



To France, With Love: A Romantic Journey from Paris to the Riviera

13 Days

This romantic itinerary takes guests on a journey through France, a country renowned for its timeless allure and enchanting experiences. **The trip begins in the heart of Paris**, where the “City of Love” awaits. As the sun sets, guests will immerse themselves in Parisian romance with a **private evening tour of Paris**, followed the next day by a leisurely **exploration of iconic landmarks** with a 24-hour hop-on, hop-off Tootbus sightseeing pass. The next day, revel in the opulence of **the Palace of Versailles** with priority access, offering an exclusive glimpse into the grandeur of French royalty. In the evening, experience a quintessentially **romantic dinner at the Eiffel Tower**, followed by a **serene Seine River cruise** that reveals Paris’s illuminated skyline, creating a magical backdrop for an evening to remember.

Journey **onward to Lyon**, where comfort meets sophistication on a first class train ride. Upon arrival, a private executive transfer will whisk guests to the city’s culinary heart. Delight in a **secret food walking tour** that showcases Lyon’s renowned gastronomic heritage, making every bite a celebration of flavor and tradition.

In Avignon, an exclusive afternoon **tour guided by a knowledgeable expert** unveils the city’s rich history. Indulge in a wine tour through the prestigious **vineyards of Châteauneuf-du-Pape**, savoring the exquisite flavors that define this celebrated region.

The adventure continues with a **scenic rail ride to Nice**, where the azure Mediterranean waters beckon. Explore the glamorous **destinations of Monaco and Monte-Carlo**, known for their elegance and luxury. Wander through the historic streets of Monaco, visit the opulent Monte-Carlo Casino, and soak in the breathtaking views from the famous Rock. **Discover the medieval charm of Eze**, where boutiques are carved into the rock and a visit to a local perfumery adds a sensory delight. **Enjoy panoramic views of the French Riviera** and relish the final days in the South of France.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Private Tour: Paris by Night with Champagne
- ★ Paris Discovery Hop On/Hop Off Sightseeing Tour

- ★ Shared Tour: Versailles Guided Tour with Priority Access by Motorcoach
- ★ Eiffel Tower Dinner and Seine Cruise
- ★ Private Lyon Secret Food Guided Walking Tour
- ★ Private Avignon Afternoon Half Day Tour with English Speaking Driver-Guide
- ★ Small Group: Afternoon Wine Tour to Châteauneuf-du-Pape
- ★ Small Group: Nice's Italian Riviera Tour
- ★ Small Group: Riviera Panorama Tour (Monaco, Monte-Carlo, and Eze)

Itinerary Details

DAY 1 - 5

- ✈ International Arrival
- 🚗 Private Transfer from Airport to Hotel

4 NIGHTS

Paris

Paris, the enigmatic and iconic City of Light, exudes timeless charm along the romantic banks of the Seine River. Its streets are adorned with quaint cafés, elegant tree-lined avenues, and bustling riverside promenades, creating an enchanting atmosphere that has inspired poets, artists, and lovers for centuries. Paris is not merely a city but a cultural epicenter that has spearheaded revolutions in art, fashion, gastronomy, and cinema, shaping the world's cultural landscape. Among Paris's treasures are its world-renowned museums, including the Louvre, home to masterpieces such as Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" and Eugène Delacroix's "Liberty Leading the People." Strolling through the Louvre's hallowed halls is a journey through centuries of artistic brilliance, offering a glimpse into humanity's creative spirit. In Paris, every corner tells a story and one can savor the simple pleasure of a coffee at a quintessential Parisian café while watching the world go by. Artists sketching the majestic Arc de Triomphe or fashionistas strolling down the illustrious Champs-Élysées add to the city's vibrant tapestry of life. In the words of Voltaire, Paris truly embodies "the best of all possible worlds," offering a harmonious blend of history, romance, and modernity. Whether wandering through the charming streets of Montmartre, admiring the grandeur of Notre-Dame Cathedral, or immersing oneself in the bohemian ambiance of the Latin Quarter, every moment in Paris is imbued with a sense of magic and wonder. With its rich cultural heritage and timeless beauty, Paris remains an irresistible destination for travelers seeking to experience the essence of French art de vivre.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Day 1: Arrival in Paris, City of Love

Travelers, welcome to the City of Light (and Love)! Guests will greet their private transfer representative after disembarking their flights for a relaxing journey to their hotel. Guests should make themselves comfortable and refreshed for their evening tour of Paris at night where they'll experience first hand why this city is popularly known as the City of Lights.

