

Bordeaux "Grand Cru" Wine & Walking Tour

BY OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

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

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS : 5-STAR LUXURY HOTEL ****LES SOURCES DE CAUDALIE****

Bordeaux Itinerary: DAY #1 - D

2:00 PM - Off the Beaten Path (OTBP) Bordeaux Tour Guides meet guests at the Bordeaux St. Jean rail station and group transfers to **PES-SAC-LÉOGNAN** for first winery tour and wine tasting of the trip at first growth wine producer - Chateau Haut Brion. Afterwards, group transfers to the hotel in Martillac, Les Sources de Caudalie, for check-in.

3:00 PM - Approximate arrival time for our private winery tour & VIP wine tasting.

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

DINNER: Welcome cocktail hour and dinner. A first taste of local Bordelaise gourmet cuisine together at one of Bordeaux best kept secrets. Your Tour Guides will provide an introduction to the tour.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

<http://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

EMAIL: contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com

Telephone: 1.877.846.2831

Bordeaux Itinerary: DAY #2 - B, L

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **FULL DAY IN SAINT EMILION VILLAGE** - Morning: Departure to Saint Emilion village, rated one of the most beautiful, historical villages in France. We enjoy a walk of the famous Saint Emilion Wine Jurisdiction, time to explore the village and visit historic monuments and we're private guests at a classified wine producer's private chateau for an exclusive gourmet picker's lunch.

MID-MORNING - 1ST WINERY TOUR & TASTING @ FIRST GROWTH PRODUCER CHATEAU FIGEAC.

(1) **WALKERS - WALK #1: SAINT EMILION JURISDICTION:** Saint Emilion village, rated one of the most beautiful, historical villages in France. Walk #1: Saint Emilion Jurisdiction: Embark on a guided walk through the 1st (first) growth vineyards of the Saint Emilion Jurisdiction, the most renowned "Merlot" producing region of Bordeaux. Each of our two winery tours includes an introduction to the producer's history, harvest practices and unique vinification, barreling and bottling practices, followed by an insider visit of the VAT rooms and "chais" (wine cellars), an authentic behind the scenes experience followed by wine tasting of several vintages at each producer. 2 Winery Tours & lots of VIP wine tasting today.

(2) **NON-WALKERS** - Shuttle from to/from each winery tour and wine tasting by minivan.

LUNCH - EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE PICKER'S LUNCH at classified wine producer Chateau Troplong Mondot.

WINERY TOUR & TASTING AT FIRST GROWTH PRODUCER TROPLONG-MONDOT.

AFTERNOON: at Leisure in Saint Emilion Village following our walk and winery tours.

DINNER: Dinner independently this evening.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for our scheduled walk, the winery tours and in the village -- lots of cobblestones everywhere in the village. We will spend the entire day in Saint Emilion today, so please bring everything you will need for the walk (if you are participating in it) with you when we leave this morning, i.e. small day pack, camera, personal items, light jacket, rain gear to leave in van, etc. Water will be provided, but you will need your day pack to carry it. Non-walkers - please bring everything you'll need for the day with you in the van. There are ATM's, a pharmacy and a post office available in Saint Emilion. Plus there are numerous wine merchant shops who ship internationally and whose wine specialists will be able to assist you in selecting wine if you wish to ship some home. Your Guides will offer recommendations on which merchants are reputable.

Bordeaux Itinerary: DAY #3 - B, L, D

BREAKFAST: After breakfast, **FULL DAY IN SAUTERNES - WINERY TOURS AND VIP WINE TASTING.**

MID-MORNING - 1ST WINERY TOUR & TASTING @ CHATEAU LA TOUR BLANCHE. Private Winery Tour and wine tasting at the famous French Oenology school in Sauternes, 1855 classified growth wine producer and teaching school for up and coming cellar masters.

(1) **WALKERS - WALK #2: SAUTERNES WALK** - The Sauternes Walk through the prestigious sweet grape appellation, home to the semillon, muscadelle and sauvignon blanc grape varieties - "cepages" as they're called in French. 2 Winery Tours & lots of VIP wine tasting today.

(2) **NON-WALKERS** - Shuttle from to/from each winery tour and wine tasting by minivan.

LUNCH - FRENCH PICNIC LUNCH amidst the vineyards at Chateau d'Yquem accompanied by "Grand Cru" wines.

MID-AFTERNOON - 2ND WINERY TOUR & TASTING @ CHATEAU D'YQUEM. Private Winery Tour and wine tasting at the world's most famous French sweet wine producer.

