



PARIS TO THE CÔTE D'AZUR

From the grand museums and monuments of Paris where you'll discover the cultural secrets of the 'City of Light', travel south to historical Avignon, sunny Provence and the glittering Côte d'Azur.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Europe, France



10 days from AU\$18,395 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Explore the grand museums, renowned art, architecture and monuments of Paris before travelling south to sunny Provence where you will be immersed in vineyards and lavender fields, sleepy hilltop villages, art and history. Continue on to the glittering Côte d'Azur where you'll savour local delicacies, and revel in seaside charms and mountain views.

Journey Highlights

- Explore the iconic sights of Paris, including the Champs-Élysées and the Eiffel Tower
- Admire some of the world's most famous masterpieces in the Louvre
- Explore the streets of Paris in a classic Citroen 2CV
- Be charmed by the historical sights of Avignon, known as the gateway of Provence
- Travel to Aix-en-Provence to visit the Musée-Atelier de Paul Cézanne
- Discover Nice's best kept secret organic vineyard by eBike



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Paris

Arrive into the French capital and transfer to your hotel located on the fashionable Left Bank.

Hotel Madame Reve

Day 2: Paris

Take a walking tour of the Latin Quarter exploring the narrow alleyways and winding streets with your guide as you learn about the evolution of Parisian architecture, from the chaotic streets of the Left Bank to the uniform grandeur of those on the Right. Amble through the stunning Luxembourg Gardens and on to the Centre Pompidou. This quirky building houses the National Museum of Modern Art. Ride the exterior escalator to the top for panoramic views of the Marais and drinks as the sun sets.

This evening, continue your exploration of the iconic sights of Paris in your own piece of French history, a Citro  n 2CV. Escorted by an expert local guide, gain an in-depth understanding of the history behind some of the city's most famous monuments set against a timelessly romantic backdrop, the breeze rustling your hair as a procession of Paris' brilliantly illuminated landmarks rolls past.

Alternatively, you may choose to tantalize your taste buds with a culinary tour taking in one of Paris' most dynamic neighbourhoods – Le Marais. Meander through the districts iconic cobbled streets where you will discover some of the best of French gastronomy, including mouth-watering hams, p    s and cheeses. Every tasting deserves a sweet finale; your tour culminating with a visit to a wonderful French p    isserie.

Hotel Madame Reve / Meals: B

Day 3: Paris

Considered by many to be the world's greatest museum, discover the Louvre this morning on a specially curated visit. With a mesmerising collection spanning works from ancient antiquity to the mid-19th century, you'll be introduced to some of the most famous such as the exquisite 'Venus de Milo' and Da Vinci's incomparable 'Mona Lisa'.

Alternatively, you may choose to travel to the southwest of Paris for a guided visit to Versailles, the location of the huge palace that was constructed in the 17th century for Louis XIV, the Sun King. It became the model for grand houses of royalty all over Europe. Take a tour of the opulent State Apartments that culminate in the magnificent Gallery of Mirrors. You may like to stroll in the formal ornamental gardens that are embellished with many fountains, and see the Grand Canal that stretches into the distance across the park.

Hotel Madame Reve / Meals: B

Day 4: Paris - Avignon

Journey south by high speed train to Avignon and transfer to your charming hotel which is situated in a peaceful cobbled square at the foot of the Palais des Papes.

La Mirande / Meals: B

Day 5: Avignon

Dominated by the Papal Palace, Avignon is a vibrant Provençal town with plenty of character, and today you'll discover it on a walking tour that starts at the Place de l'Horloge (Clock Square) and enters the great palace where seven popes reigned supreme during their 'schism' with Rome between 1309 and 1377 and whose grand proportions convey the power and glory of the period.

Alternately, indulge in a delectable, hands-on private cooking class at your hotel. Accompanied by the hotel chef, you will visit the local market to curate a menu according to seasonal produce before returning to the hotel for your cooking class. A couple of hours later, your delicious meal will be ready to enjoy, accompanied by carefully selected wines from the Rhone Valley.

La Mirande / Meals: B

Day 6: Design Your Day Avignon

Today, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

Head to the the historic town of Orange, once the Roman capital for a large area of northern Provence. Visit two of Europe's finest Roman monuments – both inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List – a theatre dating back to the beginning of the Christian era and the original Arc de Triomphe with time to explore the modern city of Orange.

Explore Arles, originally founded in the seventh century BC by the Phoenicians. It boasts a wealth of classical antiquities which are highlighted at the state-of-the-art Museum of Ancient Arles. Afterwards, wander through the city's shady squares and sun-baked streets appreciating the magical light which so inspired Van Gogh.

Discover the delightful regions of Luberon, Gordes and Menerbes, featuring lavender fields, vineyards, orchards, rolling hills and a verdant nature dotted with beautiful villages and rural communities.

Savour the famous wines of Provence with an expert guide visiting several of the area's best vineyards and cellars including Chateauneuf Du Pape to enjoy an amazing tasting experience with a master sommelier.

La Mirande / Meals: B

Day 7: Avignon - Nice

This morning you are driven east to Aix-en-Provence where you visit the Musée-Atelier de Paul Cézanne where the legendary post-Impressionist artist painted some of his most well-known works. Continue to Nice, in the heart of the French Riviera, and your boutique hotel in the Old Town.

Anantara Plaza Nice Hotel / Meals: B

Day 8: Nice

Get your bearings this morning at the top of Colline du Château (Castle Hill) and enjoy show-stopping views of the city and bay before returning to the historic Old Town. Next stop the lively Cours Saleya, where colourful stalls of fresh flowers, fruit and vegetables are a photographer's dream. Later visit the Musée Matisse, which features a collection of works donated to the city by the artist and his heirs, and the Musée Marc Chagall housing the artist's biblical works among many others.

