



TOUR DESIGN AND PROBUS CLUBS OF MISSISSAUGA PRESENT

The Most Beautiful Towns and Villages of France



MAP





The Most Beautiful Towns and Villages of Southwest France

FEATURING A BORDEAUX CRUISE, AQUITANE, THE DORDOGNE & MIDI-PYRENEES

SEPTEMBER 6 TO SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 (15 DAYS)

This tour opens with a relaxing four night cruise onboard the “Cyrano de Bergerac” out of Bordeaux along the Garonne and Dordogne Rivers. We then explore the Southwest area of France and the diverse regions of Aquitaine, Dordogne and the Midi Pyrenees. We will visit an interesting blend of larger centres and small villages. We are talking about places that look like you are stepping into a French fairy tale. This image of France is what we often dream about, but have never really gotten to see. We now explore this fairy tale together.

DAY 1 | MON, SEPT 6, 2021

IN FLIGHT

Limousine pick up will be arranged from your home to Pearson International Airport – within GTA – for our flight with Air France to Bordeaux.

Transportation: Air France | Toronto to Paris |

Depart 6:20 pm | Arrive 7:55 am

Transportation: Air France | Paris to Bordeaux |

Depart 9:30 am | Arrive 10:45 am

DAY 2 | TUE, SEPT 7, 2021

ARRIVAL BORDEAUX, BOARDING CYRANO DE BERGERAC (L, D)

Bordeaux, listed by UNESCO as a world heritage site, is a port city that lies on the Garonne River. The city is the wine industry capital of the world and is known to host some of the most popular wine fairs. Although a big city in terms of geographical area, most of the tourist attractions are in the center of the city. For orientation, we have a coach tour upon arrival. What nicer way to start our tour of southwest France than to enjoy a delightful lunch at an outdoor bistro in the city centre.

Late afternoon we transfer to the “**Cyrano de Bergerac**” for our 4 night cruise with CroisiEurope. Boarding is between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Settle into your cabin and meet the crew during a welcome cocktail reception. Dinner is on board followed by an evening of entertainment. Breakfast is a buffet and for lunch and dinner, a set three-course menu. The food is known to be very tasty on board plus there is a choice of red or white wine at lunch and dinner included in the cruise fare. This is a four star cruise and is well reviewed.

Accommodation: onboard MS Cyrano de Bergerac (4 nights)



DAY 3 | WED, SEPT 8, 2021

BORDEAUX – PAUILLAC – MEDOC | CYRANO DE BERGERAC (B, L, D)

We set sail early this morning, and have breakfast as we cruise. We head down the River Garonne and then join the River Gironde, passing Cazeau Island and Patiras Island before arriving at Pauillac by the end of the morning. Built long ago by wine merchants and ships' captains, Pauillac has managed to preserve the fine houses belonging to the old nobility that were built from great blocks of stone along its quaysides. After lunch on board, our excursion this afternoon is to visit the Medoc – a renowned region and an “away-from-it-all” spot where the most famous of all red wines in the world are cultivated. Here a mild, humid climate has made it easy to cultivate and develop the vines. We pass through most of the great Medoc appellations such as Saint Julien, Margaux, Haut-Medoc and many more, following the famous Chateaux Route. We also have the opportunity to see the “must see” chateaux of Laffite-Rothschild, Latour and Mouton Rothschild. We return on board for dinner and an evening's entertainment provided by our crew. We moor for the night in Pauillac.



MS Cyrano de Bergerac



Blaye

DAY 4 | THU, SEPT 9, 2021

PAUILLAC – BLAYE – LIBOURNE | CYRANO DE BERGERAC (B, L, D)

We depart Pauillac in the early am and have breakfast on board as we cruise. We arrive in Blaye around 9:00 am. In days gone by, this superb acropolis was the perfect look-out post to watch for invaders. Vauban had a citadel built here and this fortress is without doubt the biggest attraction in Blaye. We set off on our excursion along the Corniche, or cliff route. Narrow and picturesque, the road snakes alongside the River Dordogne before reaching the Gironde Estuary. As we travel, we catch a glimpse of charming gardens and some ancient fishermen's houses, carved out of the heart of the cliff. Unlike the famous *carrelets*, where these unique fishermen's huts are perched on wooden stilts on top of the water. The scenery here is a quite unusual combination of river, rocks and vines. We stop in the village of Bourg, a charming city built on a rocky outcrop enclosed by medieval ramparts. We then return to Blaye, where we visit the citadel. We return to the ship for lunch and continue our cruise towards Cadillac. Shortly after passing the island of Cazeau, we join the River Dordogne and head for Libourne, where we arrive during the evening. This evening we enjoy a gala welcome dinner.



Saint-Emilion

DAY 5 | FRI, SEPT 10, 2021

LIBOURNE – SAINT-EMILION – BORDEAUX | CYRANO DE BERGERAC (B, L, D)

After breakfast on board, we have an excursion to Saint-Emilion this morning. We have a guided visit of the underground monuments of Saint-Emilion village as our guide introduces us to the history of the medieval city. We

then visit an exceptional Troglodyte settlement – the cave of Emilion, the monk who founded the city, the Chapel of the Holy Trinity built in his honour and the catacombs. Finally we see what is undoubtedly the most original of all the monuments – the Monolithic church. Carved out entirely from the limestone rocks, it is the largest church in Europe. We next head off to visit a family-run vineyard and wine-producer where we are welcomed by the owner who explains the steps involved in producing the great wines of Saint-Emilion. Naturally we have a tasting to conclude our visit. We rejoin our floating hotel in Libourne for lunch on board and continue our cruise to Bordeaux, where we arrive around 6.00pm. We moor here for the night.



