



# BEST ADVENTURES - WALKING & GOURMET INDULGENCE IN *Provence*

Off the Beaten Path celebrates 30 years in 2024 offering guided, small group luxury walking and gourmet foodie tours to France. WEBSITE - <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

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



Voted one of the BEST Tour companies in Europe and the world by leading travel magazines, Off the Beaten Path leads the tour industry in small group luxury walking tour travel with its Best Adventures in Provence® Tour. Our Provence Tour itinerary dazzles travelers of all backgrounds and interests seeking an authentic and active, France cultural experience. Our specialty is small group tour travel in France, and we concentrate on ensuring that our focus on travel exclusively in France remains our priority! During this award winning 6-day/5-night small group Tour, discover the hidden gems and best kept secrets of this colorful region that we call home. Thanks to our expertise and long standing relationships and presence in Provence, guests travel in style through the south of France discovering villages and historical sites, walking Provence country trails, enjoying dining as personal guests in a private Provence Farm home daily and with our many local Provence partners who are both celebrated professionals and personal family friends. Our local Provence friends look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to their private homes, restaurants, and workshops, and are eager to share their Provence with you through specially organized, private experiences that are available only to Off the Beaten Path guests. Witness vibrantly colored landscapes of lavender, sunflowers and poppies in season, and participate in spectacular walks and daily excursions and activities touring and discovering **the BEST and most beautiful areas of Provence -- Alpilles, Luberon, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, and Mediterranean coast --** through our eyes and those of our Provence friends; a very personalized experience unlike any other. We use our longstanding friendships, excellent reputation and presence in the Provence region to create itineraries full of fun, memorable experiences that you'll remember long after returning home.

EXPERIENCE: INSPIRING ITINERARIES - EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY - EXCELLENT VALUE!



Off the Beaten Path France Tours are Recommended by Best Selling Author PJ Adams, as her **TOUR OF CHOICE** to Discover the **Provence Region!!** Traveling on an Off the Beaten Path small group, cultural walking and foodie tour provides exceptional and privileged insider experiences at unparalleled value that multi-destination and other France tour companies cannot match!

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 **TRUSTPILOT**  - FRANCE OFF THE BEATEN PATH HAS RECENTLY PARTNERED WITH TRUSTPILOT, an independent review website to collect "independent" traveler reviews about our tours of Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, and Champagne!

Read candid "independent" tour reviews! [TRUSTPILOT TOUR REVIEWS](#)

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- Our sole focus and specialty is and always has been dedicated to small group travel in France – **WE KNOW FRANCE BEST!**
- In 2024, we celebrate **30 YEARS EXPERIENCE** leading tours in France.
- Our exclusive relationships with every one of our vendors in France makes these tours truly the trip of a lifetime!
- The most popular small group tours in France, we include "insider" experiences that other tour companies cannot offer.
- Our tours sell out year after year thanks to our exclusive benefits, exceptional quality, and excellent value.
- We are proud to be named travelers #1 choice for group travel for two decades!

Book one of our small group tours today to discover for yourself why our exclusive France tours have been named **TRAVELERS #1**

**CHOICE FOR GROUP TRAVEL FOR TWO DECADES!** WEBSITE - <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>





*Award Winning* OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOURS  
VOTED #1 BEST ACTIVE, SMALL GROUP TOURS IN FRANCE FOR  
DISCERNING TRAVELERS BY: CONDE NAST, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, FORBES,  
CNN TRAVELLER, USA TODAY, THE NEW YORK TIMES and TRAVEL & LEISURE!



## WHAT DOES THIS TOUR FEATURE?

Our small group Provence trips are designed for and cater to both WALKERS AND NON-WALKERS alike, and feature a lot of flexibility, options and freedom daily to choose what you would like to do each day, and how active you would like to be each day. Participate in every activity and walk or pick and choose to participate in only those activities of interest to you. Our walks are scenic leisure walks through the French countryside, and are designed to appeal to walkers of all walking and interest levels. We also allocate time for photo-op stops - We think it's important for guests to have opportunities to take photos of beautiful flower fields, local landscapes and other spectacular sites and scenes of Provence throughout our 6-day small group Provence Tour.



With 3 full-time Off the Beaten Path staff members/guides per tour along with our dedicated local on-site staff, we are able to guarantee the highest level of flexibility and quality customer service during each tour while also ensuring exceptional value in our tour prices.

## -- COME DISCOVER THE BEST AREAS OF PROVENCE --

THE ALPILLES, LUBERON, CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, AND MEDITERRANEAN COAST!

## WHO IS THIS TOUR DESIGNED FOR? No EXPERIENCE NECESSARY...

Our Provence Tours are designed for active travelers interested in an authentic, personalized, small group Provence travel experience that includes flexibility, a variety of engaging activities and excursions, many daily options for BOTH walkers & NON-walkers alike, leisure time to pursue independent interests, professional and knowledgeable tour guides, deluxe historical accommodations and sumptuous gourmet meals accompanied by classified regional wines throughout the trip. Every day offers a new, Provençal gourmet experience for "Foodies". It's vacation and Off the Beaten Path tours are all about taking the slow road, having fun, enjoying new experiences, the finest local cuisine and wines, having options and being active!

