



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Pre-Departure Itinerary

### Paris, Provence & the Riviera

Thursday, September 17 – Saturday, September 26, 2009

Beyond Paris, France is a country of pastoral beauty that's inspired passion and devotion from visitors for centuries. Now, experience all France has to offer during this excursion to Paris, Provence & The Riviera. Begin with three days in the City of Light, viewing top attractions like the **Arc de Triomphe**, the **Louvre** and **Notre Dame Cathedral**. From there, it's off to **Provence**, on the high-speed TGV train through the French countryside, and to **Avignon**, where you tour the 14th-century **Papal Palace**. Then, it's onto **Nice** where you'll walk the cobblestone streets of Vieux Nice and stroll the **Promenade des Anglais** along the gorgeous Mediterranean Sea. From history to rustic beauty to glamour, this phenomenal vacation explores the many mesmerizing faces of France

#### Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Paris
- Eight nights' three star accommodations
- Eleven meals: 8 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners
- High-speed TGV high speed train from Paris to Provence
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring
- Services of a bilingual tour director

#### Rates

**\$2,799** per person double occupancy

**\$3,269** for single reservations

triple accommodations are unavailable

*Add \$140 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Passport required.*

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1 - Paris

Board an overnight flight to Paris.

### Day 2 - Paris

Upon arrival, you'll be greeted by a representative, who helps you with the transfer to your hotel. You'll then have some free time to explore Paris at your leisure. Tonight, meet the rest of your fellow travelers at an included dinner. **(B in flight, D)**

### Day 3 - Paris

This morning, meet a local guide for a detailed sightseeing tour of Paris. Motor along the fashionable Champs-Élysées and view sights such as the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Opera House, the Place de la Concorde, the Louvre, the River Seine and the majestic Notre Dame Cathedral. The afternoon is free to explore Paris at your leisure. Or venture outside of the city on an optional excursion to Versailles, the opulent estate of Sun King Louis XIV. You can stroll through the Hall of Mirrors (a symbol of the monarch's wealth) and enjoy the beautifully landscaped gardens. **(B)**

#### Highlights

Guided tour of Paris, visit of Avignon including the Papal Palace, excursion to the gardens and villages of Provence including St. Remy-de-Provence and Les Baux de Provence, visit to Aix-en-Provence, guided visit of Nice;

**OPTIONALS:** Paris—Versailles half-day excursion, Seine cruise & dinner, Giverny half-day excursion, Avignon—dinner & wine tasting, Roman Empire full-day excursion, Nice—Monaco by Night excursion, St. Paul-de-Vence & Cannes full-day excursion, NICE 2n post-tour extension, pp/do \$329, single \$458

#### **Day 4 - Paris**

Spend a free day in Paris at one of the many museums or strolling the neighborhoods and boutiques. Alternatively, join a half-day optional excursion to the Norman town of Giverny, where Claude Monet lived and created his Impressionist masterpieces. Step inside his home and workspace, before strolling through the surrounding gardens. This evening, opt to join an Evening in Paris, which includes dinner at a local restaurant and a cruise on the Seine. **(B)**

#### **Day 5 - Avignon**

In Paris, board the high-speed TGV train bound for Provence. Enjoy the views of the French countryside, lauded in literature and film. Arrive in Avignon, a center of Christianity during the Middle Ages. Your tour director introduces you to the town and the 14th-century Papal Palace. You'll visit many of the interior rooms and halls, including the Banquet Hall, the Stag Room (depicting 14th-century hunting scenes) and the Great Audience Hall. **(B, D)**

#### **Day 6 - Avignon**

Enjoy a free day in Provence; discover the region on your own or relax in Avignon. Or join our optional Roman Empire excursion. Few towns have safeguarded their Roman heritage as well as Arles and Nîmes, and we'll see a number of ancient Roman sites, including the well-preserved amphitheaters in both towns. We'll also stop at the Pont du Gard, the three-tiered Roman aqueduct. Tonight, opt for a luxurious dinner and wine tasting in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. **(B)**

