FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

RATED 5 STARS BY HUNDREDS OF HAPPY TOUR GUESTS

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Join our highly sought-after small group tour, Best Adventures in Provence®. This unique tour is named for its exceptional, adventurous, and active itinerary. It takes you off the beaten path to explore the best of France's sun-drenched and culturally rich southern region. Our award-winning 6-day/5-night small group tour will allow you to discover this colorful region's hidden gems and best-kept secrets. Our Provence Tour is not just a guided gourmet foodie journey but also includes a couple of easy and exceptionally scenic walks along the back roads of the beautiful countryside of southern France. What makes this tour truly special is our UNESCO award-winning guiding team and our deep connection to the region, ensuring an unforgettable trip.

Our Provence Tour itinerary is meticulously crafted to enchant travelers of all backgrounds and interests, offering an authentic and active French cultural adventure. Our expertise in small group tour travel in France is unparalleled, and we are committed to keeping our focus on travel in France at the forefront of our operations. Thanks to our long-standing relationships and deep roots in Provence, guests are treated to a stylish journey through this magical region we call home. Discover charming and vibrant villages, regional wines, local arts and crafts markets, historic sites, and scenic Provence country trails.

Our local Provence friends eagerly anticipate your arrival, ready to extend a warm welcome in their private homes, restaurants, and workshops. They are passionate about sharing their beloved Provence with you through specially organized experiences, available only to Off the Beaten Path guests. In the late spring and summer months, immerse yourself in the vibrant landscapes of lavender, sunflowers, and poppies.

You'll visit Provence's BEST and most beautiful areas—the Alpilles, Luberon, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, and the Mediterranean coast—through our eyes and those of our Provence friends, offering a truly unique and personalized experience. With a rich palette of achievements, long-standing friendships, an excellent reputation, and a strong presence in Provence and France, we design our Provence itinerary like a work of art, reflecting the exceptional nuances of the region and incorporating fun and personalized experiences that you'll cherish long after returning home.

Our sole focus and specialty is and always has been dedicated to small group travel in France – We Know FRANCE Best!

- In 2027, we celebrate 33 YEARS EXPERIENCE leading tours in France.
- Our exclusive relationships with every one of our partners 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 decades!

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...

- Personal Attention from an Exceptional Guide Team: Travel with a maximum of 16 guests, cared for by our stellar Provence guiding team—including a Provence and Van Gogh expert, marine biologist and staff writer, and a hiking and walking specialist. With multiple guides, smaller-group activities and thoughtfully planned alternatives, the experience always remains welcoming, flexible and personal.
- 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 Sprinter.

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.

Authentic Provence Experiences!

Spend 6 days experiencing Provence welcomed as 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 bistrots 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 bistrots 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.











Day 1— A Warm Welcome to Provence!

Arrival in Saint-Rémy • Welcome cocktails • Private dinner at Chef Catherine's Provençal home
Meals included: Dinner

Arrive in the sun-kissed land of lavender, vineyards, olive trees, and golden-stone villages, where our welcoming guide team will meet you for your complimentary scheduled group transfer from Marseille Airport or Avignon TGV station.

Settle into our intimate boutique hotel in the heart of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, owned by our dear friend Karine. Unpack once and make yourself at home—this elegant retreat will be yours for the entire tour.

As evening falls, we gather for welcome cocktails and an introduction to the week ahead. Then it is off to the enchanting Provençal farmhouse of our friend, Master Chef Catherine, for a privately hosted gourmet dinner. Around her table, new acquaintances quickly begin to feel like old friends. It is a delicious and unforgettable beginning to your time in Provence.

Complimentary Day 1 scheduled transfers

- 1:00 PM: Marseille Airport to Saint-Rémy-de-Provence
- 4:00 PM: Avignon TGV station to Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

Dietary Request & Food Allergies

- Dietary Requests & Food Allergies—We accommodate ALL dietary requests and preferences (including vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian, etc.) and ALL food allergies (gluten, shellfish, etc.) while ensuring a fantastic foodie experience for all tour guests with restrictions and/or allergies.

