



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.



Award Winning OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOURS
VOTED **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 3 BEST AREAS OF PROVENCE --

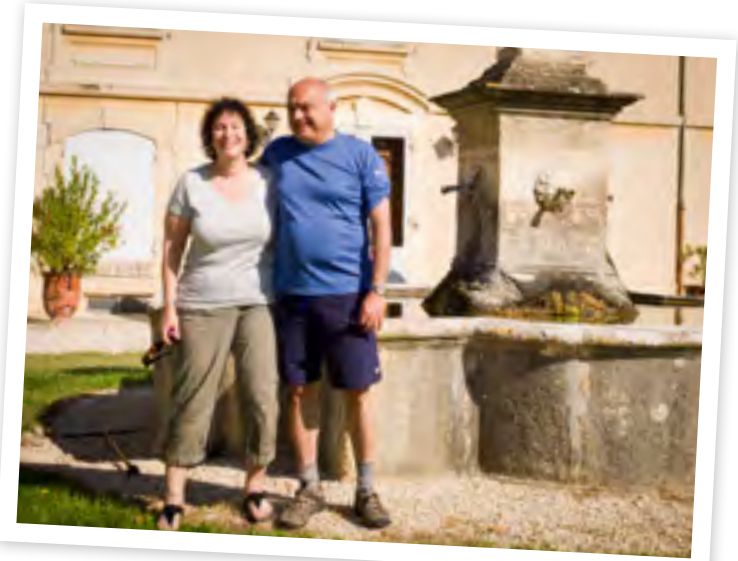
THE ALPILLES, THE LUBERON AND THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST!

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 FEATURES...

- 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 - Chateauf-neuf-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.



Provence TOURS FEATURE (in detail, continued):

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!

- **WALK #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 #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 #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.
- **NOTE :** We have established, proprietary relationships with All Chefs, restaurants and bistros 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 bistros selected for our tours are Michelin-star and/or have been featured/recommended by top “foodie” magazines and/or fellow Michelin-star Chefs. We dine in both gourmet restaurants and our favorite hide-a-ways cherished by the locals.



Provence Itinerary: BEST ADVENTURES IN PROVENCE WALKING & GOURMET INDULGENCE!

DAY 1: GUESTS MEET GUIDES AT AVIGNON TGV STATION - TRANSFER TO HOTEL FOR CHECK-IN, WELCOME COCKTAIL HOUR AND DINNER - D

Meet and Greet by tour guides at AVIGNON TGV Rail Station at scheduled 4 PM group pick-up time and location inside the TGV station. Transfer, as a group, to our luxury, historical hotel in the heart of the Gallo-Roman village town of St. Remy-de-Provence.

COCKTAILS & WELCOME 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.



DAY 2: MARKET DAY IN PRESTIGIOUS ST. REMY DE PROVENCE, BISTRO LUNCH TOGETHER, VISIT LES BAUX DE PROVENCE, VISIT AN OLIVE OIL MILL, “ALPILLES VILLAGE TO VILLAGE” WALK - B, L, D

Morning : Shopping at the Artisan, Art and Crafts Market, Lunch together at our Favorite Celebrity Bistrot, Afternoon: Les Baux de Provence Village - Visit an Olive Oil Mill, Choose an Option : Option No. 1 - Walkers : “LES BAUX DE PROVENCE VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK” - Option No. 2 - Non-Walkers : Shuttle to/from Les Baux de Provence Village, Guided Tour & Leisure Time to Explore, Dinner Together



BUFFET 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: 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: "ALPILLES VILLAGE TO VILLAGE" WALK - FROM LES BAUX DE PROVENCE TO ST. REMY DE PROVENCE.

Guided "ALPILLES 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 (option to visit a local winery), and through Les Alpilles forest.

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.

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

DINNER: Another gourmet Provençal dinner experience together.



DAY 3: A FULL DAY IN THE LUBERON - "LUBERON VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK" - B, L, D

Choose an Option : Option No. 1 - Walkers : Participate in a Spectacular "LUBERON VALLEY VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK" or Option No. 2 - Non-walkers : Visits & Free Time in the Artist Village of Gordes & Roussillon -- For all Guests - Explore the Ochre Park and Artisan Boutiques and Art Galleries, Gourmet French Picnic Lunch Together with Classified Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape & Hermitage Wines, Leisure Time, Dinner Together

BUFFET BREAKFAST. MORNING - ALL GUESTS shuttle to Gordes village and from there choose one of the options below.

OPTION #1 -

WALKERS : MORNING "LUBERON VALLEY VILLAGE TO VILLAGE " WALK - FROM GORDES. TO ROUSSILLON.

