

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small



Group Travel in France

BEST ADVENTURES - WALKING & GOURMET INDULGENCE IN

Provence

Off the Beaten Path celebrates 24 years in 2018 offering guided, small group luxury walking and gourmet foodie tours to France.

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

Our most popular small group tour, Best Adventures in Provence®, fittingly named for its exceptional, adventurous and active itinerary takes guests beyond tourist hot spots to discover the very best of this sun drenched and historically rich southern French region. Our Provence Tour is a fully guided walking and gourmet foodie experience traveling along the back roads of the beautiful countryside of southern France, and is led by UNSECO award winning guides who are professional culinary, wine, Provence history and walking specialists.

Voted one of the BEST Tour companies in Europe and the world by leading travel magazines, Off the Beaten Path leads the tour industry in small group luxury walking tour travel with its Best Adventures in Provence® Tour. Our Provence Tour itinerary dazzles travelers of all backgrounds and interests seeking an authentic and active, France cultural experience. 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!

France is our sole focus and Specialty, and we know France BEST!

We ONLY offer exclusive, small group luxury tour travel in France, and have been leading tours in Provence, France for more than 2 Decades!

During this award winning 6-day/5-night small group Tour, discover the hidden gems and best kept secrets of this colorful region that we call home. Thanks to our expertise and long standing relationships and presence in Provence, guests travel in style through the south of France discovering villages and historical sites, walking Provence country trails, cooking in a private Provence Farm home kitchen, dining daily as a group of friends with our local Provence partners who are both celebrity professionals and personal family friends. Our local Provence friends look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to their private homes, restaurants, and workshops, and are eager to share their Provence with you through specially organized, private experiences that are available only to Off the Beaten Path guests. Witness vibrantly colored landscapes of lavender, sunflowers and poppies in season, and participate in spectacular walks and daily excursions and activities touring and discovering the 4 BEST and most beautiful areas of Provence --the Alpilles, Luberon, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, and Mediterranean coast-- through our eyes and those of our Provence friends; a very personalized experience unlike any other. We use our longstanding friendships, excellent reputation and presence in the Provence region to create itineraries full of fun, memorable experiences that you'll remember long after returning home.

EXPERIENCE INSPIRING ITINERARIES, EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY, AND 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!

 **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](#)

- Our sole focus and specialty is and always has been dedicated to small group travel in France – **WE KNOW FRANCE BEST!**
- In 2018, we celebrate 24 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>

Best Adventures in Provence® Tour



WALKING & FOODIE TOUR

BY OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

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

FRANCE IS OUR FOCUS AND OUR SPECIALTY!

<https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

MULTIPLE DAILY CULTURAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR ALL TRAVELERS (WALKERS AND NON-WALKERS ALIKE)

BOTH LONG AND SHORT WALKING TRAIL OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL WALKS!

DAY #1 - GROUP PICK-UP, TRANSFER TO HOTEL, WELCOME COCKTAIL & DINNER - D

TOUR BEGINS AND ENDS - Group transfer is included to/from Avignon TGV Rail Station and Marseille Airport on Day 1 and Day 6 of the Tour.

DAY 1 TRANSFER -- We provide a complimentary 1:30 pm transfer from Marseille Airport and a complimentary 4 pm transfer from AVIGNON TGV Rail Station.

DAY 6 TRANSFER -- We provide a complimentary 9 AM drop-off arrival at Marseille Airport and a complimentary 12 pm (Noon) drop-off arrival at AVIGNON TGV Rail Station followed by drop-off at Avignon Centre rail station.

Transfer, as a group, to our luxury, historical hotel in the heart of the Gallo-Roman village town of St. Remy-de-Provence.

COCKTAILS & WELCOME DINNER: You're invited to join your guides for our welcome cocktail hour and dinner at our favorite celebrity hide-a-way made famous by Cookbook Author Patricia Wells - Dinner dress is resort chic. You'll partake of your 1st taste of Provence specialties prepared by one of our favorite chefs of the region accompanied by classified regional Provence wines.

Throughout this exclusive Best Adventures in Provence Tour, we select different regional, classified wines for each group meal to ensure you the opportunity to try as many fabulous wines produced in this region as possible.