LATE AFTERNOON & EARLY EVENING AT LEISURE ON RETURN TO THE HOTEL.

DINNER: Another gourmet Bordelaise dinner together this evening.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for our scheduled walk, the winery tours and in Sauternes village. We will spend the entire day in the Sauternes producing appellation today, so please bring everything you will need for the walk (if you are participating in it) with you when we leave this morning, i.e. small day pack, camera, personal items, light jacket, rain gear to leave in van, etc. Water will be provided, but you will need your day pack to carry it. Non-walkers - please bring everything you'll need for the day with you in the van. There is a post office available in Sauternes village. Plus there is the "Maison de Sauternes" where you can purchase and ship Sauternes wines internationally.

Bordeaux Itinerary: DAY #4 - B, L, D

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **BORDEAUX** – Enjoy a **LEISURE DAY IN HISTORICAL BORDEAUX**. Home to beautiful historic monuments and museums, excellent shopping, wine boutiques and exceptional scenery walking along the Gironde River, there are endless ways to spend the day here. We begin our day with a **HISTORICAL LANDMARKS WALKING TOUR OF BORDEAUX** followed by your day at leisure. Exploring Bordeaux is a true step back in French history, and has something to offer and interest every traveler.

OR

Interested guests may wish to book one or more treatments at the **CAUDALIE SPA**, please contact us in advance and we can help you organize a reservation for a spa treatment or a half-day spa session.

LUNCH: Independently in Bordeaux or at the hotel for those not venturing into the city today.

MID-AFTERNOON - Return to the hotel. There will be time to drop off any purchases you may have made, to freshen up and enjoy a short break before cooking class.

EVENING & DINNER : **FUN, HANDS-ON COOKING CLASS -**

Fun, Hands-on cooking class with our friend, Master Chef Antoine at his beautiful farm-home in the Sauternes. Following our ludic cooking class lesson, **CHEF'S COCKTAILS** with Antoine and his wife, followed by a gourmet dinner of the recipes we prepared during class accompanied by classified wines from Antoine's private cellar.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for walking in Bordeaux. We will spend the entire day until early afternoon in Bordeaux historic city center, so please bring everything you will need for the day with you when we leave this morning, i.e. small day pack, camera, personal items, light jacket, etc. Water will be provided, but you will need your day pack to carry it. All services, post office, pharmacies, cafés, restaurants, a vast assortment of specialty shops and more are available in the city. Plus there is the "Maison de vin" where you can purchase and ship wines internationally. We will return to the hotel for a short break before departing to cooking class. Cooking class is at our friend's home and they would like everyone to dress and feel as comfortable as possible.

Bordeaux Itinerary: DAY #5 - B, L, D

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **FULL DAY IN GRAVES - WINERY TOURS AND VIP WINE TASTING** - Morning: WALK #3: “Graves: Pessac-Léognan: Gods of the Vineyard”. 3 Winery Tours & Lots of VIP wine tasting today

MORNING - 1ST WINERY TOUR & TASTING @ GRAND CRU PRODUCER CHATEAU CARBONNIEUX.

(1) **WALKERS - WALK #3: GRAVES WALK** - “Graves: Pessac-Léognan: Gods of the Vineyard”. The third walk of our Bordeaux Harvest takes travelers through not only the most prestigious of the Graves appellation vineyards, but also exposes travelers to some of the largest classified estates of the Graves appellation, and a chance to witness extremely different harvesting and vinification processes from what has been witnessed in Saint Emilion, Sauternes and in Pessac. 3 Winery Tours & lots of VIP wine tasting today.

(2) **NON-WALKERS** - Shuttle from to/from each winery tour and wine tasting by minivan.

NOON - 2ND WINERY TOUR & TASTING @ GRAND CRU PRODUCER CHATEAU HAUT BAILLY.

LUNCH: GOURMET LUNCH IN A CASTLE AMIDST THE VINEYARDS: A private, gourmet lunch of regional specialties at a “Grand Cru” wine producer Chateau Haut Bailly accompanied by the properties’ wines - Private tour and wine tasting prior to our lunch.

AFTERNOON - 3RD WINERY TOUR & TASTING @ GRAND CRU PRODUCER CHATEAU SMITH HAUT LAFITTE.