Guided "LUBERON VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK" - (optional - designed for interested guests) - Participate in a Spectacular, guided 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. Comprised of very unique experiences, our Luberon walk takes us from Gordes, a golden stone village with an imposing noble 11th century castle, to Roussillon, a famous artist village whose history evolved around the tale of a red-headed damsel and her troubadour lover. We'll pass through farms, vineyards, orchards and woods, past beautifully restored homes and simple farm dwellings. The area surrounding the Luberon is a designated natural park. The countryside is rich with bits of history and evidence of life from other times, and on foot you'll discover special places that aren't in the tourist guidebooks. 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, hilltop 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 opts along the way.

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

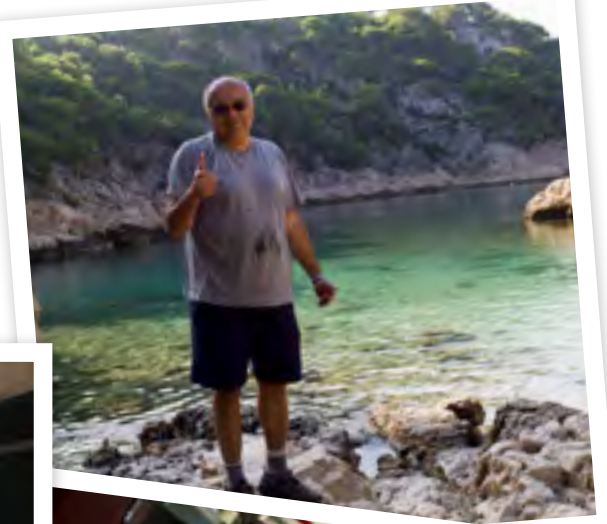
GORDES village, one of the most stunning of the hilltop villages of Provence, appears like an Atlantis surrounded by fields instead of ocean. To one side looms the massif of Mount Ventoux, the Olympus of Provence, to the other, the pastoral whale-back of Mount Luberon. The breadth and height of this region balance in utter serenity in Gordes. The viewpoint of our initial stop perches us dizzyingly at a canyons edge across from which the village could be mistaken for a masonry version of an anthill. The village’s private homes, chateau and imposing church form a kind of medieval cliff-dwelling community. Arriving to the village center, we are afforded a stroll of the cobbled lanes where dry stone walls serrate the magical vistas of the sunny land at our feet.

ROUSSILLON We’ll visit, explore and shop in the artist village of Roussillon, a colorful hilltop village that reflects the canto of color and harbors tales of 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 streets make Roussillon a very special place in Provence. Known as the village of ochre, this unique mineral creates a substance formerly used as a dying agent. A meandering walk of the preserved ochre quarry reveals the handiwork of nature amidst the collapsing excavations of man. The residents of Roussillon are predominately artists and artisans. This has led to many shops being authentic and individual in character. Explore the village and the colorful Ochre Park.



DINNER: A gourmet Provençal dinner experience together.

LOTS OF LAUGHS,
GOOD TIMES AND FUN IN
Provence!



DAY 4: FULL DAY ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST IN THE WINE PRODUCING VILLAGE OF CASSIS - B, L, D

-- Introduction to Cassis Village and Shop at the Cassis Weekly Market, Gourmet Michelin-star Lunch Together with Classified Cassis Wines, 45 minute Afternoon Cruise on the Mediterranean Sea to View the historical Calanques (Fjords), Leisure Time, Dinner Together

BUFFET 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.

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

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 -- your guides will direct you where to go.



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 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.

Late Afternoon return to St. Remy de Provence.



DINNER: A gourmet Provençal dinner experience together.



DAY 5: COOKING CLASS - AFTERNOON AT LEISURE - 3RD WALK - ST. PAUL DE MAUSOLE & VAN GOGH - PETANQUE - B, L, D

Morning: Hands-On Cooking Class with Our Friend, a Celebrity Chef of the Region, Cocktails & Gourmet Lunch of Recipes Prepared in Class, Afternoon - Choose an Option: Option No. 1 & 2 (Non-Walkers): Leisure Time in St. Remy and/or Guided Tour of St. Paul de Mausole - Learn about Vincent Van Gogh or Option No. 3 - Walkers: Enjoy one last guided walk through the spectacular Provence countryside -- “HIDDEN GEMS OF PROVENCE WALK”, Evening: cocktail hour Learning to Play Petanque, Farewell Dinner Together

BUFFET BREAKFAST.



MORNING COOKING CLASS AND LUNCH:

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 Chateauneuf-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.

LUNCH - Dine as VIP guests at our Chef's table to enjoy a lunch of the recipes prepared together in cooking class with wine pairings from our Chef's private 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 – Enjoy the remainder of 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 – 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 – Participate in one final guided “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! Plus it's a great way to walk off those fabulous cooking class calories!!!

