



FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small

Group Travel in France



BEST ADVENTURES - WALKING & GOURMET INDULGENCE IN

Provence

In 2014, Off the Beaten Path celebrates 20 years of offering guided, small group luxury walking and gourmet foodie tours to France.

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

Voted one of the BEST Tour companies in Europe and the world by leading travel magazines, Off the Beaten Path leads the tour industry in small group luxury walking tour travel with its Best Adventures in Provence® Tour. Our Provence Tour itinerary dazzles travelers of all backgrounds and interests seeking an authentic and active, France cultural experience -- far surpassing the quality of offerings and services of other non-France based and multi-destination tour companies thanks to our long standing presence in Provence, 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!

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 Provence, France for 20 years.

During this award winning 6-day/5-night small group Tour, you will discover the hidden gems and best kept secrets of this colorful region that we call home. Thanks to our expertise and long standing relationships and presence in Provence for the past 20 years, you will travel in style through the south of France discovering villages and historical sites, walking Provence country trails, cooking in a private Provence Farm home kitchen, dining daily as a group of friends with our local Provence partners who are both celebrity professionals and our personal family friends. Our local Provence friends look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to their private homes, restaurants, and workshops, and are eager to share their slice of Provence with you through specially organized, private experiences that are available only to our tour guests. You will witness vibrantly colored landscapes of lavender, sunflowers and poppies in season, and participate in spectacular walks and daily excursions and activities touring and discovering the 3 BEST and most beautiful areas of Provence --the Alpilles, the Luberon and the Mediterranean coast-- through our eyes and those of our Provence friends, a very personalized experience unlike any other. We use our longstanding friendships, excellent reputation and presence in the Provence region to create itineraries full of fun, memorable experiences that you'll remember long after your return home.

Best Adventures in Provence® Tour

WALKING & FOODIE TOUR - BY OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

**** THE ITNERARY SHORT VERSION ****

6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS : LE MAS DES CARRASSINS

FRANCE IS OUR SOLE FOCUS AND OUR SPECIALTY!

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

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

Provence Itinerary: DAY #1 - D

4:00 PM - Off the Beaten Path (OTBP) Provence Tour Guides meet guests at the Avignon TGV rail station and group transfers together to the hotel in St. Remy de Provence for check-in and a brief introduction to the tour before settling into rooms and meeting for dinner.

5:00 PM - Approximate arrival time to the hotel in St. Remy de Provence.

DINNER: Welcome cocktail hour and dinner. Dinner dress is casual. Welcome cocktail hour -- during our welcome cocktail your Provence Tour Guides will discuss the tour activities of the week and respond to any questions or requests. This is also an excellent time for guests to get to know one another. Our welcome cocktail is followed by a gourmet welcome dinner - our first evening of Provence cuisine together prepared by one of our favorite local Master Chefs.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

<http://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

EMAIL: contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com

Telephone: 1.877.846.2831

Provence Itinerary: DAY #2 - B, L, D

BUFFET BREAKFAST.

After breakfast -- **ST. REMY-DE-PROVENCE MARKET** -- Morning perusing and shopping at the weekly market in the town that inspired some of Van Gogh's most famous art work. Noble names of our time include Princess Diana who once had a home here and Princess Caroline of Monaco. Situated in the heart of the Alpilles, surrounded by lush valleys of olive trees and Baux de Provence vineyards, the sounds of cicadas chirping, the visual delight of plane trees and flowers and its Gallo-Roman architecture, St. Remy reflects the heart and soul of Provence. Market day in town is a must for any stay in Provence.

LUNCH: Together at our favorite celebrity bistro made famous by Chef and Cookbook author Patricia Wells.

AFTERNOON: Departure to Les Baux-de-Provence Village.

ALL GUESTS SHUTTLE TO LES BAUX DE PROVENCE VILLAGE AND FROM THERE CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW.