DAY #2 - LES ALPILLES -

HIGHLIGHTS: PERSONALIZED, PRIVATE TOUR AND CHOCOLATE TASTING WITH OUR LOCAL WORLD FAMOUS “CHOCOLATIER” (CHOCOLATE-MAKER) AT HIS ARTISAN CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP, GUIDED TOUR AND SHOPPING AT THE ST. REMY DE PROVENCE ARTISAN & CRAFT MARKET, GROUP LUNCH, SELECT AN OPTION - 1-HIDDEN GEMS VILLAGE WALK (WALKERS), 2-GUIDED TOUR ST. PAUL DE MAUSOLE & GLANUM, 3-LEISURE TIME (NON-WALKERS), DINNER ON OWN - B, L

BREAKFAST. MORNING -- ARTISAN CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP TOUR & TASTING AND ST. REMY-DE-PROVENCE MARKET. You start your morning with a personalized, private tour and chocolate tasting with our local World Famous “Chocolatier” (chocolate-maker) at his Artisan Chocolate Workshop. Afterwards, continue on to enjoy the morning perusing and shopping at the weekly market in the town that inspired some of Van Gogh’s most famous art work. St. Remy reflects the heart and soul of Provence. Market day in town is a must for any stay in Provence. Our cultural guides provide a guided tour of the market before guests set off for free time to shop at their own pace.

LUNCH: Together at our favorite gourmet bistros. **AFTERNOON:** SELECT AN OPTION BELOW —

OPTION #1 : PARTICIPATE IN A GUIDED WALK — **VAN GOGH IN PROVENCE!** — “HIDDEN GEMS OF PROVENCE” WALK – You’ll stroll through the countryside taking in the sites and smells that make Provence so mystical and magical, and learn fun facts about local history that make St. Remy-de-Provence a true gem! You’ll walk “La Via Dolmitia”, the first Roman road built in Gaul, to link Italy and Hispania through Gallia Narbonensis across what is now southern France with the most spectacular views of the Roman city of Glanum!! Along our path, experience in person many of the sites painted by Van Gogh during his year of confinement at the hospital. Olive orchards and vineyards of the AOC Les Baux de Provence dominate also your path to complement this unique walk! Plus, it’s a great way to walk off those fabulous foodie calories!!! Photo-ops all along your walk are endless.

OPTION #2 – SHUTTLE TO/FROM ST. PAUL DE MAUSOLE & GLANUM - VAN GOGH IN PROVENCE! Embark into the world of Van Gogh with one of your OTBP guides who is a specialist on Van Gogh: his life, art, and presence in Provence for a privately guided tour of St. Paul de Mausole Hospital where Van Gogh spent a year confined in the men’s pavillon. During this privately guided tour, you’ll imagine life as it was for Van Gogh, witness the landscapes he painted while confined, and learn rare information of the role his brother played in his daily life. A walk through the spectacular gardens completes our exclusive Van Gogh experience. Afterwards, you may opt to also available to guests to visit the Roman city of Glanum next door.

OPTION #3 – ENJOY THE AFTERNOON AT LEISURE to explore more of this picturesque Provence gem of a town, shop for souvenirs and local artisan products, or pick-up any “must have Provence goodies”. Enjoy a drink at a local café and people watch and simply enjoy the local ambiance.

DINNER: Independently this evening - try one of St. Remy’s local establishments. We have a list of recommended places -- some offering bonuses for our guests.

DAY #3 - THE LUBERON -

ARTIST HILLTOP VILLAGES OF THE LUBERON MADE FAMOUS BY PETER MAYLE: CHOOSE OPTION: WALKERS- GUIDED “LUBERON VALLEY VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK” (WITH TIME FOR WALKERS TO EXPLORE EACH VILLAGE) OR NON-WALKERS- GUIDED VISITS IN HILLTOP VILLAGES, FRENCH PICNIC, PHOTO-OP STOPS & WINE TASTING AT CELEBRITY WINERY, DINNER TOGETHER - B, L, D

BREAKFAST. MORNING -- A Day in the Lubéron - Departure for a full day in the Lubéron area of Provence.

We'll visit the villages of **GORDES** and **ROUSSILLON**. You'll shuttle to Gordes village from where you'll embark on your day's adventure by **SELECTING AN OPTION BELOW**.

