



TOUR PRICE
 \$3,495 Double Occupancy
 \$3,795 Solo Travelers

Group Discount
 Groups 4+

Private Tour
 Groups 8+

SOUTHERN FRANCE 9 DAY TOUR

| Start / End Point: Montpellier (other city pickup / dropoff possible) |

**Guaranteed Small Group Tours
 No More Than 14 Travelers**

TRAVEL LIKE A LOCAL

Julia and Stephane's tour is a perfect combination of historical sites and experiencing the French lifestyle with two passionate local tour guides. No lines, no tourist traps, no hassle. It is a one-of-a-kind insider tour of Southern France that those who partake in the journey will never forget. **Meet Your Local Guides > TripUSAFrance.com**

What's included

- 1 or 2 Local French Tour Guides
- 9 Nights at Hotel Les Coquilles at the Beach
- 9 Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 5 Dinners including 1 French Picnic + Daily Snacks & Water
- Pick up & Drop Off at Airport or Train Station
- Transportation to All Sites and Activities
- All the Entry Fees for the Visits
- 1 Cooking Class with Local French Chef
- Carrières Lumières Light & Sound Art Show
- 2 Wine Tastings
- Phone + Sim Card to Call us 24/7
- Welcome Present
- Personal Help With Your Pre/Post Tour, Travel Plans & Flight(s) Booking



Palavas-les-Flots, authentic French beach town



Day 1: Pickup, Hotel Check in in Palavas-les-Flots, Maguelone's Cathedral, Welcome Dinner 🚗 0h50

After picking you up from Montpellier's airport or train station in the afternoon, we will drive you to your hotel in Palavas-les-Flots, an authentic French beach town, where you will have some free time to relax and unpack. You will then have the opportunity to discover the hidden historical site of Maguelone's Cathedral, which Pope Urban II declared upon his visit in 1096 as "second only to that (cathedral) of Rome". We will then have our welcoming dinner at a French restaurant in a little village not far from Palavas that offers a cosy-vintage ambiance and excellent food. A real gem!



Nimes' Roman Amphitheater



Chateau Flaugergues

Day 2- Nimes Roman City, Wine Tasting, Free Evening

Today we will spend the morning in Nimes, home to the finest collection of Roman architecture in all of France, including a magnificent amphitheater and a 2000-year-old temple. We will enjoy our lunch in the historical center and then visit the splendid "Jardin de la Fontaine" an 18th century park. Mid-afternoon we will head to the Chateau de Flaugergues winery, built at the end of 16th century by wealthy aristocrats, where a wine tasting will be waiting for you. Vines have been grown on this spot since Roman times and they make excellent wine! We will then return to Palavas-les-Flots, your home base beach town, where you will spend your evening freely. You will be able to eat at one of the delicious restaurants of Palavas from our recommendation list. At the port, at the beach or in the city center there will be many different options for you to spend your free evenings in Palavas! 🚗 1h50

To Book a Tour >

Call 703-485-6894

Online at TripUSAFrance.com

Day 3- Baux-de-Provence, Light & Sound Show, St Paul-de-Mausole (Van Gogh), French Picnic Dinner

Today we visit Les-Baux-de-Provence and the beauty of this Provençal village will take your breath away. You will have time to explore the medieval streets, look over the artisan shops, or slow down at a cafe and watch the people come and go. After lunch we will see the fascinating art, light & sound show: Les Carrières de Lumières. The exhibition of 2018 will feature the works of Picasso & the Spanish Masters for an amazing experience. To finish the afternoon we will visit the 11th century Saint-Paul-de-Mausole monastery to appreciate the beautiful architecture of the Provençal Romansque style. It is here where Vincent Van Gogh sought sanctuary at the end of his life and also painted many iconic pieces including his famous "Starry Night" in 1889. After your break, we will then gather for one of the highlights of our tour: a homemade picnic catered by Julia's mother! The menu includes Quiches, Tapenade, Charcuterie, Wine and more, a gourmet French meal! You will also get to try your hand at "Petanque", the backyard game of Southern France 🚗 3h10



Baux-de-Provence named "One of the most beautiful French villages"



Les Carrières de Lumières, Art, Sound & Light in an Old Quarry

Day 4- Avignon, Pont du Gard, Free evening

Discover the magnificent Avignon's historical center, listed as a world heritage by UNESCO for: The Papal Palace (1252) a former home to 7 successive Popes, the Pont d'Avignon which inspired the famous kid's song and also its episcopal ensemble (the ramparts and churches) and more. We will have a fabulous lunch on the main square in front of the entrance to the Palace. Afterwards, we will visit a masterpiece of ancient architecture: the Pont du Gard, a massive 2000 year old Roman aqueduct. It is a milestone of human engineering and one of the greatest monuments of France that stand as a reminder of the tremendous power of the Roman Empire. You will then have the evening free for you to relax or walk around the busy fisherman village and have dinner at a restaurant by the port. 🚗 2h40