****WE STOP EN-ROUTE TO LES BAUX DE PROVENCE TO VISIT A LOCAL OLIVE OIL MILL.****

In Provence olive oil plays an important role in daily cuisine, and before our arrival to Les Baux village, we'll be welcomed as special guests to one of the most famous olive oil mills of the region owned by our local French friends for a private tour and tasting.

OPTION #1 - WALKERS : "LES BAUX DE PROVENCE VILLAGE TO VILLAGE" WALK.

Participate in our Guided walk --"**LES BAUX DE PROVENCE VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK**"-- of the southern Alpilles area of Provence. This spectacular walk begins in Les Baux de Provence village taking guests on a scenic trail from the village through the southern Alpilles most prominent olive orchards and vineyards, and through Les Alpilles forest - option to visit a local olive oil mill.

OPTION #2 - NON-WALKERS: SHUTTLE TO/FROM LES BAUX DE PROVENCE VILLAGE

by comfortable Mercedes Sprinter for a guided tour and leisure time in this beautiful village. Castle ruins, shopping, wine tasting, art galleries, cafés and restaurants are available in the village. Enjoy a guided tour and leisure time in the village and an option to visit a local olive oil mill.

AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING AT LEISURE ON RETURN TO THE HOTEL.

DINNER: Another gourmet Provençal dinner experience together.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for the market and afternoon walk. We will depart directly to Les Baux de Provence at the conclusion of lunch, so please bring everything you will need for the walk (if you are participating in it) with you to lunch, i.e. small day pack, camera, personal items, etc. Water and snacks are provided. There are ATM's, pharmacies and a post office available in St. Remy.

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

BUFFET BREAKFAST.

After breakfast -- **A DAY IN THE LUBÉRON** - Departure for a full day in the Lubéron area of Provence. We'll visit the villages of ROUSSILLON and GORDES.

ALL GUESTS shuttle to Roussillon village and from there choose one of the options below.

OPTION #1 - WALKERS : MORNING "LUBERON VALLEY VILLAGE TO VILLAGE " WALK - Participate in a Spectacular, guided, --"LUBERON VALLEY VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK"-- from Gordes to Roussillon. The Luberon countryside is absolutely beautiful with incredible, often unexpected variety and offers the perfect setting for a golden walking experience unlike any other. We pass prehistoric caves, ancient bories, a Roman oppidum, old mills, 700-year old chapels, and abandoned villages. Also famous for its vineyard and lavender covered countryside, walking in the Luberon offers photo opportunities of spectacular colors of lavender, poppies and sunflowers, and scenery that will completely contrast your experience in the Alpilles and along the Mediterranean coast.

OPTION #2 - NON-WALKERS : Shuttle from village to village for guided tours of and free time to explore two of the most beautiful, perched villages in the picturesque "Luberon" area of Provence made famous by Peter Mayle's books *A YEAR IN PROVENCE* and *A GOOD YEAR* - Roussillon and Gordes villages. There will be stops for photo ops along the way. **GORDES** village, one of the most stunning of the perched villages of Provence, appears like an Atlantis surrounded by fields instead of ocean. To one side looms the massif of Mount Ventoux, the Olympus of Provence, to the other, the pastoral whale-back of Mount Luberon. The breadth and height of this region balance in utter serenity in Gordes. The viewpoint of our initial stop perches us dizzyingly at a canyon's edge across from which the village could be mistaken for a masonry version of an anthill. **ROUSSILLON** village, the canto of color in It is a mythical story of a lover, a murder and the suicide of the faithful bereft that describes how the name of the village honors a redhead. The romance colors the very ground and reddish walls of the buildings that lines its winding streets. Known as the village of ochre, this unique mineral creates a substance formerly used as a dyeing agent.

ROUSSILLON ACTIVITY OPTIONS AVAILABLE -

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

LUNCH: A Gourmet French picnic together amidst the vineyards of the Lubéron Valley comprised of specialty and regional products and cuisine traditional to Provence accompanied by a selection of classified Chateauneuf-du-Pape and Hermitage (for walkers and non-walkers).