OPTION #1 : Morning -- Awaken your senses today during our spectacular, guided, --“LUBERON VALLEY VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK”. The Luberon countryside is absolutely beautiful with incredible, often unexpected variety of landscapes and architecture, and offers the perfect setting for a golden walking experience unlike any other. Ancient bories, a Roman oppidum, old mills, a 700-year old chapel, a truffle farm, and charming villages connect the dots along this unique walking trail. Also famous for its vineyard and lavender covered countryside, walking through the Luberon offers photo opportunities of spectacular colors of lavender, poppies and sunflowers (in season), and scenery that will completely contrast your experiences in the Alpilles and along the Mediterranean coast. Enjoy time to discover and visit Gordes and Roussillon villages pre- and post walk. **Added note:** During lavender season (mid-June thru end of July), our morning village to village walk is replaced by our morning lavender trail walk at the Valensole plateau, and the walking rating is the same!

OPTION #2 : Shuttle from village to village where you enjoy privately guided tours of and free time to explore two of the most beautiful, perched villages in the picturesque “Luberon” area of Provence made famous by Peter Mayle's books *A Year in Provence* and *A Good Year* - Roussillon and Gordes villages. Gordes village, one of the most stunning of the perched villages of Provence, appears like an Atlantis surrounded by glorious vineyards, fruit orchards, and fields of flowers and grains instead of ocean. To one side looms the massif of Mount Ventoux, the Olympus of Provence, to the other, the pastoral whale-back of Mount Luberon. The breadth and height of this region balance in utter serenity in Gordes. The viewpoint at our first stop perches us dizzily at a canyon's edge across from which the village could be mistaken for a masonry version of an anthill - the golden colors and ancient architecture complement the colorful valley below. Roussillon village, the canto of color, holds a mythical story of a lover, a murder and the suicide of the faithful bereft near and dear that describes how the name of the village honors a redhead. The romance colors of the very ground and reddish walls of the buildings that line its winding streets are something from a fairytale.

ROUSSILLON ACTIVITY OPTIONS AVAILABLE -

- Visit the Ochre Park and art galleries
- Explore & shop at the weekly market and at the village specialty boutiques
- Wine taste in the local wine shops

LUNCH: A lighter fare, Gourmet French picnic together amidst the vineyards of the Luberon Valley. Our picnic is comprised of specialty and regional products and cuisine traditional to Provence accompanied by a selection of classified regional wines including Chateauneuf-du-Pape and Crozes-Hermitage wines (picnic is for entire group - both walkers and non-walkers).

AFTERNOON – Photo-op stops plus wine tasting at a celebrity winery enroute back to St. Remy. **Late Afternoon/Early Evening** at Leisure on return to the Hotel.

DINNER: A gourmet Michelin-Star dinner together prepared by another of our favorite Chefs, and our family friend Christian.

DAY #4 - MEDITERRANEAN COAST -

THE TERRACED VILLAGE OF CASSIS! Introduction to Cassis Village, Shop at the Market and specialty boutiques, Visit at Artisan “Perfumery”, Photo-ops in the village, 45 minute Cruise to View historical Calanques (Roman Ruin Fjords), Leisure Time, Michelin-Star Dinner Together - B, D

BREAKFAST.

MORNING -- CASSIS -- We’ll spend a full day in the picturesque Mediterranean coastal, wine producing village of Cassis, France. This spectacular coastal village dates back to 500 BC, is surrounded by vineyards, and bordered by the Mediterranean sea, colorful cliffs and beach. Stroll through this art deco style village’s pedestrian streets for photo-ops of the colorful port, historical architecture, and beautiful vineyard covered coastline. It’s market day also in Cassis, and coastal markets offer a completely different experience to that of inland Provence. Peruse the stands, taste artisan products, and photograph the colorful stands and products on offer.

A DAY ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST IN CASSIS - CALANQUES VIEWING CRUISE & OTHER OPTIONS - On arrival in Cassis your guides introduce you to the village, after which you have the opportunity to shop at the morning market and village shops.

