



**IN 2017 -- OFF THE BEATEN PATH CELEBRATES 23 YEARS LEADING SMALL GROUP TOURS EXCLUSIVELY IN FRANCE!**

Website - <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

One of our most historically rich tours, our guided, small group Loire Valley Castles and Gourmet Foodie Tour far surpasses the offerings of other non-France based and multi-destination tour companies thanks to our long standing presence in the Loire Valley region and our established local relationships with the region's most highly recognized professionals. Our specialty is small group tour travel in France, and we concentrate on ensuring that our focus on travel exclusively in France remains our priority! We have established relationships with professionals in the Loire Valley who are not only renowned Michelin-star and Master Chefs and specialty artisans, but who are also our personal family friends. Our local Loire Valley friends cherish our relationships that have been built on years of friendship discovering the Loire together through each others' eyes and heritage, and they warmly and welcomingly open their homes, workshops and professional kitchens to you, our Loire Valley Tour guests. Each day of our Loire Valley Tour, as we take you on a journey into the late Middle Ages and Renaissance periods, you will truly feel like you are stepping back into a magical period of time. Our specialist guides recount daily stories, gossip and factual tidbits about events of these periods and local history to enhance your discovery of the castles of the Loire Valley.

**FRANCE IS OUR SOLE FOCUS AND SPECIALTY, AND WE KNOW IT BEST!**

**WE ONLY OFFER EXCLUSIVE, SMALL GROUP LUXURY TOUR TRAVEL IN FRANCE, AND HAVE BEEN LEADING TOURS IN LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE FOR 23 YEARS.**

Come travel the back roads of Loire Valley, France with us during this 6 day/5 night, active, small group tour through the Center region of France ("Le Centre" in French) to discover both spectacular French Mediaeval and Renaissance history during this award winning Loire Valley castles and gourmet foodie adventure, and to make a many great memories meeting and spending time with our local friends. Step back in time when the Valois and Bourbon families ruled the Kingdom of France to learn about French Kings, Queens and their courts, and all the drama that accompanied them through these fascinating historical periods in a fun and fact filled experience. We embark on daily visits, activities and excursions that unveil magical and sometimes mythical and gruesome stories, that by the end the tour, you will be completely transformed and have a new appreciation for these historical periods and the characters who animated them. Our years of connections and insider access to people, places and events of the region have earned us a solid and excellent reputation as authorities on everything cultural in the Loire Valley. And, we use our "savoir faire" to ensure you experience the very best of the Loire Valley, its castles, history and people in a fun and memorable small group environment. Through our combination of active, cultural and personalized authentic local French experiences, you will feel like you just spent a week with a wonderful group of friends rather than having been on a tour.

## EXPERIENCE INSPIRING ITINERARIES, EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY, AND EXCELLENT VALUE!

And, Off the Beaten Path France Tours are Recommended by Best Selling Author PJ Adams as her Tour of Choice to Discover the Loire Valley Region!!

Traveling on a group tour to France is a fabulous choice for a European vacation experience whether you are a first time traveler to France or a seasoned traveler to the country.



- 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 2017, we celebrate 23 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>

# Loire Valley Castles & Gourmet Foodie Tour



BY OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

**\*\* THE ITNERARY SHORT VERSION \*\***  
6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS : 4-STAR HOTEL PAVILLON DES LYS

## *Loire Valley Itinerary* - DAY #1 - D

4:00 PM - Off the Beaten Path (OTBP) Loire Valley Tour Guides meet guests at the St. Pierre des Corps TGV rail station and group transfers to the hotel in Amboise - Loire Valley.

5:00 PM - Approximate arrival time to the hotel in Amboise.

**DINNER:** Gourmet dinner together this evening prepared by one of the newest up and coming Chefs of the region who has been rated and recommended by world renowned 3-star Michelin, French Chef Alain Ducasse, as well as our local Michelin-star Chefs. Your tour guides will go over the details of your Loire Valley Tour itinerary and the activities planned for the week.