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

DINNER: A gourmet Provençal dinner experience together.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for the village to village walk. We will spend the entire day in the Luberon, so please bring everything you will need for the entire day, i.e. small day pack, camera, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, personal items, money for shopping/souvenirs, etc. Water and snacks are provided. There are ATM's and post offices available in both villages. There is a pharmacy in Roussillon.

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

BUFFET BREAKFAST.

After breakfast -- CASSIS --Departure for a full day in the picturesque Mediterranean coastal, wine producing village of Cassis, France which dates back to 500 BC, is surrounded by vineyards, and bordered by the Mediterranean sea, colorful cliffs and beach. Stroll through this art deco style village's pedestrian streets for photo ops of the cobblestone streets, colorful port and beautiful vineyard covered coastline. Shop and try a local cafe at the port. It's market day also in Cassis and the coastal markets offer a completely different experience to that of inland Provence. Peruse the stands, taste artisan products, and photograph the colorful stands and products on offer.

- A DAY ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST IN CASSIS - CALANQUES VIEWING CRUISE & OTHER OPTIONS - On arrival in Cassis guests enjoy an introduction to the village, then have the opportunity to shop at the morning market and village shops. At noon enjoy a fabulous Mediterranean lunch at the port overlooking the sea. After lunch embark on a scenic 45 minute boat tour of the historical, Mediterranean calanques. Afterwards, enjoy a home-made ice-cream. Discover typical Mediterranean decor and quaint cafés while exploring the historic streets -- take time to enjoy a glass of locally produced Cassis wine and people watch while seated at a café or brasserie along the colorful port. Some guests may also wish to go for a swim in the Mediterranean Sea or sunbath at the beautiful beach -- changing facilities are available at the beach -- guides will direct guests where to go.

LUNCH: A Gourmet lunch together overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, prepared by one of our favorite Michelin-star chefs and accompanied by classified Cassis wines.

CASSIS ACTIVITY OPTIONS AVAILABLE -

- Embark on a scenic 45 minute boat tour of the historical Calanques (Roman ruin fjords) with your guides,
- Explore & shop at the weekly market and at the village specialty boutiques,
- Wine taste in the local wine shops,
- Explore the historic streets, photograph this beautiful coastal town,
- Try a glass of Cassis wine while people watching at a local cafe along the colorful port,
- Some guests may also wish to swim and/or sunbath at the local beach.

EARLY EVENING AT LEISURE ON RETURN TO THE HOTEL.

DINNER: A gourmet Provençal dinner experience together.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Comfortable shoes or sandals are recommended for Cassis. We will spend the entire day along the coast, 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, beach attire and towels if you plan to go to the beach, etc. Changing facilities are available at the beach restrooms. Water and snacks are provided. There are ATM's, pharmacies and a post office available in Cassis.

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

BUFFET BREAKFAST.

After breakfast -- **MORNING COOKING CLASS AND LUNCH** -- **ALL GUESTS SHUTTLE TO COOKING CLASS**. Depart to our family friend and Chef's castle estate amidst the sunflower fields in the beautiful Provence countryside. Our dear friend and Master Chef has hosted over 300 gourmet and culinary shows, and currently hosts a Provence culinary show when not in class. He has also authored 15 Provence cookbooks to date. A humble and happy man whose passion for cooking and sharing that passion in a fun and easy-going, relaxed environment, opens his private home workshop to us during each of our Best Adventures in Provence® Tours, welcoming us with great anticipation into his world of everything "Provençal Foodie". He loves opening his home to our guests for a fun, hands-on cooking experience unlike any other one might experience in the region. During class, we learn about local Provence cuisine, put our hands to work chopping, slicing and dicing and are privy to learning the secrets of Provence recipes. While working on our recipes, Chef will open some fabulous, prestigious Chateaufort-du-Pape wines for us to enjoy together. And after we've finished, we'll enjoy drinks together in his garden followed by a gourmet lunch of the recipes we prepared together in class.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! The focus of this class is to have fun while learning about traditional Provençal cuisine! It's always lots of fun, and an authentic French experience spending time with our Chef! **LUNCHTIME - APÉRITIF**. After class, enjoy cocktails in the garden with our Chef, and dining as VIP guests at our Chef's table to enjoy a **LUNCH** of the recipes prepared in cooking class with wine selected from our Chef's cellar.