CULTURAL TOUR - Whether you’ve heard the stories about the origin of French perfume creation or not, we highly recommend not to miss visiting one of the French Riviera’s oldest and most famous **ARTISAN “PERFUMERY”** with your OTBP cultural guide.

LATE MORNING - Embark on a **SCENIC 45 MINUTE BOAT TOUR OF THE HISTORICAL, MEDITERRANEAN CALANQUES**. These Roman ruins protrude into the Mediterranean Sea with grace, and transform the Mediterranean coast into a work of art for onlookers!

LUNCH: Independently along the Mediterranean coast of Cassis. Try one of our recommendations and enjoy the Mediterranean ambiance!

CASSIS ACTIVITY OPTIONS AVAILABLE -

- Embark on a scenic 45 minute boat tour of the historical Calanques (Roman ruin fjords) with your guides,
- Explore & shop at the weekly market and at the village specialty boutiques,
- For interested guests, join your cultural guide for a tour at one of the French Riviera’s oldest and most famous artisan “perfumery”.
- Wine and pastis taste in the local wine shops,
- Explore the historic streets, photograph this beautiful coastal town,
- Try a glass of Cassis wine while people watching at a local cafe along the colorful port,
- Some guests may also wish to swim and/or sunbath at the local beach.

Early evening at leisure on return to the hotel.

DINNER: Dinner with another of our personal favorite Chefs, and friend of the region. It’s been big news in France. Our friend, Chef Fanny has been the only woman to be awarded a Michelin Star in France in 2017. We’ve known her fabulous cuisine since before her appearance on Top Chef in 2011 where she became a finalist.

DAY #5 - CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE -

Highlights: Chateauneuf-du-Pape Amidst the Vineyards Walk (walkers), Cultural Visits in ORANGE (non-walkers), Chateauneuf-du-Pape Wine Excursion & Privately Hosted Lunch at 13th Century Wine Cellar (Most Beautiful View over the Rhone Valley), Evening Cooking Class OR Cultural Visit of ARLES ROMAN RUINS for NON-Cooking Guests - B, L, D

BREAKFAST.

MORNING - Begin your morning in Chateauneuf-du-Pape. In Provence, as well as in the entire country of France, it's no secret that wine is a daily staple at meals. Today, our wine hosts welcome you to discover one of France's best loved wine producing appellations.

SELECT AN OPTION: You'll shuttle to Chateauneuf-du-Pape, and select one of the options below to begin your day's adventure.

OPTION NO. 1 – "CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE AMIDST THE VINEYARDS WALK". Walk beautiful trails of this historically famous wine region through the vineyards ending with the best view of Chateauneuf-du-Pape and the Rhone River as you descend into the village. Our walk takes us to the historic site of the former summer residence of the Popes, and surrounding vineyards. Its unique soil of rounded river stones and pebbles provides this papal land with a beautiful flora and fauna.

OPTION NO. 2 – Join your OTBP cultural guide for a privately guided tour of ORANGE to visit the Roman theatre, and explore this off the beaten path town's historic sites. Afterwards, shuttle to Chateauneuf-du-Pape village to meet up with the walkers in the group for our wine tasting excursion and lunch at our 13th century wine cellar.

LATE MORNING – BOTH walkers and non-walkers are invited to one of the most famous historical wine cellars (13th century) of the region owned by our local French friends for a private wine tasting & introduction to the famous Chateauneuf-du-Pape wines (both red and the RARE white) – you are exclusive guests at their restored 13th Century Wine Cellar. French are very proud of their world-renowned reputation as the country of "savoir-faire" in wine-making. And our local friends enjoy opening their estate to welcome you!

LUNCH: THE ENTIRE GROUP – A fabulous privately hosted Provence lunch together prepared by our Friend, a Michelin-Star Chef at our friend's 13th century Chateauneuf-du-Pape estate.

Remainder of afternoon at leisure on our return to the Hotel.

-- DAY #5 - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE --

Provence Itinerary: DAY #5 - CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE --

EARLY EVENING – **SELECT AN OPTION** – (1) COOKING CLASS OR (2) CULTURAL VISIT (ARLES ROMAN RUINS) –

You'll shuttle to cooking class early evening, and upon arrival to our Chef's estate, you select an option to either participate in our fun, hands-on cooking class with our Chef, a family friend at her home, or participate in a guided cultural tour of the Arles Roman ruins with your OTBP cultural guide.