Recommended Paris Hotels

For an exceptional stay in the City of Light, Europe Express proudly recommends a curated selection of top-tier accommodations. Guests seeking five-star elegance will find the Hotel Bowmann, Hotel Pont Royal, and Hotel Elysia perfectly capture Parisian sophistication with their refined décor, impeccable service, and prime locations. For those preferring a four-star experience, the Hotel Rochester, Hotel Belmont, Hotel Walt, and Hotel Derby Alma offer stylish comfort, warm hospitality, and easy access to the city's most iconic landmarks. Each property has been thoughtfully chosen to deliver an unforgettable Paris stay for every traveler.

Private Tour: Paris by Night with Champagne

Explore Paris under a moonlit sky as guests are whisked through the city in a charming 2CV, sipping champagne along the way! From the shimmering Champs-Élysées to the majestic Louvre, and the bohemian spirit of Saint Germain, every turn reveals a new wonder. A stop at Notre Dame adds a touch of timeless romance before the adventure culminates at the heights of Montmartre, where the breathtaking views capture the very essence of Paris' magic.

Day 2: Explore Paris's Iconic Locations

After a romantic night seeing Paris by night, guests can enjoy seeing all of Paris from the ease of a hop on/hop off sightseeing bus by day! Guests will be able to explore Paris's iconic sights at their leisure for this full day exploration of everything Parisian.

Paris Discovery Hop On/Hop Off Sightseeing Tour

Guests can take in Paris's iconic sights aboard the comfortable Tootbus, enjoying the open-air top deck or cozy indoor seating. This panoramic hop-on, hop-off tour passes by the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, and more. Entertaining audio commentary shares fascinating local history along the way. With 10 stops near the city's top attractions, guests can hop off to explore at their own pace and hop back on when ready to continue the adventure. No reservations needed—simply present the voucher at any start point for easy access to this unforgettable Parisian experience.

Day 3: A Day in the Life of a French Royal

Get ready for a full morning and afternoon exploring the iconic, romantic, and luxurious Palace of Versailles. No trip to France is complete without a tour of its luscious grounds and royal history. In the evening, guests can continue the royal vibe by grabbing a fancy dinner at one of Paris's many delicious dining establishments that suit their palate and budget!

Shared Tour: Versailles Guided Tour with Priority Access by Motorcoach

The Palace of Versailles, a symbol of absolute monarchy and French opulence, is a masterpiece of 17th-century architecture and design. Originally a hunting lodge, Louis XIV transformed it into the seat of power, where he centralized his reign. Guests will marvel at the King's and Queen's State Apartments, lavishly decorated with gilded moldings, exquisite tapestries, and grand chandeliers. The Hall of Mirrors, perhaps the most famous room in the palace, dazzles with its 357 mirrors reflecting the sunlight from the garden's fountains through 17 arched windows. The expansive gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre, are a work of art in themselves, featuring meticulously manicured lawns, intricate fountains, and ornamental lakes. Sculptures, many crafted by leading artists of the time, are placed throughout the garden, including the iconic Apollo Fountain. With pathways leading to groves, secret garden rooms, and fountains that tell mythological stories, guests can lose themselves in the enchanting ambiance of Versailles, imagining the grandeur of royal life centuries ago.

Day 4: Final Day in Paris with a Show-Stopping Evening

Guests should enjoy their final day in Paris with a leisurely morning stroll in one of their favorite neighborhoods with a croissant or café in hand. Now is the time to explore any remaining sights, or enjoy a shopping excursion in this fashion-forward city. The day is theirs to explore, but be sure to have some energy left over for a lavish dinner at Madame Brasserie, followed by a Seine River cruise! Dress to impress and enjoy a final night in Paris in style.