## Provence GUEST TESTIMONIALS:

“We always love the cooking classes on your tours, because they’re both informative and lots of fun. The meals were excellent, as always! And, another of the many reasons why we come on your tours, the “Guide” ...who made our Provence trip very special, was warm and delightful as the sunshine of Provence. We love how everyone everywhere we go is always so happy to see you and welcome us, complete strangers, to their homes, and open up their homes to share a part of their French life with us. We’ve taken other small group, walking tours with other companies, BUT then we found your Off the Beaten Path trips, and once we found you, that was it for us. YOU OFFER THE VERY BEST TRIPS IN THE TRAVEL MARKET!! You truly do, no other company even comes close in comparison! We have NEVER been disappointed...And although we had already done a Provence walking trip with another company about six years ago, we wanted to come back to Provence just to be able to come back with you! Thanks for everything!” Charles and Susan Kollar,

Princeton, New Jersey - (Have been on 3 OTBP Tours - Best Adventures in Provence Tour, Loire Valley Tour, Bordeaux Harvest Tour)



“We loved your consideration to stop for so many photo ops throughout the beautiful countryside. The St. Remy market, the cooking classes, hotel and all of the restaurants were fabulous. It was wonderful meeting you! Thank you for a wonderful time in Provence! See you on your Bordeaux tour next time.” Larry and Lyn Christenson, Palo Alto, CA (Provence Tour)



COME ENJOY AUTHENTIC *Provence* EXPERIENCES --

## THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES...

- Fully Guided sightseeing, walks, excursions, and cultural visits throughout the tour by professional Off the Beaten Path, LLC (OTBP) Company Tour Guides. OTBP Guides are UNESCO award winners, contributors to Provence Travel Guidebooks, and are accomplished authors. OTBP Tour guides are professional France history and Provence-specific history specialists who make learning the tidbits, gossip, anecdotes and stories of France fun and memorable throughout the tour.
- 5 nights — **NO HOTEL HOPPING!** — at CONDE NAST recommended boutique Hotel Gounod in historical St. Remy de Provence, and is owned and operated by our personal friend Karine.
- 11 Meals Included – 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners.
- All premium wines and non-alcoholic beverages at group meals!
- Entry/participation fees for activities and excursions detailed as included in the itinerary.
- Roundtrip transfers on Day 1 and Day 6 of the tour : Day 1 – Transfer provided from Marseille airport at 1 pm and Avignon TGV rail station at 4 pm. Day 6 – Transfer provided to Avignon TGV rail station for 10 am arrival and Noon arrival to Marseille airport.
- Bottled water provided daily.
- All ground transportation throughout the tour.
- –**COMFORT ZONE**– Designed for the interests of and to appeal to BOTH WALKERS & NON-WALKERS alike — the Active and Occasional Walker, and travelers of all ability levels. If you're not a walker at all, enjoy shuttling to all activities, excursions and meals on our comfortable 18-seater air-conditioned Mercedes Sprinters.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE – International airfare to/from France, airfare/train fare to the starting point to begin the tour at Avignon TGV rail station and Marseille airport, entry fees for optional visits not detailed in itinerary, 1 lunch, 2 dinners, gratuities to guides, professional driver, hotel staff, personal purchases.

*A*uthentic *P*rovence *E*xperiences! Spend 6 days experiencing Provence like family friends going beyond tourist hotspots to meet and spend time with some of France's best loved and highly recognized artisans, chefs, and winery owners who are our family friends, and welcome you to their workshops, kitchens, and family homes for authentic and fun French experiences unlike any other! We have established, proprietary relationships with All Chefs, restaurants and bistrotts on ALL of our tours based on both our exclusive and privileged network of contacts and French friends and our outstanding reputation throughout France. All Chefs, restaurants and bistrotts selected for our tours are Michelin-star and/or have been featured/recommended by top "foodie" magazines and/or fellow Michelin-star Chefs, and are family or long time friends. We dine in both gourmet restaurants and our favorite hide-a-ways cherished by the locals.

## Provence TOURS FEATURE (in detail, continued):

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

### PROVENCE TOUR WALKS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

**WALK No. 1:** APRIL, MAY, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER: WALKERS: Guided walk - Guided walk "Luberon Valley Village to Village" walk in the Luberon 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 4 miles - approximately 2 hrs. depending on stops made for photo-ops.

**Please note:** During lavender season (2nd Half June, July, August) - WALKERS: Our morning Luberon village to village walk is replaced by our morning Lavender Trail walk through picturesque lavender fields and villages of the Valensole plateau instead! Non-Walkers: shuttle to lavender fields for a non-walking experience to photograph the endless fields of lavender.

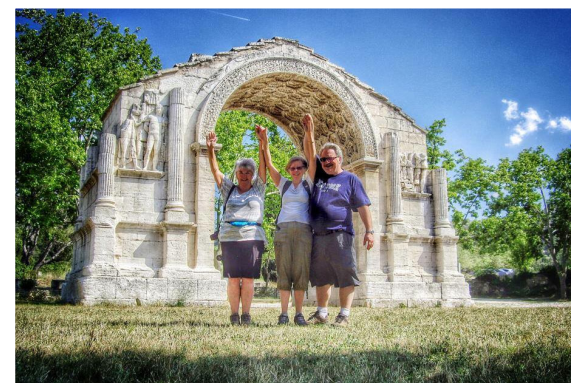
**WALK No. 1:** JUNE, JULY, AUGUST: WALKERS: Guided "Lavender Trail" walk in the Valensole region of Provence is rated EASY to MODERATE (optional: designed for interested guests). Walking on country trails of gravel and pebble stone through picturesque landscapes of lavender fields with a beautiful village in the background. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walk distance is about 2.0 miles - approximately 1.5 hrs. depending on number of stops made for photo-ops.

**WALK No. 2:** Guided walk thorough Chateauneuf-du-Papes vineyards and countryside -- rated EASY to MODERATE (optional: designed for interested guests). Walking on vineyard and country trails through picturesque landscapes. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walk distance is 3 miles - approximately 2 hrs. depending on stops made for photo-ops.

**WALKERS** - Van support is provided for walks to offer maximum flexibility. You decide how much walking to do, if participating in our walks.

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

Our Provence Tour Itinerary is Designed for BOTH Walkers and NON-Walkers alike — the Active and Occasional Walker, and travelers of all ability levels; however, this tour is not suitable for anyone with mobility issues which would prevent them from leisure walking. There is daily leisure walking in villages, getting on/off our sprinter, walking at historic sites and on uneven walking terrain/paths in villages and sites.





