone streets and past the medieval ramparts, and visit the vibrant Place de l'Horloge.

### **Overnight at Hotel de Cambis or similar in Avignon (Breakfast included)**

## **DAY 6 – Tuesday, September 2, 2025: Arles & Avignon**

### **Visit Arles With a Guide**

Discover the enchanting city of Arles with a half-day guided tour that unveils its rich history and cultural heritage. Recognized by UNESCO for its Roman and Romanesque monuments, Arles boasts impressive sites like the ancient amphitheater and theater. As you stroll through its picturesque streets, you'll learn about the vibrant art scene that inspired Vincent van Gogh, who completed over 300 works during his prolific stay here. Your knowledgeable guide will provide insights into the city's traditions and its role as a gateway to the Camargue, an area celebrated for its exceptional biodiversity and protected as a World Biosphere Reserve. To the north lies the Alpilles Regional Nature Park, home to diverse wildlife and Mediterranean forests. This tour offers a memorable journey through one of Provence's most captivating destinations, where history, art, and nature converge beautifully. Enjoy a delicious provincial lunch in Arles!



### **Overnight at Hotel de Cambis or similar in Avignon (Breakfast included)**



## DAY 7 – Wednesday, September 3, 2025: Gordes - Ménerbes

### Visit Gordes

Gordes is listed as one of the "Plus Beaux Villages de France" (Most Beautiful Villages of France). This lovely little hilltop village looks like the scene of a postcard or painting. In fact, artists Victor Vasarély and Marc Chagall found inspiration for their paintings here. An ancient "village perché" (perched village), Gordes has a dramatic setting. The village stands on a steep slope descending from the Plateau de Vaucluse to the Coulon Valley. The perched location provided protection from invasions during the Middle Ages.

Dominating Gordes is the 16th-century Château de Gordes, a fortified castle with medieval corner towers and a grand doorway. The château's Great Hall boasts a monumental Renaissance fireplace, one of the finest in France. The château houses the Pol Mara Museum dedicated to the Flemish painter's masterpieces. To reach the museum, visitors must climb the château's impressive spiraling Renaissance staircase up to the exhibition rooms on the top floor. At the center of Gordes, the Place du Château de Gordes is a lively town square with many cafés, restaurants, art galleries, and souvenir shops. The best photo-op of Gordes is from the road leading up from Cavaillon.

### Private tour of the cellars of the Saint Firmin Palace

This man-made semi-troglodyte site is a marvelous creation that still retains its medieval history. Dug into the rock, under the houses, following the slope of the village, discover the underground life under the city of Gordes. This cellar has 3 levels, which were used for crafts in ancient times. Due to the lack of surface on the ground and where the houses were crammed together, this underground cellar was established, which is no less than a small city in itself. Olive oil mills, silos, and vats are some of the many things this cellar has to offer.



While people lived above ground, industry, and crafts developed underground. This gigantic underground network is often more impressive than the houses above that houses it. More than forty years of clearing work have helped tourists to discover part of this underground world. A documentary on the restoration of the Caves, a 3D video (representation of the craft activity that existed in the Caves), and a small museum with objects testifying to the different uses of the Caves found during their restoration are available for public viewing.

## **Visit the Charming Villages in the Luberon Regional Nature Park**

An idyllic piece of rural landscape, the Luberon Regional Nature Park is an off-the-beaten-track area in the Vaucluse department (Provence). This UNESCO-listed nature reserve is based around the rugged mountainous area of the Montagne du Lubéron. The 120,000-hectare reserve encompasses limestone mountains, rolling hills, serene valleys, orchards and farms. The picturesque villages of the Luberon are some of Provence's most charming, unspoiled tourist destinations. Exploring this area requires a driving itinerary, but it's worth it.

One of the famous 'perched villages' of Provence, Menerbes is a medieval village spread out along a hilltop in the center of the Luberon region. Typical of the ancient Luberon villages, you will find narrow streets passing carefully restored medieval houses as you climb up the hill. Most of the houses in Menerbes date from the 16th and 17th centuries, and a large number have been beautifully renovated in recent years. The village of Menerbes has long attracted artists - Nicolas de Stael and Picasso lived here. But the village is better known for a more recent resident, Peter Mayle, who wrote his 'Year in Provence' books while living in the village. These books undoubtedly brought fame and repute to the villages of the Luberon and Menerbes in particular, and deservedly so.

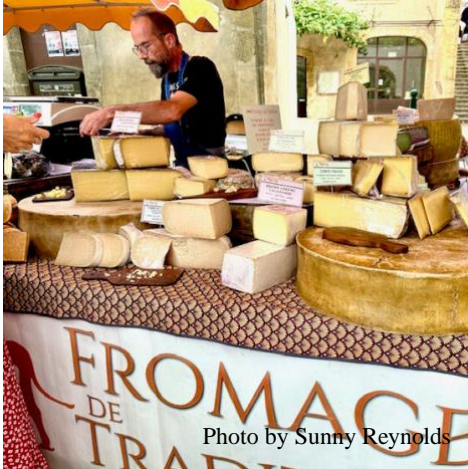
## **Shared Visit and Wine Tasting in Luberon**

In this visit, you will explore an estate created in 1990 from an 8-hectare farm at the foot of the village of Ménerbes. Today, the vineyard totals 40 hectares of vines aged between 15 and 75 years and is mainly located in the commune of Ménerbes, on the northern slopes of the Luberon. You will also get to visit a museum dedicated to corkscrew which presents a collection of over 1,200 historic pieces from the 17th century to the present day, from all over the world, some of them unique. You will have a sommelier who will serve as your guide explaining the wine-making process and leading a tasting.

