



Smithsonian JOURNEYS

Living in France

APRIL 22-MAY 14, 2016 | JULY 15-AUGUST 6, 2016
SEPTEMBER 16-OCTOBER 8, 2016



A THREE-WEEK STAY IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE

**To register, call 877-338-8687 or
visit SmithsonianJourneys.org**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Spend three weeks in a fully furnished, modern apartment** located in the center of Aix-en-Provence.
- A **Travel Director** brings knowledge, insight, and perspective to every destination.
- Enjoy an in-depth **walking tour of Aix-en-Provence** led by an expert guide.
- Explore the picturesque mountain villages of the **Luberon Valley**.
- Embark on included group excursions to **Marseille, Avignon, and Pont du Gard**.
- **Tour a French winery** and enjoy a tasting.
- Customize your journey by adding one, two, or three **Optional Enrichment Tracks**.



Avignon

Our unique immersion stay programs are designed to give curious travelers an extended, customizable experience abroad. With an itinerary that takes you to must-see sites as well as off-the-beaten-path treasures, you will also have time at leisure to explore your own interests. These unique journeys are limited to 36 travelers and feature three weeks' apartment-style accommodations with modern amenities.



Active Travel

This program is moderately paced with a good balance of included activities and excursions and time to explore on your own. Travelers should be physically fit, able to walk distances of up to three miles, and navigate stairs, hills, and uneven terrain.

Dear Smithsonian Journeys Traveler,

Join us for three weeks in vibrant and historic Aix-en-Provence, the cultural heart of southern France. Here, ancient monuments mingle with cozy cafés and fascinating museums, all bathed in the dazzling light of Provence.

Whether or not this is your first time living abroad, you will feel right at home in Aix-en-Provence. Stay in a modern, fully furnished apartment near Aix's Old Town, just a short walk from the famed Cours Mirabeau, a majestic tree-lined boulevard flanked with 17th- and 18th-century mansions and tempting pâtisseries.

Enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group balanced with the right amount of free time to explore on your own. In addition to the base program, you also have the option to customize your experience by adding one, two or three Optional Enrichment Tracks based on your individual interests.

Don't miss this unique stay program. Space is limited, so make your reservations today!

Very truly yours,



Karen A. Ledwin
General Manager, Smithsonian Journeys

"If you want one of the greatest experiences of a lifetime take this trip.

You will see things you could have never thought possible. It will change your life. It has mine."

~ Lynn Marie L.

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Aix-en-Provence





Lavender Field

Provence. The very name conjures images of idyllic days of dazzling light illuminating the countryside's lush olive groves and sloping vineyards. It was the colorful scenery and light of Provence that enraptured artists such as Cézanne, Chagall, and van Gogh. On this unique journey, step off the beaten path and experience Provence as few travelers have before. Explore the picturesque, lavender-scented countryside at your own pace. Dine in restaurants that only locals know. Stroll the elegant cobblestone streets on your way to a bustling outdoor market. Attend a music or theater performance. Linger in medieval hilltop villages, sip wine among the rolling vineyards, and immerse yourself in the Provençal way of life.



Markets of Delight

Les marchés, street markets, are a big part of life in Aix. Locals arrive daily to purchase produce from farmers, mingle with neighbors, and catch up on gossip. The markets generally open at 8 a.m. and close in the early afternoon. Aix's specialty markets are open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Place des Prêcheurs and Place de la Madeleine have terrific food markets, where you'll find fruit and vegetables, herbs, cheese, olives, and cured meats. Sunflowers, roses, and potted olive trees fill the flower market at Place de l'Hôtel de Ville. And don't miss the antiques and flea market.

While shopping, the general rule is "ne touchez pas," don't touch. Rather, point and let the vendors, some of whom may speak a little English, serve you. They'll tally your bill on a scrap of paper and hand it to you.



Palace of the Popes, Avignon



| UNESCO |

The Pont du Gard and the **Historic Center of Avignon** are UNESCO World Heritage sites featured in this program.



Cours Mirabeau



| ITINERARY |

Day One

IN TRANSIT

Depart for Marseille, France.[†]

[†]Provided for FlexAir participants.

Day Two

D

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Transfer[†] to Aix-en-Provence and the Adagio Aix-en-Provence Centre. Attend a Welcome Briefing followed by a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day Three

B | L

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Educational Focus:
Introduction to Aix-en-Provence.

Excursion: *Aix-en-Provence.*

Embark on a guided walking tour of Aix. Stroll along the Cours Mirabeau, which Peter Mayle declared "the most handsome street in France" in his best-selling book "A Year in Provence." See Old Town and the cathedral.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at a restaurant.

Day Four

B | D

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Local Flavor: Join your fellow travelers for dinner at a restaurant.

Day Five

B

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Enjoy a day at leisure

Day Six

B | D

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Educational Focus: *The Art of Provence.*

Local Flavor: After the lecture, dinner will be served at a restaurant.

Day Seven

B | L

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Local Flavor: Savor a delicious lunch at a local restaurant.

Day Eight

B

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Tonight, meet with your fellow travelers for a drink at a café and compare stories about your first week in Aix-en-Provence.

