

# Discovering Provence with the French Riviera

**12 days for \$5,297 total price from Washington, DC**

**(\$4,695 air & land inclusive plus \$602 airline taxes and fees)**

*Assuredly part of France, but altogether Provençal, the beloved region nestled between the Rhone and the Mediterranean has seduced visitors since Roman times – as it will you. Our small group travels from hill towns to the Camargue plains, medieval villages and on to the storied French Riviera on this journey par excellence.*



We tour the Palais des Papes, one of Europe's most important medieval structures, on Day 6.

## Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Visits to quintessential Provençal villages of Lourmarin, Roussillon, Les Baux, Saint-Rémy • Aix touring, including Atelier Cézanne • Tasting and dinner at local winery • UNESCO sites of Roman Arles • Pont du Gard excursion • Avignon sightseeing, including Papal Palace • Private Provençal cooking lesson and dinner • Carrières de Lumières multimedia art show • Two-night stay in rugged, beautiful Camargue region • Visit to a working Camargue ranch • Birdlife at Pont de Gau ornithological reserve • Art haven of Saint-Paul-de-Vence • Two-night stay on the French Riviera

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Aix-en-Provence		
2-4	Aix-en-Provence	Grand Hôtel Roi René	Sup. First Class
5-7	Avignon	Novotel Avignon Centre	First Class
8-9	Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer	Vila de la Mar	First Class
10-11	Nice	Hôtel le Grimaldi	First Class
12	Depart Nice for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

### Day 1: Depart U.S. for Marseille, France

**Day 2: Arrive Marseille/Aix-en-Provence** We arrive in Marseille and transfer to the Provençal town of Aix-en-Provence (“Aix”). Tonight, we meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a briefing about the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner at our hotel. *D*

**Day 3: Aix-en-Provence** We discover this lovely university town today, known for the beautiful Cours Mirabeau, the plane tree-lined main boulevard bordered by stately homes and the many elegant Roman fountains decorating city squares. On our walking tour, we admire Aix’s rich architectural heritage and the “Vielle Ville” (Old Town). After a guided visit to the Atelier Cézanne, the studio where artist Paul Cézanne worked from 1902 to 1906, we have free time to explore as we wish. Late afternoon we leave for a wine tasting then dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

**Day 4: Aix-en-Provence/Roussillon/Lourmarin** Today’s excursion to the beloved Luberon region of charming hilltop villages overlooking vineyards and orchards reveals Provence in all its storied beauty. We first visit the town of Roussillon, perched atop a striking ochre ridge surrounded by vivid green pine trees. After exploring this historic town, we continue

on to Lourmarin, set amidst vineyards, olive groves, and almond trees, and considered “one of the most beautiful villages in France.” After lunch together at a local restaurant, we tour the landmark Renaissance castle and stroll the narrow winding streets lined with restored Mediterranean houses, boutiques, cafés, and restaurants. Late this afternoon, we return to Aix, where the evening is free for dinner on our own. *B,L*

**Day 5: Aix-en-Provence/Arles/Pont du Gard/Avignon** This morning we travel to Arles, once part of Roman Gaul then a clarion of Christianity and, more recently, where van Gogh painted. We see much of that history on our tour here, which includes a visit to the Roman Amphitheater, a UNESCO site dating to 90 CE and preserved virtually intact. Then we continue on towards Avignon, stopping at Pont du Gard, the 1<sup>st</sup>-century Roman aqueduct whose three tiers of arches span the Gardon River. Late this afternoon, we reach Avignon and our hotel, where we dine together tonight. *B,D*

**Day 6: Avignon** This morning, we encounter the ancient Roman city that was the capital of Christendom in the Middle Ages. We visit Avignon’s historic city center (a UNESCO site), with its cathedral, medieval Saint-Bénézet Bridge, and the Palais des Papes (Papal Palace), one of the world’s largest and

most important Gothic structures. We tour the palace, where seven successive popes lived during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Then we have free time to explore on our own before tonight's small group highlight as we join a local chef for a Provençal cooking class followed by dinner. *B,D*

**Day 7: Avignon/Les-Baux-de-Provence/Saint-Rémy-de-Provence** We set out this morning for Les Baux, a gem of a medieval village perched atop a rock spur. Our first stop: the Carrières de Lumière multimedia/art exhibition set in a former stone quarry. Then we explore Les Baux itself, considered another of the country's most beautiful villages, with its restored ancient houses, Renaissance-era façades, historic monuments, and stone citadel. We then continue on to



Bringing home the baguette ...

the picturesque village of Saint Rémy, in the heart of the Alpilles where, between May of 1889 and May of 1890, Vincent van Gogh painted *Starry Night*, among other of his most acclaimed paintings. We enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant before visiting the Romanesque

jewel of St-Paul de Mausole, the former monastery turned asylum where van Gogh was confined after severing his ear. We return to Avignon late this afternoon; dinner tonight is on our own. *B,L*

**Day 8: Avignon/Aigues-Mortes/Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer** As we approach Aigues-Mortes this morning, we see the rose-hued *salins* (salt marshes) that produce the famed *Camarguais* salt. In town, we take a walking tour that features the entrance to the medieval city walls and ramparts. After time for lunch



IF THE PATH BE BEAUTIFUL,  
LET US NOT ASK WHERE  
IT LEADS.”

