



# Spring in the South of France!

Provence and the Riviera with ETV Endowment

Pont d'Avignon

Join ETV Endowment this spring for a 10-day *rendezvous* with the rich cultural history and stunning natural landscapes of Southern France!

Our *sojourn* begins in Provence, an idyllic region that has long been an inspiration for good living from Roman generals to painters, poets, writers and *gourmands* of all stripes. From our base in the lovely 5-star Hotel d'Europe in the medieval town of Avignon, home of the Papacy during the 14th century, we will savor it all— Roman monuments, charming hill towns, picturesque landscapes, and of course, outstanding food and wine.

After visiting the city of Arles, with its splendid Roman remains and traces of Van Gogh, we head farther south to the fascinating and little-known region of Camargue. Our home for two nights is Aigues-Mortes, an ancient fortified city marked by the crusades and the Templar Knights. Few areas of France are as distinctive as the spectacular landscape of the Camargue, one of Europe's major wetlands. Nestled between the Rhône River and the Mediterranean, the Camargue is home to boggy lagoons, pink salt marshes, flamingoes, and remote beaches where the Camargue horse, an ancient indigenous breed, still roams semi-wild. Each spring and fall, a UNESCO designated biosphere reserve attracts hundreds of thousands of migrating birds.

As we wind our way southeast along the Riviera, the breathtaking rugged coastline and deep blue waters of the Mediterranean beckon, as for decades it has for renowned artists and the *beau monde*. Three nights in the elegant city of Nice give ample time to relax and breathe in the fresh sea air, stroll the famous Promenade des Anglais, and explore a storied villa on Cap Ferrat with spectacular seaside gardens. Our final jaunt to the glamorous independent microstate of Monaco, where 32% of residents are millionaires, gives a glimpse into another world.

Deluxe accommodations, fine dining, and special local wines in some of the region's top restaurants await us along the way.

**March 31 – April 10, 2022\***

\*Tour begins April 1 in France



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Nice

- Private, custom-designed tours of three lovely and diverse areas in the south of France: Provence, the Camargue, and the Côte d'Azur on the Mediterranean
- Private guided visits to major sites, including the Palace of the Popes in Avignon, the Roman Arena in Arles, the Pont du Gard, Matisse Chapel in Vence, and the Casino in Monte Carlo
- Private tour of a *mas*, a farm in the Camargue, where bulls and horses are bred and raised
- Deluxe accommodations in 5-star hotels in all three regions
- 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 3 dinners in distinctive restaurants, and a private wine-tasting and olive oil tasting in Provence
- Private motorcoach transportation to all destinations in the itinerary
- Free time for relaxing and further sight-seeing
- \$1,000 tax-deductible contribution to the ETV Endowment

LIMITED TO  
**25 PARTICIPANTS**

Arles amphitheater



**NB: The Grand Tour will require all participants to provide proof of full vaccination for the COVID-19 virus, as defined by the French government, as a condition for entry into the country and entry into most public spaces. Please see the Terms & Conditions on the tour registration form.**





# Daily Itinerary

Palais des Papes, Avignon

## Thursday, March 31

Flights from the US, with arrival in France the following day.

## Friday, April 1 (Avignon) Bienvenue!

On arrival at Marseille Provence Airport, our motorcoach takes us to our home for the next four nights, the Hotel L'Europe, the 16th century mansion of the Marquis de Graveson, where Napoleon, Charles Dickens, Victor Hugo and other luminaries have stayed. After a rest from your journey, we convene for a **welcome drink** at the hotel, then our **welcome dinner** nearby.

## Saturday, April 2 (Avignon) City of Popes

**Breakfast** is served **daily** at all three hotels. The immense Palace of the Popes dominates the skyline of Avignon. From 1309 to 1403, seven French Popes and three anti-Popes based the Papacy here during the Great Schism in the Catholic Church. We will tour the Palace and walk some of the picturesque streets of the old town. Then we'll make a foray into the countryside for a delectable **lunch** and **wine tasting** near the famed wine-growing region of Chateauneuf-du-Pape. Evening free.

## Sunday, April 3 (Avignon)

### Luberon Countryside

We set off to explore the Luberon region of picturesque villages, lavender fields, and rocky landscape. L'Isle sur la Sorgue, with its charming canal-lined streets, is famous for its Sunday antique market, antique shops and Provençal market. **Lunch** is near the perched village of Gordes, and a visit to the pretty walled town completes the day.

