One of the world's leading tour operators!

in 2025, Off the Beaten Path celebrates 31 years leading small group tours exclusively in France

Website - https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com

Join Off the Beaten Path for a journey along the back roads of Bordeaux, Arcachon and Saint Emilion during this 6 day/5 night wine tasting, cooking, cultural, and gourmet Bordeaux tour for unparalleled fun, great food, and exceptional wines in an unpretentious, small group. As wine industry insiders, we secure winery tours and VIP wine tasting that are unavailable to the public, and open the doors for our guests to experience Bordeaux wine during the best periodss of the year – including the harvest. Designed for the discerning and active traveler, our Bordeaux, Arcachon and Saint Emilion Tour offers wine, foodie and culture lovers a very different perspective and unique experience of the region!

Each morning we lace up our walking shoes after a hearty breakfast to discover this privileged world as the Bordelais themselves do — hands-on and along the slow road in historical Bordeaux and its underground, Saint Emilion village, and the coastal town of Arcachon. We explore local vineyard trails, taste some ripened varietals, check soil composition, and pause for photo ops of spectacular landscapes, and the harvest during fall tours. We spend a day cooking at home with our family friend, a famous cookbook author, preparing and indulging in Bordelaise cuisine. Bordeaux exudes a certain magic that we pair with cultural and gourmet foodie experiences to grow your appreciation for this spectacular southwestern region of France long after your return home!

EXPERIENCE: INSPIRING ITINERARIES - EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY - EXCELLENT VALUE!

Off the Beaten Path France Tours are Recommended by Best Selling Author PJ Adams as her Tour of Choice to Discover the Provence Region!! Traveling on an Off the Beaten Path small group, cultural walking and foodie tour provides exceptional and privileged insider experiences at unparalleled value that multi-destination and other France tour companies cannot match!

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TRUSTPILOT ★★★★★ - FRANCE OFF THE BEATEN PATH

HAS RECENTLY PARTNERED WITH TRUSTPILOT, an independent review website to collect "independent" traveler reviews about our tours of Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, and Champagne!

Read candid "independent" tour reviews! TRUSTPILOT TOUR REVIEWS

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- Our sole focus and specialty is and always has been dedicated to small group travel in France – WE KNOW FRANCE BEST!
- In 2025, We celebrate 31 YEARS EXPERIENCE leading tours exclusively in France.
- Our exclusive relationships with every one of our vendors in France makes these tours truly the trip of a lifetime!
- The most popular small group tours in France, we include "insider" experiences that other tour companies cannot offer.
- Our tours sell out year after year thanks to our exclusive benefits, exceptional quality, and excellent value.
- We are proud to be named travelers #1 choice for group travel for two decades!

Book one of our small group tours today to discover for yourself why our exclusive France tours have been named TRAVELERS #1 CHOICE FOR GROUP TRAVEL FOR TWO DECADES! WEBSITE - https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com

*Award Winning* OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOURS VOTED BEST ACTIVE, SMALL GROUP TOURS IN FRANCE FOR DISCERNING TRAVELERS BY: CONDE NAST, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, FORBES , CNN TRAVELLER, USA TODAY, THE NEW YORK TIMES and TRAVEL & LEISURE!

## WHO IS THIS TOUR DESIGNED FOR?

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY... Off the Beaten Path Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tours are designed for travelers interested in a small group tour that includes a variety of engaging activities (cooking class, French Bread making, walks, winery tours and VIP wine tasting, cultural discovery), leisure time, professional and knowledgeable tour guides, luxurious accommodations and sumptuous gourmet meals. It's vacation and Off the Beaten Path tours are all about having fun, enjoying new experiences and being active!

## GUEST TESTIMONIALS:

"Loved all of the wine tours and tastings, cooking class and the hotel! We greatly appreciate your kind consideration and expertise. Thanks for making our tour so enjoyable!" *Charles and Susan Kollar, Princeton, NJ (Have been on 3 OTBP Tours - Bordeaux, Loire Valley & Provence)*

"We thoroughly enjoyed our Bordeaux experience with you. Everything was so personalized and the group size was perfect. The variety of activities was very well balanced and our guide was fabulous!" *Martin and Patricia Sibliger, Atlanta, GA (Have been on 2 OTBP Tours - Bordeaux & Loire Valley Tours)*