# Provence Itinerary - BEST ADVENTURES IN PROVENCE WALKING & GOURMET INDULGENCE!

**DAY 1: MEET AT AVIGNON TGV STATION - TRANSFER TO HOTEL, CHECK-IN, WELCOME COCKTAIL HOUR, DINNER TOGETHER - D**

**TOUR BEGINS** - Meet and Greet by your tour guides. Group transfer is included to/from Avignon TGV Rail Station and in 2024, transfer is also provided from Marseille airport.

**DAY 1 TRANSFER** -- 1 pm transfer from Marseille airport and 4 pm transfer from AVIGNON TGV Rail Station to the hotel.

**DAY 6 TRANSFER** -- 10 am transfer arrival at AVIGNON TGV Rail Station and Noon transfer arrival at Marseille airport.

**COCKTAILS & WELCOME DINNER:** Welcome Dinner: Privately hosted dinner at the Provence Mas (home) of our dear friend and renowned Chef Catherine.



**DAY 2: LES ALPILLES: ST.REMY-DE-PROVENCE ARTISAN, ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET, GOURMET LUNCH, AFTERNOON: OPTIONS : WINERT TOUR AND/OR OLIVE OIL PRODUCER VISIT FOLLOWED BY VAN GOGH IN PROVENCE WITH GUIDED TOUR AT ST. PAUL-DE-MAUSOLE - B, L**

## BREAKFAST.

**GUIDED TOUR & SHOPPING AT ST. REMY-DE-PROVENCE ARTISAN, ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET.** Start your morning with a guided tour of St. Remy-de-Provence and its market. Enjoy the morning perusing and shopping at the weekly market in the town that inspired some of Van Gogh's most famous art work. Market day in town is a must for any stay in Provence. Your OTBP tour guides provide a guided historical tour, including Van Gogh's presence in Provence, and introduction to the market after which guests enjoy time to explore and shop at leisure. 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.



**LUNCH:** A gourmet lunch at our favorite celebrity hangout in the countryside!

**AFTERWARDS:** WINERY TOUR & TASTING AND/OR VISIT & TASTING AT OUR LOCAL OLIVE OIL PRODUCER.

**PARTICIPATE IN A GUIDED TOUR — VAN GOGH IN PROVENCE! —**

**SHUTTLE TO/FROM ST. PAUL DE MAUSOLE - VAN GOGH IN PROVENCE!** Embark into the world of Van Gogh with one of your OTBP guides who is an EXPERT on Van Gogh: his life, art, and presence in Provence for a privately guided tour of St. Paul de Mausole Hospital where Van Gogh spent a year confined in the men's pavillon. During this privately guided tour, you'll imagine life as it was for Van Gogh, witness the landscapes he painted while confined, and learn rare information of the role his brother played in his daily life. A walk through the spectacular gardens completes our exclusive Van Gogh experience.

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





### DAY 3: THE LUBERON - ARTIST VILLAGES OF THE LUBERON (GORDES & ROUSSILLON), PLUS SAULT

CHOOSE OPTION:

**WALKERS** - GUIDED "LUBERON VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK" (APRIL, MAY, 1ST HALF OF JUNE, SEPT, OCT) -- AND-- DURING LAVENDER SEASON (2ND HALF OF JUNE THRU JULY, AUGUST): OUR VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK IS REPLACED BY OUR LAVENDER TRAIL WALK NEAR THE VALENSOLE PLATEAU,

**NON-WALKERS**- GUIDED VISITS IN HILLTOP VILLAGES OF GORDES & ROUSSILLON (DURING LAVENDER SEASON: SAULT, LAVENDER FARM & FIELDS & ROUSSILLON) GOURMET LUNCH TOGETHER, PHOTO-OP STOPS & OPTIONAL WINE TASTING AT A CELEBRITY WINERY - B, L

#### BREAKFAST..

**MORNING** - CHOOSE AN OPTION - We'll visit the Luberon Valley and its perched villages of GORDES and ROUSSILLON, and during lavender season, we head towards the Valensole plateau, the lavender capital, and its endless lavender fields plus a family operated lavender and essential oils distillery. You'll shuttle to Gordes or Sault from where you'll embark on your day's adventure by

#### SELECTING AN OPTION BELOW...

##### OPTION NO. 1 (APRIL, MAY, 1ST HALF OF JUNE, SEPT, OCT TOURS) --

Awaken your senses today during our spectacular, guided, "Luberon Valley Village to Village" WALK. The Luberon countryside is with beautiful unexpected landscapes, and offers the perfect setting for a golden walking experience. Ancient bories, a Roman opidum, old mills, a 700-year old chapel, a truffle farm, and charming villages connect the dots along this unique walking trail. Walking through the Luberon offers photo opportunities of spectacular colors of flower fields, vineyards, and scenery that will completely contrast your experiences in the Alpilles and along the Mediterranean coast. Enjoy time to discover and visit Gordes and Roussillon villages pre- and post walk.

##### OPTION NO. 1 (2ND HALF OF JUNE, JULY, AUGUST TOURS) --

During lavender season (June, July, August) - Walkers: Our morning Luberon village to village walk is replaced with our "Lavender Trail" Walk - Participate in a Spectacular, guided walk amidst some of the most beautiful landscape of Provence; walking through magical fields of lavender. The color and aromas of lavender offer the perfect setting. Non-Walkers: shuttle to lavender fields to experience and photograph the endless fields of lavender and enjoy non-walking cultural experiences with your guide.



**OPTION NO. 2 (APRIL, MAY, 1ST HALF OF JUNE, SEPT, OCT TOURS)** -- Shuttle from village to village where you enjoy privately guided tours of and free time to explore 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.

**OPTION NO. 2 (2ND HALF OF JUNE, JULY, AUGUST TOURS)** -- Shuttle to our lavender farm and visit the lavender fields at our picnic spot without having to walk the trail.

**Gordes village**, one of the most stunning of the perched villages of Provence, appears like an Atlantis surrounded by glorious vineyards, fruit orchards, and fields of flowers and grains instead of ocean. To one side looms the massif of Mount Ventoux, the Olympus of Provence, to the other, the pastoral whale-back of Mount Luberon. The breadth and height of this region balance in utter serenity in Gordes.