PRIVATE GALA DINNER: Cocktail hour and exclusive gourmet farewell GALA dinner together prepared by our favorite Michelin-star Chef of Bordeaux and held in the private cellars of one of Bordeaux most prestigious Grand Cru wine producers- Chateau Smith Haut LaFitte!

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for our scheduled walk and the winery tours. We will spend until mid-afternoon in the Graves producing appellation today, so please bring everything you will need for the walk (if you are participating in it) with you when we leave this morning, i.e. small day pack, camera, personal items, light jacket, rain gear to leave in van, etc. Water will be provided, but you will need your day pack to carry it. Non-walkers - please bring everything you’ll need for the day with you in the van.

Bordeaux Itinerary: DAY #6 - B

7 AM - **B**REAKFAST.

8:45 AM - Please have all bags downstairs for loading.

9:00 AM DEPARTURE - We arrive at 10 am at 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 guide in advance.

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://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

Telephone: 1.877.846.2831

Address: Claremont Dr., Seven Valleys, PA 17360 USA

OUR *Confirmed* LIST OF CLASSIFIED, FIRST GROWTH WINE

PRODUCERS WE VISIT DURING OUR 2014 AND 2015 HARVEST TOURS..

Bordeaux is a very exclusive and closed world during the harvest. Rarely do producers open their doors to the public during the harvest. However, as **Bordeaux industry insiders**, we are happy to be able to use our **privileged relationships and connections** to make visits to the following estates possible during our annual harvest tours. These producers are the “creme de la creme” of the Bordeaux wine world!

- Chateau Haut Brion & La Mission Haut Brion - (1st growth grand cru 1855 classified - red and Graves grand cru 1953 classified/ratified 1959 - red)
- Chateau d'Yquem (Superior 1st growth grand cru 1855 classified - white)
- Chateau La Tour Blanche (1st growth grand cru 1855 classified - white)
- Chateau Figeac (Saint Emilion 1st growth grand cru classified B - red) - same terroir as Chateau Cheval Blanc
- Chateau Troplong-Mondot (Saint Emilion 1st growth grand cru classified B - red)
- Chateau Carbonnieux (Graves grand cru 1953 classified/ratified 1959 - red and white)
- Chateau Haut Bailly (Graves grand cru 1953 classified/ratified 1959 - red)
- Chateau Smith Haut LaFitte (Graves grand cru 1953 classified/ratified 1959 - red)

Bordeaux Tour PRICE INCLUDES:

- Professional Off the Beaten Path, LLC Tour Guide/Leader who is a culinary, history and wine professional and Expert Walking Guide
- Professional “Bordeaux Wine Industry Insider” Wine Guides
- 5 Nights, Luxury, 5-star Hotel Accommodations (NO hotel hopping) at 5-star Les Sources de Caudalie Resort & Spa --Featured in both Conde Nast’s and CNN Traveler’s top 10, 2011, 2012 and 2013 luxury, hotel list of places to stay while in Bordeaux wine country and is rated No. 2 on National Geographic’s BEST Vineyard Stays list!
- Classified and “Grand Cru” Bordeaux wines included at group meals
- **12 MEALS** : 5 Buffet Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 4 Gourmet Dinners.
- All restaurants & bistros are Michelin-star and/or have been featured/recommended by top “foodie” magazines or fellow Michelin-star Chefs. We dine in both gourmet restaurants and our favorite hide-a-ways cherished by the locals.
- Classified and “Grand Cru” Bordeaux wines included at group meals
- A private, gourmet picker’s lunch with all the trimmings at Chateau Troplong-Mondot in Saint Emilion
- A private, gourmet lunch at Chateau Haut Bailly in the Graves appellation
- Time to explore historical Saint Emilion wine producing village and its’ cultural monuments
- Private Winery Tours and VIP Wine Tasting daily at Classified Chateaux - Wine Producers, such as, in Graves-Pessac-Leognan (1855 classified Chateau Haut Brion, plus Grand Cru producers: Chateau Carbonnieux, Haut Bailly and/or Smith Haut LaFitte), in Saint Emilion (Chateau Figeac, Troplong-Mondot and/or Fonplegade), in Sauternes (1855 classified Grand Cru producers: Chateau d’Yquem and/or Chateau La Tour Blanche)
- Visit the Barrel Maker (Cooperage) at SMITH HAUT LAFITTE
- Bottled water and snacks provided for all walks during the trip.
- Hands-on Culinary Class at home with our friend and Master Chef Antoine followed by dinner as guests at our Chef’s table.
- **3 WALKS** - (1 in the Graves-Pessac-Léognan Appellation, 1 of the Saint Emilion Jurisdiction, 1 in the Sauternes) - All walks on this tour are rated easy to moderate, are optional and designed for interested guests.
- **NON-WALKERS** - shuttle by comfortable minivan from winery to winery.