#### **Day 7 - Avignon**

Today's excursions take you outside Avignon to the gardens and villages that make up Provence. Author Peter Mayle fell in love with the region during his *Year in Provence*. Before him, artists such as Vincent van Gogh migrated here to paint and live because of the spectacular quality of the light. Visit the small towns of St. Remy-de-Provence, famed for its Roman ruins, along with the asylum where van Gogh sought refuge and respite during his more turbulent years. **(B)**

#### **Day 8 - Nice**

En route to Nice, stop in Aix-en-Provence (home of the artist Paul Cézanne), where your tour director leads an orientation tour of this quaint Provençal town, one of the most beautiful in the region. Look up for views of Mount Saint-Victoire, which inspired Cézanne to produce 44 oil paintings and 43 watercolors of the mountain. Arrive later in Nice, the cultural center of the French Riviera. Discover the city on a tour director-led stroll through the cobblestoned streets of Vieux Nice (Old Nice) and past the modern boutiques and buildings of the New Town. You'll also walk along the glamorous Promenade des Anglais, which runs parallel to the blue-green Mediterranean Sea. Dinner is included tonight, followed by a free evening on the French Riviera. **(B, D)**

#### **Day 9 - Nice**

A full-day optional excursion takes you to two famous Riviera hot spots: the famous artist colony of St. Paul-de-Vence, as well as Cannes, site of the world-renowned film festival. Or stay in Nice for a free day to spend at your leisure. Relax by the pebble beach or check out one of the city's many modern art museums. This evening, experience the glamour of the tiny principality of Monaco, home of the fabled Monte-Carlo Casino, on our Monaco by Night optional excursion. The trip includes dinner. **(B)**

#### **Day 10 - Nice**

Extend your stay with two more nights in Nice or transfer to the airport for your return flight home. **(B)**

Add 3 nights in Nice for only \$329 USD (Single room: add \$129 USD)

The cultural center of the French Riviera, Nice is a wonderful starting point for those looking to explore the beaches and seaside towns of the Riviera, the medieval villages of Provence and the cobblestone streets of Nice itself. Drawing actors, musicians, travelers and artists to its shores for centuries, Nice has developed a grand allure that keeps them coming back, year after year.

## **OPTIONALS**

### **Paris**

#### **Versailles \$89**

Louis XIV, known as the "Sun King," set new standards among European royalty for the decadence of his reign. On this half-day excursion, you will see the palace in all its glory. Tour the State Apartments and the glittering Hall of Mirrors then stroll through the lavish gardens.

#### **Evening in Paris: Seine cruise & Dinner \$89**

Take in all the nighttime allure of the City of Light on a special evening excursion. The event begins with dinner at a favorite local restaurant. Then board a boat cruise along the Seine and glide past the gloriously illuminated monuments of Paris — including Notre-Dame and the Eiffel Tower.

#### **Giverny \$85**

The Norman town of Giverny was home to Claude Monet from 1883 until his death in 1926. Absorb the intricate palette of colors that the "Father of Impressionism" so magically depicted in paintings such as the Water Lilies series as you stroll through Giverny's home and gardens.

### **Avignon**

#### **Chateauneuf du Pape Dinner and Wine Tasting \$85**

Savor the region's vintage wines during a wine tasting at a local wine cellar then enjoy Provençal cuisine at a nearby restaurant for dinner.

#### **Roman Empire \$45**

This full-day excursion introduces you to the rich Roman heritage and ancient sites of Arles and Nîmes where you'll see Arles' Roman amphitheater and Nimes' Maison Carree.

### **Nice**

#### **Monaco by Night \$115**

This evening excursion shows you the jewel of the French Riviera at its best, featuring castles, cafes and cabarets all lit up under the setting sun.

#### **St. Paul-de-Vence & Cannes \$99**

Spend time where the world's superstars come together for the Cannes Film Festival each year. This stunning town along the shores of the French Riviera brings to life the artistic culture of France.

**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.