AFTERNOON OPTIONS:

After Cooking Class and Lunch, guests return to St. Remy, and have many options from which to choose, including the following -

OPTION #1 - NON-WALKERS : Enjoy the **AFTERNOON AT LEISURE** to explore more of this picturesque Provence gem of a town, shop for souvenirs and local artisan products or pick-up any "must have Provence goodies". Enjoy a drink at a local café and people watch and simply enjoy the local ambiance.

OPTION #2 - NON-WALKERS : Join one of your guides whom are also Provence history specialist guides for a guided visit of St. Paul de Mausole Hospital to learn about Van Gogh's presence in the region and St. Remy de Provence. Plus enjoy the spectacular gardens there.

OPTION #3 - WALKERS : Participate in one final guided walk --"**HIDDEN GEMS OF PROVENCE WALK**"-- through the countryside taking in the sites and smells that make Provence so mystical and magical! Photo-ops all along the walk!

EVENING - Come join your guides for an evening cocktail hour and learn to play pétanque, the favorite French pastime of "boules".

FAREWELL DINNER: Farewell gourmet dinner together.

TODAYS REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS : Please bring everything you will need for cooking class with you, i.e. small day pack to carry camera, pen/pencil, personal items, etc. Chef will provide printed recipes for you to keep as souvenirs. Water and snacks are provided.

****If you don't plan to depart with the group tomorrow morning for the 11:30 am arrival to the Avignon TGV station, please inform your guide at dinner this evening.**

Provence Itinerary: DAY #6 - B, L, D

BUFFET BREAKFAST.

10:30 AM - Please have all bags downstairs for loading.

10:45 AM DEPARTURE - We arrive at 11:30 AM at the Avignon 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

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

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

TOUR BEGINS: Group pick-up at 4 pm at Avignon TGV Rail Station, Avignon, France

TOUR ENDS: Group drop-off at 11:30 am at Avignon TGV Rail Station, Avignon, France

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

COME ENJOY AUTHENTIC *Provence* EXPERIENCES, THE TOUR FEATURES & PRICE INCLUDES...

- This exclusive small group, Provence Tour is led by professional Off the Beaten Path, LLC Tour Guides who are history, culinary and wine specialists, and who are UNESCO Heritage Award Winners. Our Tour guides are professional France history and Provence specific history specialists who make learning the tidbits, gossip and stories of France fun and memorable throughout the tour.
- Enjoy 5 nights accommodations at our beautiful, full service, historical, award winning boutique hotel, Le Mas des Carassins, nestled in the beautiful village town of St. Remy de Provence! --Voted the BEST boutique hotel in St. Remy de Provence! (NO hotel hopping).
- For WALKERS: Participate in three (3) different guided walks in Provence - (1) Les Alpilles Village to Village Walk, (2) Luberon Valley Village to Village Walk and (3) Hidden Gems of Provence Walk - (optional and designed for interested guests), BOTH LONGER AND SHORTER WALKING TRAIL OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.
- For NON-WALKERS - shuttle to/from all visits, restaurants, excursions and activities during the tour.
- 2014 Tour Dates - 14 MEALS INCLUDED - 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners.
- 2015 Tour Dates - 12 MEALS INCLUDED - 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners.
- Savor vegetable rich, gourmet southern French cuisine. Meals are a combination of Michelin-star & French bistro style cuisine plus a French picnic and a cooking class.
- Enjoy Provence regional, classified wines included at all group meals - Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Hermitage, Rhone Valley and more!
- Explore hilltop villages Gordes and Roussillon in the Lubéron area of Provence
- Discover the best of St. Remy-de-Provence, Eygalières and Les Baux de Provence in the Alpilles.
- Spend the day along the Mediterranean coast in the wine producing village of Cassis.
- Enjoy a 45 minute cruise along the Mediterranean coast from Cassis to view historical calanques (Roman ruin fjords).
- Take a guided tour of St. Paul de Mausole with our specialist guide - learn about Vincent Van Gogh's presence in Provence.
- Taste freshly made artisan cheeses throughout the trip.
- Visit and Taste at our favorite Provence Olive Oil Mill.
- Bottled water and snacks provided for all walks.
- Learn to play pétanque, a favorite French pastime (French "boules") during a hosted cocktail hour.
- Discover and shop at the BEST outdoor craft and artisan markets -learn valuable pointers about buying authentic, local products in southern France.
- Participate in a hands-on, culinary class. Prepare Provence recipes with our friend, a celebrity Master Chef at her Provençal farmhouse.
- Indulge in a gourmet lunch of the recipes prepared in cooking class, as VIP guests at our Cooking Class Chef's table.
- For both WALKERS & NON-WALKERS alike -- select from a variety of cultural options available daily.
- This exclusive, small group Provence Tour is limited to 16 guests per tour date.
- --COMFORT ZONE-- Designed for the interests of and to appeal to both the Active and Occasional Walker.

