



FRANCE
OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small Group Travel in France



ACTIVE CULTURAL & CULINARY ADVENTURES IN THE
Loire Valley

AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING TOUR OPERATORS, OFF THE BEATEN PATH CELEBRATES 20 YEARS LEADING SMALL GROUP TOURS EXCLUSIVELY IN FRANCE IN 2014.

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

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

WE ONLY OFFER EXCLUSIVE, SMALL GROUP LUXURY TOUR TRAVEL IN FRANCE, AND HAVE BEEN LEADING TOURS IN LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE FOR 20 YEARS.

Our deluxe castle hotel accommodations for our small group Loire Valley Tours is yet another fine example of the importance of relationships in France. The owners of our castle hotel accommodations, Chateau des Tertres, Bernard and Christine Valois, are also family friends, and they too welcome you as a group of friends traveling together to their historical establishment. Come travel the back roads of Loire Valley, France with us during this 6 day/5 night, active, small group tour through the Center region of France ("Le Centre" in French) to discover both spectacular French Mediaeval and Renaissance history during this award winning Loire Valley castles and gourmet foodie adventure, and to make a many great memories meeting and spending time with our local friends. Step back in time when the Valois and Bourbon families ruled the Kingdom of France to learn about French Kings, Queens and their courts, and all the drama that accompanied them through these fascinating historical periods in a fun and fact filled experience. We embark on daily visits, activities and excursions that unveil magical and sometimes mythical and gruesome stories, that by the end the tour, you will be completely transformed and have a new appreciation for these historical periods and the characters who animated them.

Our years of connections and insider access to people, places and events of the region have earned us a solid and excellent reputation as authorities on everything cultural in the Loire Valley. And, we use our "savoir faire" to ensure you experience the very best of the Loire Valley, its castles, history and people in a fun and memorable small group environment. Through our combination of active, cultural and personalized authentic local French experiences, you will feel like you just spent a week with a wonderful group of friends rather than having been on a tour.

Loire Valley Castles & Gourmet Foodie Tour

BY OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

** THE ITNERARY SHORT VERSION **

6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS : CHATEAU DES TERTRES

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #1 - D

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

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

DINNER: Welcome cocktail hour and dinner in a historical Castle. Dress is semi-casual. Our cocktail hour and welcome dinner is a wonderful time to get to know fellow travel guests. Your Tour Guide 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

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #2 - B, D

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **BLOIS MARKET.** Spend the morning perusing and shopping at the weekly market in the town. Guided tour of the market before setting off individually to explore and shop. From local artisan products to French linens, fresh cut flowers, paintings, clothes, food, artwork and locally made jewelry, the market has something for everyone. Lunch recommendations will be provided by your guide. Anyone interested is more than welcome to join your guide for lunch in the old town.

FOLLOWING THE MARKET & LUNCH - Group meets for a guided tour of **BLOIS CASTLE.** After our tour, enjoy time to explore the castle and visit the Beaux Art Museum in the Louis XII wing. Today's visit includes stories of royal marriages, more stories of some of France's most important historical events, an assassination, as well as royal love affairs and the death of France's favorite Queen. After our tour, enjoy time to explore the castle and visit the Beaux Art Museum in the Louis XII wing. Mid-afternoon departure from Blois to return to the hotel before going to cooking class.

LATE AFTERNOON - COOKING CLASS -- Early Evening and **DINNER** includes a hands-on cooking class and culinary demonstration with our friend, Master & Michelin-star Chef Damien. This cooking class is both hands-on and a demonstration of recipes. We will also partake in a "Tour de France" of **WINE & CHEESE TASTING.** The focus is on discovering favorite recipes of this beautiful region, indulging in the French wine and cheese tasting and learning more about French cheeses with our Chef. This activity is designed for all interest levels. No experience is necessary.