Day 2 — Artistry of Les Alpilles & Timeless Arles: Roman Ruins and Museums

Morning — Cultural introduction to Saint Remy-de-Provence and its' weekly artisan, arts & craft market, Countryside lunch together at our celebrity hide-a-way, Afternoon in Arles: Roman history & ruins, museums, and artisan boutiques
Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

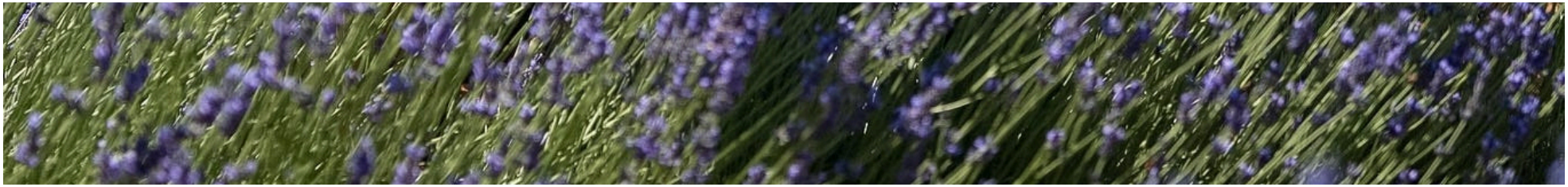
BREAKFAST.

St. Remy-de-Provence art, artisan, & crafts market day
Begin the morning among the colors, aromas, and cheerful bustle of Saint-Rémy's beloved weekly market. Explore the town with our guides, browse stalls filled with regional specialties and the work of local artists, and enjoy time to shop for Provençal treasures.

At midday, we escape into the countryside for a gourmet **LUNCH** at a favorite hideaway owned by our local friends—adored by food lovers and made famous by cookbook author Patricia Wells.

The afternoon belongs to Arles, where ancient Rome, Provençal traditions, and the world of Vincent van Gogh come together. Following a guided introduction to the historic center, use your included pass to explore the Roman monuments, museums, or atmospheric old town at your own pace. A private tuk-tuk ride offers a fun and relaxed way to discover the city's landmarks and hidden corners.

DINNER: Back in Saint-Rémy, the evening is yours. Your guides will gladly share their favorite restaurant recommendations and make reservations for you.



Day 3 – Day of Immersive Experiences – Wine & Macarons

Morning – Wine blending workshop at our friend's family winery in Chateauneuf-du-Pape and Côtes de Rhone wine country, Picnic at the winery overlooking the valley of vines and perched villages, Afternoon – Hands-on macaron pastry class at our pastry chef's home

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

BREAKFAST.

Morning — Become a Winemaker for the morning

Travel into the renowned Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Côtes du Rhône wine country to visit our friends' family-owned winery. Following a private winery visit and VIP tasting, step into the role of maître de chai—cellar master—and blend the estate's distinctive grape varieties to create your own signature cuvée.

No wine experience is needed—only curiosity, creativity, and a sense of fun. Each guest takes home a bottle of their handcrafted wine as a unique souvenir of Provence.

LUNCH: French picnic at the winery overlooking the sea of vineyards sprinkled with perched villages.

Afternoon — Hands-On French Macaron Pastry Class

Step inside the Provençal home of our friend and pastry chef, Evelyne, for a delightful pastry class devoted to one of France's most iconic sweets.

Discover the techniques behind authentic French macarons and experience the pleasure of creating these elegant confections yourself. Personal, playful, and delicious, it is a joyful taste of French life.

Late Afternoon enjoy leisure time in Saint Remy-de-Provence for time to shop or enjoy the café vibe of town.

DINNER: Back in Saint-Rémy, the evening is yours. Your guides will gladly share their favorite restaurant recommendations and make reservations for you.

Day 4 – Seaside Day: Village of Cassis Along the Mediterranean Sea

Morning — The Cassis weekly market, 1 Hour Calanques cruise along the coast with our team Marine Biologist, Optional artisan perfumery, Free time to explore Cassis, Gourmet dinner together
Meals included: Breakfast and dinner

Today we trade the countryside for the sparkling Mediterranean coast. In Cassis, terraced vineyards tumble toward a colorful fishing port framed by limestone cliffs, blue water, and sky.

Explore the charming harbor and lively weekly market with your guides before boarding a one-hour cruise through the Calanques, where dramatic white cliffs rise above the shimmering sea. After the cruise, those who wish may join the guides for a taste of local Pastis and Cassis wines before choosing a café or restaurant for **LUNCH** along the port.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy. Browse the boutiques, relax on the beach, or visit our artisan friends at their family perfumery, where you will learn about their craft and sample perfumes and handmade soaps infused with the fragrances of Provence.