Bordeaux Tour PRICE EXCLUDES:

- International roundtrip airfare to/from France
- Train fare to/from Avignon TGV station
- 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Gratuities to Guides and Professional Driver
- Personal purchases.

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

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

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

The group size on each of our tours is a maximum 16 guests. Many of our trips sell out completely meaning group size is 16 guests, 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 MOST MEALS AND ALL BEVERAGES (BOTH ALCOHOLIC AND NON-ALCOHOLIC) IN OUR TOUR PRICES !

We always include a welcome cocktail on day one of each tour, plus premium, classified and "Grand Cru" wines at all groups meals during each of our tours. If we don't include a meal on any particular day, we always have a list of our favorite cafés, brasseries and restaurants that we recommend and will be happy to reserve for you.

■ 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.

■ 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 their off season, and 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. A designated support guide drives the support van.

■ 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 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.

Hotel & Spa LES SOURCES DE CAUDALIE

All accommodations on Off the Beaten Path small group tours of France offer a charming, luxurious 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 day of the tour. All rooms feature large comfortable KING SIZE beds and fully-equipped, private, en-suite bathrooms (shower/tub, toilet, toiletries, hair dryer, etc). Rooms are also equipped with television, telephone, WIFI access, mini-bar, personal safe, individual terrace or patio. The hotel also features a world renowned vinotherapy spa, bar and coffee lounge, plus outdoor terraces and bikes to use free of charge.

ROOMS FOR OUR GUESTS ARE LARGE SUITES WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OF THE FIRST GROWTH VINEYARDS

ACTIVITY RATING: **Walkers** -75% Easy, 25% Moderate. **Non-Walkers** -100% Easy.

TOUR BEGINS: Group pick-up on Day #1 at 2:00 pm at Saint Jean Rail Station, Bordeaux, France

TOUR ENDS: Group drop-off on Day #6 at 10 am at Saint Jean Rail Station, Bordeaux, France

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small  *Group Travel in France*



2015 - BORDEAUX TOUR DATES AND PRICES

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO BOOK YOUR TOUR AND JOIN US FOR A MEMORABLE & AUTHENTIC LIFE-TIME EXPERIENCE !
[HTTPS://WWW.TRAVELOFFTHEBEATENPATH.COM/RESERVATIONFORM.HTML](https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com/reservationform.html)

2015 TOUR PRICE - \$5,898 PER PERSON LAND ONLY, DOUBLE/TWIN OCCUPANCY (6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS)

****SOLO TRAVELERS ADD SINGLE SUPPLEMENT OF US\$1360**

2015 Tour Dates :

- September 8-13 (Harvest Tour)
- September 15-20 (Harvest Tour)
- September 22-27 (Harvest Tour)
- September 29-October 4 (Harvest Tour)

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

Walking Ratings FOR BORDEAUX TOURS

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

EVERY OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOUR VACATION IS DESIGNED TO MEET A WIDE VARIETY OF GUEST FITNESS LEVELS. EACH WALK IS CATEGORIZED USING THE SYSTEM BELOW.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BORDEAUX TOUR WALKS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

- The Saint Emilion walk is rated easy to moderate. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walking on vineyard and country trails. Walk distance is 4.5 miles - approximately 2.5 hrs. of walking. Winery tours and tastings range in duration from 1-1.5 hours each.
- The Sauternes walk is rated easy to moderate. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walking on vineyard and country trails. Walk distance is 5 miles - approximately 3 hrs. of walking. Winery tours and tastings range in duration from 1-1.5 hours each.
- The Graves walk is rated easy to moderate. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walking on vineyard and country trails. Walk distance is 5 miles - approximately 3 hrs. of walking. Winery tours and tastings range in duration from 1-1.5 hours each.
- For NON-walkers - there is no walking rating, as travelers are only exposed to daily leisure walking in villages & towns.
- **FOR NON-WALKERS : SHUTTLE FROM WINERY TO WINERY FOR OUR EXCLUSIVE WINERY TOURS & VIP WINE TASTING.**

OUR COMMITMENT TO ENSURING INSPIRING ITINERARIES, EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY AND EXCELLENT VALUE!!

