



Breathtaking South of France Tour 11 nights



Summary

Follow in the footsteps of van Gogh, Dali, Cezanne, and Toulouse-Lautrec, and celebrate the splendor of the finest attractions of France on your 12-day South of France tour. Explore the banks of tranquil waterways, both natural and manmade. Immerse yourself in the scenery and indulge in the flavors of the different cities, each offering a new twist on the French culture you thought you knew. Experience how the wealth of history has shaped and enriched the South of France, from the rolling mountaintops of Pyrenees to the canals of Languedoc, and the lavender fields of Provence.

Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful holidays
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head Office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

Overview

Interest: family, group, couples, seniors

Level of Comfort: 5/5

Minimum # of passengers: 2

Maximum # of passengers: none

Information about the destination

- **Currency:** Euro
- **Language:** French , english
- **Dialing Code:** 33
- **Transportation:** private car or bus
- **Recommended vaccine :** none
- **Banks & currency exchange:** It's better to exchange currencies before you go.

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Day 1: Soréze

Upon arrival at Toulouse's international airport, meet greet and transfer to the hotel
Rest of the day at leisure

Day 2: Soréze

Today your guide will lead you to the town of Albi, known for its marketplace and as being the home of the famous 19th-century artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. The town lies on the banks of the Tarn River with a towering skyline created by the fortress-like cathedral
Rediscover the beauty of Toulouse-Lautrec's ability to capture the movement and attitude of Montmartre and France

Day 3: Soréze - Carcassonne

In the morning, your guide will take you to the rocky hilltop town of Carcassonne
From a distance, the town looks like a painting of a castle from a fairytale
Carcassonne boasts the longest city walls remaining on the European continent. Romans constructed the battlement foundations in the 1st century AD. There are 52 stone towers that cast shadows over the cobbled lanes and courtyards of the town. The streets entwine around shops and restaurants like a maze. You gain access to a walk atop the walls of the Chateau Comtal, a 12th-century keep constructed for the Viscounts of Carcassonne.

Day 4: Carcassonne — Perpignan - Figueres

Today you will cross the border into Spain to visit Figueres, the birthplace of the Surrealist painter Salvador Dali
The artist transformed a 19th-century theater from his youth to create the extraordinary Teatre-Museu Dali, leaving a testament to surrealism and a flamboyant legacy

Day 5: Perpignan - Collioure

Your guide escorts you to the town of Collioure, known as the "City of Painters." The Catalan coast edges the historic town. Small fishing boats wade in the tranquil waters against a backdrop of pastel colored homes. The town inspired various artists through its quiet charms, from Matisse to Picasso
The Mallorcan Royal Family constructed the castle in the 13th century over Roman foundations. The Spanish occupied the castle until the 17th century when the French overtook the city. The Church of Notre Dame des Anges stands near the edge of the harbor.

Day 6: Perpignan - Avignon

Today you leave behind the charms of Perpignan, venturing to the famous landscape of Provencal at Avignon
En route, your guide takes you along the Canal du Midi
A bike path runs alongside the canal, stretching 40 miles from Toulouse to Port Lauragais. Step onto a traditional flatbottomed boat to cruise beneath the rows of shady trees. Grass tufts grow along the riverbanks.

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**Day 7: Avignon**

In the morning, you venture to Pont du Gard, the 1st-century Roman aqueduct decorating the Provencal countryside. The structure carried water to the city of Nîmes for nearly 500 years and continues to provide insight into the remarkable engineering feats of the Roman Empire. The aqueduct spanned more than 30 miles at a height of nearly 200 feet with three stories of arches. The Roman construct continues to cross the Gardon River. The soft yellow limestone blocks were taken from a nearby quarry. Calcium deposits along the top helped the stone from wearing away due to the rushing water.

Day 8: Avignon-Arles

The elegant arches of the 12th-century Saint Bénézet Bridge reflect in the Rhône River. What once acted as an important trade route for Avignon now is a testament to the city's rich history. Continue to uncover the Roman influence on Provence with a visit to Arles, a city once a part of Roman Gaul. Julius Caesar founded Arles in 46 BC. Your guide leads you on a walking tour through the unforgettable Roman monuments that once inspired the title "Little Rome of Gaul." The Amphitheater was erected in the 1st century AD.

Day 9: Avignon - Les-Baux-de-Provence - Rémyde

In the morning, the aroma of savory crepes drifts along the cobblestone streets of Avignon's oldest neighborhood. After breakfast, you venture to the town of Les-Baux-de-Provence, a medieval city positioned atop a rock spur. Continue to St. Paul de Mausole in Rémyde-Provence. The monastery is famous for having housed Vincent van Gogh when he suffered from mental illness. Rows of lavender grow along the outskirts of town. The monastery was built in the 11th century and retains its connection to Provencal Romanesque architecture.

Day 10: Roussillon

In the morning, the ochre color of the hilltop town of Roussillon stands out against the bright blue sky of the countryside. The town stands at an altitude of 125 feet above sea level. The village stands at the heart of one of the largest ochre deposits in the world. The red, yellow, and brown cliffs glow against the lush countryside. The tranquil village atmosphere fills the meandering streets. Brightly painted shutters decorate home facades. Two trails traverse the countryside around the ochre deposits.

Hills turn into cliffs, showcasing historical layers dating back 110 million years. Your exploration of the Provencal countryside continues in the village of Gordes. White and gray stone homes spiral along the rocky mountaintop. A medieval castle adorns the summit overlooking the valley.

Day 11: Aix-en-Provence

The fountains of Aix-en-Provence trickle into the quiet pools decorating the tranquil squares around town. Oak trees line the main boulevard of Cours Mirabeau. The birthplace of Paul Cézanne captures the imagination with serene streets and elegant historic palaces. Your guide leads you along the charming streets of the city to immerse yourself once more in the leisure in the South of France. The Baroque and Rococo Square Place d'Albertas was designed in the 18th century with a sensational fountain set in the middle. Continue to the Cathédrale St-Sauveur to witness the 13th-century Romanesque architecture housing a 5th-century sarcophagus in the apse. The blend of distinctive architectural styles highlights the city's layered history.

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Day 12: Marseille

Transfer to Marseille to board a flight back home.

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of our package with details pertaining to hotels, flights and proposed tours. This is not a tailor made quotation and should you wish to have specific details reviewed to better suits your need please do not hesitate to contact one of our travel consultants or visit one of our branches.

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