DINNER: A gourmet dinner of recipes prepared together in class accompanied by select regional wines.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for the market, exploring the town and visiting the castle. We will depart directly to the cooking class following our guided tour at Blois Castle, so please bring everything you will need for the entire day with you when we leave in the morning, i.e. small day pack, camera, personal items, light sweater for the evening, money for any souvenir and market shopping you may wish to do in town. Water will be provided, but you will need your day pack to carry it. There are ATM's, pharmacies and a post office available in Blois. Today's cooking class takes place in a professional, working kitchen. Please dress casual for the day, and if you'd like to bring something to change into at cooking class, private changing rooms are available at cooking class.

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #3 - B, D

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **AMBOISE MARKET** - This morning time to explore Amboise's weekly open market. The market brings an unparalleled liveliness to the village, and offers a wonderful opportunity to experience local culture at its busiest time of the week. Time to explore and shop independently at the market before our castle tour.

MORNING - AMBOISE ROYAL CASTLE - Guided tour after the market followed by time to explore at **LEISURE**. Today's visit includes stories of royal accidents, more stories of some of France's most important historical events, an attempted kidnapping, as well as royal love affairs and the death of royal guest, Leonardo da Vinci.

LUNCH: Independently in Amboise Village. Your guide will make suggestions. Anyone interested is more than welcome to join your guide for lunch in the historic village.

AFTERNOON: **CHENONCEAU CASTLE** Tour of the Castle and Gardens of Chenonceau, a castle shaped by women --this castle represents the greatest accomplishments of royal women during the Middle Ages and French Renaissance.

EVENING & DINNER: **COOKING CLASS** - Early Evening and **DINNER** - participate in a fun, hands-on culinary class at home with friends. Tonight we cook with two of France's highest rated Master Chefs, a husband and wife team, Christophe and Angelique at their home. Both have received top awards from and along with Paul Bocuse, Alain Ducasse and Joel Robuchon. Christophe is currently featured on gourmet television in France, as one of the Loire Valley's most highly recognized and talented Chefs. **COCKTAILS WITH OUR CHEFS** prior to our gourmet dinner of the recipes we prepare in class. This activity is designed for all interest levels. No experience is necessary.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for walking at the market, in the village and at both castles. We will return to the hotel for a mid-afternoon break to freshen up and enjoy some "down-time" before our cooking class evening. Please bring only what you will need for the market and our castle visits with you when we leave in the morning, i.e. small day pack to carry camera, pen/pencil, personal items, etc. Water will be provided. For cooking class - please dress casual. We are guests at our friends' home, and they would like everyone to feel as comfortable and at home as possible.

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #4 - B, D

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **VILLANDRY CASTLE** and its Renaissance Gardens. This morning we make our way to the southern Touraine for 2 castle visits. Villandry represents the best example of pure Renaissance gardens, as originally designed during the reign of Francis I.

LUNCH: Independently in Azay-le-Rideau village. Your Guide will make lunch recommendations. Anyone interested is more than welcome to join your guide for lunch in the historic village.

AFTERNOON - AZAY-LE-RIDEAU CASTLE - A spectacular masterpiece - this chateau was built during the early years of Francis I's reign. It reflects all of the refinements of Renaissance architecture and epitomizes the qualities of a traditional French chateau.

GOURMET BRASSERIE DINNER - together at our friend and Michelin-star Chef's gourmet brasserie in historic Blois. Enjoy traditional French cooking at its finest accompanied by a selection of our Chef's personally chosen wines.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for walking at both castles and in the villages. We will spend the entire day in the southern Touraine for these 2 castle visits, so please bring everything you will need for the entire day, i.e. small day pack, camera, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, personal items, money for souvenirs, etc. We will return to the hotel for a mid-afternoon break to freshen up and enjoy some "down-time" before dinner. Water will be provided. There are ATM's, pharmacies and a post office available in Azay-le-Rideau.

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #5 - B, D

BREAKFAST. After breakfast, **MORNING AT LEISURE.** Enjoy a walk into the local village or borrow a bike to peruse the local countryside. Relax on the terrace at the hotel with a beverage and write postcards, surf the internet or read.

