

# Discovering Provence with the French Riviera

**12 days from \$4,897 total price from Boston, New York**

**(\$4,395 air & land inclusive plus \$502 airline taxes and fees)**

*Assuredly part of France, but altogether Provençal, the beloved region nestled between the Rhone and the Mediterranean has seduced visitors since Roman times – as it will you. Our small group travels from hill towns to the Camargue plains, medieval villages and on to the storied French Riviera on this journey par excellence.*



Fragrant fields of lavender color – and perfume – the Provençal landscape.

## Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Visits to quintessential Provençal villages of Lourmarin, Roussillon, Les Baux, Saint-Rémy • Aix touring, including Atelier Cézanne • Tasting and dinner at local winery • UNESCO sites of Roman Arles • Two-night stay in rugged, beautiful Camargue region • Visit to a working Camargue ranch • Birdlife at Pont de Gau ornithological reserve • Pont du Gard excursion • Avignon sightseeing, including Papal Palace • Private Provençal cooking lesson and dinner • Carrieres de Lumiere multimedia art show • Art haven of Saint-Paul-de-Vence • Two-night stay on the French Riviera • Two- and three-night stays in distinctive and intimate lodgings

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Aix-en-Provence		
2-4	Aix-en-Provence	Grand Hôtel Roi René	Sup. First Class
5-6	Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer	Vila de la Mar	First Class
7-9	Avignon	Le Cloître Saint Louis	First Class
10-11	Nice	Hôtel le Grimaldi	First Class
12	Depart Nice for U.S.		

*Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.*

### Day 1: Depart U.S. for Marseille, France

**Day 2: Arrive Marseille/Aix-en-Provence** We arrive in Marseille and transfer to the Provençal town of Aix-en-Provence (“Aix”). Tonight, we meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a briefing about the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner at our hotel. *D*

**Day 3: Aix-en-Provence/Lourmarin/Roussillon** Today’s excursion to the beloved Luberon region of charming hilltop villages overlooking vineyards and orchards reveals Provence in all its storied beauty. We first visit Lourmarin, with its narrow winding streets lined with restored Mediterranean houses and boutiques, cafés, and restaurants. We tour the landmark Renaissance castle then enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant. This afternoon we continue on to equally alluring Roussillon, perched atop a striking ochre ridge. *B,L*

**Day 4: Aix-en-Provence** We discover this lovely university town today, known for the beautiful Cours Mirabeau, the plane tree-lined main boulevard bordered by stately homes and the many elegant Roman fountains decorating city squares. On our walking tour, we admire Aix’s rich architectural heritage and the “Vielle Ville” (Old Town). After a guided visit to

the Atelier Cézanne, the studio where artist Paul Cézanne worked from 1902 to 1906, we have free time to explore as we wish. Late afternoon we leave for a wine tasting and dinner at a nearby winery. *B,D*

**Day 5: Aix-en-Provence/Arles/Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer** This morning, we call on Arles, once part of Roman Gaul then a clarion of Christianity, and, more recently, where Van Gogh painted. We see much of that history on our tour here, which includes a visit to the Roman Amphitheater, a UNESCO site dating to 90 CE and preserved virtually intact. We continue on to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, capital of the Camargue region of vast plains, wetlands, lakes, and lagoons. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve at 360 square miles, the Camargue is known for unique breeds of white horses and bulls, its pink flamingos, and as a staging point for thousands of migratory birds. Mid-afternoon, we reach Saintes-Maries, a sea-side resort in the heart of the Camargue. *B,D*

**Day 6: Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer** Our exploration of the Camargue begins with a visit to a *manade*, a traditional ranch where *gardians* (cowboys) raise bulls both for meat and to perform in local arenas. We learn about the traditional way of life as we tour the *manade*, watch the *gardians* manage their herds while on horseback, and enjoy a lunch of local specialties.

Then we head to the Pont de Gau ornithological reserve in the heart of the Camargue Regional Natural Park. We're likely to see the pink flamingos for which the park is known, as well as species of heron, birds of prey, and seasonal migratory birds. *B,L*

**Day 7: Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer/Aigues-Mortes/Pont du Gard/Avignon** As we approach Aigues-Mortes this morning, we see the rose-hued *salins* (salt marshes) that produce the famed *Camarguais* salt. We take a walking tour featuring the weekly Sunday market and entrance to the medieval city walls and ramparts. After time for lunch on our own, we continue on to Avignon, stopping at Pont du Gard, the 1<sup>st</sup>-century Roman aqueduct whose three tiers of arches span the Gardon River. We reach our historic hotel, a converted 17<sup>th</sup>-century convent, late afternoon and dine there tonight. *B,D*



Unique white horses of the Camargue

**Day 8: Avignon** This morning, we encounter the ancient Roman city that was the capital of Christendom in the Middle Ages. We visit Avignon's historic city center (a UNESCO site), with its cathedral, half-finished Saint-Bénézet Bridge, and the Palais des Papes (Papal Palace),

one of the world's largest and most important Gothic structures. We tour the palace, where seven successive popes lived during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Then we have free time to explore on our own before tonight's small group highlight as we join a local chef for a Provençal cooking class followed by dinner. *B,D*

**Post-Tour Extension**

June 4-6, 2021

**The French Riviera – On Your Own**

3 days/2 nights for \$295 total price  
Single Supplement: \$225

*Savor the good life in this celebrated spot, with splendid scenery, museums, beaches, and rustic villages close at hand.*

**Your Tour Price Includes**

- 2 nights' accommodations in Nice at Hôtel le Grimaldi (First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to Nice airport



WHEN THE GOOD LORD  
BEGINS TO DOUBT THE WORLD,  
HE REMEMBERS  
THAT HE CREATED PROVENCE.”