– ANATOLE FRANCE

on our own here, we continue on to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, capital of the Camargue region of vast plains, wetlands, lakes, and lagoons. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve at 360 square miles, the Camargue is known for unique breeds of white horses and bulls, its pink flamingos, and as a staging point for thousands of migratory birds. We dine tonight at our hotel. *B,D*

**Day 9: Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer** Our exploration of the Camargue begins with a visit to a *manade*, a traditional ranch where *gardians* (cowboys) raise bulls both for meat and to perform in local arenas. We learn about the traditional way of life as we tour the *manade*, watch the *gardians* manage their herds while on horseback, and enjoy a lunch of local specialties. Then we head to the Pont de Gau ornithological reserve in the heart of the Camargue Regional Natural Park. We're likely to see the pink flamingos for which the park is known, as well as species of heron, birds of prey, and seasonal migratory birds. *B,L*

**Day 10: Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer/Saint-Paul-de-Vence/Nice** We're bound today for the Cote d'Azur, the fabled French Riviera. Mid-day we reach Saint-Paul-de-Vence, the beautiful medieval hilltop village once home to many prominent artists, including Marc Chagall. After a walking tour together, we're free to explore as we wish. Then we continue on to Nice, capital of the French Riviera, arriving late this afternoon. *B*

**Day 11: Nice** This morning's sightseeing begins with spectacular views of Nice and its prized setting along the Baie des Anges from atop Colline du Chateau (Castle Hill), once a citadel and now a park. We stroll along the iconic seaside boulevard, Promenade des Anglais; explore "Vieux Nice" (Old Nice), with its colorful pastel buildings; and visit the historic Marché aux Fleurs (flower market). Tonight, we celebrate our adventure over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

**Day 12: Depart for U.S.** Today we depart for the Nice airport for our return flights to the U.S. *B*

**Your Tour Price Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 10 nights' accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 19 meals: 10 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Fragrant fields of lavender mark Provence.

**Tour Departs: September 30, 2024**

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

Boston, New York	\$5,097
Charlotte, Philadelphia, Washington, DC	\$5,297
Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa	\$5,397
Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,497
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,195

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of \$602, which are subject to change until final payment has been made.

Single travelers please add \$1,195. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,795 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,595 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

**Please note: This trip involves considerable walking up hills or stairs, and on uneven or cobblestone streets. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.**

**Post-Tour Extension**

October 11-13, 2024

**The French Riviera – On Your Own**

3 days/2 nights from \$295 total price

Single Supplement: from \$225

*Savor the good life in this celebrated spot, with splendid scenery, museums, beaches, and rustic villages close at hand.*

**Your Tour Price Includes**

- 2 nights' accommodations in Nice at Hôtel le Grimaldi (First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to Nice airport

*Important Information About Your Tour*

# General Terms and Conditions

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

## Tour Prices

Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2024, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

## Gratuities

Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on "On Your Own" optional extensions.

## Not Included in Your Tour Price

Airfare from your hometown to your departure

city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

## Registration and Payment

A deposit of \$500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

## Cancellations and Refunds

If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

*For all tours (except as noted)*

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	\$200
94-65 days:	25% of tour price
64-45 days:	50% of tour price
44-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

*For Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Machu Picchu to the Galapagos*

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	\$200
94-65 days:	50% of tour price
64-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

### Pre-Departure

Upon reservation, you will be able to access all information regarding your tour in My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal. This material includes your invoice, a detailed day-by-day itinerary, visa requirements (if applicable), Travel Protection Plan information, and more. Your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers), will be available in the portal two to three weeks before departure.

### Single Travelers

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

### Changes to Your Reservation

We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a

\$100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.**

### Required Information

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)), as well as for our international travel partners: **your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender.** In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

### Travel Documents

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all of our international tours. For all domestic tours, where we fly into a U.S. city to begin the tour or out of a U.S. city at the end, you must present a valid U.S. government-issued photo identification. Starting on May 7, 2025, your government-issued photo ID must be REAL ID-compliant (or you can present an alternate form of ID, such as a passport). Visit [www.dhs.gov/real-id](http://www.dhs.gov/real-id) or contact your local DMV for more information. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you need to obtain a visa, we recommend our preferred provider G3 Global Services. If you are traveling with a minor, please contact us for special entry requirements. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy

or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

## Health and Medical Issues

We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

## Air Transportation

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates,

upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

## Responsibility

The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary or staff changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.

**VMFA Member Travel reserves the right to use photos that might include you in marketing materials and for other purposes unless you specify otherwise.**



### RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place on tour, **please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

*If you prefer*, you may also complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**  
**Attn: Special Interest Groups**  
**One Newton Place**  
**275 Washington Street, Suite 300**  
**Newton, MA 02458**

Tour Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up

I/We would like to request \_\_\_\_\_ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/We request an air upgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability)

I/We request an upgrade to cabin category \_\_\_\_\_ (for Patagonian Frontiers only)

I/We request an upgrade to a Highland Villa (for Machu Picchu to the Galapagos only)