- OTBP itineraries are designed to share the very BEST of each region --Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux wine country-- 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 bistrot 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 Christy's 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 OTBP 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.
- Since all OTBP tour guides are Americans who reside in France, we do NOT have to incorporate any international transportation and lodging costs for tour guides into tour prices, meaning even greater savings to you, because we can ensure our OTBP luxurious quality tour experiences at even more competitive prices.
- Classified regional wines and non-alcoholic beverages are included at all group meals.
- OTBP 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.
- OTBP has 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.
- OTBP has 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.
- OTBP has 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.
- OTBP small group tours feature TRUE SMALL GROUP travel. The maximum group size on OTBP tours is 16 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. 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 2014 and 2015 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.

How it all Began - ABOUT THE OWNER OF OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

An American raised in the countryside just outside of Philadelphia, PA, Christy Destremau's story begins 20 years ago when she settled in Provence, France, and married her French beau in a traditional Provence wedding ceremony. Equipped with an extensive education, multiple degrees and a background in French history, language and international relations, plus a clear understanding of French culture and traditions, Christy launched Off the Beaten Path, LLC in response to encouragement from family and friends, who admired both her passion for and knowledge of this historically and culturally rich country. As a long term resident of France, Christy Destremau is multi-lingual, holds dual nationality (American-French citizenship) and after living many years in Provence, now currently splits her time between the US and her home near Nantes, France. Christy's extensive network of professional and personal connections in France is the key to her successfully having created itineraries that constantly set her small group tours well above and a part from other tour travel offered by both tour companies based outside of France and multi-destination tour companies. Christy recognizes that no one can specialize in everything, and she has actively chosen to specialize exclusively in small group travel and small group touring within her adopted country of France!

When Christy launched Off the Beaten Path, LLC, she made a conscious decision and commitment to focus her time, energy, talent and "savoir-faire" on specializing exclusively on what she knows best --active, small group walking, wine, cultural and gourmet food tour travel in France--. Though many industry professionals have tried to recruit her to broaden Off the Beaten Path's tour offerings into other countries, Christy has remained steadfast and committed to delivering to travelers what she does and loves best --delivering the most personalized itineraries of the very best experiences that her adopted country of France has to offer, and sharing those experiences with like minded, active travelers who want to experience "authentic France" in a small intimate group, led by guides who understand both French and Anglophone culture, and who can create the perfect blend and balance between both cultures to ensure a memorable experience to travelers every time. Christy's Off the Beaten Path tour itineraries are comprised of the BEST active, small group tour experiences available in the small group tour industry! Her commitment to ensuring exceptional and personalized itineraries, unparalleled customer service and unsurpassed value has propelled Off the Beaten Path, LLC to the head of the tour industry --repeatedly being voted and awarded multiple professional accolades by nearly every top tier travel industry organization, as well as numerous travel magazines and journals worldwide.

Christy is also a published photographer having been featured in National Geographic, and spends her off season time traveling around France photographing the countryside. All photos published on this website, both slideshow photos and page content photos are compliments of Christy, and reflect her passion for France, the French, and having fun sharing "all that France has to offer" with her tour travel guests. Many of Christy's France and regional specific landscape and foodie images can be seen featured on other tour and travel industry websites, as well as in print. Christy also dedicates a great deal of her off season to meeting with her professional and personal French friends to develop new ideas, and to prepare new excursions and activities for each season. She is considered a France destination expert and leading authority on French history, traditions and culture, and has authored and edited travel articles about France for prominent travel magazines worldwide. Christy is currently working on an insider's guide to the best cafes, brasseries and restaurants in France that includes a section featuring her "all-time" favorite French Chefs -- some of whom are very dear friends.

In addition to leading many tours herself, Christy has selected a handful of tour guides to work alongside her. Like Christy, all Off the Beaten Path guides are Americans with dual nationality (American-French citizenship), are multi-lingual and reside in France. They also bring a wealth of local information and history to enrich each guest's individual experience, and have personally been selected by Christy for their comprehensive understanding of French and Anglophone culture. Many have been elected to some of the most prestigious tourism offices in France, and some have also been awarded UNESCO accolades for their cultural work in France. Most of our guides are also contributing authors to prominent guidebooks including Rick Steves Provence Guide Book and many more. The key ingredient to a successful tour is the guide, and our guides have been recognized for their talent, knowledge and professionalism. You will find that Christy and her team of guides are wonderful traveling companions, whose knowledge and sense of fun and positive attitude make each tour day a wonderful experience.