## *Loire Valley Itinerary* – DAY #2 – EARLY MORNING AT LEISURE, TOUR & TASTE AT ARTISAN FRENCH CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP WITH OUR AWARD WINNING CHOCOLATIER (CHOCOLATE-MAKER), TOUR CHAMBORD CASTLE, COOKING CLASS, WINE & CHEESE TASTING & DINNER WITH MICHELIN-STAR CHEF, OUR FRIEND, DAMIEN G. - B, D

THE HIGHLIGHTS: FREE MORNING – SHOP FOR SOUVENIRS IN TOWN, VISIT CLOS LUCE, CHAMBORD CASTLE, MICHELIN-STAR COOKING CLASS & DINNER...

**BREAKFAST. MORNING:** Enjoy the early morning at leisure in Amboise. Relax on the terrace at the hotel with a beverage and write postcards, surf the internet or read. PLEASE NOTE — Visit Clos Luce to visit the former home of Leonardo da Vinci during this independent morning.

**LATE MORNING:** We depart to our FRIEND'S AWARD WINNING ARTISAN CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP where we'll enjoy a tour of the facility and learn about French Artisan Chocolate Making followed by a tasting of his finest chocolate specialties. Afterwards, we continue on to Chambord Castle. **CHAMBORD CASTLE** Tour -- independent visit after an introduction to the history and stories of the castle. It is thought to have been the architectural masterpiece of Leonardo da Vinci, yet has never been proven. We share stories about two of France's most influential Kings, Francis I and Louis XIV, their royal lifestyles and guests at the castle, plus stories of Louis XIII's brother, Gaston d'Orleans.

**LUNCH:** Independently at Chambord.

**LATE AFTERNOON & DINNER:** Hands-on cooking class and demonstration with friend, Michelin-star Chef Damien G. in his professional kitchen. Damien is a Michelin star chef with experience that has taken him on culinary adventures around the world. After having traveled extensively to places such as Cyprus and Moscow, he has returned to his native Loire Valley to share his culinary experience and knowledge at his family restaurant; adding a new and tasteful twist to regional recipes using local, seasonal ingredients. Cooking class is both hands-on and a demonstration of recipes.

**CULTURAL EXPERIENCE** – A “Tour de France” French wine and cheese tasting wraps up our cooking class experience. Learn very important details about the history and production of cheese in France. We'll taste a variety of cheeses accompanied by regional wines.

The FOCUS is on discovering favorite recipes of this beautiful region and indulging in the French wine and cheese tasting and learning more about French cheeses with our Chef. This activity is designed for all interest levels from the beginner to the more experienced. Following class, we toast the evening with a cocktail followed by a gourmet dinner together of recipes prepared and demonstrated in class.



## *Loire Valley Itinerary* - DAY #3 - MORNING: VILLANDRY CASTLE & GARDENS, AZAY-LE-RIDEAU CASTLE, APERITIF (COCKTAIL) HOUR WITH REGIONAL FOOD SPECIALTIES, DINNER ON YOUR IN AMBOISE - B & COCKTAIL EVENING

THE HIGHLIGHTS: AZAY-LE-RIDEAU CASTLE & VILLAGE, VILLANDRY CASTLE & RENAISSANCE GARDENS...

**BREAKFAST. CASTLES & GARDENS** Experience historical villages in the southern Loire Valley at the Castles of Azay-le-Rideau and Villandry. Nothing is more spectacular than walking in the foot-steps of French Kings and Queens to discover the beauty and architecture of the Loire Valley.

**MORNING:** Our day begins at the fairy tale, moated castle of Azay-le-Rideau Castle, a spectacular masterpiece built during the early years of Francis I's reign. The castle reflects all of the refinements of Renaissance architecture and embodies the qualities of a traditional French chateau with its high roofs, tall watch-turrets, long rows of windows and dormer-windows and majestic Italian structure.

