# BEST OF FRANCE TOUR



www.mytravelxp.com hello@mytravelxp.com 1300 168 910



## France Escorted Tour with Flights

Duration: 14 days Stay: 12 nights in hotels, 1 overnight flight Travel style: Escorted tour with flights from Australia Booking code: FRTG14M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience Email hello@mytravelxp.com

## About the holiday

Discover the magic of France on this stunning escorted tour that ticks all the boxes!

Take your time to experience the wonder and romance of one of the most desirable destinations in the world for travellers. See why so many fall in love with the dramatic architecture, intimate cafes, colourful cities, breathtaking countryside, divine cuisine and vibrant culture. Explore places that inspired great artists, were the scenes of momentous occasions and even where miracles are believed to have taken place.

Begin in illuminating Paris and travel to the renowned wine regions of Champagne and Burgundy. Drive to the 2000-year-old city of Lyon and savour the delights of the French Riviera. View the famed Bridge of Avignon, then follow in the footsteps of pilgrims to the sanctuary of Lourdes. Plus, spend time touring beautiful Bordeaux and the heart of the Loire Valley and this sublime tour of France.

Why you'll love this trip...

- Drive along Champs Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe and the iconic Eiffel Tower
- Travel to the famed Champagne region with tastings of this bubbly delight
- View the striking Gothic structures of Dijon Cathedral and Ducal Palace
- Drive via the Route des Grand Crus to Beaune, capital of Burgundy wines
- Visit Avignon, "City of Popes" & the Roman Aqueduct of the Pont du Gard
- Witness the stirring candlelight procession in Lourdes & behold the holy waters
- Wine and Cognac tastings throughout your journey in the wine country
- Visit the fairy-tale Chateau de Chenonceau, stretching across the river Cher

## Travel dates

#### 2024 & 2025 - Departs Wednesday from May to October

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price will vary depending on your travel date and please contact us for available departures.

Email hello@mytravelxp.com for more information or call 1300 168 910



## Escorted tour package includes:

- Return economy airfare from Australian capital cities to Paris
- 12 nights First Class accommodation in 4-star hotels
  - o 3 nights Paris
  - 1 night Dijon
  - 1 night Lyon
  - 2 nights French Riviera
  - 1 night Carcassonne
  - 1 night Lourdes
  - 2 nights Bordeaux
  - 1 night Loire Valley
- 18 meals: 12 breakfasts, 6 dinners with wine
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of local guides in Paris, Dijon, Lyon, Carcassonne and Bordeaux
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

## Package excludes:

Airport transfers - can be pre-purchased on request Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary Optional tours & activities Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc. Gratuities for tour manager, guides & drivers Travel insurance is essential Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

> Subject to confirmation by tour company & local operators. Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

For full details, call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com



## Itinerary:

DAY 1, Wednesday - Depart for France

## DAY 2, Thursday - Arrive in Paris

Arrive in Paris, "City Of Light" and make your way to the hotel by taxi. The rest of the day is at leisure. Your tour begins with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 5 PM. We recommend that you select flights which arrive no later than 3 PM. Afterwards, a cruise on the River Seine introduces you to the beauty of Paris at night **Overnight:** Paris

## DAY 3, Friday - Paris City Tour

Drive along the impressive Champs Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe, Concorde Square, and the iconic Eiffel Tower, symbol of Paris. On to the celebrated "Rive Gauche", the vivacious Left Bank, the artistic community at Montparnasse. View the Latin Quarter, and pass the colorful Luxembourg Gardens, housed in the Luxembourg Palace. This afternoon perhaps join the *optional* tour to Versailles to witness the grandeur of French classical architecture on the visit to the Palace and extravagant State Apartments. Tonight, you may wish to join the *optional* Montmartre & Illuminations tour with dinner and wine **Optional:** Palace of Versailles (PM) **Optional:** Montmartre & Illuminations with dinner (PM) **Overnight:** Paris

Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 4, Saturday - Champagne Tasting, Dijon

