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Prices valid until
30th December 2024

11 days
Duration

France
Destination

Level 2 - Moderate
Activity

# La Belle France Small Group Short Tour

Sep 09 2024 to Sep 19 2024

## France Small Group Short tour

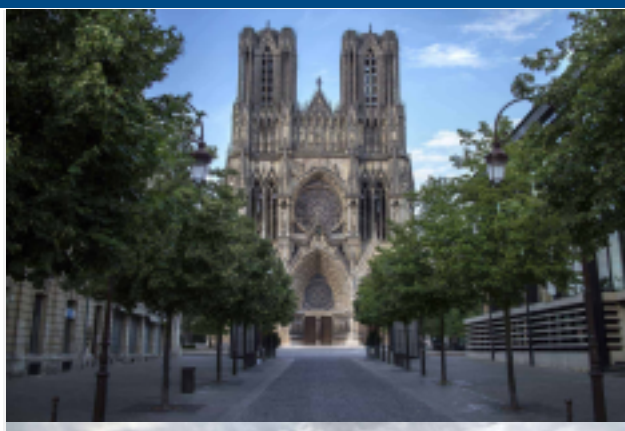
Odyssey offers easy, convenient, and relaxed escorted small group tours across Western Europe and beyond. We explore France's fairy-tale natural beauty, its ancient Roman, and Imperial heritage, its World Heritage Sites, and world famous cities, all with some truly spectacular scenery along the way. This and more is all waiting to be explored on one of Odyssey's small group tours of France, designed for the senior traveller, and led by experienced, and enthusiastic like minded people

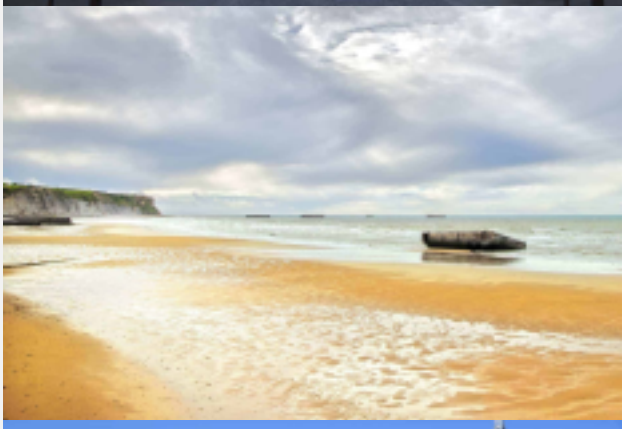


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La Belle France small group short tour is offering unique experiences. This short, small group tour of France takes 11 days to travel east and down into the south of France. Enjoy four stays in key destinations. You stay in each city or village from 1 to 3 nights.

France is the largest country in Western Europe, bigger than Spain, Germany, or Sweden. It lies on the western edge of the continent of Europe and shares borders with six adjacent countries. Belgium and Luxembourg are to the north. Germany and Switzerland to the east. Italy is to the southeast. Spain to the southwest. This geographical position gives France several notable advantages. It is the crossroads of the European Union. It is also Europe's farm.







## La Belle France Small Group Short Tour

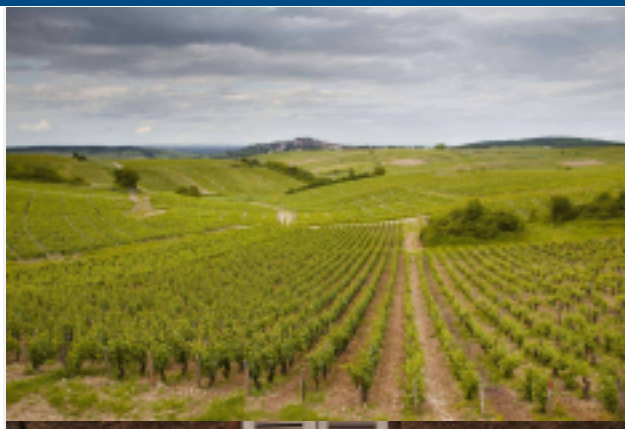
Each day, on this small group tour of France, we explore a particular region learning from our expert local guides about the history and contemporary society. Enjoying not only the learning and seeing aspect of this intriguing country we also enjoy breaking bread in some great cafes and restaurants exploring the regional cuisine.