**LUNCH:** Independently in Azay-le-Rideau.

**AFTERNOON:** Winding our way along the Vienne & Loire Rivers, our next stop of the day is at Villandry Castle and its Renaissance Gardens. Learn about the numerous owners of the castle and how after the castle's gardens were left in ruin for centuries, one man discovered a very important document in order to re-create the original Francis I Renaissance gardens. The unique Renaissance gardens of Villandry are among the most fascinating gardens of France.

**LATE AFTERNOON:** Return to our hotel in Amboise.

**APERITIF (COCKTAIL HOUR):** Join us for a hosted cocktail hour to sample sumptuous regional products for which the Loire Valley is famous.

**DINNER:** Independently in Amboise village. Stroll through the village, enjoy cocktails at sunset overlooking the Loire River and dinner at one of the many favorite places in the village.

*Loire Valley Itinerary* – DAY #4 – MORNING: AMBOISE MARKET & VILLAGE, CASTLE TOUR, LUNCH: VIP WINERY TOUR AT FRIEND'S ESTATE & PRIVATELY HOSTED WINE TASTING LUNCH FEATURING REGIONAL LOIRE CUISINE & TOURAINE WINES, AFTERNOON: CHENONCEAU CASTLE & GARDENS - B, L

**THE HIGHLIGHTS:** AMBOISE VILLAGE & MARKET, ROYAL CASTLE OF AMBOISE, VIP WINE TOUR, PRIVATELY HOSTED LUNCH AT FRIEND'S HISTORICAL WINE ESTATE, CHENONCEAU CASTLE & GARDENS...

**BREAKFAST. MORNING:** CASTLES, MARKET DAY, VINEYARDS & HISTORICAL VILLAGES - Witness historical wine producing villages and their castles as we travel through beautiful Loire countryside. Experience firsthand why French Kings and Queens loved and chose this area as their home during the Renaissance.

**THE WEEKLY MARKET:** Enjoy perusing the weekly market, one of the liveliest days of the week in the village, as the local residents come out to do their weekly shopping and socializing. **AFTER THE MARKET:** Enjoy a guided visit of the Chateau of Amboise followed by time to explore at leisure. Today's castle visit includes stories of royal accidents, more stories of some of France's most important historical events, an attempted kidnapping, as well as royal love affairs and the death of royal guest, Leonardo da Vinci.

**VIP WINERY TOUR, TASTING & PRIVATELY HOSTED LUNCH:** A privately hosted lunch at our our friend's historical wine estate. A local wine producer, our friend Fred opens up his family winery to welcome guests to his estate for a private winery tour and tasting lunch featuring regional Loire cuisine and a selection of classified Touraine wines produced by his family.

**AFTERNOON:** Tour of the Castle and Gardens of Chenonceau, a castle shaped by women, this castle represents the greatest accomplishments of royal women during the Middle Ages and French Renaissance. Enjoy stories of Queens and their courts, royal love affairs, the first ever fireworks display in France, parties and deception and how royal debt nearly led this castle to be confiscated by the French state.

**DINNER:** Independently in Amboise village. Stroll through the village, enjoy cocktails at sunset overlooking the Loire River and dinner at one of the many favorite places in the village.

*Loire Valley Itinerary* – DAY #5 – SHOPPING AT THE BLOIS MARKET & EXPLORING THE HISTORIC TOWN, TOUR OF BLOIS CASTLE, EARLY EVENING CULINARY CLASS WITH CELEBRITY CHEFS, FRIENDS, A HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM, CHRISTOPHE AND ANGELIQUE Q. AT THEIR FAMILY HOME – B, D

THE HIGHLIGHTS: BLOIS TOWN & ARTISAN MARKET, BLOIS CASTLE, COOKING AT HOME WITH CELEBRITY CHEF FRIENDS...

