



FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

*World Leader in Small*



*Group Travel in France*



BEST ADVENTURES - WALKING & GOURMET INDULGENCE IN  
*Provence*

Off the Beaten Path celebrates 31 years in 2025 offering guided, small group luxury walking and gourmet foodie tours to France.

WEBSITE - <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

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.

EXPERIENCE INSPIRING ITINERARIES, EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY, AND EXCELLENT VALUE!

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

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

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

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- Our sole focus and specialty is and always has been dedicated to small group travel in France – **WE KNOW FRANCE BEST!**
- In 2025, we celebrate 31 YEARS EXPERIENCE leading tours exclusively in France.
- Our exclusive relationships with every one of our vendors in France makes these tours truly the trip of a lifetime!
- The most popular small group tours in France, we include “insider” experiences that other tour companies cannot offer.
- Our tours sell out year after year thanks to our exclusive benefits, exceptional quality, and excellent value.
- We are proud to be named travelers #1 choice for group travel for two decades!

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

**#1 CHOICE FOR GROUP TRAVEL FOR TWO DECADES!**

WEBSITE - <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

# Best Adventures in Provence® Tour



Off the Beaten Path LLC  
Best Boutique French  
Tour Operator

WALKING & FOODIE TOUR

BY OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

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

6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS

<https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

**MULTIPLE DAILY CULTURAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR ALL TRAVELERS (WALKERS AND NON-WALKERS ALIKE)**

**DAY #1 - PROVENCE TOUR ITINERARY BEGINS:** MEET & GREET BY TOUR GUIDES, WELCOME COCKTAILS, PRIVATELY HOSTED WELCOME DINNER AT FRIEND, MASTER CHEF CATHERINE'S HOME - D

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

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

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

**COCKTAILS & WELCOME DINNER:** Join your guides for our welcome cocktail hour and privately hosted dinner at the Provence Mas (Provençal farm-home) of our dear friend and renowned Chef Catherine.

Throughout this exclusive Best Adventures in Provence Tour, we select different regional, classified wines for each group meal to ensure you the opportunity to try as many fabulous wines produced in this region as possible.

**DAY #2** - LES ALPILLES - B, L

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

**BREAKFAST.** MORNING – GUIDED TOUR & SHOPPING AT ST. REMY-DE-PROVENCE ARTISAN, ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET.

Start your morning with a guided tour of St. Remy-de-Provence and its market. Enjoy the morning perusing and shopping at the weekly market in the town that inspired some of Van Gogh's most famous art work. Market day in town is a must for any stay in Provence. Your OTBP tour guides provide a guided historical tour, including Van Gogh's presence in Provence, and introduction to the market after which guests enjoy time to explore and shop at leisure. Noble names of our time include Princess Diana who once had a home here and Princess Caroline of Monaco. Situated in the heart of the Alpilles, surrounded by lush valleys of olive trees and Baux de Provence vineyards, the sounds of cicadas chirping, the visual delight of plane trees and flowers, and its Gallo-Roman architecture, St. Remy reflects the heart and soul of Provence.

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

**AFTERWARDS:** VISIT & TASTING AT OUR LOCAL OLIVE OIL PRODUCER.

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

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

**AFTERWARDS:** LEISURE TIME TO EXPLORE ST. REMY-DE-PROVENCE.

ENJOY THE REMAINDER OF YOUR AFTERNOON AT LEISURE to visit the Roman site of Glanum next door to Saint Paul de Mausole, or explore more of this picturesque Provence gem of a town, St. Remy, to shop for souvenirs and local artisan products, or pick-up any "must have Provence goodies". Enjoy a drink at a local café and people watch and simply enjoy the local ambiance.

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

## DAY #3 - THE LUBERON - GORDES, ROUSSILLONN, VALENSOLE PLATEAU & SAULT - B, L

ARTIST HILLTOP VILLAGES OF GORDES & ROUSSILLONN -- CHOOSE OPTION: **WALKERS** - GUIDED "LUBERON VILLAGE TO VILLAGE WALK" (APRIL, MAY, 1ST HALF OF JUNE, SEPT, OCT) FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT OUR WINERY -- AND-- DURING LAVENDER SEASON (2ND HALF OF JUNE THRU JULY AND AUGUST): OUR VIL- LAGE TO VILLAGE WALK IS REPLACED BY OUR LAVENDER TRAIL WALK, **NON-WALKERS**- GUIDED VISITS IN HILLTOP VILLAGES OF GORDES & ROUSSILLON (DURING LAVENDER SEASON: SAULT, LAVENDER FARM & FIELDS & ROUSSILLON), PHOTO-OP STOPS & OPTIONAL WINE TASTING AT A CELEBRITY WINERY - B, L