Eiffel Tower Dinner and Seine Cruise

Guests will enjoy exclusive priority access to the Eiffel Tower, where an elegant dining experience awaits at the renowned Madame Brasserie. With breathtaking views of Paris, guests will savor exquisite French cuisine paired with fine drinks in this iconic setting. Afterward, the evening continues with a serene one-hour cruise along the Seine River. As guests glide past the city's illuminated landmarks, recorded commentary will provide fascinating insights into Paris's rich history and culture, making this an unforgettable night of romance and discovery.



DAY 5 - 7

-  Private Transfer from Hotel to Paris Gare de Lyon Train Station
-  First Class to Lyon, France
-  Private Transfer from Lyon-Part-Dieu Train Station to Hotel

2 NIGHTS

Lyon

Lyon, France's third-largest city, is a dynamic fusion of ancient charm and modern vibrancy. Rich with over 2,000 years of history, Lyon is home to remarkably preserved Roman ruins, Renaissance palaces, and grand boulevards. The city's heart lies in its historic districts, notably Vieux Lyon, a UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its narrow cobblestone streets, vibrant cafes, and striking Gothic and Renaissance architecture. Visitors can wander through the enchanting medieval quarter, explore the Cathedral of St. Jean, and discover hidden traboules—secret passageways once used by silk merchants. Lyon is synonymous with exceptional cuisine. As the gastronomic capital of France, it offers an unparalleled dining scene. Traditional bouchons serve hearty local fare like quenelles and sausages, while the city is also home to many prestigious Michelin-starred establishments. Beyond its historical and culinary prowess, Lyon is also a thriving cultural hub. The city hosts major festivals, and its vibrant arts scene is showcased in numerous galleries, museums, and theaters, such as the Musée des Beaux-Arts and the cutting-edge Musée des Confluences, which explores the intersection of science, history, and society. Lyon's strategic location also makes it a perfect gateway to the nearby Rhône Valley and Beaujolais wine regions, offering wine lovers the chance to explore some of the best vineyards in France. For nature enthusiasts, the picturesque Parc de la Tête d'Or, one of Europe's largest urban parks, offers peaceful walks, a zoo, and serene lake views. With its rich history, world-class food, artistic flair, and stunning landscapes, Lyon seamlessly blends tradition with modernity, making it an unforgettable destination for travelers seeking culture, romance, and adventure.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Day 5: Arrival in Lyon

Enjoy first class aboard a TGV train, soaking in the French countryside on this quick 2-hour journey from Paris to Lyon. Once travelers arrive at Lyon's main train station, they'll be escorted to their hotel. Settle in, unwind, and explore this French city, renowned for its culinary prowess and history. Explore the city at leisure, and be sure to visit a popular restaurant for a delicious dinner.

Recommended Hotels in Lyon

In Lyon, Hotel Boscolo offers an exceptional five-star experience that perfectly complements Europe Express journeys. This elegant property combines contemporary luxury with timeless charm and features a full-service spa—ideal for unwinding after a day of exploring France's gastronomic capital. With its refined ambiance and outstanding amenities, the Hotel Boscolo is a natural fit for discerning travelers.

Day 6: Delight in the Culinary Expertise of Lyon

Guests may have experienced a delightful lunch or dinner the previous day, but get ready to truly immerse oneself in the culinary expertise of this French city with a private secret food tour! After this tour, take time to relax and soak in the rest of what this city has to offer before departure tomorrow to Avignon.

Private Lyon Secret Food Guided Walking Tour

From savory to sweet, guests will savor Lyon's delectable dishes on this culinary journey. The excursion includes exploration of the charming Vieux Lyon area, the scenic beauty of the Saône River, and various monuments in the Presqu'île district, all while indulging in the famous cuisine and wine of Lyon. A special highlight of this journey is a secret dish, offering an exclusive taste of Lyon's culinary delights.