NOON - CHAMBORD CASTLE - Chambord is thought to have been the architectural masterpiece of Leonardo da Vinci, yet has never been proven. We share stories about two of France's most influential Kings, Francis I and Louis XIV, their royal lifestyles and personal guests at the castle, as well as stories of Louis XIII's brother, Gaston d'Orleans.

LUNCH: Independently at Chambord. Anyone interested is more than welcome to join your guide for lunch.

LATE AFTERNOON - STOP IN BLOIS FOR LAST MINUTE SOUVENIR SHOPPING BEFORE OUR ARRIVAL TO COOKING CLASS.

EVENING & DINNER: COCKTAIL HOUR and DINNER - with our friend, Michelin-star Chef, Christophe C. Christophe has had the great pleasure of working with the late Bernard Loiseau and ever talented Christian Willer before venturing out into the culinary world on his own, and opening his gem of a restaurant in the late 1990's. What a fabulous way to end our week in the Loire Valley!

DINNER: Gourmet extravaganza prepared by Christophe along with a cocktail hour to celebrate a wonderful week in the Loire Valley.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for walking at Chambord castle. We will depart just before NOON to spend the afternoon at Chambord and then return to the hotel before dinner, so please bring everything you will need for our chambord visit, i.e. small day pack, camera, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, personal items, money for shopping/souvenirs, etc. Water will be provided. There is an ATM available at Chambord. **If you don't plan to depart with the group tomorrow morning for the 10 am arrival to the St. Pierre des Corps TGV rail station, please inform your guide at dinner this evening.

Loire Valley Itinerary: DAY #6 - B

BREAKFAST.

8:30 AM - Please have all bags downstairs for loading.

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

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

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

Loire Valley Tour PRICE INCLUDES:

- Professional Off the Beaten Path, LLC Tour Guide(s) - history, culinary and wine specialists
- 5 Nights, historical castle hotel accommodations at Chateau des Tertres --Voted one of the BEST boutique hotels in 2012 and 2013 in the Loire Valley! (NO Hotel Hopping)
- **10 MEALS: 5 BUFFET BREAKFASTS, 5 DINNERS** (mix of cooking class dinners, restaurants and a gourmet brasserie).
- Added Meal Note - Guests who choose to participate in the optional hot air ballooning excursion (additional fee paid by guest), no dinner is included or provided. Dinner is included in the trip price for guests NOT participating in the hot air ballooning. ALL of our Chefs during this exclusive castles & culinary tour are good friends with one another. Each will share his/her individual specialties and favorite regional recipes with us in cooking class. Each cooking class offers a unique look inside the professional and personal lives of each of our Chefs, and how distinctly different their culinary styles are from each other. We'll prepare three course meals during each class and then indulge in tasting wonderful local sparkling wines from the region and tasting the sumptuous recipes we've prepared together in class.
- Regional classified wines included at all group meals.
- Private tours and leisure time at all of the following castles (chateaux): Chambord castle, Chenonceau castle, Blois castle, Amboise castle, Villandry castle, Azay-le-Rideau castle
- FIRST CHEF: A special welcome dinner prepared by one of our favorite Michelin-star Chefs of the region, Frédérique B.
- Two (2) cooking classes with three (3) different Michelin-Star/Master Chefs
- SECOND CHEF: Cooking Class and Cooking Demonstration with our friend, Michelin-star Chef Damien G.
- THIRD CHEF (A husband & wife team): Cooking Class with celebrity Master Chefs, our friends Angelique and Christophe (works with Alain Ducasse) at their home
- FOURTH CHEF: Traditional, gourmet French brasserie dinner with our friend and Michelin-star Chef at his brasserie
- FIFTH CHEF: Cocktail hour and gourmet dinner with our friend and Michelin-star Chef, Christophe C. at his restaurant
- Participate in a fun "Tour de France" Cheese and Wine Tasting with our friend, a Michelin-star Chef.
- Visit and Shop at the Weekly Village Markets in Amboise and/or Blois
- Artisan Wine and cheese tasting throughout the trip
- Bottled water and snacks provided throughout the trip.
- Optional hot air ballooning excursion available (additional fee applies)
- This exclusive Loire Valley Tour is limited to 16 guests per Tour date.
- **COMFORT ZONE** - Designed for the interests of and to appeal to the Occasional Walker.

