

Paris & Provence Private Tour

Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. By the very nature of what we do, each private tour itinerary is custom, exclusive and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.

Overview

Among the most culturally rich countries in the world, France brings together world-class museums, various art attractions, natural beauty, and a unique leisure aesthetic. The romantic, scenic walks in the artsy Left Bank of Paris are in nice contrast with the idyllic, verdant countryside of [Provence](#). Based on our family's recent travels in France, our most loved properties are the Right Bank's Le Bristol Paris, the Left Bank's Relais Christine, the Provincial Hôtel La Mirande in Avignon, and, of course, the magnificent Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc in Antibes.

Best Travel Time: [Spring](#) [Fall](#) [Winter](#)

FRANCE

Temperature Range

Highs: High 70's

Lows: Mid 30's

Area

543,965 SQ KM

210,026 SQ MILES

Population

63.5 Million

Language

French

Capital

Paris

Currency

Euro

Day 1

Fly to Paris

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

Day 2

Arrive Paris + Half-Day Paris Private Tour

Upon arrival in Paris, you will be privately transferred to the Right Bank's 5-star Le Bristol Paris or the Left Bank's 5-star Relais Christine.

With the help of a private guide, you will get your bearings of Paris with a half-day private tour, including a stopover at the [Eiffel Tower](#) for an up-close look-see, then travel to the 15th Arrondissement and ascend to the top floor of Montparnasse Tower for the most spectacular views of Paris and the Eiffel Tower. Though we very much enjoyed the "skip the line" time-saving benefits of visiting the Eiffel Tower in the past, this special feature has become meaningless due to its exploding

popularity. We now feel an elevator ride to the top of Montparnasse Tower to be much more pleasant. Your tour will end with a visit to Paris' eerie Catacombs. While we feel this experience to be interesting and enlightening, please be advised that those who suffer from any degree of claustrophobia might not feel comfortable here.

Le Bristol Paris

We feel that the 190-room Le Bristol (yes, the one from *Midnight in Paris!*) is our favorite luxury, 5-star hotel in Paris. Opened in 1925, the hotel occupies an 18th-century building near the shops of the Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré. We consider the airy, iconic Le Bristol to perfectly illustrate French culture and service. Though the Deluxe Suite here is our favorite, each room is individually decorated in a traditional style with Persian carpets and colorful toilets! In addition to two other notable restaurants, we especially like the hotel's Café Antonia and Le Jardin Français restaurant. Amenities here include a high-quality, three-floor spa and fitness

center, but we feel the property's sixth-floor, nautically-themed pool opening onto a solarium to be the property's most impressive feature!

Relais Christine

Having visited in April 2019, we noticed that much has changed at the 5-star, 48-room Relais Christine since our last family visit in 2013! Occupying a former 16th-century abbey, in a quiet section of the trendy Saint-Germain-des-Près area of Paris' Left Bank, the hotel is a short walk to the Seine and the Pont Neuf bridge. The property recently completed a major renovation, including rooms with updated walk-in showers, an expanded Spa Guerlain (located in the vaulted cellar), a Finnish sauna, and an exercise room. The critical thing that has not changed is the warm and inviting atmosphere and service. It is no hyperbole to say that a stay at the Relais Christine is like staying with family friends. Though usually fully booked, our favorite rooms are the Garden Suites, opening onto the private lawns enclosed by clipped hedges.

Accommodations: Le Bristol Paris or Relais Christine

Day 3

Paris Private Tour

Following breakfast, you will take a tour of some of the most notable sites in Paris. Your tour will begin with a look at the Notre Dame Cathedral, a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture, recently ravaged by a tragic, accidental fire in April 2019. Though it is currently closed for visitors during the restoration period, we still feel it is worth a visit to see the facade and we are hopeful for a full recovery! Next, you will walk down the Rue de la Huchette, one of the oldest streets along the Rive Gauche, before continuing on to Les Invalides, a massive complex of museums and monuments related to the military history of France. In the afternoon, you will visit the Louvre, the world's largest palace and greatest museum, housing such notable works of art as the *Mona Lisa*, *Venus de Milo*, and the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Le Bristol Paris or Relais Christine

Day 4

Paris Private Tour

Following breakfast, you will take a tour, with your private guide, of Paris' 4th and 17th Arrondissements. Starting with the [4th Arrondissement](#), Le Marais, you will explore the city's long-established Jewish quarter ("Pletzel") with expensive, fashionable boutiques juxtaposed to quaint Jewish stores, bookshops, and butcher shops. Your next stop will be the northern [17th Arrondissement](#), Montmartre. With a strong bohemian vibe, this Parisian hilltop neighborhood is, in many ways, quintessentially French with petite cafés, serene squares, and art around every corner. You will continue to Père Lachaise Cemetery, in the 20th Arrondissement, home to the graves of such notables as Chopin, Oscar Wilde, and Jim Morrison! Later in the day, you will head back to Paris' city center to explore the bohemian Latin Quarter, followed by an amble in the Luxembourg Gardens.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Le Bristol Paris or Relais Christine

Day 5

Versailles Excursion

Following breakfast, you will be met by your guide and privately transferred to the [Palace of Versailles](#) (an approximately one-hour drive). Versailles is beyond compare, with 700 rooms, 67 staircases, 352 chimneys, 2,153 windows, 6,300 paintings, and 2,100 sculptures and statues. Versailles has become a symbol of the absolute monarchy of the Ancien Régime. Most impressive here are the spectacular gardens, covering 1976 acres and designed by André Le Nôtre in 1661!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Le Bristol Paris or Relais Christine

Day 6

Train Paris/Avignon, Provence + Optional Private Tour

Following breakfast, you will be met by your private driver and transferred to the train station to board your first-class, high-speed TGV train to Avignon, Provence, an approximately three-hour ride. Upon arrival in Avignon, a small provincial town surrounded by a lavish countryside, you will be met by your private guide for optional private touring before being transferred to Hôtel La Mirande.