DINNER: This evening, we reunite for a gourmet dinner and share stories from our beautiful day beside the sea.







Day 5 — Into the Luberon Valley and Lavender Country

Spring and Fall tour dates — The Luberon: Visit the Villages of Gordes, Goult, and Roussillon, Optional Walk for guests interested in the walking aspect of the tour, Lunch together at our favorite hide-a-way, Wine tasting at a celebrity winery

Lavender Season tour dates — A Day Filled with Everything Lavender: Village of Sault, Visit to Our Friend's Lavender Farm, Endless Fields of Lavender, Valensole Plateau, Optional Walk in the Lavender Fields (for guests interested in the walking aspect of the tour

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Today reveals the Provence of your imagination: hilltop villages, ochre cliffs, vineyard-lined roads, and—during lavender season—purple fields stretching toward the horizon.

The itinerary changes with the seasons so you can experience the region at its most beautiful.

Spring and Fall Provence Tour Dates (non-lavender season tour dates): Visit Gordes, Goult & Roussillon in the Luberon Valley.

Choose the experience that suits you:

For walkers: Follow a guided village-to-village route through the countryside surrounding Gordes and Roussillon. Rated easy to moderate, the walk lasts approximately 1½ hours, with pauses for photographs and time to explore both villages.
For non-walkers: Travel comfortably between Gordes, Goult, and Roussillon and enjoy guided cultural visits of these remarkable villages—celebrated for their golden stone and one village for its dramatic ochre cliffs.

Both walkers and non-walkers experience Gordes and Roussillon before enjoying a gourmet **LUNCH** at one of our favorite Luberon hideaways.

Lavender-Season Tour Dates (Last week May to end of July): Goult & Sault, Valensole Plateau, Endless fields of lavender.

Begin the day in the enchanting village of Goult, where you can browse the morning arts-and-crafts market and soak up the rhythms of local life. We then continue to Sault, Provence's celebrated lavender capital, for a gourmet **LUNCH** amid spectacular seasonal scenery.

In the afternoon during lavender season tour dates, choose how you would like to experience the lavender:

- **For walkers:** Follow our signature Lavender Trail through fragrant fields and glorious countryside. Rated easy to moderate, the walk lasts approximately 1½ hours, depending on stops for photographs.
- **For non-walkers:** Travel by shuttle to several of the region's most beautiful lavender fields, with ample time to enjoy the views, take photographs, and immerse yourself in the landscape without joining the walk.

Everyone visits our friends' family-run lavender farm and distillery to discover how fresh blossoms become fragrant essential oil.

Late Afternoon return to St. Remy-de-Provence: We end the day at a hidden celebrity gem that brings together acclaimed Provençal wines and an unexpected touch of Hollywood magic.

DINNER: This evening, a special farewell dinner at one of our favorite culinary hideaways. Together, we toast an unforgettable week of beautiful landscapes, exceptional cuisine, shared experiences, and new friendships.

— WALK RATING —

Walking Rating for PROVENCE Village to Village Walk (Spring & Fall tour dates - non-lavender season dates)

- WALKERS — Our guided "Luberon Valley Village to Village" walk in the Luberon is rated EASY to MODERATE. It involves walking on vineyards and country trails through picturesque landscapes, French country architecture, lavender and sunflower fields with various beautiful villages in the background. It is ideal for those who walk regularly in the morning or afternoon. The walk lasts approximately 1.5 hours, depending on stops made for photo-ops.
- NON-WALKERS — EASY: Shuttle to each of our beautiful hilltop villages and gourmet hosted lunch.

Walking Rating for lavender season (end of May through early end of July)

- WALKERS — Our "Lavender Trail Walk" and is rated EASY to MODERATE. Enjoy spectacular, guided walking amidst some of the most beautiful landscapes of Provence, walking through magical fields of lavender. The countryside is gorgeous with incredible color and aromas and offers the perfect setting for a walking experience. This walk is ideal for those who regularly walk in the morning or afternoon. Walk length – approximately 1.5 hrs. depending on stops made for photo-ops.
- NON-WALKERS — EASY: Take our shuttle to lavender fields to experience and photograph the endless fields of lavender and enjoy non-walking cultural experiences with your guide.