**Roussillon village**, a canto of color, with 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 line its winding cobblestone streets. Known as the village of ochre, this unique mineral creates a substance formerly used as a dying agent. Today, Roussillon is known as the most dramatically colorful village of the Luberon, and renowned for its panoramic vistas of the ochre valleys surrounding the village.

**LUNCH** (April, May, 1st Half of June, September, October tours) : Gourmet lunch at one of our favorite wineries in the Luberon

**LUNCH** (2nd Half of June, July, August) : Gourmet French Picnic amidst spectacular landscapes of lavender fields during flowering season..

**AFTERNOON** - Visit a local, family owned and operated Lavender Distillery. We then end our day with an afternoon visit in Roussillon before our return to the hotel in St. Remy-de-Provence.

**EARLY EVENING** at Leisure on return to the hotel.

**DINNER** - Independently this evening - try one of our recommended St. Remy’s restaurants – ask for details – we have a complete list of wonderful options - some offering bonuses for our guests.





LOTS OF LAUGHS,  
GOOD TIMES AND FUN IN  
*Provence!*





## DAY 4: MEDITERRANEAN COAST - CASSIS

THE TERRACED VILLAGE OF CASSIS! INTRODUCTION TO CASSIS VILLAGE, SHOP AT THE MARKET AND SPECIALTY BOUTIQUES, VISIT AT ARTISAN "PERFUMERY", ARTISAN PASTIS TASTING, 45 MINUTE CRUISE TO VIEW HISTORICAL CALANQUES (ROMAN RUIN FJORDS), PASTIS TASTING & FOODIE SPECIALTIES, LUNCH IN CASSIS, LEISURE TIME, DINNER IN ST. REMY - B, D

### BREAKFAST.

### CASSIS - A DAY ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST -

**CALANQUES VIEWING CRUISE & OTHER OPTIONS...** On arrival in Cassis your guides introduce you to the village, after which you have the opportunity to shop at the morning market and village shops. We'll spend a full day in the picturesque Mediterranean coastal, wine producing village of Cassis, France. This spectacular coastal village dates back to 500 BC, is surrounded by vineyards, and bordered by the Mediterranean sea, colorful cliffs and beach. Stroll through this art deco style village's pedestrian streets for photo-ops of the colorful port, historical architecture, and beautiful vineyard covered coastline. It's market day also in Cassis, and coastal markets offer a completely different experience to that of inland Provence. Peruse the stands, taste artisan products, and photograph the colorful stands and products on offer.

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

**LATE MORNING** - Embark on a scenic 45 minute boat tour of the historical, Mediterranean calanques. These Roman ruins protrude into the Mediterranean Sea with grace, and transform the Mediterranean coast into a work of art for onlookers!

**FAMOUS FRENCH PASTIS** - After the cruise, join your guides to enjoy a very local experience tasting the famous French Pastis!

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





## CASSIS ACTIVITY OPTIONS AVAILABLE -

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



DINNER: Together at one of our favorite gourmet hide-a-ways





**DAY 5: MORNING WALK THROUGH THE VINEYARDS AND COUNTRYSIDE OF CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, WINERY TOUR & VIP TASTING, LEISURE TIME IN ST. REMY, FAREWELL DINNER - B, L, D**

**BREAKFAST.**

**MORNING** - Begin your morning in CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE. Join your guides for a GUIDED WALK through the prestigious vineyards and spectacular countryside. We'll enjoy a winery tour and VIP wine tasting.

**LUNCH:** Gourmet lunch together at one of our favorite Chateauneuf-du-Pape wineries..

**AFTERNOON:** We head into the countryside for a guided winery tour & wine tasting of some of the region's premium wines.

**REMAINDER OF AFTERNOON:** AT LEISURE IN ST. REMY-DE-PROVENCE TO EXPLORE INDEPENDENTLY. Visit the Roman site of Glanum next door to Saint Paul de Mausole, or explore more of this picturesque Provence gem of a town, St. Remy, to shop for souvenirs and local artisan products, or pick-up any "must have Provence goodies". Enjoy a drink at a local café and people watch and simply enjoy the local ambiance.

**DINNER - Farewell Dinner** at our favorite celebrity spot to celebrate a fun and fabulous week in Authentic Provence!





**DAY 6 : TOUR CONCLUSION, GROUP DROP-OFF AT AVIGNON TGV RAIL STATION & MARSEILLE AIRPORT - B**

**BREAKFAST.**

Trip concludes today -- Group transfer is included to/from Avignon TGV Rail Station for NOON arrival.

**DAY 1 TRANSFER** -- 1 pm group transfer from Marseille airport and 4 pm group transfer from AVIGNON TGV Rail Station to the hotel

**DAY 6 TRANSFER** -- 10 am group transfer arrival at Avignon TGV station and Noon group transfer arrival at Marseille airport.



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



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# PROVENCE GUEST *Testimonial:*

**BOB & SUSAN HORN GAVE OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC 5 STARS!**

## **A WEEK IN PROVENCE: OUR DELIGHTFUL ADVENTURE**

When my wife and I decided that it was time for us to visit the south of France, we knew that, if we tried to do it on our own, we would miss out on too many experiences that we might enjoy if we only had some guidance. But we didn't like the idea of the standard sort of tours that we'd read about, with large groups and rigid itineraries and name tags – feeling like we're being herded around with a bunch of strangers. We wanted something different, but we didn't know if it existed. It does! After spending a great deal of time researching tours and looking at travel options for the south of France, we began seeing comments, here and there, about someone named Christy Destremau and the tour company that she built and owns, Off the Beaten Path Tours. We were immediately drawn to the OTBP offering, both for the interesting tour locations visited and the daily outings that combine walking, great food and education about the local customs.