### **BREAKFAST. MORNING - CHOOSE AN OPTION -**

**OPTION NO. 1 (APRIL, MAY, 1ST HALF OF JUNE, SEPT, OCT TOURS)** -- Awaken your senses today during our spectacular, guided, "Luberon Valley Village to Village" WALK. The Luberon countryside is with beautiful unexpected landscapes, and offers the perfect setting for a golden walking experience. Ancient bories, a Roman oppidum, old mills, a 700-year old chapel, a truffle farm, and charming villages connect the dots along this unique walking trail. Walking through the Luberon offers photo opportunities of spectacular colors of flower fields, vineyards, and scenery that will completely contrast your experiences in the Alpilles and along the Mediterranean coast. Enjoy time to discover and visit Gordes and Roussillon villages pre- and post walk.

**OPTION NO. 1 (2ND HALF OF JUNE, JULY, AUGUST TOURS)** -- During lavender season (June, July, August) - Walkers: Our morning Luberon vil- lage to village walk is replaced with our "Lavender Trail" Walk - Participate in a Spectacular, guided walk amidst some of the most beautiful land- scape of Provence; walking through magical fields of lavender. The color and aromas of lavender offer the perfect setting. Non-Walkers: shut- tle to lavender fields to experience and photograph the endless fields of lavender and enjoy non-walking cultural experiences with your guide.

**OPTION NO. 2 (APRIL, MAY, 1ST HALF OF JUNE, SEPT, OCT TOURS)** -- Shuttle from village to village to enjoy guided tours of and free time to explore the most beautiful, perched villages in 1st Half of June, the picturesque "Luberon" area of Provence made famous by Peter Mayle's books A Year in Provence and A Good Year.

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

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

**Roussillon village**, a canto of color, with a mythical story of a lover, a murder, and the suicide of the faithful bereft that describes how the name of the village honors a redhead. The romance colors the very ground and reddish walls of the buildings that lines its winding cobblestone streets. Known as the village of ochre, this unique mineral creates a substance formerly used as a dyeing agent. Today, Roussillon is known as the most dramatically colorful village of the Luberon, and renowned for its panoramic vistas of the ochre valleys surrounding the village.

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

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

**AFTERNOON** - Visit a local, family owned and operated Lavender Distillery. We then end our day with an afternoon visit i.n Roussillon.

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

**DINNER** - Independently this evening - try one of our recommended St. Remy's restaurants.

## DAY #4 - MEDITERRANEAN COAST - B

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

### BREAKFAST.

**MORNING -- CASSIS --** We'll spend a full day in the picturesque Mediterranean coastal, wine producing village of Cassis, France. This spectacular coastal village dates back to 500 BC, is surrounded by vineyards, and bordered by the Mediterranean sea, colorful cliffs and beach. Stroll through this art deco style village's pedestrian streets for photo-ops of the colorful port, historical architecture, and beautiful vineyard covered coastline. It's market day also in Cassis, and coastal markets offer a completely different experience to that of inland Provence. Peruse the stands, taste artisan products, and photograph the colorful stands and products on offer.

**A DAY ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST IN CASSIS - CALANQUES VIEWING CRUISE & OTHER OPTIONS -** On arrival in Cassis your guides introduce you to the village, after which you have the opportunity to shop at the morning market and village shops.

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

**LATE MORNING -** Embark on a **SCENIC 45 MINUTE BOAT TOUR OF THE HISTORICAL, MEDITERRANEAN CALANQUES.** These Roman ruins protrude into the Mediterranean Sea with grace, and transform the Mediterranean coast into a work of art for onlookers!

**FAMOUS FRENCH PASTIS -** After the cruise, join your guides to enjoy a very local experience tasting several of the famous French Pastis and local foodie specialties with our dear friend Roger, an artisan pastis maker!

**LUNCH:** Independently in Cassis. Enjoy a lighter fare, Mediterranean lunch along the port of Cassis.

### 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,
- For interested guests, join your cultural guide for a tour at one of the French Riviera's oldest and most famous artisan "perfumery".
- Wine and pastis taste in the local wine shops,
- Explore the historic streets, photograph this beautiful coastal town,
- Try a glass of Cassis wine while people watching at a local cafe along the colorful port,
- Some guests may also wish to swim and/or sunbath at the local beach.

Early evening at leisure on return to the hotel.

**DINNER -** Together this evening at another of favorite hide-a-way.

**DAY #5 - DAY 5: MORNING WALK** OF THE VINEYARDS & COUNTRYSIDE OF CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, WINERY TOUR & TASTING, PRIVATELY HOSTED LUNCH AT OUR FRIENDS' WINERY, VISIT ARLES OR LES BAUX DE PROVENCE, LEISURE TIME IN ST. REMY, FAREWELL DINNER - B, L, D

## BREAKFAST.

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

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

**Afternoon Option #1:** Experience "Les Carrieres de Lumieres" in Les Baux-de-Provence or Visit Roman Ruins & more Van Gogh in Arles.

