

PROVENCE & THE FRENCH RIVIERA

October 12-22, 2017

\$3,295

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include the AHI FlexAir (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional cost (limited availability).

The South of France. Rarely does any other location evoke such romantic images of olive groves, sloping vineyards along the Rhône River, pristine beaches and fields of lavender. Hilltop villages beckon travelers with their charm, and cities showcase Roman ruins and splendid architecture from over the centuries. Provence and the French Riviera have long been the chosen destinations of painters, writers and other artists in search of idyllic inspiration. Is it the perpetual sunshine and the Mediterranean breezes? The time has come to discover for yourself the allure of Provence and the French Riviera.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvel at **four UNESCO World Heritage sites**: Arles, Roman and Romanesque Monuments; the Roman Theater and its Surroundings and the Triumphal Arch of Orange; the Pont du Gard; and the Historic Center of Avignon: Papal Palace and Avignon Bridge.
- Discover the charm of **Provence** and the glamour of the **French Riviera**.
- Sample the famous wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape during a **winery tour**.
- Enjoy a **Rhône River cruise**.
- Admire **Roman ruins** and the legacy of one of the world's greatest empires.
- Delve into the region's artistic heritage and visit the location where **Vincent van Gogh** created some of his greatest work.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

(Baggage handling.)

- **Five nights** in Avignon, France, at the first-class **Mercure Pont d'Avignon Centre Hotel**.
- **Four nights** in Cannes at the first-class **Mercure Cannes Croisette Beach Hotel**.

Transfer

- Deluxe motor coach transfer between accommodations & baggage handling.

Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs** presented by **local experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- **Personal VOX listening device** to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception & Dinner**, and gather for a **Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony** followed by **Dinner**.

Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy nine breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tippling** of excursion guides & drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT

Depart for Marseille, France.†

† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

DAY 2 ~ MARSEILLE/AVIGNON

Upon arrival, transfer† to Avignon and the hotel.

Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

DAY 3 ~ AVIGNON

Educational Focus: *Avignon's Papal History.*

Excursion: *All About Avignon.*

Spend the morning exploring Avignon and visit the Palace of the Popes.

Excursion: *Rhône River Cruise.*

Relax and admire the scenic views along the riverbanks. Enjoy lunch on the cruise.

DAY 4 ~ AVIGNON

Independent Exploration: Pursue your own interests in Avignon.

Local Flavor: Enjoy dinner in Avignon.

DAY 5 ~ ORANGE/

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Excursion: *Roman Ruins and*

Rhône Wine. Visit Orange to see the Roman amphitheater and the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, where the famous Rhône wine is produced, for a wine tasting.

Educational Focus and Excursion: *Wines of Provence.*

Local Flavor: Enjoy a winery lunch.

Excursion: *Pont du Gard.* Marvel at this three-tiered Roman aqueduct.

DAY 6 ~ ARLES/LES BAUX/ST. REMY

Educational Focus: *The Romans in Provence.*

Excursion: *Arles, Les Baux and St. Rémy.*

Visit Arles, where the Roman arena and theater are spectacular sights. Visit Les Baux-de-Provence, atop one of the hills of the Alpilles mountains. Continue to Saint-Rémy-de-Provence to visit the monastery hospital where Vincent van Gogh once lived and created some of his greatest work. See reproductions of his famous landscape paintings at the site of their creation.

DAY 7 ~ AIX-EN-PROVENCE/ CANNES

Enjoy beautiful vistas of lavender fields as you make your way to Cannes.

Excursion: *Aix-en-Provence.* Take a fascinating tour of this quintessential Provençal town.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch in Aix.

Upon arrival in Cannes, check in to the Mercure Cannes Croisette Beach Hotel.

Local Flavor: Savor dinner in Cannes.

DAY 8 ~ CANNES

Excursion: *Cannes & Saint-*

Marguerite Island. Take a short walking tour of swanky Cannes, brimming with posh hotels, boutiques and villas. Then, journey by boat to the serene, car-free Sainte-Marguerite Island. On a guided walk, admire its tranquil natural landscape.

Educational Focus: *The French Riviera.*

DAY 9 ~ MONACO

Excursion: *Monaco.* Visit Monaco and St.-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. Stroll through the grounds of Villa Rothschild, a jewel of the Riviera.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch in Monte Carlo.

Educational Focus: *Contemporary France.*

DAY 10 ~ CANNES

Independent Exploration: The day is at leisure in Cannes.

Join a Farewell Reception, Graduation Ceremony and a Farewell Dinner.

DAY 11 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the Nice airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†

NOTE: The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

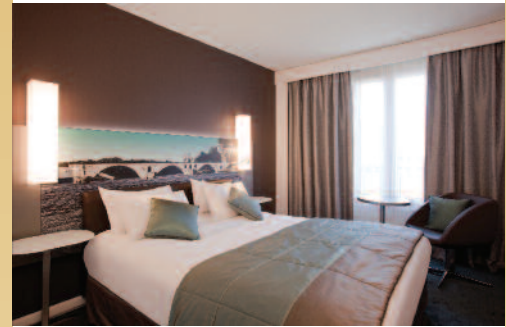
ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Available at an additional cost

L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue. On Day 4, spend the morning at leisure in one of the most charming towns in Provence. Browse through the shops, sip a coffee at a sidewalk café and enjoy a bit of life in Provence.

Art and Perfume. On Day 10, admire the art at the Maeght Foundation in St. Paul de Vence. Continue to Grasse, the center of France's perfume industry and tour a perfume factory. Enjoy lunch in St. Paul. Learn about Provence's perfume business during an engaging lecture.

ACCOMMODATIONS



MERCURE PONT D'AVIGNON CENTRE HOTEL

Avignon

This first-class hotel is just minutes from the Opera in Avignon, the Palace of the Popes and the city's iconic bridge. At the end of a busy day, relax in the hotel's garden or share the highlights of the day over a drink at the bar. Each evening, unwind in your comfortable, well-appointed guest room and emerge refreshed the next day. Wi-Fi is available.



MERCURE CANNES CROISSETTE BEACH HOTEL

Cannes

Find yourself in the heart of glamorous Cannes at this elegant property, located in the center of town, and close to the Croisette beaches and main shopping area. Enjoy modern comforts and outstanding service during your stay. After a busy day of touring, unwind at the outdoor swimming pool and terrace. In the evening, savor dinner at the restaurant on the hotel's private beach. Wi-Fi is available.



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