Day Nine

B

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Enjoy a day at leisure.

Day Ten

B

THE LUBERON

Excursion: *The Villages of Luberon.* Explore the Luberon Valley, a picturesque mountain region dotted with lush forests and vineyards. Visit the charming villages of Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, Roussillon, and Gordes.

Local Flavor: Visit a local winery and enjoy a tasting of a selection of vintages.

Days Eleven - Twelve

B

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

The days are leisure to pursue your own interests. Dinner also is included on Day 11.

Day Thirteen

B | L

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

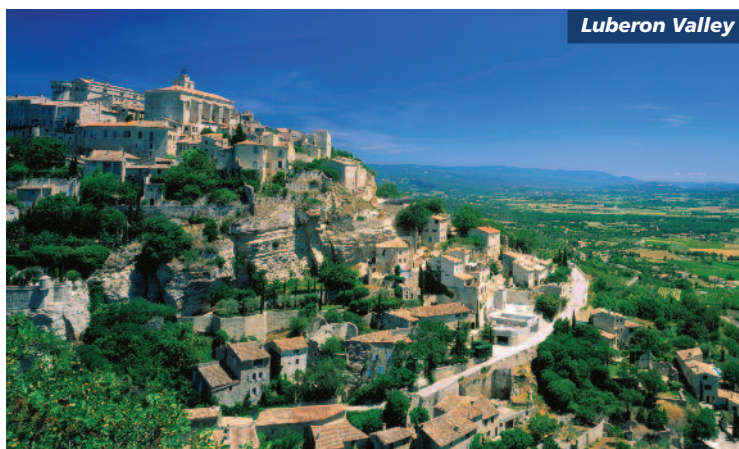
Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at restaurant in town.

Day Fourteen

B

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Enjoy a day at leisure.



Luberon Valley



La Rotonde fountain, Aix



Aix



Marseille

Day Fifteen B

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Gather with your fellow participants for a drink and conversation at a local café.

Day Sixteen B

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Enjoy the day at leisure.

Day Seventeen B | L

MARSEILLE

Excursion: *Marseille*. See the highlights of Marseille and enjoy panoramic views of the

city from Notre Dame de la Garde, the city's highest point.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Marseille.

Day Eighteen B | L

AVIGNON | PONT DU GARD

Excursion: *Avignon*. Journey to Avignon located on the banks of the Rhône River. Visit the impressive Palace of the Popes, an outstanding example of Gothic architecture.

Local Flavor: Lunch is served at a restaurant in Avignon.

Excursion: *Pont du Gard*. Nearby is the Pont du Gard, built by the Romans in 19 B.C. as part of a 30-mile canal to supply water to the town of Nîmes. This enormous three-tiered aqueduct rises as much as 160 feet above the valley and was used through the 9th century.

Day Nineteen B | D

AIX-EN-PROVENCE



Pont du Gard

Local Flavor: Enjoy dinner at a restaurant in Aix.

Day Twenty B

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

The day is at leisure.

Day Twenty-one B

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Join your fellow participants for a drink and conversation at a local café.

Day Twenty-two B | D

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers one last time for a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day Twenty-three B

IN TRANSIT

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flights to your gateway city.[†]

Note: Days without specified activities are spent at leisure or on excursion as part of an Optional Enrichment Track. Itinerary sequence or scheduled events may change.

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner



| OPTIONAL ENRICHMENT TRACKS |

Living in France offers increased choice and personalized experiences. The main program features the included excursions detailed in your itinerary, but you also may choose to enrich your experience by adding one or more of the Optional Enrichment Tracks, which let you customize your adventure based on your interests.

This program has three Optional Enrichment Tracks:



1 LANGUAGE

This track includes 12 three-hour French language classes held at a language school near your apartment. Classes are typically small and tailored to your skill level, guaranteeing individual attention and a comfortable progression through the lessons. The school can accommodate beginning, intermediate, and advanced students.

Leading your language classes will be a professional teacher who uses an established curriculum and teaching methods. The focus of your classes will be on oral communication. Using the immersion method, your teacher will provide instruction only in French. This may seem daunting at first, but soon you will find this a completely natural way of learning as your ears become attuned to listening to French. You will be surprised how much and how quickly you can learn this way.

\$895 per person



2 CUISINE

Provence features some of the most distinctive food in all of France. The sunny Mediterranean climate creates a bounty of fruit and vegetables. From artichokes and truffles to figs and apricots, the local produce is flavorful and fresh. You'll find country cooking at its best, a contrast to the haute cuisine of Paris. Key ingredients, including olives, garlic, herbs, and tomatoes, provide the foundation of dishes from the mountains to the sea.

Discover the flavors of Provence and learn to make some of the region's favorite dishes through a series of demonstrations, lectures and hands-on cooking lessons. This track includes a French market experience, a wine and cheese pairing demonstration, a history of French cuisine lecture, two group cooking demonstrations, and all ingredients and materials.

\$595 per person



3 ART & ARCHITECTURE

With its ancient Roman architecture, stunning scenery, and dazzling light, the region of Provence has been luring artists to its shores for centuries. This track includes five excursions to some of the region's finest artistic and architectural gems.