Arcachon

DAY 6 | SAT, SEPT 11, 2021

DISEMBARKATION | DUNE DU PILAT, ARCACHON AND ILSE AUX OISEAUX BORDEAUX (B, Lunch Allowance, D)

Following breakfast we disembark from the ship and join our coach and guide for the balance of our land tour. This morning we drive to the Dune du Pilat, the highest dune in Europe. This is a unique landscape, a living, natural space that is now protected and cared for by a special organization in France.

Next we move to the sleepy village of Arcachon. Most of the popularity of this village is due to the vision of the enterprising Pereire brothers, who divided the residential sections of the resort into a four-season's theme. Of the four seasons, it was the *Ville d'Hiver* with its elaborate faux-Moorish casino – modelled on the Alhambra in Granada and the Great Mosque of Cordoba – that captured the imagination of regular visitors such as Debussy, Alexandre Dumas, Chopin, Napoleon III and Toulouse-Lautrec. Tour Design lunch allowance cash provided for you to have lunch in the village.

The Basin, at the estuary of the River Eyre, is renowned for its oyster farms, the fourth-largest producers in France. The basin includes 10 sleepy villages that arc their way leisurely around the 35 km stretch of ocean beaches, from Arcachon in the south to Cap Ferret in the north. The basin itself is open to the mercy of the Atlantic but, with its lake-like shape, forms a protective ring from the ravages of the sea. In the centre of this ring is the *le aux Oiseaux*, the Basin's only island and now a protected bird sanctuary. We have a short cruise to *Ile aux Oiseaux*, to see the *Cabanes Tchaquees* – little wooden huts on stilts. We return to Bordeaux for dinner.

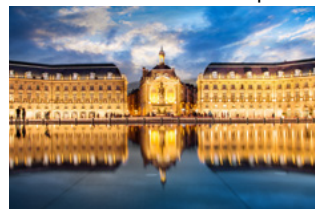
Accommodation: Quality Bordeaux Centre Hotel or similar (2 nights)



Bordeaux



Pont de pierre



Place de la Bourse

DAY 7 | SUN, SEPT 12, 2021

BORDEAUX (B, D)

After breakfast, we will visit this UNESCO World Heritage Site. We set off by coach for a guided panoramic tour of the city, and we see the key buildings and monuments before we visit Old Bordeaux on foot. From the broad avenues of the Neo-classical areas of Quinconces and the Grand Theatre to the narrow alleyways of the Saint-Pierre district, this tour gives us the opportunity to see the diversity of Bordeaux's rich heritage. Many of its neoclassical style buildings have been restored to their former glory. There are some wonderful pedestrian areas that are fun to walk. Some of the popular attractions include the Les Quais, the Aquitaine Bridge, Victory Arch, Gambetta Square, Quinconces Square, Musee D'Art Contemporain, Musee D'Aquitaine, and Musee National des Douanes as well as many ancient churches. There are wine stores at almost every corner where you can pick up a few rare bottles and legendary vintages.

Lunch on your own and balance of the day at leisure.
Dinner this evening with wine at a local bistro.



Issigeac

DAY 8 | MON, SEPT 13, 2021

BORDEAUX – ISSIGEAC – BERGERAC (B, D)

This morning we say farewell to Bordeaux as we continue on to the Dordogne Region and visit the town of Issigeac. You will quickly come to realize that France's Dordogne valley is filled with some of the most picturesque villages, cities and towns in the country. Issigeac doesn't have a readily identifiable 'town centre' – rather it is a series of narrow winding streets lined with fascinating ancient buildings – some recently restored, others giving the

impression that they are only standing due to the other houses hemmed in on both sides. This contributes significantly to the appeal of the village.

We move on to Bergerac, the largest town in the region. The highlight of a trip to Bergerac is the old town – the area immediately north of the river. This part of the town has some lovely streets and squares to explore, and a variety of boutique type shops. You may like to visit the Maison de Vins de Bergerac in the heart of the old town. It is a beautiful old cloister dating back to the 12th century. If you are a wine enthusiast there is an exhibition showing the history of Bergerac wines and its 13 appellations. Also of interest would be the National Tobacco Museum is based here in Bergerac. We spend the night in Bergerac. Dinner included this evening.

Accommodation: Hotel de Bordeaux Bergerac or similar (1 night)



Town of Sarlat

DAY 9 | TUE, SEPT 14, 2021

MONTIGNAC – LASCAUX CAVE – ST. ARMAND DE COLY, SARLAT (B, D)

This village of Montignac on the Vézère River is most famous for being home to the Lascaux Caves. The original cave has hundreds of prehistoric animals painted across its walls and ceiling. It turned out to be one of the world's best examples of prehistoric art. The Lascaux cave became a popular tourist site after World War II but it had to be sealed off to the public in 1963 to prevent damage to the paintings. Now the French government has spent \$64 million building a near perfect replica to recreate the original cave. We visit this facility this morning.

Our last town to visit this afternoon is that of St. Amand de Coly, one of the "Most Beautiful Villages of France". Nestled at the intersection of three wooded valleys, the abbey at Saint Amand-de-Coly watches over houses that are typical of the region. The splendid 100 foot tall bell-tower, its huge Gothic arch and its triple-arched door have a simple strength about them that is sustained inside the building. Around the church, we find old tobacco drying barns as well as walnut groves, drying and cracking of walnuts and oil presses.

Our destination is the town of Sarlat. The most famous town in the region and one of the most renowned and visited in France. The old town, dating from both medieval and renaissance times is a pleasure to visit, especially during the spring and autumn, or early in the morning. Dinner included this evening at our hotel. We spend 4 nights here.

Accommodation: Hotel Plaza Madeleine or similar (4 nights)



La Roque-Gageac



Gabares

DAY 10 | WED, SEPT 15, 2021

LA ROQUE GAGAAC – DOMME SARLAT (B, L)

We continue on to visit La Roque Gageac, located at the foot of a cliff, the creamy stone houses with their "lauze" stone slab or brown-tiled roofs are mirrored in the waters of the River Dordogne where the famous "gabares" (traditional flat-bottomed boats) laden with goods used to pass in the 19C. Very interesting troglodytic fort built into the cliff face here. Also some lovely exotic gardens.