DAY 7 - 10

 Private Transfer from Hotel to Avignon, France

3 NIGHTS

Avignon

Avignon, France, is a captivating destination where history and charm come alive. Travelers can explore the grandeur of the Palais des Papes, a majestic Gothic palace that once served as the residence of the popes, offering a glimpse into medieval splendor. Wander through the beautifully preserved medieval streets, where ancient architecture and vibrant marketplaces create a picturesque setting. The iconic Pont Saint-Bénézet, often referred to as the Pont d'Avignon, is a must-see—this historic bridge, though partially ruined, provides stunning views of the Rhône River and an intriguing glimpse into the city's past. For a leisurely stroll, the City Walls of Avignon offer panoramic views of the surrounding landscape and a taste of the city's historical fortifications. Indulge in the rich culinary offerings of Avignon, from charming local bistros to bustling markets like the

Place des Halles, where fresh produce, cheeses, and regional delicacies abound. The nearby vineyards of Châteauneuf-du-Pape invite wine enthusiasts to savor world-renowned wines in a scenic, rolling landscape. Venture into the surrounding countryside to explore the picturesque villages and serene landscapes of Provence. Whether relaxing in the local cafés, sampling exquisite wines, or immersing in the historical and cultural richness of Avignon, this enchanting city promises a memorable experience for every traveler.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Day 7: Countryside Drive and Arrival in Avignon

Guests will depart their hotel this morning via a private sedan journey from Lyon to Avignon. This drive will be a relaxing and beautiful journey through France's countryside, where travelers can soak in the sights (and vineyards). Sit back, relax, and enjoy a stress free journey to Avignon. Upon arrival, check-in to the hotel and enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore the city.

Day 8: Explore Avignon

Today guests will further explore the city of Avignon with a private English speaking driver and guide. Get ready for a day of touring Avignon, a city steeped in history and charm, known for its remarkable medieval architecture and vibrant cultural scene.

Private Avignon Afternoon Half Day Tour with English Speaking Driver-Guide

Guests can explore Avignon at their own pace with an English-speaking driver-guide. Whether planning a personal itinerary in advance or allowing the city's charm to inspire spontaneity, there are several must-see recommendations to consider. Highlights include the Palais des Papes, a grand medieval fortress and former papal residence; the Pont Saint-Bénézet, the iconic bridge with its scenic views of the Rhône River; and the Historic Old Town, with its narrow streets and vibrant markets. Additionally, the Rocher des Doms park offers panoramic views of the city and surrounding landscape. With these recommendations, guests will have a rich and memorable experience in Avignon.

Day 9: Wine and Dine in Avignon

Enjoy a leisurely morning before embarking on a small group tour of one of France's most famous wine regions: Châteauneuf-du-Pape. This tour is sure to be a highlight for guests' trip to France. Upon return to Avignon, enjoy a final dinner in the city before departure to Nice tomorrow.

Small Group Tour: Afternoon Wine Tour to Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Following a panoramic drive through the historic vineyards of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, guests will enjoy wine tastings at two distinct cellars, exploring the region's renowned grape varieties and unique terroir. Châteauneuf-du-Pape, known for its rich winemaking history dating back to the 14th century, became famous when the popes resided in the area and developed the local wine industry. An additional stop will be made at the ruins of the Pope's summer palace, where guests can take in breathtaking views of the Rhône River Valley and the surrounding mountains, immersing themselves in the region's storied past and scenic beauty.



DAY 10 - 13

-  Private Transfer from Hotel to Avignon TGV Station
-  First Class Train Ride to Nice-Ville Station
-  Private Transfer from Nice-Ville Station to Hotel
-  Private Transfer from Hotel to Nice Airport
-  International Departure

3 NIGHTS

Nice

Nice, located on the stunning French Riviera, is a jewel of Mediterranean elegance and charm. Known for its dazzling blue waters and sun-drenched beaches, Nice offers a perfect blend of vibrant city life and serene seaside relaxation. Stroll along the famed Promenade des Anglais, where panoramic views of the azure sea provide a breathtaking backdrop. Discover the old-world charm of Vieux Nice with its narrow, winding streets filled with lively markets, quaint cafes, and historic architecture. The city's rich cultural scene includes the striking Marc Chagall National Museum and the Musée Matisse, celebrating renowned artists who were inspired by Nice's radiant light. Explore the picturesque Port area, with its colorful buildings and bustling waterfront, or venture to the glamorous Casino Square in Monte-Carlo, just a short drive away. Nice also serves as a gateway to the dazzling Italian Riviera, with opportunities to explore nearby glamorous destinations like Monaco and the charming medieval village of Eze. Whether enjoying local delicacies, relaxing on beautiful beaches, or taking in the stunning coastal views, Nice promises an unforgettable experience with its unique blend of sophistication and natural beauty.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Day 10: Arrival in Nice