## **Overnight at Hotel de Cambis or similar in Avignon (Breakfast included)**



## DAY 8 – Thursday, September 4, 2025: Aix en Provence - Cassis



### **Browse the Colorful Traditional Markets of Aix-en-Provence**

Food, flowers, craftwork... Aix-en-Provence's markets are a feast for the senses. Check out the dates and locations of Aix-en-Provence's many and varied markets. Markets take place every day, right in the centre of town, in one or other of the beautiful squares. Place Richelme is a delightful square crowned with high plane trees, where the local produce market is on every day of the week. Fruit, vegetables, cheese, olive oils, seafood - it's where locals, chefs and tourists alike converge for the colours and flavours of Provence. The 'grand marché' (big market) of Aix is on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays on Place des Precheurs and Place de Verdun, two squares that are actually like one big square. In Place des Precheurs is the food market, and in Place de Verdun it is the 'brocantes' and antiques market, selling clothes, fabrics, furnishings, and books. Aix-en-Provence's welcoming markets are a genuine enchantment.

### **Private cruise from Cassis to Les Calanques**

The magnificent Calanque of the Mediterranean coast is an incredible series of white limestone rocks with deep valleys which are the beautiful setting for colorful fishing villages, intense creeks, turquoise water, and a unique ecosystem.

On this cruise tour, you can sail along the splendid coastline of Calanques admiring the natural scenery and catching glimpses of sea birds, fish, and other marine mammals from the comfort of your cruise. You will have a chance to admire the rugged limestone cliffs, coves, lush vegetation, and iconic landmarks. It will be a unique experience and a refreshing unforgettable tour.

### **Overnight at Hotel de Cambis or similar in Avignon (Breakfast included)**





## **DAY 9 – Friday, September 5, 2025: Avignon**

Make the most of your free day with an activity of your choice.

### **Explore Avignon, “La Cite des Papes”**

Stroll the boutique-lined streets and vibrant squares, dine in some excellent restaurants and see the impressive medieval wall that encircles the old city.

The main attraction in Avignon is another of Provence’s UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the **Palais des Papes**. It’s one of the largest medieval Gothic buildings in Europe, former home to nine successive popes during the 14th century.

It took less than 20 years to build this immense religious structure with imposing walls and four impressive towers. Tours take visitors through 25 rooms. Must-see rooms include the Consistoire (Audience Room), the Grande Chapelle (Great Chapel), the Grand Tinel (Banquet Hall), and the private papal apartments. The views from the towers are the most sublime place to take in the city, the Rhône River and the famous Pont d’Avignon (Pont Saint-Bénézet).

The Pont d’Avignon is a testament to the exciting history of the capital of Vaucluse. Built between 1177 and 1185, the Saint-Bénézet Bridge, known as the “Pont d’Avignon,” once connected Avignon with Villeneuve-les-Avignon. After extensive repeated damage from war and flooding, only four of the original 22 arches remain today. When it was built it was the only link over the Rhone River between Lyon and the Mediterranean Sea.

Sample the Papalines d’Avignon, chocolate specialties made with aromatic oregano liqueur from Mont Ventoux. They are handmade and only sold by shops affiliated with the Vaucluse master confectioners. Five tons are sold each year! The asparagus is worth trying too during the spring season. It’s widely celebrated in Avignon - nearly every menu in town has fresh asparagus soup, roasted green asparagus, or the white variety lightly sautéed and served with sauce.

The best buys are to be found in the city’s fantastic array of funky little designer and craft boutiques, and its small but select range of shops offering fine regional food and drink specialities.

These are mainly found in the part of town between the Tourist Office at 41 cours Jean Jaurès and the gourmet Les Halles food market on place Pie. A number of these narrow alleys have been recently pedestrianised, and now this part of Avignon is really pleasant to stroll around.

### **Suggestion : Pont Benezet**

The Saint Bénézet bridge, also known as Pont d’Avignon, is a true feat of engineering, and is continually being worked on and repaired. Built from the 12th century, the bridge originally spanned approximately 900 meters and had 22 arches. It was dismantled in 1226, then rebuilt. It was later washed away several times by flood waters and rebuilt until it was abandoned in the 17th century. Today, all that remains are four arches and a chapel dedicated to Saint Nicolas. It is now classified as World Heritage by UNESCO.

### **Overnight at Hotel de Cambis or similar in Avignon (Breakfast included)**

## **DAY 10 – Saturday, September 6: DEPART Marseille Airport to U.S.**



### INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

- Transportation
- Train from Paris to Avignon First Class
- Breakfast and Accommodation at 4\* hotels as per itinerary
- Dinner Cruise on the Seine
- Wine Tasting in Luberon
- Private Cruise from Cassis to Les Calanques
- Entrance fees and private English-speaking tour guides

### EXCLUSIONS

- International Flights booked separately. Please call for quote.
- Customary end-of-tour gratuities for guides and drivers
- All Meals, except dinner cruise on the Seine

*Itinerary subject to change – please keep in mind that your tour may vary, depending upon availabilities, weather, etc.*

Rates based on Double Occupancy  
Single Supplement Applies  
Subject to Availability  
All Prices subject to change



Embark on an extraordinary journey led by Sunny Reynolds, an experienced tour guide sharing the wonders of the world with travelers since 1992. Accompanying Sunny are David and Kate Lallement. David, born in Dijon and now residing in the US, is a wine distributor who deals in top-notch French and Italian wines. Kate holds degrees in marketing and art education. She swapped Virginia for France, where she lived and worked for several years. Together, they bring a wealth of expertise and passion to your travel experience.