Once we initially discovered Christy and her company, we did more digging and found that Christy doesn't just have fans, she has devotees! That doesn't come by accident – it only comes when it has been earned, and if you choose an Off the Beaten Path tour, I'm confident that you'll agree that she has earned this sort of following. We had flexible vacation schedules, and since one of our hopes was to see the famous lavender fields in bloom, I emailed Christy to ask about the best time of year to see the lavender. She responded quickly with a range of tour dates, and we booked the tour right in the middle of the range. Right from the first meeting of our tour guide Phillipe we knew we made the right choice. Phillipe picked us up at the train station and immediately made us feel at home, even carrying my wife's suitcase up to our room. Over the 5 days of our tour, we learned so much from guides David and Phillipe about the local foods, the history of the area and the French/Occitane customs. Every meal was a new experience: We had a picnic in a park one day, where we dined on Charcuterie and fruits purchased at a local market, fresh cherries that we picked from a tree that morning, and wonderful wine! We had an incredible dinner at a Michelin star restaurant. There was lunch at a terrace restaurant, overlooking the Mediterranean. There was another lunch one day at a restaurant, sort of in the middle of nowhere, where the roast chicken that was our main course redefined my understanding of what chicken should taste like (and I promise I am not exaggerating)! The 13th century restored wine cellar in the Chateauneuf-du-Pape region was incredible (especially since my wife and I both love to drink Chateauneuf-du-Pape)! And the private lunch at the wine cellar, prepared for us by our dedicated chef. We chose to do the walks each day and saw some incredibly gorgeous countryside, and of course the blooming lavender fields which was a highlight of the trip. But for those who wanted less walking, there was a private bus available to provide alternate destinations and activities on any given day. Our hotel in Saint Remy was perfectly located in town, a fun, eclectic, historic building. It was easy to get to restaurants and shops during our free time. We also really enjoyed market day in St Remy, the fresh produce was so beautiful. Sophie at the hotel was truly a gem - her breakfast service was so cheerful and the multiple varieties of croissants and other bread – along with the fresh fruit and little glass half pints of yogurt that were served at the hotel each morning - was unbelievably delicious.

The group size for OTBP tours is limited to 16. I've read of one of the major tour companies that brags that they keep their tours small and personal by "limiting the group size to 30". I have to say that we loved the trip, we loved our guides, and we loved the South of France. We hope to return often and soon. Thank you to Christy and the entire Off the Beaten Path crew for giving us such wonderful memories.

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

### THEIR RESPONSES...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

*World Leader in Small*



*Group Travel in France*

## 2024 – PROVENCE TOUR DATES AND PRICES

2024 TOUR DATES & PRICE - [CLICK HERE TO REVIEW THE \\*\\*2024\\*\\* TOUR SCHEDULE!](#)



# Oui...WHAT WE DO-WHAT WE GUARANTEE OUR GUESTS...

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

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

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

The group size on each of our tours is a maximum 12-16 guests. Many of our trips sell out completely meaning group size is 16 guests (and 12 guests for tours limited to 12 guests maximum per departure), and some trips average 12-14 guests. Our experience has been that limiting our group size to 16 guests per tour creates the ideal ambiance for guests to easily mingle and get to know each other, yet still maintain their independence. We also limit our group size in order to preserve each guest's personalized experience, and ensure our famous quality customer service.

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

We always include a welcome cocktail on day 1 of each tour, plus some additional group meals may include a pre-dinner cocktail in addition to the premium, classified and “Grand Cru” wines included at all groups meals during each of our tours. Of course, guests are always free to opt out of any included group meal to try a restaurant, cafe or other dining option on their own or simply to enjoy a private dining experience.

🍷 **WE ALWAYS PROVIDE GUESTS THE BEST ROOMS AT EVERY HOTEL !**

We always reserve the VERY BEST for our guests ! Plus there is NEVER any hotel hopping on our tours. We select one exclusive, luxurious, historical establishment for the entire 5 nights of each tour (3 nights on Champagne Tours, 4 nights on Dordogne Tours).

🍷 **OUR SCHEDULED WALKS ARE ALWAYS GUIDED !**

We always guide our walks!! Our guides are experienced, and have walked our trails repeatedly each season - even in the off season. They are knowledgeable about what each trail has to offer. Our guides accompany every walk on every tour where optional and scheduled walks are included. And our guides remain with the group during the entirety of each walk. We believe your walks with us should always be fun, interesting and a time to sit back and enjoy the views along the trail while someone else takes charge and shows you the way! We have specially designed all of our trails exclusively to share with our guests.

🍷 **WE WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE VAN SUPPORT FOR OUR WALKS !**

In addition to providing guides who accompany each walk on our tours, we always provide a support van whose driver's sole responsibility is to meet the group at designated points throughout each walk to provide more refreshments, collect any purchases made during visits along our trails, and provide a ride to any guest who needs a break.



## ACTIVITY RATING:

- For **WALKERS**: 80% Easy, 20% Moderate (rating is based on participation all walks).
- For **NON-WALKERS**: this trip is rated 100% Easy.

**COMFORT ZONE:** Designed for the interests of and to appeal to both the Active and Occasional Walker, as well as the non-walker.

**TOUR BEGINS:** **DAY 1 TRANSFER** -- We provide a complimentary transfer from Marseille airport and transfer from AVIGNON TGV Rail Station to the hotel

**TOUR ENDS:** **DAY 6 TRANSFER** -- We provide 10 am transfer arrival at AVIGNON TGV Rail Station and Noon transfer arrival at Marseille airport.

**EARLIER & LATER Transfers can be arranged on request:** Please contact us at [contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com](mailto:contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com) for additional information and prices.