We board a Gabares that have been used for transporting goods along the Dordogne since the Middle Ages. Our cruise offers a relaxing way to enjoy the sight of some of the many Dordogne chateaux and villages from the perspective of the river. Lunch at a local restaurant included today.

Our last visit is to Domme perched on the edge of breathtakingly high cliff that allows it to enjoy a remarkable view of the Dordogne valley. This creamy-stoned fortified village boasts some great architecture in the Templar's Tower and the Church of Notre Dame de l'Assumption. It was here that the King of France in the 14th century, suppressed the Christian military organization the Knights Templar. Some knights of neighbouring commands were confined in the bastide of Domme. Their prison, the Porte des Tours, commemorates those years of captivity. Engraved in the stone are messages bearing witness to both their distress and their faith.

Overnight Sarlat. Dinner on your own this evening.



Beynac-et-Cazenac

DAY 11 | THU, SEPT 16, 2021

BEYNAC ET CAZENAC – BELVES – MONPAZIER – CASTELNAUD LA CHAPELLE (B, D)

Today we visit this beautiful region of France and discover the chateaux, beautiful medieval towns and villages,

unspoiled countryside and prehistoric caves – just some of the many reasons why the region attracts visitors.

Curled at the foot of an imposing castle, Beynac-et-Cazenac is a beautiful spot enhanced by both the river and the food of the region. The natural defensive site of Beynac became the seat of one of the four baronies of Périgord. It was once besieged by Richard the Lion Heart, demolished, rebuilt, captured and recaptured by the armies of both the English and the French Kings. Here you can see the history of the region told by tapestry.

On to Belvès, a medieval town perched on a rocky spur above the Nauze Valley in Périgord Noir. It boasts 7 bell towers and although it endured invasions and wars, it has miraculously managed to preserve superb relics of its built heritage. Here there are cave dwellings and an Organistrum Museum with Hurdy Gurdies.

Then to Monpazier which is labelled a "Grand site national", it has no less than 32 listed buildings and is regarded as the prime example of a "bastide" in south-western France. Monpazier has had countless awards to salute, but also to protect, the outstanding heritage of this fortified village that was founded by Edward I of England in 1284. There is an interactive museum here featuring Monpazier's heritage and architecture.

Castelnaud-la-Chapelle overhangs the confluence between Dordogne and Céou rivers in an exceptional landscape opposite the beautiful villages of Beynac-et-Cazenac and La Roque-Gageac. Well known for its two castles – the medieval castle superbly restored with its Museum of War in Middle Age and the Milandes castle, former property of Joséphine Baker, the village itself and its typical Périgord architecture is also worth discovering. Overnight in Sarlat. Dinner included this evening.



Gouffre de Padirac

DAY 12 | FRI, SEPT 17, 2021

ROCAMADOUR – SARLAT (B, D)

The Gouffre de Padirac is an incredible cave system containing an underground river, gorge and a huge cavern. Underground lakes and pools and stalactite formations all add to its appeal but somehow it is the sheer size of the caverns that is really incredible. It is the most visited cave system in the whole of France and the number one tourist attraction of the Midi-Pyrenees region.

The cave system is 103 meters below ground and can be accessed via a lift or a staircase. Once in the system you are taken by a boat through the galleries and on to the large cavern. At the edge of the main cavern you leave the boat and begin the walking tour into the heart of the cathedral-like space that is the 'Grand Dome'. This cavern is incredible, with the river flowing along the bottom.

We then head to Rocamadour. Each year the small village of Rocamadour (population of 600) received more than a million visitors. Why so popular? Firstly because Rocamadour is an important pilgrimage destination, and has been for 1,000 years. Built on the site of a shrine to a Madonna, the shrine became famous for its healing powers, and soon became a stop on the pilgrimage path to Santiago de Compostela. The second reason is because of the beautiful and dramatic setting of the village, climbing up a cliff side.

Rocamadour is one of the Grand Sites of France. It was voted 'the favourite village of the French 2016' by viewers of a French television channel. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It gives its name to Rocamadour, a small goat's milk cheese that was awarded AOC status in 1996. Return to Sarlat. Dinner included at the hotel.



Saint-Cirq-Lapopie

DAY 13 | SAT, SEPT 18, 2021

SARLAT – SAINT CIRQ LAPOPIE – TOULOUSE (B, D)

The Saturday Sarlat market is one of the best markets in all of France! The Place de la Liberte is filled with produce and food vendors, and the Rue de la Republique is a mix of food and miscellaneous merchandise. If you love food, this is definitely the place to be on Saturday morning! The streets of Sarlat are filled with vendors selling foie gras, walnuts, wine, cheese, cep mushrooms, every kind of bread and pastry you can imagine, herbs, spices, incredible fruits and vegetables, and, depending on the season, possibly even truffles. Today we head into the mountains to visit the medieval city of Saint Cirq Lapopie. This small town welcomes more than 400,000 visitors yearly as it was voted in 2015, the most interesting of the "Beautiful Villages of France.". Saint-Cirq-Lapopie is perched on a cliff overlooking the valley and is a masterpiece of medieval architecture. Overlooked by the fortified church, the houses with their sloping, brown-tiled roofs are a harmonious sight lining the picturesque alleyways. This spot has attracted both artists and writers such as André Breton who used to take up residence in the village in summer. Time to have lunch on your own.