Travel from Paris to the famed Champagne region with its stretches of vineyards as far as the eye can see. This historic province in the northeast of France, formerly ruled by the Counts of Champagne, is best known for the sparkling white wine that bears its name. In Epernay, visit one of the renowned cellars, learn more about the process and enjoy tastings of this bubbly delight. Its main boulevard is the residential Avenue de Champagne, with its timeless Neoclassical villas and Victorian town houses. Then continue to Dijon, View Dijon Cathedral and the Ducal Palace, a remarkably well-preserved Gothic structure that served as the royal residence for the estates of Burgundy. Overnight in Dijon, also known as home of the tasty mustard **Overnight:** Dijon

Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 5, Sunday - Beaune's Burgundy Vineyards, Lyon

Depart Dijon via the Route des Grand Crus to Beaune, celebrated capital of Burgundy wines, nestled in the heart of France's finest vineyards. The facilities and cellars of many prominent wineries, are situated in Beaune itself. This walled city still displays its original battlements, ramparts, moats and a historic Old Town. A walking tour takes you to the lively central square. Enjoy a tasting at one of the local cellars. At the Hotel-Dieu de Beaune, see the original an example of 15th century French architecture. Then, drive south to 2000-year-old Lyon. Upon arrival, visit Place Bellecour, and ascend Fouvière Hill to view the Roman amphitheater and gardens that overlook the citv

**Overnight:** Lyon **Meals:** Breakfast

#### DAY 6, Monday - Fields of Provence, French Riviera

Heading south, journey through the colorful landscapes of Provence, an inspiration for the early Impressionist painters. Travel past the olive groves and pine forests to the city of Aix-en-Provence, famous for being the birthplace of Post-Impressionist painter Paul Cézanne. Spend free time for lunch on your own. Later, continue to a French perfumery and hear about the many ways to produce this major export and try some of the popular fragrances. Tonight, at dinner, a taste of the French Riviera's specialties

**Overnight:** French Riviera Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 7, Tuesday - Full Day in the French Riviera

A full day to discover the delights of the Cote d'Azur and your resort in the Mediterranean twin towns of Antibes and Juan-Les-Pins. Don't miss the optional tour to St. Paul de Vence. Drive into the pine-scented hills above Nice to visit the hilltop St. Paul de Vence, which still retains its medieval character. Wander the cobbled streets to the central fountain, and see the burial place of Marc Chagall.

Tonight, see glamorous Monte Carlo's lights glisten as you travel along the seaside Corniche on the *optional* night tour **Optional:** St. Paul de Vence (AM) **Optional:** Monte Carlo by Night (PM) **Overnight:** French Riviera **Meals:** Breakfast

#### DAY 8, Wednesday - Avignon, Pont du Gard, Carcassonne

This morning journey on to Avignon, the "City of Popes" named after seven popes who reigned there during the 1300s. Admire the Place de l'Horlorge, the city's main square and the vast Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes), a fortress-like palace that once served as the papal residence. View the famed Bridge of Avignon, the city's landmark. In the afternoon, drive to the Pont du Gard, an ancient Roman aqueduct that crosses the Gardon River dating from 19 AD, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, travel to Carcassonne for dinner and overnight **Overnight:** Carcassonne

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 9, Thursday - Carcassonne, Lourdes, Candlelit Procession

This morning, take a walking tour of Carcassonne. Stroll along the cobbled streets to the St. Nazaire Basilica, adorned with stained glass and intricate carvings. Afterward, sip a small tasting of Hippocras wine. This spiced wine, was highly prized during the medieval era. In the afternoon, your journey continues to Lourdes, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, a major site of Roman Catholic pilgrimage and of reported miraculous healings. Witness the candlelight procession tonight, which has unfailingly taken place since the 1800s. Dinner and overnight is in Lourdes **Overnight:** Lourdes **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 10, Friday - Visit Lourdes, Wine Tasting in St. Emilion, Bordeaux

In Lourdes, visit the sacred church, sanctuary, and grotto where the apparitions took place and behold the healing water spring from the grotto, believed to possess healing properties. Afterward, drive north, to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of St. Emilion. Views of the city include Romanesque churches and fascinating historic ruins stretching along steep and narrow streets. Enjoy a wine tasting and then free time to wander on your own before continuing to Bordeaux. Tonight, dinner is at the hotel **Overnight:** Bordeaux **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 11, Saturday - Tour of Bordeaux

Take a morning tour of Bordeaux, on the crescent-shaped Garonne River. Bordeaux is distinguished for the wines that bear its name. The city tour begins at the Place des Quinconces, with its mighty pillar centerpiece, the Girondist Column.