## GUEST TESTIMONIALS:



“The cooking classes and hikes were great! The photo opportunities and pace of schedule and walks were very well planned. We really enjoyed that our guide took lots of photos for us to document the trip. Thanks again!” **Richard Leung & Linda Jan, Princeton, NJ (Provence Tour)**

“Thank you for a marvelous trip! Our guide was very helpful and knowledgeable and we had great fellow guests! The cooking classes were a lot of fun and the food was great!!” **Paul and Fran Biancardi, Sydney, Australia (Provence Tour)**



## ADDITIONAL *Provence* TOUR INFORMATION

### ■ UNRIVALED EXPERTISE WITHIN FRANCE AND THE BEST TOUR GUIDES:

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 experience and have been selected for their comprehensive understanding of French culture. You will find that Off the Beaten Path guides are wonderful traveling companions, whose knowledge and sense of fun and positive attitude make each day a wonderful experience.

### ■ WHERE DO WE RENDEZVOUS ON DAY 1 OF THE PROVENCE TOUR?

Your OTBP Guide(s) will meet you at the either Marseille Airport OR Avignon TGV train station, Avignon, France on Day 1.

**DAY 1 TRANSFER** -- 1 pm transfer from Marseille airport and 4 pm transfer from AVIGNON TGV Rail Station to the hotel.

### ■ WHERE DOES THE PROVENCE TOUR FINISH?

**DAY 6 TRANSFER** -- 10 am transfer arrival at AVIGNON TGV Rail Station and Noon transfer arrival at Marseille airport. Earlier and later departures from the hotel can be arranged, please contact us for details.

### ■ HOW SHOULD I GO ABOUT MAKING MY TRAVEL PLANS?

Off the Beaten Path is a full service tour operator and it is our pleasure to assist you with all aspects of upcoming travel plans. Whether you are looking for a suggestion for a hotel in Paris or assistance with your rail tickets, simply contact us at [contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com](mailto:contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com) or call us at 1.877.846.2831 for assistance.

### ■ DO I NEED TO BE AN ATHLETE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROVENCE TOUR?

No. However France is a country of walkers. Our Provence Tours are designed for active travelers of all backgrounds. This tour includes daily options for travelers of varying interests and ability levels. There are optional, active walks designed for interested guests who enjoy walking, and there is daily leisure walking that is suitable for all travelers. Our "Hidden Gems of Provence" walk takes us through picturesque vineyards and olive orchards at the foot of the Alpilles and is rated easy to moderate-Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Terrain is country and vineyard trails. Our Provence "Les Alpilles hidden gems" walk takes us through picturesque vineyards and olive orchards offering spectacular views of Les Baux valley, 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. Terrain is country and vineyard trails. Our Provence "Luberon Valley village to village" walk takes us through picturesque villages, vineyards, lavender and sunflower fields in the Luberon valley and is rated easy to moderate-Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. During lavender season (June, July, August) our Luberon walk is replaced with our "Lavender Trail Walk" of endless lavender fields of the Valensole Plateau. Terrain is country and vineyard trails. Appropriate walking shoes are recommended for all walks. We enjoy the "slow road" taking in the beautiful scenery of the countryside and local villages daily. Non-walkers have alternative activity options available to them each day of the trip. **Both short and long walking trail options are available for each walk!**



### ▼ ARE OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC TOURS IN ENGLISH?

Yes. All tours are conducted in English and designed for an English speaking clientele. The majority of OTBP Guests come from the U.S.A., Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and England. Guests have also come from the Caribbean, Singapore, the Philippines, China, South Africa, Korea, and Israel.

### ▼ WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED ON MY PROVENCE TOUR?

Tours exclude - Airfare to and from the trip, Train fare to and from the trip, two dinners, extras at the hotel, and any personal purchases.

### ▼ WHAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED FOR MY TOUR?

All travelers to France are required to have a valid passport. Please make 2 copies of your passport and personal identification before you depart. Keep one set of copies with you in a separate location from your travel documents, and leave the other set of copies with a contact at home before you depart. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please check with your consulate general for entry requirements.

### ▼ WHAT IS THE WEATHER GOING TO BE LIKE IN THE PROVENCE?

Provence is a very comfortable dry climate and spring (April-May-June), early summer (June, July) and early fall (September-mid-October) are the best periods of the year to visit the region. April, May, June, September and October, day time temperatures in Provence range from the upper 70's- to mid-80's Fahrenheit and very comfortable, with evenings being slightly cooler. June and July day time temperatures in Provence average in the mid 80's Fahrenheit with evenings being only slightly cooler. Typically it is sunny, but be prepared with the proper rain gear.

### ▼ IS WINE INCLUDED AT MEALS, AND IF YES, WHAT KIND OF WINES ARE INCLUDED AT MEALS?

Yes, wine is included at all scheduled group meals together. We expertly match premium wines from the region we're visiting with each dish. Meals offer an excellent opportunity to try wines from appellations not available to guests at home, and to introduce guests to some select wines worth a favorable mention or that are exceptionally appreciated by the locals.



- **HOW SHOULD I PACK? HOW SHOULD I EXPECT TO DRESS DURING THE TOUR?**

Please limit your luggage to a size that you can easily manage while traveling around France through the airport(s) and on the French rail system. Try not to over pack; you will not wear all your clothing, and laundry service is available at our Provence hotel and in town! A suggested packing list will be enclosed in your tour information package. Pack comfortable light weight, casual clothing. It's vacation and we want our guests to feel and be as comfortable as possible during our daily activities and excursions. Our dinners together include a mix of Michelin star and casual bistro style restaurants. For men we suggest a business casual ensemble (no tie or jacket necessary unless it's your personal preference) and for women we recommend a casual dress for dinners. Please no jeans or gym type sneakers at dinner.

- **WHO ARE THE PROVENCE TOURS DESIGNED FOR?**

Our Provence Tours are designed for discerning travelers of all ages and backgrounds, from the seasoned traveler and independent traveler to the first time traveler to France. Join any one of the our tours as a solo traveler, a couple, a small group of friends or family, or bring your entire travel club, affinity group, women's organization or wine society.

**NO CULINARY, HISTORY OR OTHER TYPE OF EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.** Join us for the vacation of a lifetime to discover the Best of the Provence, as an insider, and make new friends along the way.

