



AS ONE OF THE FRANCE'S LEADING TOUR OPERATORS,  
IN 2025, WE CELEBRATE 31 YEARS LEADING SMALL GROUP TOURS EXCLUSIVELY IN FRANCE

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

Imagine yourself strolling through sun-drenched vineyards, the air filled with the rich aromas of ripe grapes and nature's bounty. This dream becomes your reality on our exclusive 6-day, 5-night tour through the stunning landscapes of Bordeaux, Arcachon, and Saint Emilion.

Join a small, intimate group of fellow wine and food enthusiasts as we delve into the heart of one of the world's most celebrated wine regions. As wine industry insiders, our exclusive access to private winery tours and VIP tastings unavailable to the public becomes your norm. Experience Bordeaux at its finest—especially during the magical harvest season during our fall tours—when the vineyards come alive with activity and anticipation.

Each day begins with a hearty breakfast, fueling you for the adventures ahead. Lace up your walking shoes and immerse yourself in the authentic Bordelais lifestyle. Wander through historic Bordeaux, uncover the secrets of the charming village of Saint Emilion, and breathe in the coastal breezes of Arcachon. Along the way, you'll explore vineyard trails, savor the taste of perfectly ripened varietals, and marvel at the breathtaking landscapes surrounding you.

One of the highlights of our journey is a hands-on cooking experience with a renowned local cookbook author and Christy's personal friend at his family home. Together, we'll prepare exquisite Bordelaise dishes, sharing stories and laughter as we indulge in the region's flavors. Our Bordeaux tour is more than a tour; it's immersive and filled with personalized opportunities with local French friends to connect with the culture, cuisine, and people of Bordeaux in a way that will leave a lasting impression long after your return home.

Let the magic of Bordeaux captivate you and create memories that will linger in your heart. Book your tour today and discover a side of Bordeaux that few experience. Your adventure awaits!

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 IS PARTNERED  
WITH TRUSTPILOT, an independent review website to collect “independent” traveler reviews about our tours of Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne, and Normandy, as well as our 11-Day France Specialty Tour!

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>

# Bordeaux - Arcachon - Saint Emilion Tour



Off the Beaten Path LLC  
Best Boutique French  
Tour Operator

BY OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

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

## DAY #1 - Welcome Day - Your Bordeaux Adventure Begins!

GROUP MEETS - HOTEL CHECK-IN, WELCOME DINNER TOGETHER – DINNER INCLUDED TODAY

ARRIVAL IN BORDEAUX. Meet and greet with your tour guides at 3 pm at Bordeaux St. Jean Rail Station. Transfer to our boutique Bordeaux hotel that will serve as our home base for the entire 6-day 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 – Group transfer from Bordeaux St. Jean rail station at 3 pm.

Day 6 – Group transfer to Bordeaux St. Jean Rail station at 10:00 am.

**DAY #2 - *Day in Arcachon*** : ARCACHON BASIN, FRENCH PINASSE CRUISE TO CAP FERRET, FOODIE TASTINGS, GOURMET SEASIDE LUNCH AT THE PILAT DUNE OVERLOOKING THE ARCACHON BASIN, CULTURAL WALK OF VILLE D'HIVER, LEISURE TIME – BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED TODAY

### BREAKFAST.

**About 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 Déganne. Ville d'Hiver (winter quarter) has extravagant 19th-century villas of spectacular architecture and a unique history.

**MORNING** – We embark on a 2-hour cruise on a traditional French Pinasse discovering the Bassin d'Arcachon accompanied by foodie tastings with wine & Champagne. \*\*Exceptional photo-ops this morning. The Arcachon Basin vistas and Pilat Dune will leave you speechless!

**About 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.

**LUNCH**: A gourmet seaside lunch at the Pilat Dune overlooking the Bassin d'Arcachon.

**AFTERNOON** – We'll take a short walk through the “ville d'hiver” and enjoy some leisure time in town before returning to the hotel in Bordeaux.

Late afternoon return to our hotel in Bordeaux.

**DINNER**: Independently in Bordeaux this evening. Your guides will be happy to share recommendations.

**DAY #3 - *Day in Saint Emilion* :** WINERY TOUR AND TASTING AND WINE BLENDING WORKSHOP – CREATE YOUR OWN PERSONALIZED WINE, HOSTED LUNCH AT A 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSE WINERY, GUIDED WALK OF SAINT EMILION VILLAGE AND VINEYARDS, LEISURE TIME - BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED TODAY

**BREAKFAST.**

**About 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.

**MORNING** – We’ll tour & taste at one of the great estates of the jurisdiction near Petrus where we are invited to try our hand at being a “maitre de chais” (cellar master). Our visit here is an immersive one. We will participate in a 2-hour wine blending workshop composing a wine by blending the grape varieties from the estate’s vineyard. Everyone leaves with half bottle of their personal creation.