We continue south to Toulouse, the 4th largest city in France behind Paris, Lyon and Marseille. We enjoy a city tour upon arrival. While Toulouse is not the biggest city, it's a spectacular tourist destination with two UNESCO heritage sites, the Canal du Midi and the Basilica of St. Sernin, the biggest Romanesque building in Europe. Our tour today shows us this city in contrasts. Here is the Academie des Jeux Floraux, the oldest literary society in the western world, as well as the Galerie du Chateau d'eau, the world's

first photography museum. We stroll the Garonne, before visiting France's most beautiful pipe organ at the Saint-Sernin Basilica. Yet for all its medieval architecture, Toulouse is a modern city, home to the European aerospace industry, as well as bars and restaurants in bustling Place du Capitole. We spend 2 nights here. Dinner at the hotel this evening

Accommodation: Pullman Toulouse Centre Ramblas hotel or similar (2 nights)



Carcassonne

DAY 14 | SUN, SEPT 19, 2021

CARCASSONE (B, Farewell Dinner)

You have the morning free today to just relax or to wander around the city to accomplish some last minute shopping.

In the afternoon, we have a guided tour of Carcassonne, a city imbued with the spirit of the past, boasting 2500 years of history and is privileged to have two UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Canal du Midi, classified in 1996, and the Medieval City in 1997.

The medieval city situated on the right bank of the Aude, is a fortified city unlike any other in Europe, on account of its massive fortifications dominating the surrounding countryside and its state of preservation. Its history is marked by 2000 years of conquest and by the imprint of Catharism and the Crusades. The Canal du Midi is the work of Pierre-Paul Riquet and excavated in the 17th century to link the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The Canal, formerly used for transporting goods and people, is today frequented by numerous boaters and tourists. We enjoy our farewell dinner in this enchanting place.

DAY 15 | MON, SEPT 20, 2021

FLIGHT TOULOUSE – PARIS – TORONTO (B)

We will have breakfast at the hotel before we transfer to the airport for our flight home.

*Transportation: Air France | Toulouse to Paris |
Depart 12:40pm | Arrive 2:10pm*

*Transportation: Air France | Paris to Toronto |
Depart 4:35pm | Arrive 6:55pm*

***** END OF TOUR *****

B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner

SHIP INFORMATION



The 4 - Star "CYRANO DE BERGERAC"

THERE ARE 41 CABINS ON THE UPPER DECK, 21 ON THE MIDDLE DECK AND 25 ON THE MAIN DECK. CARRIES 174 PASSENGERS AND 25 CREW. THE SHIP WAS BUILT IN 2013 AND TOTALLY REFURBISHED LAST YEAR.

There are three accommodation decks, upper, middle and main. We have reserved 20 cabins. 8 on the middle deck and 12 on the upper deck. Cabins are similar in size on all three decks (about 140) square feet. Cabins on the upper deck have French balconies, which help to create a sense of space. Accommodations on the middle deck have large picture windows. Most have twin beds which are pushed together create a double. One cabin on the middle deck is adapted for wheelchair use. All crew members speak English and all announcements are in English as well as French. You have complimentary wine or beer with both lunch and dinner.



SHIP AMENITIES:

- TV
- Telephone (*for internal calls only*)
- Bathroom with shower and toilet
- Towels
- Safe
- Independent air-conditioning
- Electricity 220V
- Wi-Fi



Salon

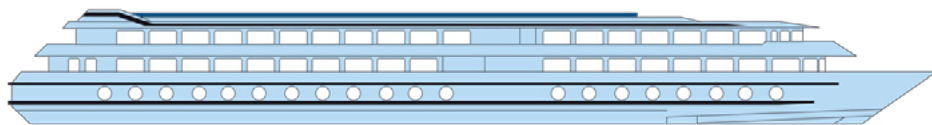


Restaurant

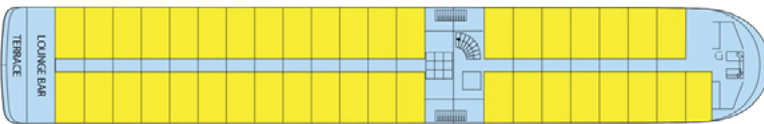


Cabin

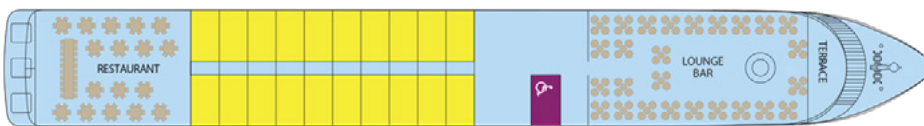
DECK PLAN



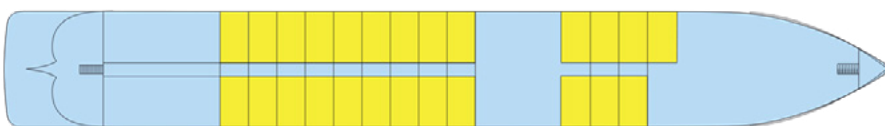
Sun deck



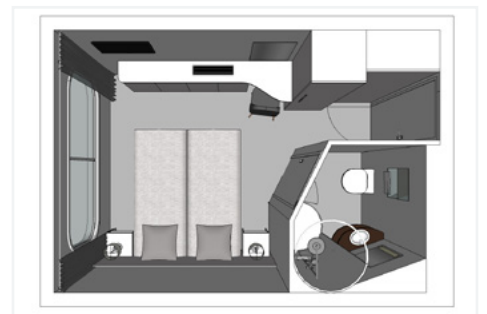
Upper deck



Middle deck



Main deck



SOUTHWEST FRANCE PRICING & TERMS

PACKAGE RATE (CAD\$, PER PERSON):

Category Cabin

Main Deck
Middle Deck
Upper Deck

Double occupancy

CAD \$6,950 per person
CAD \$7,230 per person
CAD \$7,280 per person

Single occupancy*

CAD \$8,130 per person
CAD \$8,410 per person
CAD \$8,460 per person

**limited availability for above SINGLE occupancy rate*

For any Probus Travellers that book on both Southwest France and Southeast France, a **\$300 per person discount** will be applied against your final invoice on the combined trip. Please inquire for more details about applicable air credits.