**BREAKFAST. MORNING:** Prior to our visit of the historic town of Blois, and its royal castle, we introduce you to the French tradition of shopping at the weekly open market. From local artisan products to French linens, paintings, clothes, food, wines, artwork and locally made jewelry, the market brings an unparalleled livelihood to villages and towns of the region. Guided visit of the market followed by time to explore and shop independently. Afterwards, guided tour of Blois Castle followed by time to explore the castle and historic town at leisure. We'll share stories about some of the most note worthy events of French history: a Queen's death, two marriages that would forever change the future of France, important accomplishments by the French monarchy, an assassination, details of the rigors of daily life during the Renaissance, and quirky facts about royal marriages and deaths.

**LUNCH:** Independently in Blois. Guests are welcome to join their guide at a local favorite brasserie owned by a friend, also a Michelin-star chef.

**EARLY EVENING & DINNER:** Fun, hands-on cooking class with our friends, Master Chef Angelique and Meilleur Ouvrier de France Master Chef Christophe Q. at their home in the countryside near Chaumont-sur-Loire. Tonight we cook with two of France's highest rated Master Chefs. Christophe is Director of the Val de Loire Culinary Arts school, currently on leave from the school to work with his friend and colleague Alain Ducasse on the development of Ducasse's new worldwide culinary project and "Ecole de Cuisine" concept in Paris. Christophe's wife, Angelique, is a Professeur de Cuisine in the Val de Loire region. Both are passionate about the culinary arts, and have received top awards from and along with Paul Bocuse, Alain Ducasse and Joel Robuchon. Christophe is currently featured on gourmet television in France, as one of the Loire Valley's most highly recognized and talented Chefs.

We will prepare a three course dinner of local recipes together. Guests will have the great pleasure of partaking in an "aperitif dinatoire", as we call it in French, of the recipes prepared under the guidance of Angelique prior to dinner. Guests will also learn how to prepare the award winning, regional "Tarte Tatin" dessert with Christophe. The cooking class is designed to appeal to all interest levels from the beginner to the more experienced. Following cooking class, we toast to a wonderful evening with our Chefs with cocktails on their garden terrace followed by a gourmet dinner together of the recipes prepared during cooking class.

Cooking class, drinks and dinner at Christophe and Angelique's home is a fabulous way to celebrate a fun week together in the Loire Valley!

## Loire Valley Itinerary - DAY #6 - B

### BREAKFAST.

9 AM - Please have all bags downstairs for loading.

9:30 AM DEPARTURE - We arrive at 10:00 AM at the St. Pierre des Corps TGV Rail Station. If you have made your own departure arrangements and are not departing with the group, please be sure to inform your guide in advance.

(B) = BREAKFAST INCLUDED, (L) = LUNCH INCLUDED, (D) = DINNER INCLUDED



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Read candid “independent “ tour reviews! [TRUSTPILOT TOUR REVIEWS](#)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

- 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: [contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com](mailto:contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com)