Hôtel La Mirande

Located in a national historical monument building, formerly the residence of a 14th-century cardinal, Hôtel La Mirande is set in an ideal location inside the walled section of Avignon, across from the medieval Palais des Papes complex. With just 26 rooms, special care was followed during the property's refurbishing, featuring painted wood-paneled walls with tapestries, antique glass windows, and vintage oak parquet floors. We particularly like the hotel's garden dining terrace and courtyard conservatory for afternoon tea. Being avid Japanese-enthusiasts, we were surprised to see they have Kukicha and Gyokuro tea options! Of special note for our "foodie" friends, La Mirande's restaurant dining experience offers a gastronomic menu featuring organic, farm-raised products taking to heart the words "seasonal" and "terroir"! The restaurant's Le Marmiton cooking class is noteworthy among chefs throughout Provence. With its charming, relaxing atmosphere and personal, singular service, we feel a stay at Hôtel La Mirande is a special and memorable experience to enhance your private tour of Provence.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Hôtel La Mirande

Day 7

Provence Private Tour

Today you will be met by your private driver for a full-day of [Provence](#) private touring, beginning with Saint-Rémy, originally known for its most famous son, Nostradamus, and home to the sacred Roman Site Archéologique de Glanum, just outside the city. Two of our favorite stopovers here are the Joël Durand Chocolatier shop and Le Bistrot du Paradou restaurant. As you return to Hôtel La Mirande, you will stop at the town of Bonnieux. From the 12th-century Roman-Gothic Church, the Vieille-Église, at the top of Bonnieux, you can see sweeping views of the valley floor with its patchwork of orchards and vineyards.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Hôtel La Mirande

Day 8

Provence Private Tour

Following breakfast, your second day of [Provence](#) private touring will begin with L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, a unique medieval town well-known for its flea markets and high-quality antique shops. You will continue on to Gordes, famous for its stunning Lavender Route — a wide blue-purple swath that connects over two thousand producers across the Drôme, the Plateau de Vaucluse, and the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence. Your Provence tour will end with a visit to Ménerbes, a “perched village” in the center of the Luberon region of Provence, similar to much of the Luberon area’s hill-top villages.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Hôtel La Mirande

Day 9

Aix-en-Provence Stopover + Private Transfer Avignon, Provence/Antibes

Following breakfast, you will be met by your private driver and transferred to the Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc in Antibes, first stopping at Aix-en-Provence enroute. In contrast to the many villages and hill-top towns of the Provence countryside, Aix seems more like a big city (although its population is only about 145,000). Perhaps our favorite artsy city in all of Southern France, Aix has the feel of the Left Bank in Paris, with its chic, leafy boulevards and public squares lined with 17th and 18th-century mansions. Upon arrival in Antibes, you will have the remainder of the afternoon free to enjoy the amenities of the Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc.

Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc

Many believe the Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc to be the most sought-after summer retreat in the world, and our clients would agree. Yes, it is expensive, pretentious, home to global celebrities and jet-setters, AND, we feel, among the most beautiful hotels we have stayed anywhere in the world! Despite the 55 Euro cost of a cheeseburger at the pool grill, our Lynch family has fond memories of our last stay here. Located in Antibes, Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc is 45 minutes to an hour away from Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, which is just on the other side of Nice. The reputation of the hotel is maintained in part because of its idyllic location, but perhaps more significantly due to its reputation for high-touch, understated service. Owner and proprietress, Maya Oetker, personally decorated each of the 118 rooms and has maintained a level of excellence that is unimaginable, even by 5-star luxury hotel standards.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc

Day 10

Free Day at Hôtel Du Cap-Eden-Roc

Enjoy the amenities of the luxurious Hôtel Du Cap-Eden-Roc and the beautiful scenery.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc

Day 11

Eastern Provence Private Tour

Today, you will set out with your private guide to tour the eastern areas of [Provence](#) (much closer to Antibes).

Your tour will begin with a visit to Grasse. With a population of approximately 53,000, this relatively small hill-top town is today one of the world's main assembly points for raw materials and components used in [making French perfume](#). You will then continue on to Saint Paul de Vence, one of the oldest medieval towns in the French Riviera. Home to both Chagall and Picasso, the cobbled, narrow streets here are full of wonderful galleries, restaurants, and museums. Your final Provence stopover will be Èze, named for the goddess Isis, whose cult supposedly worshipped in this place during the Pagan era. Rising 1,400 feet above the sea, the view from this idyllic setting is truly breathtaking.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc

Day 12

Avignon, Provence/Paris + Fly Paris/Home

Following breakfast, you will be met by your driver and privately transferred back to Avignon for your first-class, high-speed TGV train to Paris. Upon arrival in Paris, you will be privately transferred to the airport for your onward flight home.

Meals: Breakfast