INCLUSIONS:

- Round trip airfare from Toronto to Bordeaux, Toulouse to Toronto with Air France
- Home – Airport – Home transfer to Pearson International Airport (within GTA)
- All transfers as in tour itinerary with purchase of air and tour program
- 4 Day cruise on the MS CYRANO DE BERGERAC From Bordeaux sailing the Gironde and Garonne Rivers
- Services of experienced cruise director throughout the cruise
- Services of experience tour manager for land tour
- All port taxes and gratuities for crew and coach tour
- Shore excursions included:
 - Half day visit to Modoc
 - Half day tour in Blaye and village of Bourg
 - Half day tour to Saint Emilion with wine tasting
- Hotel accommodation 2 nights in Bordeaux, 1 night in Bergerac, 4 nights in Sarlat and 2 night in Toulouse
- Breakfast daily, all meals on cruise plus additional 2 lunches, 1 lunch allowance from Tour Design and 8 dinners
- Visit to Dune du Pilat, Arcachon, Ilse Aux Oiseaux with boat cruise, city tour of Bordeaux, visit to Issigeac, Bergerac, Montignac and admission to Lascaux Caves, St. Armand de Coly, Sarlat, La Roque Gageac and cruise on local Gabares, Domme, Beynac et Cazenac, Belves, Monpanzier, Castelnaud-la-Chapelle, Sarlat market, Rocamadour, Gouffre de Padirac to see cave system, Saint Cirq Lapopie, City tour of Toulouse, Guided tour of Carcassonne.

EXCLUSIONS

- Airport departure taxes and air fuel surcharges. Currently CAD \$790 per person, subject to change until time of final payment
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Optional cancellation and medical insurance

AIR CREDIT

If you wish to arrange your own air from Toronto to Bordeaux and Toulouse to Toronto, an air credit of CAD\$400 per person will be deducted from the tour cost. And above mentioned airport taxes and fuel surcharges will not be applicable. Please contact us for air deviation, premium economy or business class upgrade surcharges.

SPECIAL NOTE:

- Names provided at time of booking MUST match exactly your passport
- You must have a passport valid for at least 6 months after your return date
- If you wish to purchase optional travel insurance with us, it MUST be purchase prior to final payment date. Please contact us for a quotation.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:

- At time of booking: CAD \$500 per person
- Second deposit:
CAD \$1,000 per person due February 26, 2021
- Final payment:
remaining balance due May 28, 2021

CANCELLATION TERMS:

*(*NOTE: initial deposit of \$500 per person for each tour, is FULLY REFUNDABLE until Travel Advisory by Government of Canada for France lowers to Level 2. From that point forward, the following cancellation penalty will apply.)*

- Between time of booking and February 25, 2021:
CAD \$500 per person
- Between February 26, 2021 and May 27, 2021:
CAD \$1,500 per person
- Between May 28, 2021 and date of departure:
100% of total cost

Program designed in conjunction with Rick Palmer.
Email: rick.palmer@rogers.com or call 905-828-7314.
To book this program, please complete the Booking Form and email, mail or fax to Tour Design.



TOUR DESIGN

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TICO registration #50014865
Toll Free: 1-888-923-9183 / Fax: (905) 258 7779
Email: nliu@glpworldwide.com / Website: www.tourdesign.ca

The Most Beautiful Towns & Villages Of Southeast France

FEATURING THE ISLAND OF CORSICA

SEPTEMBER 22 – OCTOBER 6, 2021 (15 DAYS)

This tour opens with the villages of the region of the Rhone Alps, and continues to include Provence, Cote D'Azur and Corsica. Unsurprisingly remarkable variety is reflected in the villages, which differ in their character and architecture from one region to another. We invite you to experience simple pleasure in exceptional locations that boast a wealth of outstanding heritage and are buzzing with the energy and enthusiasm of their inhabitants – celebrate the French way of life, in all the diversity of its regions.

DAY 1 | WED, SEPT 22, 2021

IN FLIGHT

Limousine pick up will be arranged from your home to Pearson International Airport – within GTA – for our flight with Air Canada to Geneva.

Transportation: Air Canada



Annecy

DAY 2 | THU, SEPT 23, 2021

ANNECY – TALLOIRES (D)

We arrive in Geneva this morning where we meet our coach and tour manager for the next fourteen days. We are moving to Annecy, called the Venice of the Alps, a French fairy tale and one of the most remarkable landscapes in the French Alps. The city has its beauty but what truly raises it out of the ordinary is the setting, the rippling lake and towering mountains that fringe it. We take in the main sights of the town and then move to neighbouring Talloires, just one of the beautiful villages dotted around this stunning lake. Lots of celebrities have come to Talloires and chosen the Pere Bise Hotel or the Abbaye de Talloires for their stay. These included the Queen Mother of England, Mark Twain, Paul Cezanne and Bruce Willis, just to mention a few. Lunch on your own in Talloires. We return to Annecy to check in to our hotel for the next two nights. Dinner is included this evening.

Accommodation: Best Western Plus Carlton Annecy or similar (2 nights)



Sixt-Fer-a-Cheval

DAY 3 | FRI, SEPT 24, 2021

SIXT-FER-A-CHEVAL – YVOIRE (B, D)

We travel into the mountains today to see two of The Most Beautiful Village of France. First is Sixt-Fer-a-Cheval, located at the foot of the mountains of Savoie. You will experience the magnificent scenery here in the Fer-a-Cheval cirque, the Cascade du Rouget waterfall and the Gorges des Tines. Lying at the eastern end of the Giffre Valley, the cirque forms an immense amphitheatre almost 5 km across and bounded by 500- to 700-m high limestone cliffs. You may also enjoy a visit to the 12th century Abbey and a guided tour around the village. Time for lunch on your own.