Guests will enjoy a first class train ride from Avignon to Nice with a private transfer upon arrival to their hotel. After checking in to their hotel, guests can immerse themselves in the city's charm with a variety of activities. A leisurely stroll along the Promenade des Anglais offers stunning views of the Mediterranean and a taste of the lively seafront atmosphere. Exploring the Old Town (Vieux Nice) reveals charming narrow streets filled with boutiques, cafes, and vibrant markets, including the Cours Saleya market where fresh produce and local delicacies abound. For breathtaking panoramic views of Nice and the coast, guests can climb or take the elevator up to Castle Hill (Colline du Château), which is particularly stunning at sunset. The bustling Nice Port area, with its colorful buildings and waterfront restaurants, provides a picturesque and relaxing environment to enjoy. To complete the evening, guests can savor French cuisine at one of Nice's many bistros or brasseries, sampling local specialties such as Socca (chickpea pancake) or fresh seafood.

Recommended Hotels in Nice

In the heart of the French Riviera, the Hotel West-End (4*) and Hotel Aston La Scala (4*) in Nice offer the perfect blend of style, comfort, and location. Both properties boast elegant accommodations and easy access to the city's famed Promenade des Anglais, vibrant Old Town, and sparkling Mediterranean views. Ideal for travelers seeking a refined yet relaxed Côte d'Azur experience, these four-star hotels provide the perfect base for exploring the beauty of Nice.

Day 11: Explore Nice's Italian Riviera

Guests will enjoy a full day of exploring Nice's Italian Riviera! This region, renowned for its picturesque coastal landscapes and charming towns, offers an alluring blend of French and Italian influences. From Nice, the Italian Riviera is easily accessible, with its sun-drenched beaches, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant cultural scene. The Italian Riviera offers a delightful extension of Nice's Mediterranean charm.

Small Group: Italian Riviera Tour

Guests can immerse themselves in authentic French-Italian culture by exploring the vibrant open-air markets in San Remo and Bordighera. Held on Tuesdays and Saturdays in San Remo and Thursdays in Bordighera, these markets are renowned for their leather goods, stylish accessories, and fashionable clothing. A scenic drive along the charming Italian Riviera enhances the experience. Guests can enjoy lunch in the picturesque village of Dolceacqua (at their own expense), adding a delightful culinary touch to this French Mediterranean adventure.

Day 12: Monaco, Monte-Carlo, and Eze

This final day in France is an exciting one with a romantic journey to explore the charming Monaco, the high-rollers of Monte-Carlo, and the quintessential village of Eze with its famous perfumery.

Small Group: Riviera Panorama Tour

Travel along the scenic Corniche Road, taking in breathtaking sea views as the route leads to Monaco. Guests will stop at the famous Rock to explore the Old Town, the Prince's Palace (open April to October), and the Cathedral where Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier were married. There is an opportunity to reflect in peace at their floral-adorned graves.

The journey continues through the Monaco Grand Prix circuit to Monte-Carlo, where guests can experience a world of elegance and luxury, including a stop at the iconic Casino Square. The next destination is the enchanting medieval village of Eze, where boutiques are nestled into the rock. Guests will delve into the sensory world of fragrance with a visit to a local perfumery. Heading west, the drive arrives in Cannes, where guests can relax and enjoy panoramic views of the stunning bays of Juan-Les-Pins and Antibes. The route passes the exclusive Cap d'Antibes, known for its affluent residents, before reaching Antibes. In this Provencal walled city, guests will see the glamorous billionaires' quay, abundant with helicopters and yachts.

Day 13: Depart for Home

Today guests depart from their Nice hotel to the airport via private transfer. They'll have plenty of romantic and timeless memories from their trip to one of Europe's most popular destinations, a journey that will live in their hearts forever!



Inclusions

Includes

- Activities and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- Accommodation: Paris (4 nights) - Lyon (2 nights) - Avignon (3 nights) - Nice (3 nights)
- Meals where noted in the itinerary
- Private arrival and departure transfers, as specified in the itinerary
- Train rides where noted in the itinerary
- Admission tickets as specified in the itinerary

Not Included

- Tips and personal expenses
- Visa and tourism charges
- Travel insurance
- Arrival and departure flights