Day 6 – Fond Farewells and Lasting Memories!

Breakfast • Complimentary scheduled group departures
Meals included: Breakfast

Enjoy one final breakfast before saying au revoir to Saint-Rémy and the friends who have shared this wonderful week with you. You leave Provence with far more than photographs: the flavors, stories, laughter, and beauty of southern France travel home with you.

Complimentary Day 6 scheduled transfers

- Arrival at Avignon TGV station at 10:00 AM
- Arrival at Marseille Airport at 12:00 PM

Complete meeting and transfer instructions are provided in your tour information package approximately 30 days before departure.

Small Groups, Personal Experiences: Limited to 16 guests and personally hosted by our Provence guiding team, you'll enjoy the individual attention, relaxed atmosphere and special access that make every day feel like exploring Provence with local friends.

Trustpilot

FRANCE OFF THE BEATEN PATH is partnered with TRUSTPILOT, an independent review website to collect "independent" traveler reviews about our tours of Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne, Specialty, and Limited Edition Tours! Read candid reviews! TRUSTPILOT TOUR REVIEWS



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...

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 a 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

Day 1 and day 6 complimentary group transfer details

DAY 1 — TOUR BEGINS
CHOOSE FROM TWO SCHEDULED GROUP TRANSFERS TO OUR HOTEL IN SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE:

- 1:00 P.M. FROM MARSEILLE PROVENCE AIRPORT
- 4:00 P.M. FROM AVIGNON TGV STATION

YOUR TOUR INFORMATION PACKAGE, SENT APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE, WILL PROVIDE COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS EXPLAINING WHERE TO MEET OUR GUIDING TEAM AT THE AIRPORT OR TRAIN STATION.

DAY 6 — TOUR CONCLUDES
CHOOSE FROM TWO SCHEDULED DEPARTURE TRANSFERS FROM OUR HOTEL:

- AVIGNON TGV STATION: ARRIVAL AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 A.M.
- MARSEILLE PROVENCE AIRPORT: ARRIVAL AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 P.M.

TRANSFERS REQUESTED OUTSIDE THESE SCHEDULED GROUP SERVICES MAY BE ARRANGED SEPARATELY AT AN ADDITIONAL COST.

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 our tours is a maximum 16 guests per tour date. Many of our trips sell out completely meaning group size is 16 guests (and 10-12 guests for tours limited to 10-12 guests maximum per departure). Our experience has been that limiting our group size to 10-16 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 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 group 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 Normandy 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 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 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.

Thoughtfully Designed for Walkers & Non-Walkers
Our Provence tours are thoughtfully designed to be enjoyed by both walkers and non-walkers, with a delightful balance of activities, cultural experiences, and excursions. Guests need to be comfortable with a reasonable amount of daily leisure walking throughout the tour, including strolling through picturesque villages and towns, exploring historic sites and monuments, and navigating stairs at museums and other cultural attractions.

If you have mobility concerns or questions about the level of walking involved, please feel free to contact us before booking. We're always happy to discuss the itinerary with you and help determine whether the tour will be a comfortable and enjoyable fit.

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 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.

• 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 christy@traveloffthebeatenpath.com or call us at 1.717.683.2827 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 thoughtfully designed to be enjoyed by both walkers and non-walkers, with a delightful balance of activities, cultural experiences, and excursions. Guests are welcome to opt out of any of the optional walks; however, everyone should be comfortable with a reasonable amount of leisure walking throughout the tour, including strolling through picturesque villages and towns, exploring historic sites and monuments, and navigating stairs at museums and other cultural attractions.
If you have mobility concerns or questions about the level of walking involved, please feel free to contact us before booking. We're always happy to discuss the itinerary with you and help determine whether the tour will be a comfortable and enjoyable fit.

• 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, 1 lunch, 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!

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.
Sumptuous Gourmet Meals Provençal Style During Every Trip!







Hotel Gounod

Our Provence Tour hotel has been voted BEST boutique hotel in St. Remy de Provence!
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!

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 en-suite 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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The hotel is not equipped with an elevator. The hotel has A/C (air-conditioning).

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 the company 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, bistrots, 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 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.

• 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.