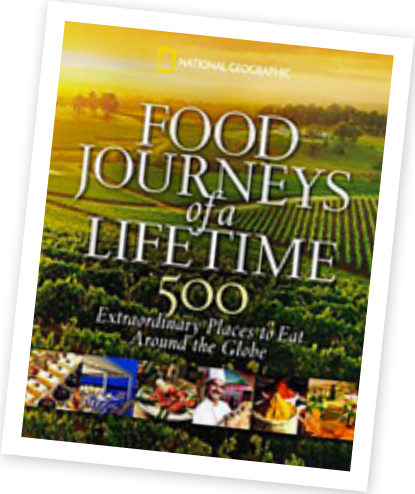
# *Bordeaux* TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Fully Guided sightseeing, walks, excursions, and cultural visits throughout the tour by professional Off the Beaten Path, LLC (OTBP) Company Tour Guides. OTBP Guides are UNESCO award winners, contributors to Bordeaux Travel Guidebooks, and are accomplished authors. OTBP Tour guides are professional France history and Bordeaux-specific history specialists who make learning the tidbits, gossip, anecdotes and stories of France fun and memorable throughout the tour.
- 5 nights — NO HOTEL HOPPING! — at CONDE NAST recommended luxury, boutique Hotel de Seze or Grand Hotel de Bordeaux.
- 10 Meals Included – 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners.
- All "Grand Cru" wines and non-alcoholic beverages at group meals!
- All entry/participation fees for all activities, excursions, and workshops detailed in the itinerary.
- Roundtrip transfers on Day 1 and Day 6 of the tour : Day 1 – Transfer provided from Bordeaux St. Jean rail station. Day 6 – Transfer provided to Bordeaux St. Jean Rail station.
- Bottled water provided daily.
- All ground transportation throughout the tour.
- –COMFORT ZONE– Designed for the interests of and to appeal to BOTH WALKERS & NON-WALKERS alike — the Active and Occasional Walker, and travelers of all ability levels. If you're not a walker at all, enjoy shuttling to all activities, excursions and meals on our comfortable air-conditioned Mercedes Sprinters.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE – International airfare to/from France, airfare/train fare to/from the starting/ending point for the tour in Bordeaux, one lunch, three dinners, gratuities to guides, professional driver, hotel staff, personal purchases.

AUTHENTIC BORDEAUX EXPERIENCES! Spend 6 days experiencing Bordeaux, Arcachon, and Saint Emilion like family friends going beyond tourist hotspots to meet and spend time with some of France's best loved and highly recognized artisans, chefs, and winery owners who are our family friends, and welcome you to their workshops, kitchens, and family homes for authentic and fun French experiences unlike any other!

# Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day 1




TOUR – DAY 1 – Welcome Day - Tour Begins
GROUP MEETS - Hotel Check-in, Welcome Dinner Together – D

ARRIVAL IN BORDEAUX. Meet and greet by your tour guides at 3 pm at Bordeaux St. Jean Rail Station. We transfer to our boutique Bordeaux hotel that will serve as our home base for the entire tour (NO Hotel Hopping - Unpack once for the entire tour).

DINNER: Welcome cocktail and dinner, a first taste of local "Bordelaise" gourmet cuisine together at one of the best kept secrets in Bordeaux.

## Roundtrip transfers on Day 1 and Day 6 of the tour :

Day 1 – Transfer provided from Bordeaux St. Jean rail station at 3 pm.
Day 6 – Transfer provided to Bordeaux St. Jean Rail station for 11:30 am arrival.

# Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day 2

## DAY 2 - B, L - Saint Emilion Walking, Culture & Wine

BREAKFAST.

SAINT EMILION : Viticulture was introduced to this fertile region of Aquitaine by the Romans, and intensified in the Middle Ages. The Saint Emilion area benefited from its location on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. Many churches, monasteries and hospices were built from the 11th century onwards. It was granted the special status of a “jurisdiction” during the period of English rule in the 12th century. It is an exceptional landscape devoted entirely to wine-growing, with many fine historic monuments, artisan, craft and wine shops and a photogenic pedestrian village to discover.

Embark on short, guided walk through the historic vineyards of the Saint Emilion jurisdiction discovering cultural highlights of this magical wine growing area and enjoying a winery tour and VIP wine tasting following our walk.

LUNCH: Privately hosted lunch at one of our favorite wine producers of Saint Emilion.

AFTERNOON -- Following lunch, enjoy a guided cultural & historical tour of Saint Emilion village & the underground monolithic church.

AFTERNOON -- We’ll also partake in a WINERY TOUR & TASTING at a Classified GROWTH PRODUCER followed by leisure time to explore and discover Saint Emilion, as well as visit local artisan and wine boutiques.

Late afternoon return to our hotel in Bordeaux.

DINNER: Independently in Bordeaux this evening.

## Fun Times, Good Laughs, Cooking, VIP Tours and Much More in Bordeaux Wine Country !!

# Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day 3

## DAY #3 - B, L - Cooking at Home with Life-Long Friend, Chef Antoine, Visit Sauternes La Tour Blanche & Wine School

BREAKFAST.