Avignon's Pope Palace



Pont du Gard, 2000 Years Old Roman Bridge

Day 5- St-Guilhem-le-Desert, Wine Tasting Chateau Jonquiere, Dinner in Aigues-Mortes

We will visit one of the most beautiful villages of France, St-Guilhem-le-Desert, on the road of Santiago de Compostela (a Pilgrimage road recognized on the UNESCO world heritage list since 1998). The picturesque architecture and the wonderful abbey will bring you back in time. Enjoy the peaceful feeling as you wander through the cobbled streets and archways of this medieval village while learning about the life of Saint Guilhem, grandson of Charles Martel and cousin of Charlemagne. In the afternoon we will visit the nearby Château de Jonquières where the owner of the winery will give us a fun and educational lesson about wine-making and give us a wine-tasting. Early evening, after a break at your hotel, we will head over to Aigues-Mortes, the medieval fortified port city where the 7th and 8th crusades were launched for a wonderful traditional South of France meal. 🚗 2h50



St-Guilhem-le-Desert, on Santiago de Compostela Road



Aigues-Mortes, medieval walled city

Day 6- Carcassonne Medieval City, Free Evening

We will spend the whole day exploring the exceptional medieval city of Carcassonne and its castle. The citadel derives its reputation from its massive double surrounding walls spanning 1.9 miles and 52 defensive towers. Walking atop the ramparts and surveying the lands, you will feel like you are in a movie, maybe because of the Robin Hood movie scenes filmed here! The town has about 5000 years of history and has seen the Romans, Visigoths, Saracens and Crusaders. After this memorable day at Carcassonne consider relaxing at the wine bar of your hotel or walking along the beach eating some ice cream! 🚐 3h



Carcassonne, Biggest Medieval Walled City of Europe



Carcassonne, Inside the walls

Day 7- Farmers Market, Montpellier, Crepes, Fabre Museum, Cooking Class + Dinner

This morning enjoy the local market across from your hotel and discover all the colorful spices of the South. Later in the morning we will go visit the gorgeous downtown of Montpellier, 8th biggest city of France. After some delicious crepes for lunch, we will finish the city tour by a stop at the museum Fabre. Founded in 1825, this exceptional museum houses one of France's richest collections of European art. After your break, we will meet again for our cooking class with a local French chef. It's the time for you to master your cooking skills or simply sit back with a glass of wine and enjoy the fun ambiance. We will then enjoy the fabulous meal that you made and all go home with the recipes as a souvenir! 🚐 0h40



Farmer's Market in Palavas-les-Flots



Montpellier's Historical Center

Day 8: Soap Factory, Art Center, Aix-en-Provence, Cezanne, Free evening

Enjoy one of the most beautiful cities in Provence with a visit of the "Hotel de Caumont", an 18th century mansion converted into an art center where you will learn about the city's most famous painter Cézanne, visit the exhibitions and enjoy a refined lunch in the magnificent cafe. You will then explore Aix's downtown and finish by visiting the Cezanne's workshop. You will also be able to visit an historical factory opened in 1907 and learn the process of Marseille soap making, enjoy the fabulous smell, and then explore the cute little boutique to maybe bring back home some of this famous soap. 🚐 3h45



Traditional Marseille Soap Factory



Aix-en-Provence's downtown

Day 9: Arles' Downtown, Van Gogh, Lavender (if season), Farewell Dinner

Arles is famous for its many Roman monuments and being the place where Van Gogh called home for 9 years and produced over 300 paintings. Here we will visit the monuments, do a Van Gogh walking tour to discover the places by which Vincent was inspired, and gaze at the beauty of one of the famous lavender fields of Provence. You will then have some free time in Palavas-les-Flots, to pack or enjoy the beach for one last time! We will end the night with our farewell dinner. While eating our last French meal together we can share our good memories before our departure. 🚐 2h00



Arles' Roman Amphitheater



Arles' Downtown

Day 10- Departure for your train or plane before noon

Unfortunately it is time to leave the South of France. We will drop you off at the airport or train station in the morning and help make sure that everything is well coordinated for you to travel stress free. We hope we will have succeeded our mission: sharing our culture and region for 9 days full of memories and smiles.