Other options for today include a guided half day tour by bicycle. Discover the labyrinthine streets of the Old Town, riding down the Promenade des Anglais seafront walkway, seeing the Place Masséna and Place Garibaldi and, if you are feeling energetic, you could ride up to La Colline du Château.

Or, you may choose to set out with an expert food guide exploring Nice's unique traditional gastronomy, such as '*socca*', a chickpea-flour pancake; '*pissaladière*', a unique type of onion tart; and '*les petits farcis*', vegetables stuffed with sausage meat. You will also visit some of the Old Town's best local food stores, perhaps including a wine shop, a family-run pasta shop and a cheesemonger selling locally-sourced produce.

Anantara Plaza Nice Hotel | Meals: B

Day 9: Nice

Today, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

Explore the glittering seaside city of Monte Carlo, and the mountains and coast of Monaco that surround it including the glorious 'Belle Epoque' Casino, the Palais Princier (Prince's Palace), the medieval mountaintop village of Eze and the peninsula of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat to walk around the beautiful Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild set in stunning private gardens.

Board a private yacht for a leisurely cruise around the idyllic Lérins Islands, a small archipelago of four islands just off the coast near Cannes that are rich with a unique history matched with historical sites, beautiful panoramas and spectacular natural features.

Discover Nice's best kept secret organic vineyard by eBike. Enjoy views of the glistening blue Mediterranean Sea verdant green hills as you travel by eBike to a meet up with a passionate winemaker who will take you around his lovingly cared for vineyards, learn about the sophisticated production processes, and enjoy sampling some of his wines.

Anantara Plaza Nice Hotel | Meals: B

Day 10: Depart Nice

Transfer to Nice airport for your onward flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Hotel Madame Reve, Paris



Located in the heart of Paris, the Hôtel Madame Rêve is nestled in the iconic Poste du Louvre building, offering unobstructed views of the Eiffel Tower and Montmartre. A discreet entrance opens onto a lobby adorned with mosaics, murals and antiques. The glittering mosaic on the floor pays homage to the post office, bearing its opening date of 1888.

Collaborations with 70 artists, a secret garden and even a working post office have made this hotel truly one to write home about. There are 82 rooms, including 19 suites, all spread over one floor and arranged by street direction to orient guests. They are spacious, timeless and elegant with a subtle blend of precious woods, honeyed marble and golden fabrics — a third with terraces too.

The hotel has an eco-friendly footprint, with 400 solar panels on the rooftop, 70 rooftop trees and plants, plus an interior hanging garden — not to mention a bar and a 360-degree panorama. Two fine culinary experiences await: a restaurant with Mediterranean flavours Madame Rêve Café, and a panoramic restaurant with Japanese influences.

Hotel La Mirande



Set in an old mansion at the foot of the Palais des Papes in the heart of Avignon, the 5* La Mirande is steeped in history. This timeless refuge offers a dreamy, relaxing and authentic experience in a refined, 18th century décor. With both a gastronomic restaurant and a chef's table, the hotel serves delicious cuisine that reflects its heritage and surroundings.

The hotel is named after the famous room in the Palais des Papes, La Mirande, where the Pope's representatives held receptions for the city's notables and visiting high-ranking officials.

Modern comforts are seamlessly integrated with old ensuring the bright and cheerful rooms have unique décor. This property feels more like a private home than a hotel with attentive personalised service and cosy corners to relax in.

The afternoon tea is to die for. Madeleines, gingerbread, almond croquants, poppyseed cakes, chocolate fondants and seasonal fruit tarts are baked and served with hot chocolate prepared in the traditional way or with exceptional teas selected by La Mirande, some of which are organically grown.

The garden is a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city, in the evening it really comes to life with clever lighting and is the perfect spot for a digestif.

Why we like it

- Enjoy the views over the cobbled square and garden, a sanctuary in the heart of Avignon with the Palais des Papes as your backdrop

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- With only 27 guest rooms the antique furniture, old master paintings, wood panelling and individual wall tapestries coupled with Carrara marble bathrooms will transport you back in time
 - Food is the heart of this hotel with Le Marmiton cooking school hosting the region's greatest chefs
 - The gourmet restaurant's gastronomic experience can be sampled in the warm and inviting setting of the Cardinalice room, a vestige of the cardinals' residence, with its magnificent Renaissance coffered ceiling or on the terrace in the balmy summer months
 - On Tuesday & Wednesday evenings a Chef's table is laid in the basement for up to 14 where the chef will cook for you a menu inspired by the day's market finds

Anantara Plaza Nice Hotel



Since it first opened in 1848, the Anantara Plaza Hotel has been one of Nice's most beautiful landmarks. Glimpsed from afar, the gorgeously refurbished 140-metre Belle Époque facade is decidedly grand, but once you're whisked inside the discreet entrance and greeted by the staff, you can relax. There's nothing pretentious about the atmosphere here.

The curvy lines and elegant interiors of the 151 rooms and 38 suites vary in size, adorned in a medley of cream fabrics, grey and dark teal furnishings, jazzed up with vintage black and white photos. Facing the palm-fringed Mediterranean Sea, most of the rooms come with either a garden or a sea view and most have a terrace.

The main restaurant, SEEN by Olivier, is located on the trendy rooftop, where you're invited to dine with panoramic views of the city and Baie des Anges. Come spring, yoga classes, among other offerings, are held outdoors on the sunny rooftop. Guests can also relax in velvet circular booths in the Deco-inspired tearoom; come evening, the lights go down and the space morphs into a Champagne, oyster and caviar bar.

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