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2014 - PROVENCE 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)

BOOK A SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER PROVENCE TOUR BEFORE AUGUST 8, 2014 AND SAVE \$300 PER PERSON OFF THE TOUR PRICE!

2014 TOUR PRICE - \$3,698 PER PERSON "LAND ALL-INCLUSIVE" DOUBLE/TWIN OCCUPANCY (6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS)

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

****ONLY 2014 Tour Dates with spaces still available are listed below!**



- September 2-7
- September 9-14
- September 16-21
- September 30-October 5
- October 7-12
- October 14-19



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE 2014 PROVENCE TRIP PRICE?

EVERYTHING BUT airfare to/from France, train fare to/from Avignon TGV station, Gratuities to Tour Guides and Professional Driver and any personal purchases.

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

WE ASKED SOME OF OUR GUESTS FROM OUR 2013 & 2014 PROVENCE TOURS -

“WOULD YOU RECOMMEND OUR PROVENCE TOUR TO A FRIEND OR FAMILY AND WHY?”

THEIR RESPONSES...

“YES, We will enthusiastically recommend this trip to friends and family!! It is great to be with tour guides who are smart, well informed and eager to see that we are having a great experience. We enjoyed everything about this trip. Hotel and meals were outstanding! The thing we enjoyed the most was the congenial attitude created by the guides and driver. It was so easy to be with everyone. Every day was different, different experiences, different locations and very magical! This has been an outstanding experience and we surely would want to share it with people that we care about. Merci Beaucoup! How did you manage to put together such a great group of guests?!” –JORDAN & ANITA WALDMAN, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA (referred to the tour by 2013 guests Ralph and Sandy Mayer-their feedback below)

“YES!! We loved our attentive, hard working guides, the varied and well chosen activities. The accommodations are very high quality and the food from the cooking class, bistrot and dinners were all a highlight of the trip. Very favorable ratio of quality to cost...VALUE in other words. This trip far exceeded our expectations! Thank you for such a fun and beautiful week!” –DICK AND FRANCES UGORETZ, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA (referred to the tour by 2013 guests Ralph and Sandy Mayer-their feedback below)

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

“Yes – without reservation I would recommend this trip to a friend! We will do just that! We loved everything about this trip! Especially loved the walks and lunches. The hotel was outstanding and dinner every night was always amazing. Loved the final day because of the quiet villages and gorgeous walk. The congenial group enhanced the whole experience and the beloved leaders – Christy, David, Philippe(guide) and (different) Philippe(our driver) – made it exceptional! Thank you for a beautiful holiday!” –ADAM & GRETTEL CRUM, SAN CLEMENTE, CA - RETURNING IN 2014 FOR OUR SEPTEMBER 23-28,2014 BORDEAUX HARVEST TOUR