In the historic Old Town, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, view the Grand Theater and the Victory Arch. The afternoon is yours to independently explore this city. This evening, an *optional* dinner in the Bordeaux countryside will complete the day

**Optional:** Bordeaux Countryside with Dinner (PM) **Overnight:** Bordeaux **Meals:** Breakfast

#### DAY 12, Sunday - Cognac Tasting, Chateau de Chenonceau, Loire Valley

Depart Bordeaux for the town of Cognac, world-famous for the grape-based spirit produced here for over 300 years. Visit one of the cellars, hear about the history of cognac and enjoy a tasting. Onward to the very heart of the Loire Valley. Tour the elegant Chateau de Chenonceau. Stretching across the river Cher, the chateau boasts a 197-foot gallery, built over a series of arches. Proceed to Amboise, a riverside town with an imposing castle, before continuing to the hotel for dinner and overnight **Overnight:** Loire Valley

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 13, Monday - Return to Paris

Begin by crossing the Loire River and head back to the capital city of Paris for time at leisure. Tonight, gather together for dinner in a Parisian bistro, including wine as you bid au revoir to your Tour Manager **Overnight:** Paris **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 14, Tuesday - Depart France

Check out of the hotel this morning then make your way to the airport by taxi for your departure flight to Australia. Meals: Breakfast

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, river levels, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

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## Hotels on tour

This tour includes first class hotels of 4-star standard. Individual properties may be substituted by the tour operator and hotels will be confirmed prior to departure.

#### Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel, Paris

This first class hotel is situated in the center of Paris, close to the Eiffel Tower.

#### Hotel Oceania Le Jura Dijon, Dijon

This first class hotel is situated in Dijon's city center.

#### Radisson Blu Hotel, Lyon

This first class hotel is located in the heart of the business district next to the famous part-Dieu shopping mall.

#### AC Ambassadeur Antibes, Juan Les Pins

This first class hotel is situated in the town of Juan Les Pins.

#### Best Western Plus Hotel Brice Garden Nice, Nice

This first class hotel is located in the heart of the city of Nice, just a five minute walk from Promenade des Anglais and the beach.

#### Mercure Carcassonne La Cite Hotel, Carcassonne

This first class hotel is a short walk away from the medieval city of Carcassonne.

#### Sowell Hotel les Chevaliers Carcassonne, Carcassonne

This first class hotel is ideally located in the city of Carcassonne.

#### Grand Hotel Gallia & Londres Spa NUXE, Lourdes

This first class hotel is located at the entrance of Our Lady's Shrines, in the heart of Lourdes.

#### Mercure Bordeaux Chateau Chartrons, Bordeaux

This first class hotel is located in the old Bordeaux wine merchants district.

#### Mercure Bordeaux Center Gare Atlantic, Bordeaux

This first class hotel is located in Saint John district of Bordeaux.

#### Novotel Amboise, Amboise

This first class hotel is set on a hill overlooking Amboise.

## Affordable Holidays - How do we do it?

With over 30 years' in the business, we know the travel industry better than anyone and have tracked down the best experiences around the world. We go directly to local suppliers to source the best price and holiday for you. Dealing directly with local operators is why our holidays are more affordable. We work with reputable travel professionals that offer exceptional service and safe travel policies. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will work hard to find the ideal holiday for you - that's My Travel Experience!

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Talk to us about your ideal Europe itinerary For more information & a personal quote, please call 1300 168 910



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## **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

## Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be <u>viewed and downloaded on our website</u>, or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

#### This is a summary in brief for our customers:

- 1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
  - 2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
- 3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
- 4. 120 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip.
- 5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.
- My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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