MORNING – COOKING AT HOME COOKING CLASS

This morning we head to the Sauternes area south of Bordeaux for a full day of foodie experiences! Learn to make French bread specialties and pastries using an 18th century, historical wood-fired bread oven. Under the guidance of our life long friend, Celebrity Master Chef and Cookbook Author Antoine, we'll prepare a multi-course meal of "Bordelaise" recipes. Afterwards, enjoy the mid-day "aperitif" also known as pre-lunch cocktails with Antoine and his family followed by a sumptuous gourmet lunch of the recipes that we've prepared together during class.

LUNCH: A traditional Bordelais lunch with our Chef and his family. Lunch is accompanied by Antoine's professional selection of classified wines from his cellar and the vineyards of his local friends.

EARLY AFTERNOON – A WINERY TOUR & TASTING AT OUR SELECT GRAND CRU PRODUCER. Private Winery Tour and wine tasting at the famous French Oenology school (Wine School) in Sauternes; an 1855 classified growth wine producer and teaching school. There is sunny magic in these bottles, and the more the wine ages, the more golden its appearance and more robust its flavors. It is wondrous that such prized wine comes from grapes that in any other appellation would be considered only fit for discarding.

LATE AFTERNOON – Enjoy some leisure time on return to the hotel.

DINNER: Independently in Bordeaux this evening.

# Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day 4

## DAY #4 - B, L - Arcachon Basin, Pinasse, Culture & Pilat Dune, Ville D'Hiver

BREAKFAST. FULL DAY IN ARCACHON – Arcachon is a seaside town in south of Bordeaux known for oyster harvesting. Its 4 districts are named after the seasons of the year — The Ville d'Été (summer quarter) is home to shopping streets, the town's sandy main beach and a casino in the 19th-century Château Deganne. Ville d'Hiver (winter quarter) has extravagant 19th-century villas of spectacular architecture.

PILAT DUNE - At its southern entrance from the Atlantic Ocean, Arcachon Bay is crowned by Europe's largest sand dune that is nearly 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) long, 500 meters (1,600 feet) wide, stands 110 meters (360 feet) in height, and is moving inland at a rate of about 5 meters (16 feet) a year.

MORNING: We'll enjoy a leisure excursion on a French Pinasse along the Arcachon Basin exploring the coast on a guided nature excursion along the Arcachon Basin featuring oyster, charcuterie and cheese tasting with Champagne, followed by a cultural walk of Arcachon and a visit at the Dune de Pilat. The Arcachon Basin vistas and Pilat Dune will leave you speechless!

At the begining of the 19th century Arcachon was still just a small fishing village. The ville d'été started growing up principally as a place of healing where sick people could take in the sea air as part of their recovery process. From 1860 the Ville d'hiver with improved transport developed train links to Bordeaux and Paris. The sea air and the pine forests were found to as beneficial as the mountain air and as Arcachon is in a bay it is protected from the strong winds of the rest of the Atlantic coast. A group of business men, and in particular the Pereire brothers, and the owners of the railway line between Bordeaux and La Teste came up with the idea of extending the line to Arcachon and developing Arcachon as a winter resort. When Napolean III came to visit, Arcachon's success was assured. Alexandre Dumas lived in Arcachon for a while and Toulouse-Lautrec had a house on the sea-front.

LUNCH: A gourmet lunch overlooking the coast!

AFTERNOON – Culturual Walk of Ville d'Hiver followed by leisure time to explore Arcachon before our RETURN TO THE HOTEL.

DINNER: Independently in Bordeaux this evening.

# Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day 5

## TOUR – DAY 5 – HISTORICAL BORDEAUX CITY CENTER

BORDEAUX: FULL DAY IN BORDEAUX – CITY WALKING TOUR, VISIT & TASTE AT OUR FAVORITE ARTISAN FOODIE BOUTIQUES, LEISURE TIME ALONG THE WATERFRONT - VISIT THE CITE DU VIN, EVENING FAREWELL COCKTAILS & DINNER – B, D

BREAKFAST. MORNING – Enjoy a city walking tour of the history, historical monuments, and our favorite artisan food boutiques of Bordeaux. Our walk features savory and sweet foodie tastings throughout this unique and personalized experience. Considered one of the most beautiful cities in France, you'll learn what makes Bordeaux so magical! We will visit one of the oldest and most famous cheese shops in Bordeaux. Fifteen meters below street level, we'll explore the caves used for maturing cheeses inside the stone-vaulted mystical cellars of an XVth century convent! Here we will find a treasure trove of cheeses being gently aged to their optimal maturity, with the aging process explained by one of their expert staff. We will also ENJOY A TASTING OF FIVE KINDS OF CHEESE AND TWO WINES while enjoying the atmosphere of the ancient underground caves.