OPTION #1 - COOKING CLASS – Cooking class takes place at the family home of our Chef's estate in the beautiful Provence countryside. Our dear friend and Master Chef has been featured in gourmet and culinary shows and magazines worldwide. A humble and happy chef whose passion for cooking and sharing that passion in a fun and easy-going, relaxed environment, welcomes us into her private home workshop during each of our Best Adventures in Provence Tours. Our chef loves welcoming us at home for a fun, hands-on cooking experience unlike any other that one might experience in the region.

During class, you learn about local Provence cuisine, put your hands to work chopping, slicing, and dicing, and are privy to learning the secrets of Provence recipes while preparing a traditional southern three course dinner. After you've finished, let's sip some champagne and fabulous wines together in the garden along with a gourmet meal of the recipes prepared together in class.

No Experience Necessary! The focus of this class is to have fun while learning about traditional Provence cuisine! It's always lots of fun, and an authentic French experience spending time with our Chef!

OPTION #2 - CULTURAL VISIT – If you're opting out of the actual cooking portion of cooking class in order to participate in another guided cultural visit -- you'll enjoy a privileged visit with a privately guided insider tour led by your OTBP cultural guide at the Roman Ruins in Arles. Following the cultural visit and photo ops to/from your visit in Arles, you'll return to our chef's family home to join the rest of the group for a gourmet dinner of recipes fellow travelers prepared in class.

DINNER - THE ENTIRE GROUP – Dine as VIP guests at our celebrity Chef's table for our farewell dinner of the recipes prepared in cooking class with regional wines from our Chef's private cellar. Time to celebrate a fun and fabulous week in Authentic Provence!

Provence Itinerary: DAY #6 - B

BREAKFAST.

Trip concludes today with scheduled group transfers to all of the following: Marseille Airport, Avignon TGV Rail Station, and Avignon Centre station. Earlier and later departures can be arranged. Please contact us for details.



WE'VE RECENTLY PARTNERED WITH **TRUSTPILOT**, an independent review website.

Check out candid tour reviews from tour guests! [TRUSTPILOT TOUR REVIEWS](#)

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

ACTIVITY RATING: **Walkers** - 80% Easy, 20% Moderate. **Non-Walkers** - 100% Easy.

COMFORT ZONE: Designed to appeal to both the Active and Occasional Walker.

TOUR BEGINS: DAY 1 -- 1:30 PM at Marseille Airport and 4 pm at the Avignon TGV Rail Station in Avignon, France.

TOUR ENDS: DAY 6 -- Drop-off on time is at 9 AM at Marseille Airport and NOON at Avignon TGV train Station followed by drop-off at Avignon Centre station.

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

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Reservation Office & Mailing Address: 749 Grandview Rd., York, PA 17403, USA

Branch Office: Saint Remy de Provence

COME ENJOY AUTHENTIC *Provence* EXPERIENCES --

THE 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 Provence Travel Guidebooks, and are accomplished authors. OTBP Tour guides are professional France history and Provence-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 boutique Hotel Gounod in historical St. Remy de Provence, and is owned and operated by our personal friend Karine.
- 2018 - 11 Meals Included – 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners.
- All premium wines and non-alcoholic beverages at group meals!
- All entry/participation fees for all activities and excursions detailed in the itinerary.
- Roundtrip transfers on Day 1 and Day 6 of the tour : Day 1 – Transfer provided from Marseille Airport at 1:30 pm and from Avignon TGV rail station at 4 pm. Day 6 – Transfer provided to Marseille Airport for 9 am arrival and to Avignon TGV rail station for NOON arrival, followed by drop-off at Avignon Centre station on Day 6.
- 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 18-seater air-conditioned Mercedes Sprinters.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE – International airfare to/from France, airfare/train fare to the starting point to begin the tour at Avignon TGV rail station or Marseille airport, one lunch, two dinners, personal purchases.

AUTHENTIC PROVENCE EXPERIENCES! Spend 6 days experiencing Provence 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!

WE ASKED SOME OF OUR GUESTS FROM OUR PROVENCE TOURS - “WOULD YOU RECOMMEND OUR PROVENCE TOUR TO A FRIEND OR FAMILY AND WHY?”

