

## WONDERFUL FRANCE 9 Days 2 Countries 9 Cities

DISCOVER THE BEST OF FRANCE ON THIS CHIC COUNTRY EXPLORER TRIP, AS PARIS MEETS CAPITAL OF COOL, ST-TROPEZ.



### THE ITINERARY

#### Day 1 Arrive Paris (2 Nights)

Discover romance, sophistication and French joie de vivre in Paris - the launch pad to a memorable journey through the French countryside. Explore the grand boulevards and winding lanes of the 'City of Lights', before meeting your Travel Director and companions for a Welcome Reception. We take to the streets this evening to see some of the city's most iconic sights, including the Champs Élysées and Arc de Triomphe, standing in all its glorious splendour for you to admire.

- ★ Hotel - Renaissance La Défense
- ★ Included Meals - Welcome Reception

#### Day 2 Paris Sightseeing and Free Time

Join a 'Local Specialist' to explore the Latin Quarter, a vibrant student hotspot and home to the Sorbonne University. Visit the remarkable church of Saint-Sulpice, then soak up the authentic atmosphere and local day-to-day life of the Parisians as you stroll through historic neighbourhoods. Spend your evening embracing the pageantry of Paris and perhaps experience a traditional Parisian Cabaret.

- ★ Included Meals - Breakfast

#### Day 3 Paris – Beaune – Lyon

Journey through the picture-perfect Burgundy wine region and stop in its walled regional capital, Beaune - most famous for the colourful geometric-tiled Hôtel-Dieu. We continue to the gastronomic capital of Lyon, where we spend the night. Discover the historic treasures of its well-preserved Old Town or perhaps indulge in delicious Beaujolais flavours in a local bouchon - the choice is yours.

- ★ Hotel - Novotel Gerland
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### **Day 4 Lyon – Aix-en-Provence – Monaco – French Riviera (2 Nights)**

Follow the Rhône Valley south, enjoying some free time in Aix-en-Provence for a delicious lunch and the sweet flavours of Calissons, then stop in the glamorous Principality of Monaco bound for the sun-kissed shores of the French Riviera. View the Palace, which has been the home of the Grimaldis since the 13th century, and the cathedral where the late Princess Grace and Prince Rainier were married. This evening, we enjoy a delicious Regional Dinner together in Monaco before arriving at our hotel, where we'll spend the next two nights.

- ★ Hotel - Montaigne & Spa
- ★ Included Meals - Breakfast, Regional Dinner

#### **Day 5 French Riviera Free Day**

The sun-kissed shores of the French Riviera are yours to explore today. Consider relaxing on the beach with your fellow sun-worshippers or an Optional Experience could see you visit the hilltop town of Saint-Paul-de-Vence, a popular haunt for actors seeking a relaxing retreat. In your free time, you have the opportunity to soak up the fresh sea air and perhaps indulge in a delicious Salade Niçoise.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### **Day 6 French Riviera – St. Tropez – Avignon (2 Nights)**

We arrive by boat in glitzy St. Tropez for a leisurely morning sojourn to soak up our fashionable surrounds. Continue on to the ancient city of Avignon, once the Seat of the Papacy, where we will spend the next two nights. Our orientation of this extraordinary historic city includes views of the imposing Palace of the Popes and the famous ruined bridge straddling the Rhône, which inspired the famous French song, Sur le pont d'Avignon.

- ★ Hotel - Mercure Pont d'Avignon
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### **Day 7 Pont du Gard And Arles Excursion**

We visit the impressive Pont du Gard aqueduct and learn about the history of this elevated architectural wonder that has spanned the Gardon River since Roman times. Continue to Arles, to admire the Romanesque Cathedral and Roman amphitheatre, once the site of bloody battles and exhilarating chariot races. Tread in the footsteps of Vincent van Gogh with your 'Local Specialist', exploring the heritage of a city that was once an important Phoenician trading port. Tonight, we enjoy delicious Provençal flavours as we 'Connect With Locals' and join the widow of Pierre Salinger for a memorable 'Be My Guest' dinner in a converted historic mill on the banks of the Sorgue.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Be My Guest

#### **Day 8 Avignon – TGV Train – Paris Free Time**

The picture-perfect French countryside is our constant companion as we take the high-speed TGV train through the heart of France, past Auxerre and the sprawling vineyards of Burgundy back to Paris where you have the rest of the afternoon to explore the city on your own terms. This evening we celebrate an unforgettable sojourn through France at a Farewell Dinner with our Travel Director and newfound friends.

- ★ Hotel - Evergreen Laurel
- ★ Included Meals - Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

## Day 9 Depart Paris

This morning after breakfast, it's time to bid Paris a fond au revoir as our fascinating journey through France comes to an end. Transfers are available. Conditions apply.

- ★ Included Meals - Breakfast

## ABOUT THIS TRIP

### What's included

- **8 NIGHTS** Accommodation
- **12 MEALS** 8 breakfasts, 4 dinners (including Be My Guest)
- **ON-TRIP TRANSPORT** Land transportation included. Where applicable, Intra-air between cities may be included, please contact us for details..

### The Trafalgar difference

- **CONNECT WITH LOCALS** Delicious Provençal home cooking is the perfect accompaniment to a fascinating 'Be My Guest' dinner enjoyed on the banks of the Sorgue with Poppy Salinger, who will regale you with stories of her famous husband. (Day 7)
- **LOCAL SPECIALIST** For included sightseeing in Paris and Arles.

### Sightseeing highlights

- **ORIENTATION** of Paris, Beaune, Lyon, Aix-en-Provence, Monaco and Avignon
- **VIEW** Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Place Bellecour and the Basilica of Notre Dame in Lyon, the Royal Palace and Cathedral in Monaco and the Palace of the Popes in Avignon
- **VISIT** Saint-Sulpice Church in Paris and Pont du Gard
- **SCENIC CRUISE** to St. Tropez

### Travel highlights

Specific transfer information can be found here:

- ✓ Audio Headsets for flexible sightseeing
- ✓ Luxury air-conditioned coach with Wi-Fi in most countries or alternative transportation (such as rail journeys)
- ✓ Optional Experiences and free time
- ✓ Must-see sightseeing and surprise extras
- ✓ All hotel tips, charges and local taxes
- ✓ Handcrafted Highlights
- ✓ Daily breakfast and up to half your evening meals
- ✓ Cherry-picked hotels, all tried and trusted
- ✓ All portorage and restaurant gratuities
- ✓ An expert Travel Director and professional Driver
- ✓ TGV Express train between Avignon and Paris.
- ✓ VIP entry to many sights