We will learn about the history of the CANELES, a traditional signature dessert of the region, and how its creation in Bordeaux is related to wine! Finally we get to taste the famous "LA DUNE BLANCHE" which has a surprise story that will be revealed during our walk. Following our walking tour and tasting experiences, set off on your own to enjoy lunch at the waterfront or one of the city's traditional bistros.

LUNCH: Independently in Bordeaux.
AFTERNOON – At leisure to pursue personal interests and to finish any souvenir shopping.
EVENING & DINNER: Evening cocktail before celebrating our week together with a gourmet farewell dinner prepared by one of my favorite chefs of the region.

(B) = Breakfast Included, (L) = Lunch Included, (D) = Dinner Included.

## Walking, Cooking, Eating and Wine Tasting our Way Through Bordeaux Wine Country !

## Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day 6

BREAKFAST.

Trip concludes today with 11:30 AM transfer arrival to Bordeaux Saint Jean Rail Station. Earlier / later departures can be arranged. Please contact us for details.

(B) = Breakfast included, (L) = Lunch included, (D) = Dinner included

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TRUSTPILOT

FRANCE OFF THE BEATEN PATH is partnered with TRUSTPILOT, an independent review platform to collect "independent" traveler reviews about our tours of Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne, as well as our Specialty and Limited Edition Tours!

Read candid "independent" tour reviews! TRUSTPILOT TOUR REVIEWS

# *Oui*...What we do-what we guarantee our guests...

WE GUARANTEE SOME VERY SPECIFIC SERVICES THAT WE BELIEVE YOU, AS OUR GUEST, DESERVE.

## WE ENSURE A "SMALL GROUP" REMAINS JUST THAT - A "SMALL GROUP"!

The group size on our tours is a maximum 16 guests per tour date. Many of our trips sell out completely meaning group size is 16 guests (and 10-12 guests for tours limited to 10-12 guests maximum per departure). Our experience has been that limiting our group size to 10-16 guests per tour creates the ideal ambiance for guests to easily mingle and get to know each other, yet still maintain their independence. We also limit our group size in order to preserve each guest's personalized experience, and ensure our famous quality customer service.

## WE INCLUDE ALL BEVERAGES (BOTH ALCOHOLIC & NON-ALCOHOLIC) IN OUR TOUR PRICES!

We always include a welcome cocktail on day 1 of each tour, plus some additional group meals may include a pre-dinner cocktail in addition to the premium, classified and "Grand Cru" wines included at all groups meals during each of our tours. Of course, guests are always free to opt out of any included group meal to try a restaurant, cafe or other dining option on their own or simply to enjoy a private dining experience.

## WE ALWAYS PROVIDE GUESTS THE BEST ROOMS AT EVERY HOTEL !

We always reserve the VERY BEST for our guests ! Plus there is NEVER any hotel hopping on our tours. We select one exclusive, luxurious, historical establishment for the entire 5 nights of each tour (3 nights on Champagne Tours, 4 nights on Normandy Tours).

## OUR SCHEDULED WALKS ARE ALWAYS GUIDED !

We always guide our walks !! Our guides are experienced, and have walked our trails repeatedly each season - even in the off season. They are knowledgeable about what each trail has to offer. Our guides accompany every walk on every tour where optional and scheduled walks are included. And our guides remain with the group during the entirety of each walk. We believe your walks with us should always be fun, interesting and a time to sit back and enjoy the views along the trail while someone else takes charge and shows you the way! We have specially designed all of our trails exclusively to share with our guests.

## WE PROVIDE VAN SUPPORT FOR OUR WALKS !

In addition to providing guides who accompany each walk on our tours, we always provide a support van whose driver's sole responsibility is to meet the group at designated points throughout each walk to provide more refreshments and provide a ride to any guest who needs a break.

# *Walking Ratings* for Bordeaux Tours

Always enjoyable walking on Off the Beaten Path Tours - Nomatter which of our active, small group tours you join, you can expect to know, in advance, the level of difficulty of the walks scheduled during each tour. We also provide flexible options daily for non-walkers.

**Every Off the Beaten Path tour vacation is designed to meet a wide variety of guest fitness levels. Each walk is categorized using the system below.**

**EASY:** Relatively flat terrain. Well-kept paths. Fine for even occasional walkers.

- Average walk distance: 2–5 miles
- Average walking time: Up to 3 hours

**EASY TO MODERATE:** Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Footing may be a variety of surfaces --mostly vineyard and country trails. No extended ascents or descents.

- Average walk distance: 4–6 miles
- Average walking time: Up to 4 hours

**MODERATE:** Suitable for experienced walkers who are comfortable with ascents and descents (but no scrambling!). Uneven terrain possible. Vineyard, country and gravel trails.