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

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

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

“YES – the trip is well priced, well planned, consistently executed, the ideal size, with exceptional tour guides and none of the excursions were too far away. Cooking class was exceptional and I loved the location and learned a lot. Loved the walks to balance out the food. It is a stunning, romantic and beautiful place to visit. Finally, the tour really provides an opportunity to “taste Provence.” --ANN YUREK, TORONTO, CANADA - ALSO RETURNING FOR OUR SEPTEMBER 23-28,2014 BORDEAUX HARVEST TOUR

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

TO READ MORE GUEST RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTION, PLEASE [CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR BLOG!](#)

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2015 - PROVENCE TOUR DATES AND PRICES

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



- April 21-26
- April 28- May 3
- May 5-10
- May 12-17
- May 19-24
- May 26-31
- June 2-7 - Sold Out
- June 9-14
- June 16-21
- June 23-28
- June 30-July 5
- July 7-12
- August 25-30 - Sold Out
- September 1-6
- September 8-13
- September 15-20
- September 22-27
- September 29-October 4
- October 6-11
- October 13-18



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE 2015 PROVENCE TRIP PRICE?

EVERYTHING BUT airfare to/from France, train fare to/from Avignon TGV station, Two dinners, Gratuities to Tour Guides and Professional Driver and any personal purchases.

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Hotel LE MAS DES CARASSINS

--VOTED THE BEST BOUTIQUE HOTEL IN ST. REMY DE PROVENCE!--

THE ROOMS : The Mas des Carassins' 22 rooms each with private ensuite bathrooms are all personalized with decor that reflects the beauty and charm of Provence, as well as the history of the mas. Ideally located in the heart of historical St. Remy de Provence with full access to all the shops, cafés and art galleries, there is no better way to complete any trip to Provence than by staying in the most beautiful hotel in town. A historical Provençal farmhouse that was acquired by the current owners in 2000, the hotel has been completely renovated over the last two years into a luxury establishment that offers all of the trimmings and creature comforts desired while traveling abroad; all to provide you with the utmost in comfort in your room, in the gardens and at both swimming pools. We have reserved the BEST rooms for our guests. Each room is uniquely decorated with luxury linens from one of Paris' top luxury home interior designers; no two rooms are alike. ALL rooms feature air-conditioning and are equipped with king-size beds (or two twin beds on request) and private ensuite bathrooms. Rooms also feature a fully stocked mini bar and snack bar, hairdryer, bath robes, slippers, flat screen television with 50 channels (in various languages-English included), individual safe, telephone, FREE WIFI and luxury bath products. Complimentary use of a computer with WIFI access is also available for guest use in the hotel living room.

BUFFET BREAKFAST : Enjoy a robust breakfast buffet each morning either in the dining room or on the terraces of the gardens before we head out for a day of fun excursions. The buffet breakfast features all of the traditional French goodies-croissants, pain au chocolat (chocolate croissants), pain au raisins (raisin croissants), fresh baguette breads, an assortment of breakfast breads, fresh fruit salad, yoghurts, a variety of cereals to choose from, PLUS a selection of French cheeses and meats, scrambled and/or soft-boiled eggs, bacon, sausages, fresh fruit juices, and hot beverages such as coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

The **SPECTACULAR GARDENS** serve as a tranquil place to enjoy an afternoon glass of wine, read a book or simply admire the colorful gardens and view of the Alpilles while lying on a lounge chair under an aged old tree breathing in the scents of Provençal flowers. Or, enjoy one of the 2 large swimming pools to refresh yourself after a day out and about discovering Provence during our group activities and excursions. Mid-day snacks are available from mid-June to mid-September for guests opting to enjoy a day at one of the hotel pools. We at Off the Beaten Path are proud to bring such a privileged experience to our guests during our Best Adventures in Provence Tour.

THERE IS **NEVER** ANY HOTEL HOPPING ON OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOURS.
ALL TOURS ARE HOME-BASED, MEANING WE STAY AT 1 HOTEL FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE TOUR.

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 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 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!*

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. Our experience has been that limiting our group size to 16 guests per tour creates the ideal ambiance for guests to easily mingle and get to know each other, yet still maintain their independence. We also limit our group size in order to preserve each guest's personalized experience, and ensure our famous quality customer service.