THEIR RESPONSES...

“YES, We will enthusiastically recommend this trip to friends and family!! It is great to be with tour guides who are smart, well informed and eager to see that we are having a great experience. We enjoyed everything about this trip. Hotel and meals were outstanding! The thing we enjoyed the most was the congenial attitude created by the guides and driver. It was so easy to be with everyone. Every day was different, different experiences, different locations and very magical! This has been an outstanding experience and we surely would want to share it with people that we care about. Merci Beaucoup! How did you manage to put together such a great group of guests?!” –JORDAN & ANITA WALDMAN, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA (referred to the tour by guests Ralph and Sandy Mayer-their feedback below)

“YES!! We loved our attentive, hard working guides, the varied and well chosen activities. The accommodations are very high quality and the food from the cooking class, bistrot and dinners were all a highlight of the trip. Very favorable ratio of quality to cost...VALUE in other words. This trip far exceeded our expectations! Thank you for such a fun and beautiful week!” –DICK AND FRANCES UGORETZ, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA (referred to the tour by guests Ralph and Sandy Mayer-their feedback below)

“Absolutely!! Yes we will recommend this tour to our friends and family! We were very pleased with the hotel accommodations, places visited and variety of activities. The people in our group were terrific, the gourmet meals were fantastic, and we were very appreciative of the care and concern taken to accommodate a variety of interests and preferences. This is the most fun and flexible tour we have ever been on!! Bravo Christy! You are a phenomenal host! Thanks for an enjoyable time in Provence!! We felt pampered and cared for!” –RALPH AND SANDY MAYER, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

“Yes – without reservation I would recommend this trip to a friend! We will do just that! We loved everything about this trip! Especially loved the walks and lunches. The hotel was outstanding and dinner every night was always amazing. Loved the final day because of the quiet villages and gorgeous walk. The congenial group enhanced the whole experience and the beloved leaders – Christy, David, Philippe(guide) and (different) Philippe(our driver) – made it exceptional! Thank you for a beautiful holiday!” –ADAM & GRETTEL CRUM, SAN CLEMENTE, CA - HAVE BEEN ON 2 OTBP TOURS - BEST ADVENTURES IN PROVENCE AND BORDEAUX HARVEST TOUR

“Yes – We had a great time and enjoyed all aspects of the trip. We would recommend for the following reasons – The fact that Christy was leading it made it very special. Every venue was 1st class. The walks were fun, the hotel room was just beautiful. The itinerary gave us a taste of southern France – we were hoping for that. The group was very compatible and that made it a constantly smiling experience. You are free to use us as a reference if you desire. Thanks for everything this WEEK!” –FRED AND SHARON HIRSH, MD, AURORA, OH

“Yes Absolutely – I’ve planned several European trips with the help of travel books and travel companies. And none of those can compare with this trip! We would have never found the top notch restaurants that we went to nor would we have been able to fit so much into our time. Even our transportation was wonderful! Our guides David and Philippe were definitely one of the best highlight of our trip! David’s incredible knowledge along with his sense of humor made every day interesting and very enjoyable. We loved Philippe’s gracious welcoming, knowledge of the French culture which he joyfully shared and that he assisted us all in every way possible. Restaurant choices were top notch! Thank you – we loved this trip!!” –ROB AND CAROLE LIVINGSTON, LONGMONT, COLORADO

“YES – By far the BEST way ever to experience Provence!! The guides were fantastic – knowledgeable, fun, informative, helpful, authentic and caring!! We couldn’t ask for better guides! Outstanding! The experiences were fun, enlightening and never to be forgotten. What a special time!” --JOHN AND KATHY NICHOLS MASSILLON, OHIO

“YES – the trip is well priced, well planned, consistently executed, the ideal size, with exceptional tour guides and none of the excursions were too far away. Cooking class was exceptional and I loved the location and learned a lot. Loved the walks to balance out the food. It is a stunning, romantic and beautiful place to visit. Finally, the tour really provides an opportunity to “taste Provence.” --ANN YUREK, TORONTO, CANADA - HAS BEEN ON 2 OTBP TOURS - BEST ADVENTURES IN PROVENCE AND BORDEAUX HARVEST TOUR

“YES! Almost everything was beyond my wildest expectations! The tour guides were wonderful. This was the BEST experience of my life. Everything about this itinerary should stay! Pierre and his staff at Mas des Carassins went above and beyond to welcome us and to make us feel like we were at home! This trip went way beyond our expectations! I plan on talking to everyone in my circle of friends and talking to them about doing this trip for our next major birthday bash! I hope our same guides will still be leading the tour then! THANK YOU!!” --MARY MCCARTHY, YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

TO READ MORE GUEST RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTION, PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR BLOG!