## Monday, April 4 (Avignon) Van Gogh & Arles

This morning we head down the Rhone to the ancient city of Arles. On the way, we pass St. Paul de Mausole and the sanatorium little changed from when Vincent Van Gogh was its patient in 1889-90. Then it's on to sample the products of an award-winning producer of olive oil. We

continue to Arles for lunch and visit its huge Roman amphitheatre, the Romanesque church of St. Trophime with its elaborate carved façade, and trace the steps of Van Gogh. Late afternoon return to Avignon.

## Tuesday, April 5 (Aigues-Mortes)

### Traces of Rome

Before departing Provence, we pass by the enormous Pont du Gard, the well-preserved ancient Roman aqueduct from the 1st-century AD, which carried water more than 30 miles to the town of Nemausus (present-day Nîmes). We then visit that town, said to be the most Roman city outside Italy, for a stroll past its own Roman monuments, including the Maison Carrée (Square House) and lunch on your own.

We head south to the fascinating and unusual region called the Camargue and the medieval town of Aigues-Mortes. We will reside in the Villa Mazarin, the walled-town's five-star hotel in a restored 15th century house. Seafood is on the menu at **dinner** in the village.

## Wednesday, April 6 (Aigues-Mortes)

### The Camargue

The Camargue is the largest river delta in Western Europe, covered by briny lagoons, cut off from the sea, and reed-covered marshlands. At a traditional *mas*, watch French "cowboys" herd cattle and horses, indigenous to the region, called a *manade*. Bulls are bred there to fight in the Arles arena. A "gypsy **lunch**" is a highlight! Returning to Aigues-Mortes, we'll visit a stunning ornithological park that hosts more than 400 species of birds, including the greater flamingo.



## Thursday, April 7 (Nice) To the Riviera

The temperate climate, rugged coastline and beauty of the Mediterranean Sea have long attracted the rich and famous, as well as artists, writers and Hollywood stars to the French Riviera. Our first stop is to a world-famous restaurant, La Colombe d'Or in St-Paul-de-Vence, which has hosted the likes of Picasso, Matisse, Braque, Jean Cocteau, Yves Montand, and James Baldwin. Not far is the Chapel of the Rosary in Vence, decorated with stained glass by Henry Matisse between 1947 and 1951, which the artist called his "masterpiece." We arrive in the

Nice





town of Nice, a capital of the region and proclaimed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2021, and check in to the 5-star Hotel Negresco. All of your rooms look out onto the sea. A walk on the renowned Promenade des Anglais is a must before you sleep.

### Friday, April 8 (Nice) Atop the Corniches

Driving along the multi-tiered highway hugging the coast, with dizzying views of Monaco and the Mediterranean, called the Corniches, we pass the villages of Éze and Villefranche, and stop off for **lunch** at the latter. On to beautiful Cap Ferrat, the magnificent Villa Ephrussi-Rothschild awaits us. Begun in 1907 by Beatrice de Rothschild, by birth and marriage from two wealthy banking dynasties, the gorgeous villa overlooks several luxurious gardens and the sea.

### Saturday, April 9 (Nice) Baccarat Anyone?

A free morning and lunch in Nice precedes a final drop into a glamorous world: the tiny Principality of Monaco and Monte Carlo. Monaco is a sovereign city-state and is recognized as one of the wealthiest places in the world. We will visit the tomb of Princess Grace, the former Grace Kelly, and peep into the famed Casino, which is said to have saved the ruling family of Grimaldi from bankruptcy, before a gala **Farewell Dinner** in Monte Carlo.

### Sunday, April 10

Transfer to the Nice Côte d'Azur airport for return flights to the US, arriving later on the same day.

*Itinerary is subject to change.*

*Meals in **bold** are included in the price of the tour.*



above: Matisse with chapel model, below: Monte Carlo Casino



Vineyard in Chateauneuf-du-Pape

## Tour Registration

**Tour Cost: \$6,079 per person, ground only, double occupancy. Single supplement: \$1,300.**

**Deposit: \$1,000 per person first come, first served**

**To reserve your place,** send registration form with check or credit card information for the deposit amount to: ETV Endowment France Tour, 401 E. Kennedy Street, Suite B-1, Spartanburg, SC 29302.

**Questions?** Contact Amy Raffo at ETV Endowment at 864-591-0046 or [araffo@etvendowment.org](mailto:araffo@etvendowment.org)

The France tour is an exclusive presentation by ETV Endowment of South Carolina and is organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire.



Villa Ephrussi-Rothschild

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