Loire Valley Tour PRICE EXCLUDES:

- International roundtrip airfare to/from France
- Train fare to/from St. Pierre des Corps TGV station
- lunches
- Gratuities to Guides and Professional Driver
- Fees for optional hot air ballooning excursion and dinner if participation in hot air ballooning excursion
- Personal purchases.

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small  *Group Travel in France*

2014 - LOIRE VALLEY 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)

TOUR PRICE - \$4,198 PER PERSON LAND ONLY, DOUBLE/TWIN OCCUPANCY (6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS)

****SOLO TRAVELERS - ADD SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FEE OF US\$560**

2014 LOIRE VALLEY TOUR DATES

- October 1-6

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

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small



Group Travel in France

2015 - LOIRE VALLEY 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)

TOUR PRICE - \$3,498 PER PERSON LAND ONLY, DOUBLE/TWIN OCCUPANCY (6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS)

****SOLO TRAVELERS - ADD SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FEE OF US\$560**

BOOK YOUR 2015 TOUR BEFORE AUGUST 6, 2014 AND SAVE \$500 PER PERSON OFF THE TOUR PRICE!

2015 LOIRE VALLEY TOUR DATES -

- May 19-24 - Sold Out
- May 26-31
- June 9-14 - Sold Out
- June 16-21
- June 23-28
- June 30 - July 5
- July 7-12 - Sold Out
- July 15-20 - Sold Out
- September 1-6
- September 8-13
- September 15-20 - Sold Out
- September 22-27
- September 29-October 4

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

Hotel Chateau DES TERTRES

Hotel Chateau des Tertres is located in the heart of the Touraine, known best as the Loire Valley, amidst the calm and beautiful countryside. The owners of the chateau were born and raised in the Loire Valley, are close friends of the owner of Off the Beaten Path, and welcome guests, as distinguished friends' to their chateau hotel.

Each of these elegantly appointed and spacious rooms is decorated in it's own unique style that reflects the history of the region. As this is a castle, no two rooms are exactly alike. Each room includes private en-suite bathroom with all modern amenities (shower/tub, toilet, toiletries, hair dryer, etc.) and view overlooking the gardens. Hotel rooms are also equipped with telephone and WIFI access. The hotel features 5 acres of quiet and colorful gardens to enjoy and complimentary use of bicycles with trail maps. All rooms for our Guests are located in the chateau.

ROOMS FOR OUR GUESTS ARE SPACIOUS AND EACH UNIQUELY
& HISTORICALLY DECORATED AND LOCATED INSIDE THE CHATEAU



ACTIVITY RATING: 90% Easy, 10% Moderate.

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

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

Walking Ratings FOR LOIRE VALLEY TOURS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOIRE VALLEY TOURS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

- This tour involves only daily leisure walking which is suitable for most travelers.
- This trip is not suitable for travelers with severe or impairing knee or back problems.
- Travelers need to be able to walk up steps - sometimes several flights of steps.
- Travelers need to be able to stand for extended periods of time during castle tours & cooking classes, as seating is not always available.

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, Champagne and Dordogne-- including luxurious 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 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 and other special dietary requests.
- OTBP has established, proprietary relationships with all wineries, chefs, restaurants, service providers and bistrots 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 bistrots selected for OTBP tours are Michelin-star and/or have been featured/recommended by top "foodie" magazines and/or fellow Michelin-star Chefs. OTBP tours feature dining in both gourmet restaurants and favorite hide-a-ways.
- OTBP has negotiated the best rates with its' French partners to ensure the best luxury 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 8-16 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 8-16 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.

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.

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.