

PROVENCE

Start & End in
Marseille, France
October 5-13, 2024



Join the Arts Council & Tauck on this small-group, hands-on immersion into the local food, wine, art, & landscapes of Provence. Enjoy idyllic walks that inspired Cezanne, art on the grounds of a Provençal chateau, tour with a van Gogh art scholar in St. Remy, Roman ruins of Glanum, a farewell at a private family-owned winery in Chateauneuf-du-Pape, & much more...



DAYS 1 & 2: DEPART USA & ARRIVE IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE: Transfer from Marseille Provence Airport to our hotel, **Grand Hôtel Roi René Aix-en-Provence Centre-MGallery**. To the locals, **Aix-en-Provence** is simply “Aix.” Strolling its boulevards with a local guide, take in the same views that inspired Cézanne, Gauguin, & van Gogh. Aix’s grandest boulevard, the **Cours Mirabeau**, dates back to the 17th century & is lined with plane trees, elaborate fountains & mansions. Gather tonight for cocktails & dinner at the hotel. (Meals: D)



DAY 3: CÉZANNE, CHÂTEAU LA COSTE & MORE: Follow the footsteps of post-Impressionist painter, **Paul Cézanne**, through his hometown, Aix-en-Provence. See the landscapes he painted, the fields where local residents became his subjects, the views of **Mont Sainte-Victoire** (left) that so inspired him, and the studio where he worked. Learn a few handy phrases en français from your Tauck Director as you explore. Head north to **Château La Coste**, a classic Provençal chateau, vineyard & estate. Discover works by some of Europe’s greatest living artists on a walk through the chateau’s sculpture gardens.

The remainder of the day is free to explore Aix as you wish. (Meals: B/L)

DAY 4: GORDES & A PROVENÇAL PICNIC: Discover **Lubéron**, part of France's *Golden Triangle* & indulge in a visual feast of fairy tale villages, meadows & moorlands surrounding this magnificent region. Head off to **Gordes** late this morning for a stroll through the town’s medieval lanes before stopping by a market to pick up the makings of a traditional picnic lunch—perhaps a baguette, fruits, meats, cheeses, olives, & wine...whatever tempts your palate! Enjoy your picnic in a Provençal meadow, then continue to your hotel, **Hotel La Bastide de Gordes**. Dinner this evening is at the hotel with a restaurant by a Michelin Star chef. (Meals: B/L/D)

DAY 5: TIME STANDS STILL IN LUBÉRON: Enjoy a morning hike to the medieval **Abbaye de Sénanque**, founded in the 12th century & still tended by a small community of Cistercian monks. Then visit **Ménerbes**, which author Peter Mayle made world-famous in *A Year in Provence*. Enjoy a delicious lunch of typical French fare, followed by an easy hike through the quarries of **Roussillon**, where the deep ochre used in the town’s architecture blends into the warmth of the natural surroundings. Return to the hotel for an evening at your leisure. (Meals: B/L)

DAY 6: FONTAINE-DE-VAUCLUSE, ST-RÉMY & GLANUM: Beneath the hills of Provence, the most powerful spring in France bursts forth at 20,000 gallons per second to feed the **Sorgue River**, emerging in **Fontaine-de-Vaucluse**, once the home of the Italian poet, Petrarch. Visit **St-Rémy-de-Provence**, home to the asylum of **Saint-Paul-de-Mausole**, where artist **Vincent van Gogh** went to heal & hide out...and where he created over 150 works, including *Starry Night* (right). After time to



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ARTour to PROVENCE



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View of Avignon

DAY 6: FONTAINE-DE-VAUCLUSE, ST-RÉMY & GLANUM (continued):...explore & enjoy lunch on your own in **St-Rémy**, peek inside the artist's troubled mind as van Gogh scholar, **Mathilde Duveilliers**, shares insights on the artist's complicated life & reads from his letters while you walk in the artist's footsteps. The ancients roamed here too...explore the ruins of the **Roman city of Glanum**, one of the largest & oldest archaeological sites in France. Arrive late afternoon in **Le Pontet-Avignon** for a 3-night stay at **Auberge de Cassagne & Spa**. Set inside its lovely gardens, our hotel includes a wonderful restaurant where you'll enjoy dinner tonight. (Meals: B/D)

DAY 7: A DAY OF WINING & DINING IN AVIGNON: Take part in bringing great Provençal food from the market to the plate as we join a chef on a buying trip to a local market—smelling, tasting, & feeling your way through the fresh produce, breads, meats, & cheeses. Learn the chef's secrets firsthand as you help prepare a traditional meal in a hands-on cooking lesson. After a professional sommelier guides you through a tasting of fine Rhône wines, it's time to eat, drink, & be very merry. Free time this afternoon to spend as you wish. A bike ride? A walk? A long afternoon drink in a café? Explore & dine on your own in Avignon; Our shuttle can take you back from town to the hotel. (Meals: B/L)



DAY 8: PONT DU GARD, AVIGNON & CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE: A 3-level, 2,000-year-old aqueduct spanning the **River Gardon**, the **Pont du Gard** stands as testimony to the Romans' amazing engineering skills & love of baths. Learn more about it as you walk the "pont," a UNESCO World Heritage Site, & visit its new museum. Enjoy lunch on your own in Avignon and then free time to explore the town's rich history. This evening, travel to nearby **Châteauneuf-du-Pape**, one of the country's premier wine-growing regions, for a *Tauck Exclusive* at a private, family-owned winery. Celebrate the flavors of Provence with cocktails, canapés, & local wine, followed by a spectacular dinner of Provençal specialties...a perfect finis to a marvelous Provençal journey! (Meals: B/D)

DAY 9: AU REVOIR, PROVENCE: Transfer is included from the hotel to Marseille Provence Airport. Allow 3 hours for check-in for your flight home. (Meals: B)

COST: **ACMC Member: Double = \$6,290 Single = \$7,978** (Nonmembers add 15%)
(per person) **Tour is limited to 12 travelers. International airfare is additional.** Ask for quotes at registration.
Register with \$900 deposit by Jan. 26, 2024 or until filled. Final payment due Jan. 26, 2024.
Guest Protection Insurance: \$449 per person. (Must be purchased at registration to be in effect.)
Ask about additional hotel night before or after trip.

Cost Includes: Airport transfers, hotel accommodations, coach transportation, portorage, service charges, gratuities to local guides, & 16 meals (7B/4L/4D). **Not Included:** Tauck Director & driver gratuities, meals not listed.

NOTE FOR ALL ARTOURS: You should be in good physical condition to fully enjoy our tours. The Arts Council cannot provide individual assistance during the tours and therefore reserves the right to decline to accept anyone on a tour who has a physical condition that could create a hazard to him/herself or could impact the enjoyment of other travelers on the tour.

CANCELLATION POLICY: 35% of the total cost will be withheld for cancellation after registration date on **ALL ARTours**. **NO** refunds after advertised final payment due date unless substitute traveler is found—at which time transfer fees, if applicable, will be withheld. Trip cancellation insurance is available upon request and must be purchased at registration.

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