EARLY EVENING – Come join your guides for an evening cocktail hour and learn to play pétanque, the favorite French pastime of “boules”.

DINNER: Farewell gourmet dinner together.

DAY 6 : TOUR CONCLUSION, GROUP DROP-OFF AT AVIGNON TGV STATION - B

BUFFET BREAKFAST. 11:30 AM arrival to Avignon TGV Rail Station. Earlier and later departures can be arranged. Please contact us for details.

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



PROVENCE GUEST *Testimonials:*



"This was an awesome experience! We loved all of the walks, cooking classes and dinners. You will definitely see us on more trips!" **Sisters : Nancy Reilly, Cape May, NJ & Ann Reilly, Los Angeles, CA (Provence Tour)**

"I really enjoyed the cooking classes and meals. I also really enjoyed going to the savonnerie. I think it is great that you offer truly off the beaten path visits to places I could not have found on my own. Thank you so much for a great time. I really enjoyed it!" **Linda Lorenat, San Mateo, CA (Provence Tour)**

lanques, cooking classes, shopping the markets... We also appreciated your relaxed and cheerful manner of leadership and your knowledge of the local history and culture. Thanks for a great and memorable trip!" **Steffie Grow and David Kuncicky, Santa Fe, NM (Provence Tour)**



"Thank you for organizing such a lovely trip! The restaurant selections were excellent. I truly enjoyed visiting all the different villages. Cooking with Marc and seeing his castle was top of my list. Also enjoyed the flexibility of having options each day. I never felt rushed or that I had to be with the group all of the time. I love Provence even more because of you. Your website is the BEST I have ever seen. You painted a great picture of what to expect, and you delivered everything as described. I wouldn't change a thing, it was perfect! I'll see you for the Champagne Tour." **Leslie Santarina, San Francisco, CA (Provence Tour)**



FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small



Group Travel in France

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 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 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 & GRETEL 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!](#)

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small  *Group Travel in France*

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

2015 TOUR PRICE - \$3,698 PER PERSON DOUBLE/TWIN OCCUPANCY (6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS)

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



- April 21-26
- April 28- May 3
- May 5-10
- May 12-17
- May 19-24
- May 26-31
- June 2-7
- June 9-14
- June 16-21
- June 23-28
- June 30-July 5
- July 7-12
- August 25-30
- 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 personal purchases.

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

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 AND 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.

ACTIVITY RATING:

- For **WALKERS**: 75% Easy, 25% 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.

TOUR BEGINS: Group pick-up time is at 4:00 PM on Day #1 at the Avignon TGV Rail Station in Avignon, France.

TOUR ENDS: Group drop-off on time is at 11:30 AM on Day #6 at Avignon TGV train Station in Avignon, France.

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 Avignon TGV train station, Avignon, France. The group pick-up time is at 4:00 PM at the Avignon TGV Rail Station. Specific meeting location details will be included in your complete tour information package we send you 30 days prior to the tour.

■ WHERE DOES THE PROVENCE TOUR FINISH?

We depart the hotel in the morning in order to arrive at 11:30 AM at the Avignon TGV train station in Avignon, France. 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 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 3 optional, active walks designed for interested guests who enjoy walking, and there is daily leisure walking that is suitable for all travelers. Our "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 Baux village to village" walk from Les Baux de Provence takes us through picturesque vineyards and olive orchards offering 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. Terrain is country and vineyard trails. Our Provence "Luberon 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. 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 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, gratuities to Tour guides and professional driver and any personal purchases. On 2015 Tours, two dinners are excluded.



■ 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?

April, May, September and October, day time temperatures in Provence range from the 70's- to mid-80's Fahrenheit with evenings being slightly cooler. June day time temperatures in Provence average in the low to mid 80's Fahrenheit with evenings being warm. Typically it is sunny, but be prepared with the proper rain gear. Provence climate is rather dry. The BEST and most ideal time weather wise to visit Provence is May, June, September and early October.

■ 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 one medium-sized suitcase and one carry-on - Our hotel provides a laundry service for a small fee. Try not to over pack; you will not wear all your clothing! 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 meals together include a mix of Michelin star and casual bistrot 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.

- **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 20 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, and 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.



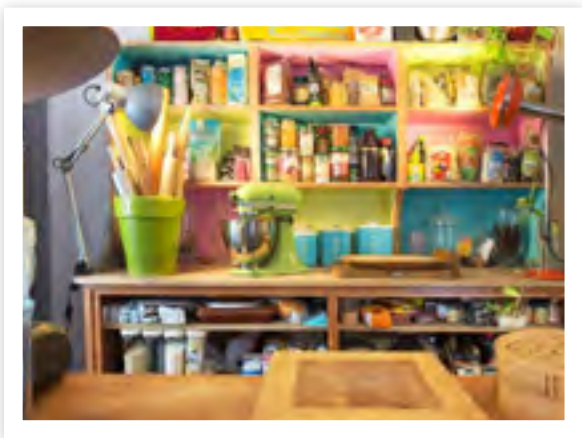
A COOKING CLASS EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER IN PROVENCE!!