Enjoy a guided visit of the Musée Granet, which houses works by Picasso, Rembrandt, and Cézanne, among others. Journey to Arles, a town filled with extraordinary monuments and Roman ruins. Explore the many fountains that grace the squares, private mansions, courtyards, and streets of Aix-en-Provence, aptly nicknamed the City of a Thousand Fountains. Visit Cézanne's well-preserved studio and view one of his favorite landscape subjects, Mont Sainte Victoire. Explore several romantic castles and abbeys of Provence.

\$675 per person

Participate in all three tracks and receive a 5% discount.

| ACCOMMODATIONS |

ADAGIO AIX-EN-PROVENCE CENTRE AIX-EN-PROVENCE

This exciting French immersion experience is grounded in comfort and convenience. Your home away from home is on a peaceful street in the center of Aix-en-Provence. Newly renovated, modern, and stylish, the apartment building is a short stroll from the fountains and cafés of Cours Mirabeau. Groceries, bakeries, a pharmacy, and other convenience stores are located just around the corner. The well-equipped studios and apartments all feature satellite TV, broadband Internet access, and a kitchen with a cooktop, a microwave oven, dishwasher, an electric coffeemaker, and tableware. Best of all, you will have access to many services, including a 24-hour reception desk, weekly cleaning service, a self-service laundry, and dry cleaning services. This is a unique opportunity to combine independence with easy support services.



LAND PROGRAM

Studio

Special Price \$4,990

Single supplement is \$1,295.

One-Bedroom Apartment

Special Price \$5,490

Single supplement is \$1,595

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are available upon request (limited availability).



Cours Mirabeau, Aix-en-Provence

FLEXAIR

Our FlexAir program is designed to provide you with the flexibility and choice you need to personalize your air travel experience. Explore a wide range of flight options in consultation with our experienced travel professionals to select the flights, routing, class of service, and dates of travel that most fit your needs. We have negotiated contracts with a wide variety of carriers that allow us to hold flight reservations and then ticket close to departure without additional fees. This protects you from the need to purchase published-fare tickets which are subject to fees and must be ticketed within 24 hours of purchase. FlexAir reservations provide the flexibility to adjust reservations without penalty to accommodate extensions and upgrades right up until ticketing time, usually around 45 days before departure.

Our FlexAir service includes additional valuable benefits to ease the stress of travel:

- Guaranteed transfers between the airport and your overseas accommodations on arrival and departure days, in most cases. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer.
- Air schedule change and delay assistance. Book FlexAir to ensure assistance should schedule changes or delays impact your air travel plans.
- Flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms, is automatically included.
- Confirmed airline seat assignments at time of booking, in most cases.

We look forward to providing you with more choice and the best possible solution for your air travel plans.

Aix-en-Provence



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| INCLUDED FEATURES |

ACCOMMODATIONS

- **21 nights** in Aix-en-Provence, at the first-class **Adagio Aix-en-Provence Centre**.

MEALS

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, including 21 breakfasts, five lunches, and five dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during select meals at featured local restaurants.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Attend a special **Welcome Reception** and **Dinner**.
- Gather with your fellow travelers for an exclusive **Farewell Reception**, and **Dinner**.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- VAT (Value added taxes).



Travel the Smithsonian Journeys Way, and you can expect:

- **Two private receptions** for Smithsonian Journeys travelers.
- **Expert local guides**, who invite you to see their world as they do.
- **Authentic experiences** to broaden your understanding of other cultures.
- **A dedicated Smithsonian Journeys Travel Director** to attend to all on-site details, ensuring an exciting, carefree journey.
- **Low supplement charges** for solo travelers.
- Gather with your fellow travelers for exclusive **Travelers' Corners**, informal get-togethers held during your journey.
- Included **on-tour emergency evacuation insurance** (up to \$100,000), medical expense coverage (up to \$25,000), dental expense coverage (up to \$500), and travel medical and worldwide travel assistance.



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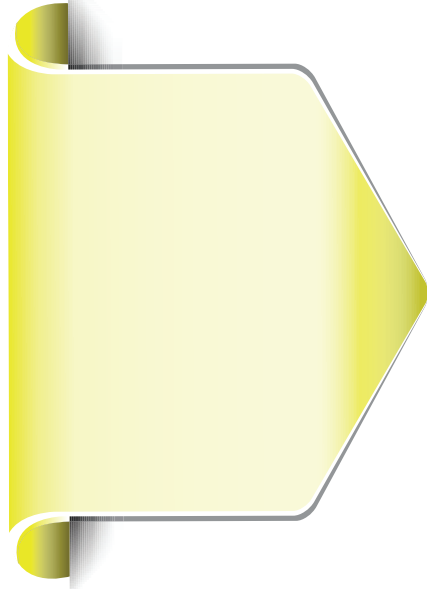
**Smithsonian
JOURNEYS**

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**To register, call
877-338-8687 or visit
SmithsonianJourneys.org**

Explore Aix-en-Provence with Smithsonian Journeys on this unique land experience!



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