- **DO I NEED TO BE AN EXPERT TO TAKE YOUR PROVENCE TOUR?**

Not at all. The idea is to learn about French culture, traditions, wine, daily life, artisan lives, and culinary practices in a fun and relaxing environment. Our tours offer great learning opportunities for everyone. Off the Beaten Path guides are very skilled at adapting their discussions to the general level of knowledge of the group, providing good introductory information for novices, and more advanced discussions for those who have more experience or a specialty interest. It's vacation and our tours are all about having fun, enjoying new experiences and being active!

- **HOW ARE THE PROVENCE TOURS STRUCTURED?**

Having 30 years experience in the tour industry, specifically with small group touring, we have found that our guests are generally more interested in active experiences, culture, people to people experiences and guided tours of museums and sites. Our guests like to visit private homes, and pursue their hobbies when they travel. Our guests enjoy being able to shop locally for items, such as, collectibles, art and local products. Our guests tend to do more homework and want a meatier trip, but also want to enjoy down time or leisure time to explore independently. All of our trips are designed based on these factors. Each trip offers organized activities and excursions daily combined with periods of leisure time each day. Our tours encourage individual approach and pursuit of your interests, as well as introducing you to new experiences and people during each trip.





We stay at 1 PREMIERE INN during our **BEST ADVENTURES IN PROVENCE** Tours!

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There is **NEVER ANY HOTEL HOPPING** on any Tours — ALL are home-based — we stay at 1 hotel for the entire tour!

OUR PROVENCE TOUR HOTEL CHOICES ARE VOTED **BEST** BOUTIQUE HOTELS IN ST. REMY DE PROVENCE!

*Daily Breakfast* : Enjoy a traditional French breakfast each morning during our Provence Tours before we head out for a day of fun excursions. Breakfast on our Provence Tours features all of the traditional French goodies, including a combination of the following — croissants, pain au chocolat (chocolate croissants), pain au raisins (raisin croissants), fresh baguette breads, an assortment of breakfast breads, fresh fruit salad, yoghurt, a variety of cereals to choose from, plus French cheese, fresh fruit juice, and hot beverages such as coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Please note that on some occasions some items may not be available.

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## SUMPTUOUS GOURMET MEALS PROVENÇAL STYLE DURING EVERY TRIP!



# Hotel Gounod

There is NO HOTEL HOPPING on any Tours — ALL are home-based —  
Guests stay at 1 Premiere Inn for the entire tour! Recommended by Conde Nast Traveller!  
Our Provence Tour hotel has been voted BEST boutique hotel in St. Remy de Provence!



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

The Gounod has hosted artists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Frédéric Mistral, as well as composer Charles Gounod himself in 1863 who composed the famous opera "Mireille" during his stay here. Having hosted such distinguished celebrities, the hotel serves as the perfect backdrop for our Best Adventures in Provence® Walking and Foodie Tour. Step out the front door of the hotel to find yourself immediately in the town's historical

pedestrian streets. Some of the area's most prized art studios and galleries, artisan shops, cafes, and much more are just steps away. Pop into a local café to people watch while sipping a glass of local wine, or while enjoying a buttery French pastry. For some quiet and relaxation time, enjoy a glass of wine, beer, or tea in the beautiful and tranquil hotel gardens, a swim in the beautiful new pool, or enjoy a tea in the hotel's quaint and cozy tea salon. Hotel management is always present, happy to help guests, and answer any questions.

**ABOUT THE ROOMS** — The hotel's spacious, and newly renovated guest rooms are uniquely furnished with luxury linens and toiletry products. Because the hotel has been completely renovated, styled to reflect the history and culture of the Provence region, and is also a historical building, no two rooms are alike in size, decoration or furnishings. ALL rooms feature air-conditioning and are equipped with European king and queen size beds (or two single beds on request), and private ensuite bathrooms. Rooms also feature a hairdryer, flat screen television, individual safe, telephone, and FREE WIFI. Complimentary use of an iPad with WIFI access is also available for guest use compliments of Off the Beaten Path, LLC -- ask your guides for details. Like many countryside hotels, Hotel Gounod is not equipped with an elevator.



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

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





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

- **ITINERARIES ARE DESIGNED TO SHARE THE VERY BEST OF EACH REGION** – Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne, Normandy, and Dordogne– including luxurious and boutique hotel accommodations that reflect the heart & soul of each region, and offer complete modern amenities, spectacular theme walks, both Michelin-star gourmet and bistro style dining at the best restaurants of each region, cooking classes at the homes and/or private workshops of Michelin-star and Master Chefs who are personal friends and who welcome OTBP guests to their homes and professional kitchens as a group of friends, visits to local artisan workshops, participate in fun workshops with our artisan friends, shopping at the finest craft markets, hot air ballooning and much more.
- **ALL TOURS ARE RUN BY OTBP.** The company does NOT subcontract any of its tours. Many OTBP tours are owner led and those that aren't owner led are led by guides who work exclusively for OTBP and who have been hand-picked by Christy based on her very strict criteria.
- **NO HIDDEN FEES** - Since all OTBP tour guides reside in France, we do NOT have to incorporate any international transportation and lodging costs for tour guides into our tour prices. This means we pass on even greater savings to you, and can guarantee our OTBP luxurious quality tour experiences at even more competitive prices and better value prices.
- **ALL WINES INCLUDED** - Classified regional wines and non-alcoholic beverages are included at all group meals.
- **MOST MEALS INCLUDED** - Group lunches and dinners are comprised of a combination of set menus exclusively elaborated for our groups that reflect the cuisine of the region, ordering off the menu and indulging in select gourmet menus that feature a Chef's local and/or seasonal specialties. We are constantly told that our restaurant selections are one of many highlights of our tours! We are also happy to accommodate vegetarians, vegans, gluten allergies and other special dietary requests and needs.
- **ESTABLISHED, PROPRIETARY RELATIONSHIPS...** with all wineries, chefs, restaurants, bistros, service providers and artisans on each tour based on both its exclusive and privileged network of contacts and French friends, and an outstanding reputation throughout France. All chefs, restaurants and bistros selected for OTBP tours are Michelin-star and/or have been featured/recommended by top "foodie" magazines and/or fellow Michelin-star Chefs. OTBP tours feature dining in both gourmet restaurants and favorite hide-a-ways.
- **NEGOTIATED THE BEST RATES WITH ITS FRENCH PARTNERS** to ensure the best active, luxury and authentic French experience again at the best value tour prices.
- **THE LOWEST SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS** in the France tour industry thanks to established relationships with partner hotels. Our single supplement fees cover exact hotel single occupancy fees charged. We do NOT charge a single supplement for profit, NEVER.
- **FEATURING TRUE SMALL GROUP TRAVEL.** The maximum group size on OTBP tours is 16 guests per tour date, and 12 guests on some tours. Limiting group sizes creates the ideal ambiance for guests to easily mingle and get to know other guests, yet still maintain their independence. OTBP also limits its groups to a maximum of 16 guests per tour date in order to preserve each guest's personalized experience, and ensure its famous quality customer service.