Telephone: 1.877.846.2831

Address: 749 Grandview Rd., York, PA 17403 USA



## *Loire Valley Tour* PRICE INCLUDES:

- This exclusive small group, Loire Valley Tour is led by professional Off the Beaten Path, LLC Company Tour Guides. Our guides are history, culinary and wine specialists. They are also UNESCO Heritage Award Winners, published authors, photographers and regular contributors to several travel guides series about the Loire Valley and other regions of France. Our Tour guides are professional France history and Loire Valley-specific history specialists who make learning the tidbits, gossip, and ludic stories of France fun and memorable throughout the tour.
- 5 Nights, 4-star boutique hotel accommodations -- at hotel Pavillon Des Lys in historic Amboise -- (NO Hotel Hopping)
- Enjoy fun and fact filled guided tours, independent visits and leisure time at Loire Valley castles of Chambord, Chenonceau, Blois, Amboise, Villandry, and Azay-le-Rideau.
- Participate in two (2) private, hands-on cooking classes and demonstrations with three (3) different Chefs - our culinary friends; award winning, celebrity Master, Meilleur Ouvrier de France, and Michelin-Star Chefs.
- **9 Meals + 1 Hosted Cocktail Evening of Regional Specialties** - 5 Buffet Breakfasts, 1 Privately Hosted Wine Estate Lunch, 1 Hosted Cocktail Evening of Regional Food Specialties, and 3 Gourmet Dinners (combination of Michelin-star restaurants and cooking classes with our friends who are also Master, Meilleur Ouvrier de France, and Michelin-star Chefs)
- ALL of our Chefs during this exclusive castles and culinary tour are good friends with one another. Each will share his/her individual specialties and favorite regional recipes with us in cooking class. Each cooking class offers a unique look inside the professional and personal lives of each of our Chefs, and how distinctly different their culinary styles are from each other. We'll prepare three course meals during each class, indulge in tasting wonderful local sparkling wines from the region, and tasting the sumptuous recipes we've prepared together in class.
- Regional classified wines included at all group meals--Indulge in tasting classified Touraine wines from Chinon, Amboise, Mesland, Bourgueil, and Sancerre.
- VIP Winery Tour , Wine Tasting & Privately Hosted Lunch of Loire Cuisine & Touraine wines at our friend's wine estate
- **FIRST CHEF:** A special welcome dinner prepared by one of our favorite Michelin-star Chefs of the region, Frédérique B.
- Two (2) cooking classes with three (3) different Michelin-Star/Master Chefs
- **SECOND CHEF:** Cooking Class and Cooking Demonstration with our friend, Michelin-star Chef Damien G.
- **THIRD CHEF (A husband & wife team):** Cooking Class with celebrity Master Chefs, our friends Angelique and Christophe (works with Alain Ducasse) at their home
- Participate in a fun "Tour de France" Cheese and Wine Tasting with our friend, a Michelin-star Chef.
- Tour & Taste at Artisan French Chocolate Workshop with our Award Winning Chocolatier (chocolate-maker).
- Shop at the weekly market in Blois and/or Amboise.
- Bottled water provided throughout the trip.
- All ground transportation throughout the tour.
- Gratuities to guides and driver.
- This exclusive Loire Valley Tour is limited to 12-16 guests per Tour date.
- **COMFORT ZONE** – Designed for the interests of and to appeal to both the Active and Occasional Walker.

## *Loire Valley Tour* PRICE EXCLUDES:

- International roundtrip airfare to/from France, Train fare to/from St. Pierre des Corps TGV station, some meals as detailed in the itinerary, personal purchases.

# FRANCE

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH

*World Leader in Small*  *Group Travel in France*

## 2017 - LOIRE VALLEY TOUR DATES AND PRICES

2017 TOUR DATES - PRICE - [CLICK HERE TO REVIEW THE \\*\\*2017\\*\\* TOUR SCHEDULE!](#)

2018 TOUR DATES - PRICE - [CLICK HERE TO REVIEW THE \\*\\*2018\\*\\* TOUR SCHEDULE!](#)

\* ONCE YOU BOOK YOUR TOUR, YOUR PRICE IS GUARANTEED AND WILL NOT INCREASE.

# Hotel PAVILLON DES LYS

Pavillon des Lys has been voted one of the BEST 4-star boutique hotels in the Loire Valley! Each of the nine beautifully appointed rooms of this 4-star boutique hotel are decorated in it's own unique style. As this is a historic building that has been transformed into a boutique hotel, no two rooms are alike in size, decor or furnishings. Rooms are spacious and vary in style and design. Each room at our Loire Valley tour hotel includes a large king/queen size bed or two twin beds and private en-suite bathroom with all modern amenities (shower/tub, toilet, toiletries, hair dryer, etc.). Some rooms offer a view of the Castle of Amboise. The hotel is not equipped with an elevator.

**DAILY BREAKFAST:** Enjoy a traditional French breakfast each morning either in the dining room or on the garden terrace before we head out for a day of fun excursions and activities. The hotel breakfast features all of the traditional French goodies including croissants, pain au chocolat (chocolate croissants), fresh baguette breads, fresh fruit salad, yoghurts, a variety of cereals to choose from, plus a selection of French cheeses, fresh fruit juices, and hot beverages such as coffee, tea and hot chocolate. French breakfast differs greatly from the style of breakfast in your home country — there are no pancakes or omelettes, etc in a French breakfast, and France does not have breakfast restaurants.