Yvoire

We continue to Yvoire, where the pleasure of a lakeside village combine with its strategic position between the Petit Lac and the Grand Lac. The castle, ramparts, gates, ditches and medieval houses have miraculously survived an extremely stormy past. The dazzling setting with its dramatic backdrop of mountains and lake, and the bustle of fishing boats, yachts and steam on the water, make it easy to know why Yvoire is known as the "the Pearl of Lake Geneva". Truly a day to see towns that are "off the beaten track" and waiting to be discovered. Dinner this evening at our hotel.



Chamonix

DAY 4 | SAT, SEPT 25, 2021

CHAMONIX – AGUILLE DU MIDI AND GRENOBLE (B, D)

Chamonix has a long history as a winter sports hub. Rediscovered as a tourist destination, Chamonix hosted the first ever Winter Olympics in 1924. Mountains loom large almost everywhere you look in Chamonix. Skiers and sightseers are launched by cable car to heights of 3842m on the Mont Blanc for more than 50 years, the most famous and one of the highest Aguille de Chamonix has been an essential world attraction. From the centre of Chamonix, a 20 minutes ride in the Aiguille du Midi cable car takes you to the gateway to the high Alps at a height of 3,842 m.

Lunch on your own at the top. Next we are heading to Grenoble, a city that lies along the Isere River, at the foot of Mount Rachais. The Isere divides the city into two unequal parts, the oldest part of the city cramped between the river and the mountains, and the major part of the city spreading out into the plain on the left bank. Our tour shows us the highlights of the city that offers many churches, museums and a very steep funicular. Of particular interest is the Archeological Museum with beautiful treasures and lots and lots of history. Grenoble is also best known as a leading scientific research centre is home of a series of laboratories in both the public and private sector. We spend two nights here. Dinner included this evening at your hotel.

Accommodation: Le Grand Hotel Grenoble or similar (2 nights)



Bonneval Sur Arc

DAY 5 | SUN, SEPT 26, 2021

BONNEVAL SUR ARC – LA GRAVE (B, L)

Two villages welcome us today. First Bonneval Sur Arc lying between the Vanoise National Park of France the Grand Paradis National Park of Italy. The village is isolated by its position in the mountains but they have developed their own breed of tourism that respects their remarkable environment and the ancient traditional of shepherds and artisans. They feature an interesting Snow and mountain museum.

Lunch is included today. Then on to La Grave, on the top of

the world. Teetering on a rock outcrop, La Grave packs its stone houses tightly along narrow streets called trabucs. The legendary summit of the Massif des Ecrins, has made La Grave a mecca for mountaineers: laid to rest in the cemetery next to the church with simple wooden crosses. Of interest here is the Eglise Notre Dame and the hamlet itself. Specialties here include goat cheese and honey as well as fabric designers, and creators of decorative objects. We return to Grenoble for the night. Dinner on your own this evening.



Saint-Antoine-L'Abbaye

DAY 6 | MON, SEPT 27, 2021

ST. ANTOINE L'ABBAYE – CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE – AVIGNON (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel and then we are travelling to Provence and the Cote d'Azur today. Our first stop is at St. Antoine l'Abbaye where the abbey watches over a village of the same name. A stop on the Santiago de Compostela pilgrim route (Way of St James), Saint-Antoine-l'Abbaye will delight you with its half-timbered old houses, medieval market hall and abbey founded in 1297 by the Order of St Anthony. The interior holds much of interest for visitors, including frescoes, walnut choir stalls, Aubusson tapestries, a monumental high altar and an organ dating from the 17th century. Also not to be missed is the treasure house of the Hospital Brothers of St Anthony in the church sacristies, which contains reliquaries, liturgical garments, surgical instruments and a Christ in ivory. Time to explore the village and enjoy a leisurely lunch on your own.



Chateaufort-du-Pape

We continue south to Chateaufort-du-Pape where the first vines were planted by the ancient Romans. The village takes its name from the time when the Pope moved to Avignon in 1309. Eight different Popes served in Avignon as the Papacy remained in Chateaufort du Pape until 1378. Chateaufort du Pape is one of the most versatile wine regions for wine and food pairing. Here you will learn how the various rocks and stones play an integral part in the development of the grape. They also absorb heat during the day and radiate that heat to the vine during the cooler evenings. We have a visit to a local winery with wine tasting today. Dinner included this evening. Our destination is Avignon, where we spend the next three nights.

Accommodation: Hôtel Mercure Avignon Centre Palais des Papes or similar (3 nights)



Montpellier

DAY 7 | TUE, SEPT 28, 2021

MONTPELLIER (B, L)

A change of pace today as we are off for a full day to see the city of Montpellier. Louis XIV may have had the biggest hand in Montpellier's history, when he appointed it capital of Bas Languedoc in the 17th century. This put the city in the service of the king and attracted the gentry who built themselves neighbourhoods brimming with cultured homes. So there are many mansions to be seen around the extensive old quarter, as well as exalted monuments like the Promenade de Peyrou, fit for a regional capital.

In France it's a city famed for style and panache, as you can tell from the snazzy trams designed by fashion star Christian Lacroix. There's a highly-rated zoo and aquarium, and a chain of perfect sandy beaches on the coast just 15 kilometres away.



Arc de Triomphe

The Marche des Arceaux is one of the best street markets in all of France and we will spend some time here as it is open on Tuesday from 7:30 am until 1:30 pm. The stalls are shaded by plane trees and there is all manner of fabulous food and produce here. The smell of lavender and cheese, just baked bread, warm fruit and slowly roasting chickens is nothing short of drool-worthy. Don't miss this market, it is wonderful.

Here you will also see the gigantic aqueduct behind the famous landmark water tower. Lots of people think the aqueduct is Roman, but it is not. And neither is the Arc de Triomphe in front of it! The Porte du Peyrou is a triumphal arch situated at the eastern end of the Jardin de Perou, a park near the city centre.