**LUNCH:** A gourmet lunch together at our favorite 1er Grand Cru Classé wine producer’s estate overlooking Saint Emilion and its’ spectacular vineyards.

**AFTER LUNCH** -- We’ll take a short walk through the vineyards into Saint Emilion and enjoy some leisure time in the village before returning to the hotel in Bordeaux. For non-walkers: shuttle to the village with one of our team members for free time to explore the village.

Late afternoon return to our hotel in Bordeaux.

**DINNER:** Independently in Bordeaux this evening. Your guides will be happy to share recommendations.

**WALKING RATING :** For WALKERS: All walking today is rated EASY. Ideal for those who walk on a regular basis. Walking on a paths in and outside of the village. Approximately 1 hour of walking with pauses for photo-ops. For NON-WALKERS: Shuttle to the village and enjoy exploring the boutiques and highlights in the village.

**DAY #4 - : *Day of Culinary Delights* :** A CULINARY DELIGHTS COOKING CLASS AT HOME IN SAUTERNES AND WINERY TOUR WITH A WINE & CHEESE PAIRING EXPERIENCE AT THE ONEOLOGY SCHOOL THAT IS ALSO A GRAND CRU CLASSÉ WINE PRODUCER – BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED TODAY

## BREAKFAST.

**MORNING** – We head to the Sauternais for a full day of culinary experiences! We begin our day at my dear friend Chef Antoine’s family home. Antoine is a Master Chef, Cookbook Author, and former Culinary Professor. Under his professional guidance we’ll follow the traditional steps of preparing local cuisine together in the family kitchen. We will prepare a multi-course lunch of “Bordelaise” recipes.

**LUNCH:** A traditional “Bordelais” lunch with Antoine and family. Lunch is accompanied by Antoine’s professional selection of classified wines from his private cellar and the vineyards of his local vitner friends.

**AFTER LUNCH** – We wind our way through the countryside of the Sauternais onward to our winery tour and immersive wine tasting & cheese pairing experience at the famous French Oneology school (Wine School); an 1855 Grand Cru Classé wine producer and teaching school.

Late afternoon return to our hotel in Bordeaux.

**DINNER:** Independent dinner this evening. Your guides will be happy to share recommendations.

**DAY #5 - *Surprises & Indulgence*** : A SURPRISE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE GRAVES APPELLATION AT OUR FAVORITE 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSE WINE PRODUCER, AFTERNOON AT LEISURE IN BORDEAUX, EVENING APERITIF AND A "CREME-DE-LA-CREME" FAREWELL DINNER THAT WILL KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF – BREAKFAST AND DINNER INCLUDED TODAY

#### BREAKFAST.

**MORNING** – We head to the Graves wine producing area for a morning wine experience! We begin with a tour of this family owned 1er Grand Cru Classé wine producing estate, and conclude with a VIP tasting accompanied by select local cheeses perfectly paired with their wines.

**LUNCH:** Independently back in Bordeaux.

**AFTERNOON** – At leisure to pursue personal interests, to visit the Cité du vin and/or other museums in town, and to finish any souvenir shopping.

**EVENING & DINNER:** Our farewell dinner is a voyage "à travers la cuisine" unlike any other by our one and only, our very own hometown chef welcomed as friends at his restaurant.

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



# *Bordeaux Itinerary:* DAY #6 - B

## BREAKFAST.

10:00 AM DEPARTURE - 10:00 am departure to St. Jean Rail Station in downtown Bordeaux. If you have made your own departure arrangements and are not departing with the group, please be sure to inform your guides in advance.

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

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

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

Branch Offices in Bordeaux & Saint Remy-de-Provence



# Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion 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 Guide-books, 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 boutique hotel, a top 10 best hotels in Bordeaux, Indigo Hotel.
- 10 Meals Included – 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners.
- All “Grand Cru” and regional 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 at 3 pm. Day 6 – Transfer provided to Bordeaux St. Jean Rail station at 10:00 am.
- 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. NON-WALKERS - 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!

# FRANCE

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH

*World Leader in Small*



*Group Travel in France*

### *Bordeaux Tour Dates and Prices*

2025 TOUR DATES - PRICE - [CLICK HERE TO REVIEW THE \\*\\*2025\\*\\* TOUR SCHEDULE](#)

2026 TOUR DATES - PRICE - [CLICK HERE TO REVIEW THE \\*\\*2026\\*\\* TOUR SCHEDULE!](#)

## 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 and 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, bistros, 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 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.
- **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 FranceOTBP Bordeaux tours is 12 guests per tour date. Limiting group sizes creates the ideal ambiance for guests to easily mingle and get to know other guests, yet still maintain their independence. Limiting group size also preserves each guest's personalized experience, and ensure our famous quality customer service.

## 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.