- Average daily distance: 5-8 miles
- Average walking time: up to 4-5 hours

## WALKING TOUR RATINGS FOR BORDEAUX TOURS – WALKS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

- WALK NO.1 – FOR WALKERS: The Saint Emilion walk is rated easy to moderate. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walking on vineyard and country trails. Walk distance is 3 miles – approximately 2 hrs. of walking with pauses for photo-ops.
- WALK NO.2 – FOR WALKERS: The Arcachon Basin walk of Ville d'Hiver is rated easy. Ideal for those who walk for on a regular basis. Walking on coastal path. The coastal walk distance is 2 miles – approximately 1 hour of walking with pauses for photo-ops.
- WALK NO.3 – FOR WALKERS: The Bordeaux city cultural and foodie experience walk is rated easy. Ideal for those who walk for on a regular basis. Walking through the city. The walk distance is 1 mile – approximately 1.5 hrs. of walking including history, gourmet foodie tastings and pauses for photo-ops.
- Bordeaux wine country is relatively flat with some small rolling hills in the Saint Emilion area and at Pilat Dune.
- WALKERS – Van support is provided for walks to offer maximum flexibility to all guests. You decide how much walking you'd like to do, if participating in our 2 walks.
- NON-WALKERS are shuttled to/from all activities, excursions, meals and visits. Non-walker rating = EASY.

ACTIVITY RATING: **Walkers -** 95% Easy, 5% Moderate. **Non-Walkers -** 100% Easy.

TOUR BEGINS: Group pick-up on Day #1 at 3:00 pm at Saint Jean Rail Station in Bordeaux, France

TOUR ENDS: Group transfer on Day #6 - 11:30 am arrival at Saint Jean Rail Station Bordeaux, France.

Transfers from/to Merignac (Bordeaux) airport can be arranged on request.

## GUEST TESTIMONIALS:

"THANK YOU FOR SUCH A FUN TRIP! Everyone we met was so warm and friendly. This was our second trip and we surely will be back! You did a great job and we loved all of the activities, you have certainly made this an exceptional experience for us!" *Ron and Brenda Clements, Houston, TX (Bordeaux Tour)*

"GOSH THE ACTIVITIES JUST GOT BETTER AND BETTER! We loved the cooking classes and wine tasting (both Bordeaux and Provence). The calanques walk in Provence was also great! Saint Emilion village (Bordeaux) was beautiful, and having all of the winery tour appointments (Bordeaux) made for us was very appealing. We really enjoyed ourselves on both tours!" *Bob and Eileen Hamilton, Seneca, SC (Have been on 2 Off the Beaten Path Tours)*

"THE TOUR FAR EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS! Our guides were very knowledgeable, skilled and organized. Well done and many thanks! I would not change a thing." *Patrick & Rosemary Tuohey, Victoria, Australia (Bordeaux Tour)*

# ADDITIONAL *Bordeaux* TOUR INFORMATION

## UNRIVALED EXPERTISE WITHIN FRANCE AND THE BEST TOUR GUIDES:

All Off the Beaten Path guides are Americans with dual nationality (American-French citizenship), are multi-lingual and reside in France. They also bring a wealth of local information and history to enrich each guest's experience and have been selected for their comprehensive understanding of French culture. You will find that Off the Beaten Path guides are wonderful traveling companions, whose knowledge and sense of fun and positive attitude make each day a wonderful experience.

## WHERE DO WE RENDEZVOUS ON DAY 1 OF THE BORDEAUX TOUR?

Your OTBP Guide(s) will meet you at St. Jean TGV train station in Bordeaux and Merignac Airport at 3:00 PM on day 1 of the tour. Specific meeting location details will be included in your complete tour information package we send you 30 days prior to the tour. Train times are subject to seasonal changes, and we will keep these schedules updated as any changes occur.

## WHERE DOES THE BORDEAUX TOUR FINISH ON DAY 6?

We provide transfers for 11:30 AM arrival at Bordeaux St. Jean TGV rail station.

## HOW SHOULD I GO ABOUT MAKING MY TRAVEL PLANS?

Off the Beaten Path is a full service tour operator and it is our pleasure to assist you with all aspects of upcoming travel plans. Whether you are looking for a suggestion for a hotel in Paris or assistance with your rail tickets, simply contact us at contact@travelofffthebeatenpath.com or call us at 1.717.683.2827 for assistance.

## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED ON MY BORDEAUX TOUR?

Airfare/Train fare to and from the trip meeting location/city of Bordeaux, 1 lunch, 3 dinners, extras at the hotel, personal purchases.