Time to relax as we have a delightful lunch. This afternoon we continue our sightseeing as we visit Montpellier Cathedral, a Roman Catholic church dedicated to Saint Peter. The cathedral, built in the Gothic style, is a national monument. Then on to the medieval center home to narrow alleyways and the pedestrian-only Rue de la Loge, where shops sell antiques, crafts and upmarket fashion items.



Place de la Comédie

The city's grand hotels were once private mansions dating from the 16th – 19th centuries. Many of them flank Place de la Comédie, the principal square, site of a 19th-century opera house and lively cafe terraces. The 13th-century Université de Montpellier contributes to a large student population and a vibrant cultural scene. We return to Avignon for the night.



Art Atelier

DAY 8 | WED, SEPT 29, 2021

LES BAUX-DE-PROVENCE AND CARRIERES DE LUMIERES (B, L)

They say if you are coming to visit Provence, don't stop in Avignon as you will not want to leave! To get us started, this morning we have a walking tour of the historic city centre with a visit to the Popes Palace, emblem of the city and awe-inspiring monument to the importance of Avignon in the Christian world of the Middle Ages. Built in the 1300s, mainly by two popes – the austere Benedict XII and his successor, the much less ascetic Clement VI, – the palace would become the biggest gothic edifice in all of Europe. We also see the episcopal buildings and the Saint Bénézet Bridge all listed as world heritage sites by UNESCO. We have lunch included today at a restaurant in Avignon.

Then we travel to the village of Les Baux-de-Provence. This is one of the most visited villages in France. Built on top of a gaunt, dramatic escarpment, it is set against the limestone range of Les Alpilles, here split in two by a valley said to have inspired a passage in Dante's Inferno. There are only 22 residents in the upper part of the town and 436 in all. As one of the Most Beautiful Villages of France, it welcomes more than 1.5 million tourists. Time to visit the village and then we enjoy the "Carrieres de Lumieres, a multimedia show projected onto giant natural backdrops. Quite remarkable.



Aix-en-Provence

DAY 9 | THU, SEPT 30, 2021

AVIGNON – AIX EN PROVENCE – NICE (B, D)

We leave Avignon behind and travel east to Aix-en-Provence, a graceful, lively city known in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region of southern France. It was the birthplace of Post-Impressionist painter Paul Cézanne. A walking trail links sites including his childhood home, Jas de Bouffan, and his former studio, Atelier Cézanne. Cézanne's colours are all around you: more than just an experience, you'll actually feel like you're meeting the painter amongst the places and landscapes which marked his life.

We continue on to Nice, capital of the Alpes-Maritimes department on the French Riviera, sitting on the pebbly shores of the Baie des Anges. Founded by the Greeks and later a retreat for 19th-century European elite, the city has also long attracted artists. Former resident Henri Matisse is honored with a career-spanning collection of paintings at Musée Matisse. Nice is just as well known for its fantastic climate, fabulous beaches and beautiful coastline with mesmerizing views. Dinner at the hotel upon arrival.

Accommodation: Hotel Mercure Nice Promenade des Anglais or similar (2 nights)



Eze

DAY 10 | FRI, OCT 1, 2021

COARAZE – EZE – NICE (B, L)

Today we head high into the mountains to Eze, with views over the luxuriant sparkling coastline which extends along wooded bays towards Monaco and Italy. The crowds of the coast disappear in the hinterland north-east of Eze. This medieval village is entered by a 14th century gate, has narrow, car-free streets which ascend steeply to the crowning ruins of the village's citadel within which is a sensational "exotic garden" planted in the 1950's with cacti and rare plants.

Then on to Coaraze, best known as the sunshine village, where we have lunch. In the middle of the olive trees, the cobblestone lanes of Coaraze lead to the Chappelle Saint Sebastien and the Blue Chapel. It was decorated in frescoes in different shades of blue by Angel Ponce de Leon in 1962. It is just glorious with its steep, narrow streets, its houses with pink-tiled roofs, roughcast walls and pastel shutters, fountains and square. We have a tour of the Olive groves to finish our visit. Back to Nice for a free evening.



Corsica Island

DAY 11 | SAT, OCT 2, 2021

AJACCIO – CORSICA (B)

A free day in Nice with time to have lunch on your own. Late afternoon we join our coach for our transfer to the airport. A short flight this evening from Nice to Ajaccio, the capital city of Corsica. A port city on the rugged isle's western coast, it was the birthplace of French Emperor Napoléon Bonaparte in 1769.

Corsica is a popular holiday destination among tourists, best known around the world for its warm climate, dramatic mountain peaks and stunning coastlines. Situated southeast of France's Mediterranean coast, the island attracts a steady stream of visitors each year. Besides being every beach-lovers dream, Corsica boasts a rich history that spans centuries of traditions, with ancient buildings on every corner, winding cobbled streets, delectable cuisine and a thriving art and music scene. We spend four nights in this beautiful coastal city of Ajaccio.

Accommodation: Best Western plus Ajaccio Amiraute or similar (4 nights)

Transportation: Air Corsica | Depart 6:00 pm | Arrive 6:50 pm



Piana

DAY 12 | SUN, OCT 3, 2021

PIANA VILLAGE AND CALANCHES (B, L)

We are off on a tour of the southwest coast of Corsica travelling to Piana and Porto. At the entrance to the magnificent Calanques de Piana which are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stands Piana, looking down on the Gulf of Porto. Piana is one of the "Most Beautiful villages of France". Enjoy walking in the heart of the village and discovering its steep streets lined with pretty flowered houses! We travel on to Porto for lunch. While quite a remote location, it is the centre of some of the most scenic highlights of Corsica.



Calanches de Piana

After lunch we drive this coastal road where we discover an almost surreal world of weather-carved pink granite and strangely shaped red figures, often plunging dramatically into the turquoise sea below. The drive through the Calanches de Piana follows the D81 south-east from Porto. It is one of the great drives of Europe and not to be missed if you are visiting this region of Corsica! There are various places where you can stop to admire the views and the rock formations.