One of the most flattering questions that we have ever been asked, as a tour company, came on a September Tour from our guest Dennis Gelner. Dennis and his wife Pat traveled on 2 back to back tours with us.

Dennis' question one afternoon was,

**"WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO EXCEED EXPECTATIONS?  
IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER EVERY DAY!"**

Thanks Dennis for such a flattering question and Pat's and your ever so flattering trip comments! We love receiving feedback and hearing about how guests have enjoyed their tour(s). Whether joining one of our Provence Tours, Loire Valley Tours or Bordeaux Tours, our dedication and focus to providing the best ever authentic France travel experiences during each of our small group tours is paramount!

**WE STRIVE TO EXCEED GUEST EXPECTATIONS EVERY TRIP!!**



WE'VE RECENTLY JOINED TRUSTPILOT, an independent review website - Check out candid tour reviews from tour guests! [TRUSTPILOT NEWEST REVIEWS](#)



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

Unrivaled expertise within France sets Off the Beaten Path, LLC apart from non-France based and multi-destination tour companies. Off the Beaten Path, LLC (OTBP) is American owned and operated. In 2024, the company celebrates 30 years delivering small, engaging group, walking, gourmet foodie, wine and cultural tours exclusively in France. OTBP active, small group France tours offer travelers the very BEST, and most inspiring and exclusive itineraries filled with cultural “insider” experiences to discover Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne, Normandy, and Dordogne, France.

Enjoy exceptional quality and excellent value on an OTBP small group tour today! Travelers and publications rate Off the Beaten Path Tours the BEST active, small group tours in France thanks to the unparalleled “insider” experiences featured in each tour itinerary. The company’s renowned “insider” relationships with regional French chefs, artisans, and cultural industry professionals put Off the Beaten Path far ahead of the competition when it comes to creating one-of-a-kind itineraries to experience the very BEST of France! Whether you’re a seasoned small group tour traveler, or new to the small group tour scene, Off the Beaten Path tours offer fun, enriching, interactive, local, and authentic French experiences and activities for everyone.

More than just a tour, Off the Beaten Path, transforms the entire guest experience into a personalized and exclusive “unparalleled” active, cultural affair that far exceeds guest expectations! We connect guests with lifelong, French friends who rank among France’s top-rated chefs, specialty artisans, artists, wine producers, hotel & castle owners, and entertainers! Expert Professional English speaking guides who live in France, inspiring itineraries, deluxe historical hotel accommodations, sumptuous French meals, classified regional wines, and comfortable transportation in private, spacious, professionally driven vehicles are immutable standards on every Off the Beaten Path Tour. Each tour itinerary is comprised of a variety of engaging activities and enriching experiences for guests to authentically discover the heart and soul of each region. Participate in cooking classes with our friends who are celebrity Master, Meilleur Ouvrier de France, and Michelin-star chefs who look forward to your arrival, and make you feel welcome in their family homes, professional kitchens, and workshops as a group of friends.

Shop at weekly village markets where OTBP tour guides introduce you to our French friends who are olive oil and wine producers, artists, cheese-makers, herb and spice vendors, craftsmen, perfumery and linen artisans, and designers. Walk the same countryside and vineyard trails that regional French residents do with their families. Enjoy the slow road scenery that comes with walking local country trails through vineyards, flower fields of lavender, poppies, and sunflowers, olive and fruit orchards, and small historic villages. Tour castles, pre-historic caves, and other historical monuments and sites with our knowledgeable, professional UNESCO award-winning guides. Learn the juicy, fun untold stories of French history! Dine in the same gourmet restaurants and bistros, as local French do — where the chefs are our personal friends and set aside a table uniquely to welcome you as their exclusive guests. Built-in leisure time provides guests with opportunities to pursue independent interests and activities or to break away from the group for some quiet or personal time.

Every OTBP tour offers daily options with varying levels of activeness. You always have the flexibility of deciding how each day unfolds. OTBP tour guides sit down with the group every day to discuss the activities, excursions, walks, local events, and options of the day. With so many options available during each tour, we ensure you the flexibility to be as active as you choose (more walking, less walking, shopping time, cultural discovery, people watching, photography, etc.), and to also enjoy leisure time to pursue independent interests, all while enjoying the perks of traveling in a small group. Our tour guides take care and manage the daily logistics and details while you, our guest, spend your time on the critical stuff — having fun, relaxing and enjoying your vacation your way! The idea behind each OTBP tour is to appeal to the discerning traveler of all ages and backgrounds who seeks something new and different, and who wants to reach out and discover something inspiring.



# FRANCE

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH

*World Leader in Small*



*Group Travel in France*

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 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: [christy@traveloffthebeatenpath.com](mailto:christy@traveloffthebeatenpath.com)

Telephone: 1.717.683.2827

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

Branch Offices in Bordeaux & Saint Remy-de-Provence