## HOW SHOULD I PACK? HOW SHOULD I EXPECT TO DRESS DURING THE TOUR?

Please limit your luggage to one medium-sized suitcase and one carry-on. Try not to over pack; you will not wear all your clothing! A suggested packing list will be enclosed in your tour information package. Pack comfortable light weight, casual clothing. It's vacation and we want our guests to feel and be as comfortable as possible during our daily activities and excursions. Our dinners together include a mix of Michelin star and casual bistro style restaurants. For men we suggest a business casual ensemble (no tie or jacket necessary unless it's your personal preference) and for women we recommend a casual dress for dinners.

## WHAT IS THE WEATHER GOING TO BE LIKE IN BORDEAUX?

In July, day time temperatures in Bordeaux and surrounding areas range in the high 80's- to mid-90's. In September, average temperatures range from 70's to 80's Fahrenheit. Typically it is sunny, but be prepared with the proper rain gear, as harvest time can be unpredictable.

## WHO ARE THE BORDEAUX TOURS DESIGNED FOR?

OTBP's Bordeaux Tours are designed for discerning active travelers, from the seasoned traveler and independent traveler to the first time traveler to France. Join any one of the our tours as a solo traveler, a couple, a small group of friends or family, or bring your entire travel club, affinity group, women's organization or wine society. No culinary, history or other type of experience is necessary. Join us for the vacation of a lifetime to discover the Bordeaux wine region of France, as an insider, and make new friends along the way.

## DO I NEED TO BE AN EXPERT TO TAKE YOUR BORDEAUX TOUR?

Not at all. The idea is to learn about French culture, traditions, wine, daily life, artisan lives and culinary practices in a fun and relaxing, unpretentious environment. Our tours offer great learning opportunities for everyone. Off the Beaten Path guides are very skilled at adapting their discussions to the general level of knowledge of the group, providing good introductory information for novices, and more advanced discussions for those who have more experience or a specialty interest. It's vacation and our tours are all about having fun, enjoying new experiences and being active!

## IS WINE INCLUDED AT MEALS? WHAT KIND OF WINES ARE INCLUDED AT MEALS?

Yes, wine is included at all scheduled meals together. We expertly match premium wines from the region we're visiting with each dish. Meals offer an excellent opportunity to try wines from appellations not available to guests at home, and to introduce guests to some select wines worth a favorable mention or that are exceptionally appreciated by the locals.

## • ARE OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC TOURS IN ENGLISH?

Yes. All tours are conducted in English and designed for an English speaking clientel. The majority of OTBP Guests come from the U.S.A., Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and England. Guests have also come from the Caribbean, Singapore, the Philippines, South Africa, Hong Kong, Korea, and Israel.

## • HOW ARE THE BORDEAUX TOURS STRUCTURED?

Having 30 years experience in the tour industry, specifically with small group touring, we have found that our guests are generally more interested in active experiences, culture, people to people experiences and guided tours of museums and sites. Our guests like to visit private homes, and pursue their hobbies when they travel. Our guests enjoy being able to shop locally for items, such as, collectibles, art and local products. Our guests tend to do more homework and want a meatier trip, but also want to enjoy down time or leisure time to explore independently. All of our trips are designed based on these factors. Each trip offers organized activities and excursions daily combined with periods of leisure time each day. Our tours encourage individual approach and pursuit of your interests, as well as introducing you to new experiences and people during each trip.

## • WHAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED FOR MY TOUR?

All travelers to France are required to have a valid passport. Please make 2 copies of your passport and personal identification before you depart. Keep one set of copies with you in a separate location from your travel documents, and leave the other set of copies with a contact at home before you depart. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please check with your consulate general for entry requirements.

## • DO I NEED TO BE AN ATHLETE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BORDEAUX TOUR?

No. Our daily walks are designed to appeal to active travelers of every fitness level. There is very little elevation gain during the Bordeaux daily walks. Our trails are mostly gravel and dirt walking paths through small rolling and low lying vineyard hillsides. Travelers should count on walking approximately 2-3 hours each day. We are walking from wine producer to wine producer each day through spectacular classified vineyards. Come discover and enjoy fabulous Bordeaux wines along the "slow road" taking in the beautiful scenery of the vineyards and wine growing villages. Each walk includes winery tours and wine tasting along our trail, a truly fabulous way to discover Bordeaux wine country.

# BORDEAUX GUEST *Testimonials:*

"EVERYTHING REALLY WAS EXCELLENT. The most important factor to me was how comfortable you made the trip for all. It's obviously very important to you that your guests are happy and it shows. This is an incredibly well thought out and planned trip! The variety of activities and winery tours, the different vinification processes and how each is so unique is very well done. There is no repetition and the week just flies by. Not only was it an awesome vacation but I also made new friends, and am VERY GLAD WE DID THIS TRIP. MERCI!" *Dwayne Jarrell, Mike Mitterman, Chicago, IL (Bordeaux Tour)*