Corte

DAY 13 | MON, OCT 4, 2021

TRAIN RIDE FROM AJACCIO TO CORTE – TOUR OF CORTE – COACH BACK TO AJACCIO (B, L)

The wild and beautiful French island lies between the Ligurian Sea, which laps at the white sandy shores of the west coast, and the Tyrrhenian Sea, which has sparkling blue waters that wrap around the east. As the most mountainous island in the Mediterranean, the best way to explore Corsica's stunning landscape is by train. This train ride is one of Corsica's "must do" attractions. This route is ranked as one of the most scenic railways in the world, crossing the Vecchio viaduct engineered by Gustav Eiffel, of tower fame, before passing through the Vizzavona Forest.

As you arrive in Corte it is the dramatic citadel sitting on top of a rocky outcrop above the town and the Tavignano valley that first grabs your attention. Our coach and guide will meet us at the train station and help us see the highlights of Corte. On our tour we visit the viewing platform which provides excellent views not just of the citadel and the town but also of the surrounding mountains in which Corte is set.

One of the liveliest parts of town is the area by the Fontaine des Quatre Canons and the wide steps, the Rampe Sainte Croix, that run up from here with a number of restaurants and bars along the way. At the top is the church of Santa Croix which has a very pretty interior. We enjoy lunch in Corte. We return to Ajaccio by private coach.



Sanguinaires Island

DAY 14 | TUE, OCT 5, 2021

CRUISE TO SANGUINAIRES ISLANDS – FAREWELL DINNER (B,D)

A boat cruise this morning to the Iles Sanguinaires, also known as the Blood Islands. Their name intrigues, their history fascinates and their beauty fills with wonder all that travel here. They are located at the entry of the Gulf of Ajaccio and their appearance is a dark red giving them their emblematic name. Another remarkable feature of the site is the Iles Sanguinaires' lighthouse, dating back to 1870, which is built on the highest point of the Grande Île (Large Island), at 80 metres above sea level. It marks out the south-western coast of Corsica and the entry to the gulf of Ajaccio. Here you can see wild goats and small Corsican horses roaming wild.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Ajaccio. There are many statues and streets named after Napoléon Bonaparte, who was born here in 1769, along with the National Bonaparte Museum. You can stroll around the squares and promenades, admire the fabled cathedral, or relax in one of the many pavement cafés and watch the world go by. Free afternoon and then our farewell dinner this evening.

DAY 15 | WED, OCT 6, 2021

FLIGHT HOME (B)

Breakfast at your hotel and transfer to the airport for our flight home.

Transportation: Air Corsica | Depart 10:25am | Arrive 11:15am

Upon arrival at Nice airport, connect to your international flights home.

Transportation: Lufthansa / Air Canada

***** END OF TOUR *****

B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner

SOUTHEAST FRANCE PRICING & TERMS

PACKAGE RATE (CAD\$, PER PERSON):

CAD \$6,750 per person, based on double occupancy
CAD \$1,400 per person additional, for single supplement

For any Probus Travellers that book on both Southwest France and Southeast France, a **\$300 per person discount** will be applied against your final invoice on the combined trip. Please inquire for more details about applicable air credits.

INCLUSIONS:

- Roundtrip international airfare from Toronto to Geneva, Nice to Toronto with Air Canada/Lufthansa
- Roundtrip domestic air Nice-Ajaccio-Nice
- Home – Airport – Home transfer to Pearson International Airport (within GTA)
- All transfers as in tour itinerary with purchase of air and tour program
- Services of experience tour manager for land tour
- Hotel accommodation: 2 nights in Annecy, 2 nights in Grenoble, 3 nights in Avignon, 2 nights in Nice and 4 nights in Ajaccio
- Daily breakfast, 6 lunches and 6 dinners
- Touring in Annecy and Talloires, Sixt-Fer-a-Cheval, Yvoire, Chamonix and ride of Aiguille du Midi cable car, Tour of Grenoble, Bonneval Sur Arc, La Grave, St. Antoine L'Abbaye, Chateauneuf-du-Pape with visit to local winery and tasting, City tour of Montpellier, Marche des Arceaux in Montpellier, Les Baux-de-Provence and Carrieres de Lumieres, Walking tour of Avignon, Visit to Aix en Provence, Coaraze with tour of the olive groves, Eze, Nice, Visit to Piana, Porto and Les Calanaches, Train ride from Ajaccio to Corte, Tour of Corte, Boat cruise to Sanguinaires Islands.

EXCLUSIONS

- Airport departure taxes and air fuel surcharges. Currently CAD \$720 per person, subject to change until time of final payment
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Optional cancellation and medical insurance

AIR CREDIT

If you wish to arrange your own air from Toronto to Geneva and Nice to Toronto, an air credit of CAD\$500 per person will be deducted from the tour cost. The above mentioned airport taxes and fuel surcharges will not be applicable. Please contact us for air deviation, premium economy or business class upgrade surcharges.

SPECIAL NOTE:

- Names provided at time of booking MUST match exactly your passport
- You must have a passport valid for at least 6 months after your return date
- If you wish to purchase optional travel insurance with us, it MUST be purchase prior to final payment date.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:

- At time of booking: CAD \$500 per person
- Second deposit:
CAD \$1,000 per person due March 5, 2021
- Final payment:
remaining balance due June 4, 2021

CANCELLATION TERMS:

(*NOTE: initial deposit of \$500 per person for each tour, is FULLY REFUNDABLE until Travel Advisory by Government of Canada for France lowers to Level 2. From that point forward, the following cancellation penalty will apply.)

- Between time of booking and March 4, 2021:
CAD \$500 per person
- Between March 5, 2021 and June 3, 2021:
CAD \$1,500 per person
- Between June 4, 2021 and date of departure:
100% of total cost

Program designed in conjunction with Rick Palmer.
Email: rick.palmer@rogers.com or call 905-828-7314.
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Les Baux-de-Provence



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