Our Commitment to Ensuring Inspiring Itineraries, Exceptional Quality, and Excellent Value!!







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 2027, the company celebrates 33 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 locals 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.





For additional information, visit our website:

TRAVELOFFTHEBEATENPATH.COM

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

• Off the Beaten Path, LLC is an American owned and operated company licensed and bonded to protect your vacation investment.

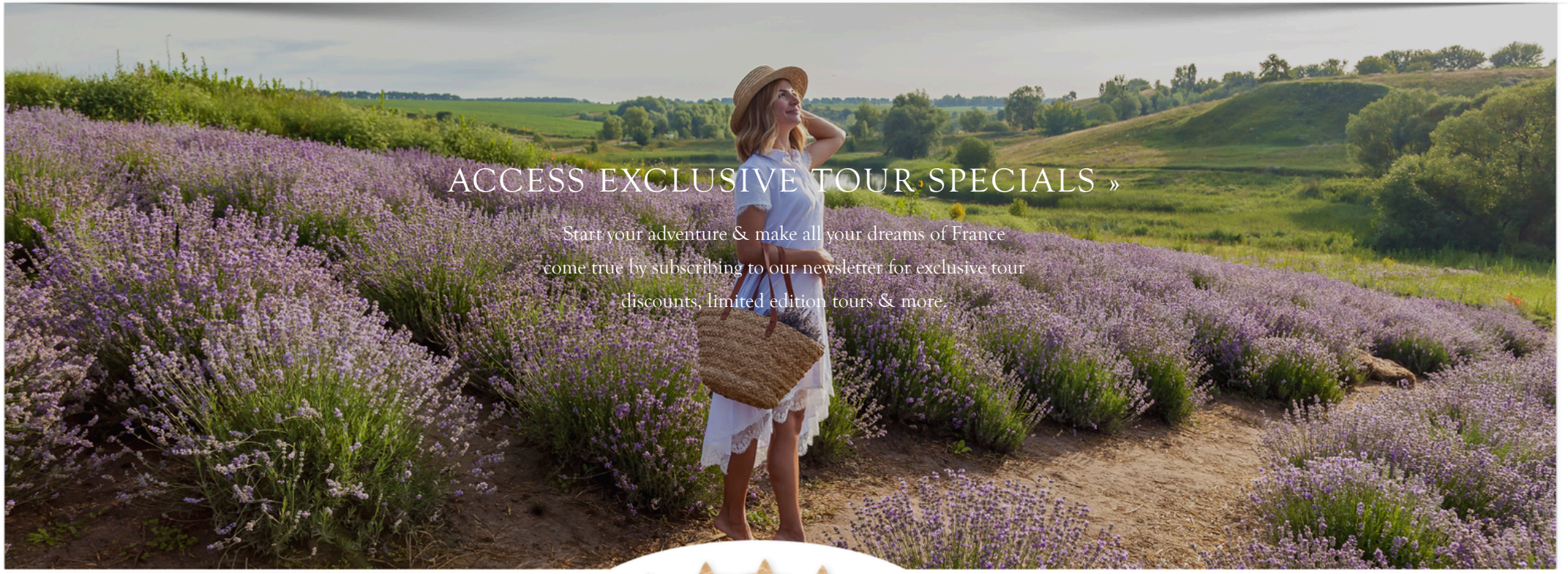
• Off the Beaten Path, LLC holds a website identity assurance warranty of $100,000. Travelers are insured for up to $100,000 per tour reservation booking when relying on the information provided by GeoTrust IdAuthority (Equifax Secure Certificate Authority) on our website.

Off the Beaten Path, LLC
EMAIL: christy@travelofffthebeatenpath.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









ACCESS EXCLUSIVE TOUR SPECIALS »

Start your adventure & make all your dreams of France come true by subscribing to our newsletter for exclusive tour discounts, limited edition tours & more.

RATED 5 STARS BY HUNDREDS OF HAPPY TOUR GUESTS

READ VERIFIED REVIEWS BY TRUSTPILOT AND FEEFO HERE

Forbes TRAVEL GUIDE – 2015 AWARDS –

CBS NEWS

Frommer's

TRAVEL + LEISURE WORLD'S BEST AWARDS 2016

USA TODAY

Condé Nast Traveler

LUX 2017 Tourism Awards