Provence TOUR - WALKING RATINGS

LOTS OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE DAILY FOR ALL TRAVELERS (WALKERS AND NON-WALKERS ALIKE).

BOTH LONG AND SHORT WALKING TRAIL OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL WALKS!

PROVENCE TOUR WALKS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

WALK No. 1: Guided walk – “Luberon Valley Village to Village” walk in the Luberon region of Provence is rated EASY to MODERATE (optional: designed for interested guests). Walking on vineyard and country trails through picturesque landscapes and French country architecture, lavender and sunflower fields with a variety of beautiful villages in the background. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walk distance is about 6 miles – approximately 2-2.5 hrs. depending on photo-op stops. **Added note:** During lavender season (mid-June thru end of July), our morning village to village walk is replaced by our morning lavender trail walk at the Valensole plateau, and the walking rating is the same!

WALK No. 2: Guided walk – “Luberon Valley Village to Village” walk in the Luberon region of Provence is rated EASY to MODERATE (optional: designed for interested guests). Walking on vineyard and country trails through picturesque landscapes and French country architecture, lavender and sunflower fields with a variety of beautiful villages in the background. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walk distance is 6 miles – approximately 2-2.5 hrs. depending on photo-op stops.

WALK No. 3: Guided Walk – “CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE – Amidts the Vineyards Walk”- is rated EASY to MODERATE (optional: designed for interested guests). Sturdy walking shoes recommended. Walking on vineyard and country trails with occasional easy ascents and uneven terrain with large gravel stones and clay soil. The trail offers spectacular views of the Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape vineyards – The walk is rated moderate-Ideal for those who walk on a regular basis. Walk distance is 6 miles – approximately 2-2.5 hrs. of walking depending on photo-op stops.

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 walks.

NON-WALKERS: Are shuttled to/from all activities, excursions, meals and visits. NON-Walker rating = EASY.

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small



Group Travel in France

2018 - PROVENCE TOUR DATES AND PRICES

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 Gounod

There is NO HOTEL HOPPING on any Tours — ALL are home-based — Guests stay at 1 Premiere Inn for the entire tour!

Our Provence Tour hotel has been voted BEST boutique hotel in St. Remy de Provence! **Recommended by Conde Nast!**

Gounod Hotel has a perfect and quaint location in the heart of historic St. Remy de Provence town, and is the most historical hotel in town having hosted some of the most famous personalities in Provence history. Under new ownership by Off the Beaten Path owner Christy Destremau's friend Karine since November 2014, the hotel underwent a complete renovation 3 winters in a row. Our Best Adventures in Provence Tour guests are going to love and be spoiled by all the upgrades and amenities!! This is "THE" place to stay in St. Remy, and we are excited to share this paradise with our guests!!

The Gounod has hosted artists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Frédéric Mistral, as well as composer Charles Gounod himself in 1863 who composed the famous opera "Mireille" during his stay here. Having hosted such distinguished celebrities, the hotel serves as the perfect backdrop for our Best Adventures in Provence® Walking and Foodie Tour. Step out the front door of the hotel to find yourself immediately in the town's historical pedestrian streets. Some of the area's most prized art studios and galleries, artisan shops, cafes, and much more are just steps away. Pop into a local café to people watch while sipping a glass of local wine, or while enjoying a buttery French pastry. For some quiet and relaxation time, enjoy a glass of wine, beer, or tea in the beautiful and tranquil hotel gardens, a swim in the beautiful new pool, or enjoy a tea in the hotel's quaint and cozy tea salon. Hotel management is always present, happy to help guests, and answer any questions.