– FREDERIC MISTRAL

**Day 9: Avignon/Les-Baux-de-Provence/Saint-Rémy-de-Provence** We set out this morning for Les Baux, a gem of a medieval village perched atop a rock spur. Our first stop: the Carrières de Lumière multimedia/art exhibition set in a former stone quarry. Then we explore Les Baux itself, considered one of the country's most beautiful villages, with its restored ancient houses, Renaissance-era façades, historic monuments, and stone citadel. After lunch together, we visit the Gallo-Romanesque jewel of St-Paul de Mausole, where Van Gogh was confined after severing his ear. We continue to the picturesque village of Saint Rémy, where Van Gogh once painted. We take a walking tour of the ancient Gallo-Roman city center with its maze of winding streets and fountain-filled squares. *B,L*

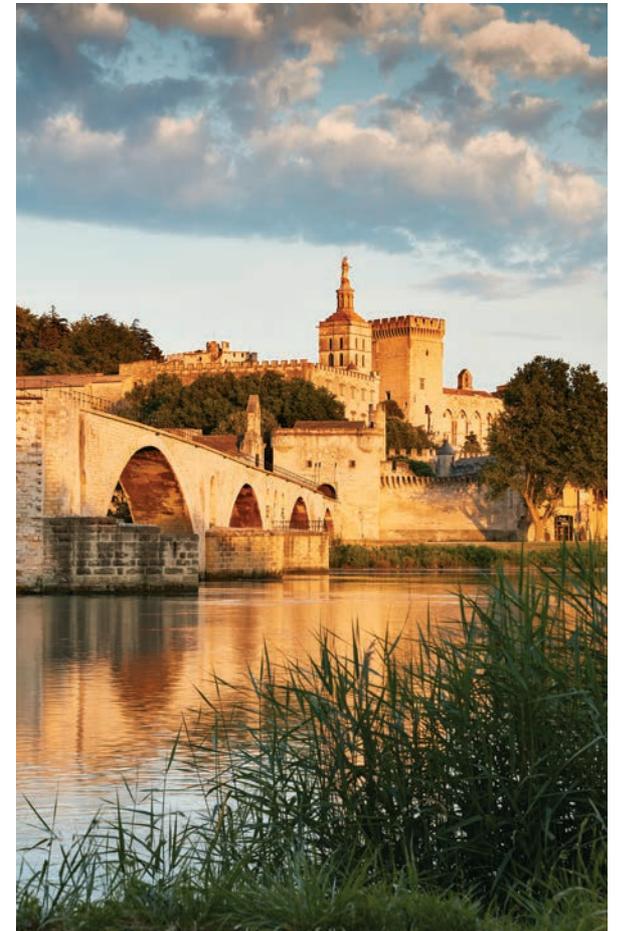
**Day 10: Avignon/Saint-Paul-de-Vence/Nice** We're bound today for the Cote d'Azur, the fabled French Riviera. Mid-day we reach Saint-Paul-de-Vence, the beautiful medieval hilltop village once home to many prominent artists, including Marc Chagall. After a walking tour together, we're free to explore as we wish. Then we continue on to Nice, capital of the French Riviera, arriving late this afternoon. *B*

**Day 11: Nice** This morning's sightseeing begins with spectacular views of Nice and its prized setting along the Baie des Anges from atop Colline du Château (Castle Hill), once a citadel and now a park. We stroll along the iconic seaside boulevard, Promenade des Anglais; explore "Vieux Nice" (Old Nice), with its colorful pastel buildings; and visit the historic Marché aux Fleurs (flower market). Tonight, we celebrate our adventure over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

**Day 12: Depart for U.S.** Today we depart for the Nice airport and our return flights to the U.S. *B*

**Your Tour Price Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 10 nights' accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 19 meals: 10 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
- \$100 frequent traveler credit towards your next Duke/Odysseys Unlimited tour (\$200 after 3 tours; \$300 after 10 tours)



Avignon's famous bridge and the Palais des Papes

**Tour Departs: May 24, 2021**

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

Boston, New York	\$4,897
Charlotte, Philadelphia, Washington, DC	\$5,097
Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Raleigh-Durham, Tampa	\$5,197
Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,297
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,095

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of \$502, which are subject to change until final payment has been made.

Single travelers please add \$1,295. All 2021 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

**Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,595 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,595 per person in addition to the above costs. Upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change.**

**Please note: This trip involves considerable walking up hills or stairs, and on uneven or cobblestone streets. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.**