**Afternoon Option #2:** Remainder of the afternoon free to explore more of St. Remy-de-Provence, its sites & museums, and finish last-minute souvenir shopping.

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

## *Provence Itinerary:* DAY #6 - B

### **BREAKFAST.**

Trip concludes today with scheduled group transfers as detailed below. Earlier and later departures can be arranged on request. Please contact us for details.

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

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

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

WE'RE PARTNERED WITH TRUSTPILOT, an independent review website.

**With 559 candid tour reviews on TrustPilot and 35 on Google, read what our tour guests say!** [TRUSTPILOT](#)

[TOUR REVIEWS](#)



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**ACTIVITY RATING:** **Walkers** - 80% Easy, 20% Moderate. **Non-Walkers** - 100% Easy.

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



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

- Off the Beaten Path, LLC is an American owned and operated company licensed and bonded to protect your vacation investment.
- Off the Beaten Path, LLC holds a website identity assurance warranty of \$100,000. Travelers are insured for up to \$100,000 per tour reservation booking when relying on the information provided by GeoTrust IdAuthority (Equifax Secure Certificate Authority) on our website.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

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

Branch Offices in Bordeaux & Saint Remy-de-Provence

COME ENJOY AUTHENTIC *Provence* EXPERIENCES --

## THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES...

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

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

*A*UTHENTIC *P*ROVENCE *E*XPERIENCES! Spend 6 days experiencing Provence like family friends going beyond tourist hotspots to meet and spend time with some of France's best loved and highly recognized artisans, chefs, and winery owners who are our family friends, and welcome you to their workshops, kitchens, and family homes for authentic and fun French experiences unlike any other! We have established, proprietary relationships with All Chefs, restaurants and 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, and are family or long time friends. We dine in both gourmet restaurants and our favorite hide-a-ways cherished by the locals.

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

### THEIR RESPONSES...

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

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

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

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

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

"Yes Absolutely - I've planned several European trips with the help of travel books and travel companies. And none of those can compare with this trip! We would have never found the top notch restaurants that we went to nor would we have been able to fit so much into our time. Even our transportation was wonderful! Our guides David and Philippe were definitely one of the best highlights 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 - HAS BEEN ON 2 OTBP TOURS - BEST ADVENTURES IN PROVENCE AND BORDEAUX HARVEST TOUR

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

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

# Provence TOUR - WALKING RATINGS

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

## PROVENCE TOUR WALKS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

**WALK No. 1:** APRIL, MAY, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER: WALKERS: Guided walk - Guided walk "Luberon Valley Village to Village" walk in the Luberon is rated EASY to MODERATE (optional: designed for interested guests). Walking on vineyard and country trails through picturesque landscapes and French country architecture, lavender and sunflower fields with a variety of beautiful villages in the background. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walk distance is 4 miles - approximately 2 hrs. depending on stops made for photo-ops.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*Group Travel in France*

## 2025 - PROVENCE TOUR DATES AND PRICES

2025 TOUR DATES & PRICE - [CLICK HERE TO REVIEW THE \*\*\\*\\*2025\\*\\*\*\* TOUR SCHEDULE!](#)



# Hotel Gounod

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There is NO HOTEL HOPPING on any Tours — ALL are home-based — Guests stay at 1 Premiere Inn for the entire tour!

Our Provence Tour hotel has been voted BEST boutique hotel in St. Remy de Provence! Recommended by Conde Nast!

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 3 winters in a row. 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 refurbished 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-size beds (or two single beds on request), and private ensuite bathrooms. Rooms also feature a hairdryer, flat screen television (in various languages-English included), individual safe, telephone, and FREE WIFI.

Use of an iPad with WIFI access is also available for OTBP tour guests compliments of Off the Beaten Path, LLC -- ask your guides for details.

Like many countryside hotels, Hotel Gounod is not equipped with an elevator.

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

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

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

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

# *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 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 groups meals during each of our tours. Of course, guests are always free to opt out of any included group meal to try a restaurant, cafe or other dining option on their own or simply to enjoy a private dining experience.

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

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



# 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 2025, the company celebrates 31 years delivering small, engaging group, walking, gourmet foodie, wine and cultural tours exclusively in France. OTBP active, small group France tours offer travelers the very BEST, and most inspiring and exclusive itineraries filled with cultural “insider” experiences to discover Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne, Normandy, and Dordogne, France.

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

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

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

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