ABOUT THE ROOMS — The hotel's spacious, and newly refurbished guest rooms are uniquely furnished with luxury linens and toiletry products. Because the hotel has been completely renovated, styled to reflect the history and culture of the Provence region, and is also a historical building, no two rooms are alike in size, decoration or furnishings. ALL rooms feature air-conditioning and are equipped with European king-size beds (or two single beds on request), and private ensuite bathrooms. Rooms also feature a hairdryer, flat screen television (in various languages-English included), individual safe, telephone, and FREE WIFI.

Use of an iPad with WIFI access is also available for OTBP tour guests compliments of Off the Beaten Path, LLC -- ask your guides for details.

Like many countryside hotels, Hotel Gounod is not equipped with an elevator.

The hotel exercises eco-friendly practices, and a memo explaining these eco-friendly practices can be found in each guest room. For example – guests preferring to have their bath towels changed daily are kindly requested to place used towels on the bathroom floor, and guests who wish to re-use their bath towels are kindly requested to hang them on the towel racks.

GOURMET DINING AT ITS FINEST — While staying at Gounod Hotel during our Best Adventures in Provence Tour, guests enjoy a mix of gourmet dining experiences reflective of Provence including our favorite Michelin-rated restaurants, celebrity and gourmet bistros, a traditional French tasting picnic and a cooking class meal with our celebrity chef. Savor vegetable rich, Italian influenced gourmet southern French cuisine throughout the tour.

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.
- 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.

Qui... WHAT WE DO - WHAT WE GUARANTEE OUR GUESTS...

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

■ **WE ALSO OFFER VALUE-ADDED SERVICES AND OTHER CHARMING SURPRISES** on our tours including complimentary use of (1) Ipad minis (with both 4G and wifi access) and (2) digital point and shoot cameras PLUS enjoy a surprise regional gift on our Provence Tours, complimentary champagne & chocolates and a surprise gift in your room on our Loire Valley and Bordeaux Tours, and a surprise gift on Champagne Tours.

■ **WE ENSURE A “SMALL GROUP” REMAINS JUST THAT - A “SMALL GROUP” !**

The group size on each of our tours is a maximum 12-16 guests. Many of our trips sell out completely meaning group size is 16 guests (and 12 guests for tours limited to 12 guests maximum per departure), and some trips average 12-14 guests. Our experience has been that limiting our group size to 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 PROVENCE 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 Dordogne 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 WILL ALWAYS 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 snacks, collect any purchases made during visits along our trails, and provide a ride to any guest who needs a break.

Walking Ratings FOR PROVENCE 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. **Both Long and Short Walking Trail Options Available for All 3 Walks!** 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

PROVENCE TOUR WALKS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

WALK No. 1: Guided walk – “Hidden Gems of Provence” walk is rated EASY (optional: designed for interested guests). Walking on vineyard and country trails through picturesque landscapes and French country architecture with a variety of beautiful village scenery, lavender, wild flower fields, and olive orchards in the background and along our walking trail. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walk distance is 4 miles – approximately 1.5 hrs. depending on photo-op stops.

WALK No. 2: Guided walk – “Luberon Valley Village to Village” walk in the Luberon region of Provence is rated EASY to MODERATE (optional: designed for interested guests). Walking on vineyard and country trails through picturesque landscapes and French country architecture, lavender and sunflower fields with a variety of beautiful villages in the background. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walk distance is 6 miles – approximately 2-2.5 hrs. depending on photo-op stops.

WALK No. 3: Guided Walk – “CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE – Amidts the Vineyards Walk”- is rated EASY to MODERATE (optional: designed for interested guests). Sturdy walking shoes recommended. Walking on vineyard and country trails with occasional easy ascents and uneven terrain with large gravel stones and clay soil. The trail offers spectacular views of the Chateauneuf-du-Pape vineyards – The walk is rated moderate-Ideal for those who walk on a regular basis. Walk distance is 6 miles – approximately 2-2.5 hrs. of walking depending on photo-op stops.

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 walks.

NON-WALKERS: Are shuttled to/from all activities, excursions, meals and visits. NON-Walker rating = EASY.

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

Unrivaled expertise within France sets Off the Beaten Path, LLC a part 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 2018, the company celebrates 24 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.