The Pavillon des Lys is located in the historic center of the Royal town of Amboise — in the heart of the Touraine, known best as the Loire Valley. Its location in the town center, right next to Amboise Castle and the Clos Lucé Manor, which was the the last residence of Leonardo da Vinci, makes the hotel the perfect and ideal selection for our 6-day tour in the Loire Valley. Guests can step out the door of the hotel into the town's cobblestone streets to explore Amboise and discover the town's artisan shops and cafes during leisure time. The owners of our Loire Valley Tour hotel welcome Off the Beaten Path guests, as distinguished friends to their hotel.

There is NEVER ANY HOTEL HOPPING on any Off the Beaten Path Tours. All Tours are home-based, meaning we stay at 1 hotel for the entire tour.

All accommodations on Off the Beaten Path, LLC small group tours offer a charming and historical environment in combination with complete and comprehensive modern amenities and services, and are centrally located to the activities and excursions scheduled for each of our tours. All accommodations on Off the Beaten Path tours of France include large comfortable beds (queen or king size) and fully-equipped, private, en-suite bathrooms.



**ACTIVITY RATING:** 90% Easy, 10% Moderate.

**TOUR BEGINS:** Group pick-up at 4 pm at Saint Pierre des Corps TGV Station, Tours, France - (station is located just outside of the city)

**TOUR ENDS:** Group drop-off at 10 am at Saint Pierre des Corps TGV Station, Tours, France - (station is located just outside of the city)

# *Walking Ratings* FOR LOIRE VALLEY 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

LOIRE VALLEY TOURS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

- **ALL TOUR GUESTS** - Only leisure walking daily on this exclusive cultural and gourmet foodie tour. You decide how much walking you'd like to do. Guests need to be able to manage standing for short periods of time during our story telling at the castles, as well as be able to manage steps throughout the tour during castle visits, as no elevators or excalators are available in any of the chateaux (castles).
- **TOUR RATING** - Tour Rating = EASY. Tour involves only daily leisure walking at castles and in villages.

## 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 wine country, Champagne, 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, 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, service providers and bistros on each tour based on both its exclusive and privileged network of contacts and French friends, and its outstanding reputation throughout France. All chefs, restaurants and bistros 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 12 guests on specialty 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.
- \*ALL Tour dates are guaranteed departures!\*
- Book your tour today to lock-in and guarantee your tour price. Once your tour is booked, your tour price is guaranteed and will NOT increase. Otherwise, prices are subject to change without notice.



# 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 (scroll down to read more about the owner). In 2017, the company celebrates 23 years delivering engaging small 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, and Champagne, France unlike any other tour company itinerary can.

Come enjoy exceptional quality and excellent value on an OTBP small group tour today! Travelers and publications alike rate Off the Beaten Path Tours the BEST active, small group tours in France thanks to the unparalleled “insider” experiences included in each tour itinerary. The company’s renowned “insider” relationships with local French chefs, artisans, and cultural industry professionals puts 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.

## **FEEL Welcome AND AT HOME WITH OUR French FRIENDS ON EVERY TOUR!**

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 every time! We connect guests with our lifelong, local 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, and 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 local 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 local French do with their families. Enjoy the slow road scenery that comes with walking the 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. Dine in the same gourmet restaurants and bistros, as local French do — where the Michelin-star, Meilleur Ouvrier de France, and Master chefs are our personal friends, and set aside a special table uniquely to welcome our guests. Plus, built in leisure time provides guests opportunities to pursue independent interests and activities, or to just break away from the group for some quiet or personal time.

Every OTBP tour offers daily options with varying levels of activeness to choose from. Guests 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, the company ensures guests the flexibility to be as active as one chooses (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. OTBP tour guides take care and manage the daily logistics and details while you, our guest, spend your time on the important 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.