

Optional Add-on:

The Best of Provence

Tour Dates:

October 4 - 10,
2026

Add-on Cost:

\$3,950

Single Supplement
\$300

Immerse yourself in the charms of southern France, where sun-bleached medieval villages perch atop hills, fragrant lavender fields dot the countryside, and the light is so beautiful and enticing it gave birth to a new movement in painting.

On this extension, you'll spend three nights each in Avignon and Aix-en-Provence. Along the way, you'll venture to the small town of St. Remy, the one-time residence of Van Gogh, to soak up the idylls of the Provençal countryside. Discover for yourself what makes southern France such a beguiling destination.

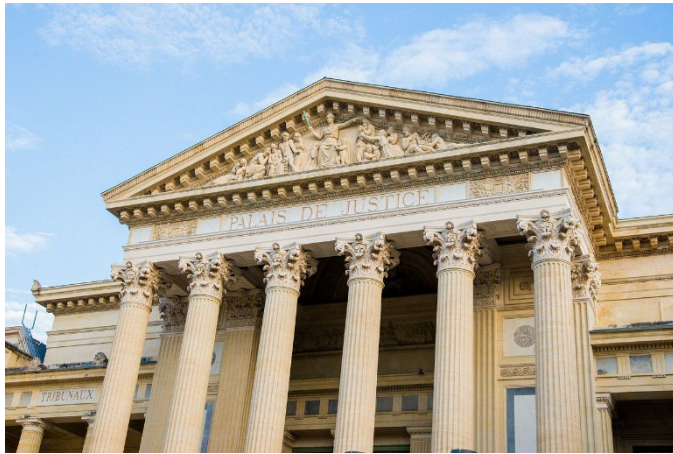


Day 1, October 4: Avignon

- Depart Paris this morning and take a train to Avignon.
- Upon arrival in Avignon, we'll lunch at a local restaurant before checking into the hotel. The rest of the afternoon is free to make your own discoveries.
- Later, join your tour leader for a Welcome Briefing to discuss the upcoming discoveries before heading to a local restaurant for dinner.

Day 2, October 5: Avignon

- We'll enjoy a morning walking tour of Avignon, known as the "City of Popes," and have a guided exploration of the impressive Palace of the Popes.
- Lunch will be at a local restaurant, after which the rest of the afternoon is yours to make your own discoveries in Avignon.
- Dinner will be at a local restaurant.



Day 3, October 6: Avignon

- Today, we'll embark on a full-day tour to Nîmes, home to some of the best-preserved Roman architecture in the world, including the Arena, an ancient Roman amphitheater still in use today.
- We'll eat lunch in Nîmes and be back in Avignon in time for dinner.



Day 4, October 7: Aix-en-Provence

In the morning, we'll begin our journey to Aix-en-Provence, stopping first at St. Paul de Mausole, the asylum where Van Gogh spent time towards the end of his life.

- Then, we'll drive to St. Remy de Provence, a small market town set at the foot of the French Alps.
- Lunch will be at a local restaurant in St. Remy.
- After lunch, we'll next continue our drive to Aix-en-Provence, stopping along the way in Baux-de-Provence to visit the Carrières de Lumières.
- Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 5, October 8: Aix-en-Provence

- Morning walking tour of Aix-en-Provence—or Aix, as the locals call it. Known for its wide, leafy boulevards and elegant squares lined with historic mansions, Aix brings chic sophistication to Provence. We'll stroll down Cours Mirabeau, the city's café-lined main thoroughfare. Following our tour, you are free to make your own discoveries in Aix.
- After lunch, we'll visit Museum Calisson, where we'll learn about the rich heritage of this iconic almond-based French sweet.
- Free time in the afternoon lets you explore Aix on your own to visit the charming Vieil Aix, north of Cours Mirabeau, filled with narrow lanes, pretty squares, and detailed architecture—with endless places to browse and shop.



Day 6, October 9: Aix-en-Provence

- In the morning, we'll drive to Cassis, a small fishing village near the Calanques National Park. To see the calanques, we'll board a boat for a cruise along the shore.
- We'll return to Aix-en-Provence in the late afternoon.
- Gather with fellow travelers before dinner for a Farewell Drink and toast to the experiences we've had and the memories we've made. Santé!
- Dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 7, October 10: Homeward Bound

- Transfer to the airport for your flight home.