"WE ENJOYED THE GOOD MIX OF ACTIVITIES AND THE FACT THAT THE TRIP WASN'T JUST WINE TASTING. We had a great group of traveling companions and it was fun getting to know them, as well as meeting the Chefs at cooking class. SEEING THE HARVEST IN ACTION WAS THE BEST! THANK YOU FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF US!!" *Pam Miller and Jim Rasmussen, Boston, MA (Bordeaux Tour)*

"Thanks for a great time discovering Bordeaux wine country! We enjoyed this trip a lot. The people in the group were very compatible. The winery tours were very good. It was nice to be able to see all of the different processes. WE WILL SEE YOU AGAIN ON ANOTHER TOUR." *Jerry and Sheila Ettinger, Raleigh, NC (Bordeaux Harvest Tour)*

"THE WHOLE TRIP WAS OUTSTANDING! We absolutely loved that this tour was very organized and orchestrated yet relaxed at the same time. Our guide did a great job in all respects, she was very knowledgeable, thoughtful and a pleasure to spend the trip with. Also the wineries we visited were excellent. Thanks again for a great time! We look forward to coming back for your Loire Valley Tour!" *Dr. Marc and Brabsie Randall, Lexington, KY (Bordeaux Tour) photographed here with Daniel Cathiard, owner of Chateau Smith Haut LaFitte.*

## Our Commitment to Ensuring Inspiring Itineraries, Exceptional Quality, and Excellent Value!!

- ITINERARIES ARE DESIGNED TO SHARE THE VERY BEST OF EACH REGION – Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne, Normandy, and Dordogne– including luxurious and boutique hotel accommodations that reflect the heart & soul of each region, and offer complete modern amenities, spectacular theme walks, both Michelin-star gourmet and bistro style dining at the best restaurants of each region, cooking classes at the homes and/or private workshops of Michelin-star and Master Chefs who are personal friends and who welcome OTBP guests to their homes and professional kitchens as a group of friends, visits to local artisan workshops, participate in fun workshops with our artisan friends, shopping at the finest craft markets, hot air ballooning and much more.
- ALL TOURS ARE RUN BY OTBP. The company does NOT subcontract any of its tours. Many OTBP tours are owner led and those that aren't owner led are led by guides who work exclusively for OTBP and who have been hand-picked by Christy based on her very strict criteria.
- NO HIDDEN FEES - Since all OTBP tour guides reside in France, we do NOT have to incorporate any international transportation and lodging costs for tour guides into our tour prices. This means we pass on even greater savings to you, and can guarantee our OTBP luxurious quality tour experiences at even more competitive prices and better value prices.
- ALL WINES INCLUDED - Classified regional wines and non-alcoholic beverages are included at all group meals.
- MOST MEALS INCLUDED - Group lunches and dinners are comprised of a combination of set menus exclusively elaborated for our groups that reflect the cuisine of the region, ordering off the menu and indulging in select gourmet menus that feature a Chef's local and/or seasonal specialties. We are constantly told that our restaurant selections are one of many highlights of our tours! We are also happy to accommodate vegetarians, vegans, gluten allergies and other special dietary requests and needs.
- ESTABLISHED, PROPRIETARY RELATIONSHIPS… with all wineries, chefs, restaurants, bistrots, service providers and artisans on each tour based on both its exclusive and privileged network of contacts and French friends, and an outstanding reputation throughout France. All chefs, restaurants and bistrots selected for OTBP tours are Michelin-star and/or have been featured/recommended by top "foodie" magazines and/or fellow Michelin-star Chefs. OTBP tours feature dining in both gourmet restaurants and favorite hide-a-ways.
- NEGOTIATED THE BEST RATES WITH ITS FRENCH PARTNERS to ensure the best active, luxury and authentic French experience again at the best value tour prices.
- THE LOWEST SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS in the France tour industry thanks to established relationships with partner hotels. Our single supplement fees cover exact hotel single occupancy fees charged. We do NOT charge a single supplement for profit, NEVER.
- FEATURING TRUE SMALL GROUP TRAVEL. The maximum group size on OTBP tours is 16 guests per tour date, and 10-12 guests on some tours. Limiting group sizes creates the ideal ambiance for guests to easily mingle and get to know other guests, yet still maintain their independence. OTBP also limits its groups to a maximum of 16 guests per tour date in order to preserve each guest's personalized experience, and ensure its famous quality customer service.

One of the most flattering questions that we have ever received, as a tour company, came from our guest Dennis Gelner. Dennis and his wife Pat traveled on 2 back to back tours with us.

Dennis' question one afternoon was,

"WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO EXCEED EXPECTATIONS?
IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER EVERY DAY!"

Thanks Dennis for such a flattering question and Pat's and your ever so flattering trip comments! We love receiving feedback and hearing about how guests have enjoyed their tour(s). Whether joining one of our Provence Tours, Loire Valley Tours or Bordeaux Tours, our dedication and focus to providing the best ever authentic France travel experiences during each of our small group tours is paramount!