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 is American owned and operated, and in 2014, celebrates 20 years of delivering engaging small group, walking and foodie, cultural tours exclusively in France. Each of our France tours offers travelers the very BEST and most inspiring itineraries and experience to discover the French countryside of Provence, Loire Valley and Bordeaux unlike any other tour company can. **OUR SPECIALTY AND SOLE FOCUS IS SMALL GROUP, ACTIVE TRAVEL EXCLUSIVELY IN FRANCE! OUR ONLY TOUR DESTINATION IS FRANCE, AND WE DO IT BEST!** Come enjoy exceptional quality and excellent value on one of our small group tours today! Travelers and publications alike rate Off the Beaten Path Tours the BEST active, small group tours in France. Whether you're a seasoned small group tour traveler or new to the small group tour scene, Off the Beaten Path tours offer daily, fun, enriching and interactive local French experiences and activities for everyone --experiences and activities that are not available to the public-- while also including leisure time to pursue independent interests.

Expert Professional American guides who live in France, inspiring itineraries, deluxe historical hotel accommodations, sumptuous French meals and comfortable transportation in private, spacious, professionally driven Mercedes Sprinters 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 you to authentically discover the heart and soul of each region. You'll participate in cooking classes with our friends who are celebrity Master and Michelin-star chefs who look forward to your arrival, and make you feel welcome in their homes and workshops as a group of friends. Shop at weekly village markets where we'll introduce you to our favorite olive oil and wine producers, artists, cheese-makers, herb and spice vendors, craftsmen and designers. Walk the same countryside and vineyard trails as local French do with their families, and enjoy the slow road scenery that comes with walking the back 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 with our knowledgeable, professional Guides. Dine in the same gourmet restaurants and bistros, as local French do, where the chefs are our personal friends, and set aside a special table uniquely to welcome you. Plus, built in leisure time provides you opportunities to pursue independent interests and activities or to just break away from the group for some quiet time.

Every tour offers daily options with varying levels of activeness to choose from, so you always have the flexibility of deciding how you would like your day to unfold. Your Guide sits down with your group every day to discuss the activities, 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 want (more walking, less walking, shopping time, cultural discovery, etc.) and to be able to pursue your independent interests all while still enjoying the perks of traveling in a small group and participating in scheduled excursions and activities -- meaning we take care and manage the daily logistics and details while you spend your time on the important stuff -- having fun, relaxing and enjoying your vacation your way. The idea behind each Off the Beaten Path, small group 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. Whether travelers join a regularly scheduled, small group tour to Provence, the Loire Valley or Bordeaux wine country, or participate in a private, custom designed tour to one of these regions or another region of France, we ensure that each itinerary is inspiring, and that each traveler's experience is unique and personalized. You'll find Testimonials of guest satisfaction on both the guest Testimonial page of our website and sprinkled throughout our website.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC FINE PRINT...

TOUR DEPOSIT & PAYMENTS:

- Click here to launch our secure online reservation form. The reservation booking form is divided into 2 sections.

Section 1: Completing Your Traveler Information and Preferences

Section 2: Making Your Tour Deposit Payment

- Payment is in US Dollars by Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover credit cards, cashier or personal check, instant bank payment/e-check or wire transfer.
- Upon completion of both sections of the reservation form, you will receive an immediate booking/payment confirmation receipt.
- Within 7-10 business days of receipt of your tour reservation booking, we will also email you a formal confirmation invoice detailing your tour balance due (less the deposit payment paid and any applicable discounts) and the payment due date.
- No reservation bookings are accepted by telephone. All reservation bookings must be submitted by completing our secure online reservation form.
- Prices may change, BUT once your tour is booked, your tour price is guaranteed and will NOT increase.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

121+ days (from the first day of the trip): \$500 Tour deposit.

****AN ALTERNATIVE TO CANCELLATION**** - Transfer of Deposit: Guest may transfer from one trip to another up to 121 days before trip departure without penalty (excludes custom designed-private tours) after which time the cancellation policy applies. When transferring to a different date or trip, if the trip costs more than Guest's original trip, Guest must pay the difference. This credit can only be rolled over once and Guest incurs no other penalty.

91-120 days: 25% of the total Tour price

61-90 days: 50% of the total Tour price

0-60 days: 100% of the total Tour price

Though it's not required to participate in FOTBP tours, it is highly recommend that travelers purchase trip insurance to cover the unexpected.