■ WE INCLUDE ALL BEVERAGES (BOTH ALCOHOLIC & NON-ALCOHOLIC) IN OUR PROVENCE TOUR PRICES!

We always include a welcome cocktail on day one of each tour, plus premium, classified and “Grand Cru” wines at all groups meals during each of our tours. Of course, guests are always free to opt out of any included group meal to try a restaurant, cafe or other dining option or simply to enjoy a private dining experience.

■ WE ALWAYS PROVIDE GUESTS THE BEST ROOMS AT EVERY HOTEL !

We always reserve the VERY BEST for our guests ! Plus there is NEVER ANY HOTEL HOPPING on our tours. We select 1 exclusive, luxurious, historical establishment for the entire 5 nights of each tour. UNPACK only once on arrival day!

■ 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. Plus we offer support van services on every walk, and both long and short walking trail options available.

■ 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.

Walking Ratings FOR PROVENCE TOURS...

Always enjoyable walking on Off the Beaten Path Tours - Nomatter which of our active, small group tours you join, you can expect to know, in advance, the level of difficulty of the walks scheduled during each tour. We also provide flexible options daily for non-walkers. **Both Long and Short Walking Trail Options Available for All 3 Walks!** Every Off the Beaten Path tour vacation is designed to meet a wide variety of guest fitness levels. Each walk is categorized using the system below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROVENCE TOUR WALKS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

- **Walk No.1** - For Walkers: The **GUIDED “LES ALPILLES VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK”** from Les Baux to St. Remy is rated moderate (optional: designed for interested guests). Sturdy walking shoes recommended. Walking on vineyard and country trails with occasional ascents and uneven terrain. The trail offers spectacular views of Les Baux Valley and the castle, and on a clear day, one can see all the way to the Mont Ventoux - The walk is rated moderate-Ideal for those who walk more seriously on a regular basis. Walk distance is 5 miles - approximately 2 hrs. of walking depending on photo-op stops. For non-walkers: shuttle by comfortable minivan to Les Baux de Provence village for a guided tour and leisure time to discover the village. Shopping, wine tasting, art galleries and cafés and restaurants are available in the village. PLEASE NOTE -- There is a longer trail option available for passionate walkers in the group - the longer trail is 11 miles total distance with some short term elevation gain, scrambling and more pronounced ascents/descents.
- **Walk No.2** - For Walkers: The **GUIDED “LUBERON VALLEY VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK”** from Gordes to Roussillon in the Luberon region of Provence is rated easy to moderate (optional: designed for interested guests). Walking on vineyard and country trails through picturesque landscapes and French country architecture, lavender and sunflower fields with a variety of beautiful villages in the background. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walk distance is 6 miles - approximately 2-2.5 hrs. depending on photo-op stops. For non-walkers: shuttle by comfortable minivan to each village for guided tours and leisure time to discover these beautiful villages in the Luberon. Shopping, wine tasting, art galleries and cafés and restaurants are available in each village.
- **Walk No.3** - For Walkers: The **GUIDED “HIDDEN GEMS OF PROVENCE WALK”** begins in the historic village of Eygalières and is rated easy to moderate (optional: designed for interested guests). Walking on vineyard and country trails through picturesque landscapes and French country architecture with a variety of beautiful villages and endless olive orchards in the background and along our walking trail. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walk distance is 6 miles - approximately 2-2.5 hrs. depending on photo-op stops. For non-walkers: shuttle by comfortable minivan to Eygalières for leisure time to discover this beautiful, historical village. Shopping, wine tasting, art galleries and cafés and restaurants are available in the village. PLEASE NOTE -- There is a longer trail option available for passionate walkers in the group - the longer trail is 12 miles total distance with no added degree of difficulty as far as terrain and ascents/descents are concerned.
- **NON-WALKERS ARE SHUTTLED TO/FROM ALL ACTIVITIES AND VISITS.**

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 1st 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. We recommend Travel Guard.