Our friend and Master Chef for our Best Adventures in Provence® Tour cooking class has travelled the world cooking in great locations and unusual places. He was born with the passion of cooking and sharing. At the age of 16 he found himself in the professional cooking world in the kitchen of a master, “compagnon du tour de France” Raymond Pondeville. He then went on to spend 2 years in classical cooking after which he head off to Paris and worked at The Ritz and The Crillon Hotels. At the tender age of 21, he left France to explore the global culinary world. His life, as a chef and traveller, led him to Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica, Spain, Italy, Oxford, South East Asia, China, Scandinavia, Gibraltar, plus adventures on a cruise ship, a sailing yacht and in a casino.

For 14 years our Chef travelled and cooked around the world to discover other cultures, lifestyles and cooking traditions. Cooking is a form of expression in our Chef's eyes, a way to meet and share fun and entertaining moments together. After an extensive cooking and travelling experience, our Chef returned home to France to open a small restaurant. And after much success, he decided to change direction, and began hosting culinary programs at home in France and internationally. To date he has hosted over 300 culinary TV shows in France, the UK and China. He has also combined his TV career with writing cookbooks. He has authored 15 cookbooks in total. And, he now creates original recipes for different companies, and continues hosting cooking shows and culinary events.

When our friend and Master Chef is not writing cooking books, hosting culinary TV shows or travelling the world to various culinary events, he now hosts private cooking classes in his home workshop. Our dear friend, 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. He loves opening his home to warmly welcome our Provence Tour guests for a fun, hands-on cooking experience. During class, we learn about local Provence cuisine and the secrets of Provence recipes unlike in any other cooking class of the region. While working on our recipes, Chef will open some fabulous, prestigious Chateaufort-du-Pape wines for us to enjoy together. In his own words, “Cooking needs to remain a fun and engaging experience that everyone can enjoy whether or not they cook on a regular basis or not at all at home. This is vacation, let's have fun together, enjoy the cooking moment with a superior glass of wine and a great meal together afterwards in this beautiful place”. A sense of humour and easy-going spirit topped off with a superior glass of wine sets the stage for us to prepare some delicious Provence cuisine with our dear friend's instruction. Not only is cooking class itself a treat and fun experience, but the cooking class setting at our Chef's private estate surrounded by sunflower fields and the beautiful scenery of a Provencal castle is sublime.



COME WALK, EAT, DRINK AND ENJOY EVERYTHING GOURMET WITH US ON OUR BEST ADVENTURES IN PROVENCE® WALKING AND FOODIE TOUR.

PROVENCE TOUR ITINERARY - <http://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com/provencetouritinerary.html>

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 boutique 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.



Hotel Le Mas des Carassins...(continued)

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 and/or 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 Provencal 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.



SUMPTUOUS GOURMET MEALS PROVENÇAL STYLE DURING EVERY TRIP!



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!*



Provence Tour PRICE INCLUDES:

- Professional Off the Beaten Path, LLC Tour Guide(s) - history, culinary and wine specialist guide(s), and who are also UNESCO World Heritage Award Winners and Authors -- plus 1 professional driver.
- 5 Nights, HOME BASED, superior hotel accommodations at award winning, boutique Hotel Le Mas des Carassins - (NO HOTEL HOPPING)
- 2014 Tour Dates - 14 MEALS INCLUDED - 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners.
- 2015 Tour Dates - 12 MEALS INCLUDED - 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners.
- "Classified Provençal regional wines" and non-alcoholic beverages included at all group meals.
- Fees for 1 hands-on cooking class, lunch and wine/cocktails/beverages.



- Fees for cocktail hour learning to play pétanque
- Fees for 3 guided walks - (1) Les Alpilles Village to Village Walk, (2) Luberon Valley Village to Village Walk and (3) Hidden Gems of Provence Walk.
- ALL Van support for 3 walks during the trip.
- Bottled water and snacks provided for all walks during the trip.
- All ground transportation throughout the tour by comfortable, spacious, air-conditioned Mercedes Sprinters.
- Roundtrip transfers between Avignon TGV rail station and the hotel on tour start and conclusion day at designated transfer times.



One of the most flattering questions that we have ever been asked, as a tour company, came in September 2012 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!!

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.

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.

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): The \$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 Off the Beaten Path tours, it is highly recommend that travelers purchase trip insurance to cover the unexpected. We recommend Travel Guard.

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small



Group Travel in France

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://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: contact@traveloffthebeatenpath.com

Telephone: 1.877.846.2831

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