WE STRIVE TO EXCEED GUEST EXPECTATIONS EVERY TRIP!!

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

*World Leader in Small Group Travel in France*

# 2025 – Bordeaux Tour Dates and Prices

2025 Tour Dates - Price - **Click here to review the **2025** Tour Schedule**!

# NOT JUST A TOUR: IT'S AN AUTHENTIC OFF THE BEATEN PATH *French Experience...*

Unrivaled expertise within France sets Off the Beaten Path, LLC apart from non-France based and multi-destination tour companies. Off the Beaten Path, LLC (OTBP) is American owned and operated. In 2025, the company celebrates 31 years delivering small, engaging group, walking, gourmet foodie, wine and cultural tours exclusively in France. OTBP active, small group France tours offer travelers the very BEST, and most inspiring and exclusive itineraries filled with cultural "insider" experiences to discover Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne, Normandy, and Dordogne, France.

Enjoy exceptional quality and excellent value on an OTBP small group tour today! Travelers and publications rate Off the Beaten Path Tours the BEST active, small group tours in France thanks to the unparalleled "insider" experiences featured in each tour itinerary. The company's renowned "insider" relationships with regional French chefs, artisans, and cultural industry professionals put Off the Beaten Path far ahead of the competition when it comes to creating one-of-a-kind itineraries to experience the very BEST of France! Whether you're a seasoned small group tour traveler, or new to the small group tour scene, Off the Beaten Path tours offer fun, enriching, interactive, local, and authentic French experiences and activities for everyone.

More than just a tour, Off the Beaten Path, transforms the entire guest experience into a personalized and exclusive "unparalleled" active, cultural affair that far exceeds guest expectations! We connect guests with lifelong, French friends who rank among France's top-rated chefs, specialty artisans, artists, wine producers, hotel & castle owners, and entertainers! Expert Professional English speaking guides who live in France, inspiring itineraries, deluxe historical hotel accommodations, sumptuous French meals, classified regional wines, and comfortable transportation in private, spacious, professionally driven vehicles are immutable standards on every Off the Beaten Path Tour. Each tour itinerary is comprised of a variety of engaging activities and enriching experiences for guests to authentically discover the heart and soul of each region. Participate in cooking classes with our friends who are celebrity Master, Meilleur Ouvrier de France, and Michelin-star chefs who look forward to your arrival, and make you feel welcome in their family homes, professional kitchens, and workshops as a group of friends.

Shop at weekly village markets where OTBP tour guides introduce you to our French friends who are olive oil and wine producers, artists, cheese-makers, herb and spice vendors, craftsmen, perfumery and linen artisans, and designers. Walk the same countryside and vineyard trails that regional French residents do with their families. Enjoy the slow road scenery that comes with walking local country trails through vineyards, flower fields of lavender, poppies, and sunflowers, olive and fruit orchards, and small historic villages. Tour castles, pre-historic caves, and other historical monuments and sites with our knowledgeable, professional UNESCO award-winning guides. Learn the juicy, fun untold stories of French history! Dine in the same gourmet restaurants and bistros, as local French do — where the chefs are our personal friends and set aside a table uniquely to welcome you as their exclusive guests. Built-in leisure time provides guests with opportunities to pursue independent interests and activities or to break away from the group for some quiet or personal time.

Every OTBP tour offers daily options with varying levels of activeness. You always have the flexibility of deciding how each day unfolds. OTBP tour guides sit down with the group every day to discuss the activities, excursions, walks, local events, and options of the day. With so many options available during each tour, we ensure you the flexibility to be as active as you choose (more walking, less walking, shopping time, cultural discovery, people watching, photography, etc.), and to also enjoy leisure time to pursue independent interests, all while enjoying the perks of traveling in a small group. Our tour guides take care and manage the daily logistics and details while you, our guest, spend your time on the critical stuff — having fun, relaxing and enjoying your vacation your way! The idea behind each OTBP tour is to appeal to the discerning traveler of all ages and backgrounds who seeks something new and different, and who wants to reach out and discover something inspiring.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

• Off the Beaten Path, LLC is an American owned and operated company licensed and bonded to protect your vacation investment.

• Off the Beaten Path, LLC holds a website identity assurance warranty of $100,000. Travelers are insured for up to $100,000 per tour reservation booking when relying on the information provided by GeoTrust IdAuthority (Equifax Secure Certificate Authority) on our website.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC
EMAIL: franceotbp@gmail.com
Telephone: 1.717.683.2827
Reservation Office & Mailing Address: 749 Grandview Rd., York, PA 17403, USA
Branch Offices in Bordeaux & Saint Remy-de-Provence