## The French Outdoors

A large part of French life is lived outdoors, especially in its cities and villages. On this small group tour, we experience the pavement life of French cities, and see locals congregate in the village square to play petanque, or chat, or simply drink wine as the evening approaches, instead of retreating inside their homes. Our educational tour includes visits to several culturally significant and extraordinarily picturesque regions, like Provence and Chateuneuf du Pape. Our trip to France also visits wine-making regions, where we'll have wine tasting sessions and learn more about the tradition of wine-making. Other highlights include a

guided tour of Avignon.

This small group short tour of France is one of some 10 educational, escorted tours offered by Odyssey to France each year. The tour is suitable for the mature traveller, over 50, 60, or 70 as a couple or solo traveller.








## Articles about France published by Odyssey Traveller.

The following list of articles, represents some of the articles published by Odyssey Traveller for mature aged and senior travellers to maximise their knowledge and enjoyment of France when visiting;

- Exploring France by rail some tips.
- Ten of the best travel books on France
- Ten things to do in France when you visit
- Designing Paris
- Paris; leaders and landmarks
- Guillamot prevents the collapse of Paris
- The elegant arcades of Paris.
- Questions about France
- Studying Gargoyles and grotesques
- Around the world in six coffees
- Ten of the best French cookery books.
- Ten of the Best art galleries in Europe to visit.
- A guide on France for mature travellers

For all the articles published by Odyssey Traveller, please click through to this link

## External articles to assist you plan your visit to France.

- A guide to Alsace
- History of Alsace; Britannica.com
- Burgundy's climat; a UNSECO world heritage listing
- Avignon, the palace of Popes
- History of Avignon 15-18th century
- Exploring Chatres cathedral
- War of religion; France
- Published articles on French history.

## Other Odyssey Tours:

The small group short tour La Belle France, is only one of many of the small group tours offered by Odyssey Traveller to France, you can view all the tours to France via this link.

To view the entire collection of tours to Europe click here offered to mature aged and Senior travellers each year.

For more details, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, please call or send an email. Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right-hand side of this page.

Odyssey Traveller regularly offers tours designed for the active senior or mature traveller to enjoy in a small group holiday and learning environment. We also publish articles to provide more information to our loyal and prospective participants.








## Tour Notes

- Itineraries may change if flight schedules, site availability, and other inclusions have to be amended prior to departure.

## Highlights

1. Visit St Rémy de Provence, where Van Gogh painted some of his last works.
2. Explore one of the great canals of France aboard a modern canal boat.
3. Visit Provence and Chateuneuf du Pape.
4. See famous Roman sites such as the Arena and the Amphitheatre.
5. Explore the Champagne and Burgundy regions.

## Itinerary

**Day 1**

**Locations:** Paris

**Overview:**

Upon arrival in Paris we will come to the hotel individually. Tour begins with our welcome dinner.

(D)

**Accommodation:**

1 night at Hotel Ampere or similar.

**Day 2**

**Locations:** Reims

**Overview:**

Today we board our coach for the Champagne Region and visit one of the local champagne cellars in Épernay. After free time for lunch, we



travel to the city of Reims.

Dinner tonight will be in a local restaurant.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

2 nights at BW Hotel de la Paix or similar.

**Day 3**

**Locations:** Reims

**Overview:**

Reims, the centre of the Champagne Region, was the site of the coronation of the majority of the French kings. This morning we meet our local guide for a walking tour of the city, including a visit to the magnificent Cathedral and the Surrender Museum.

After a free afternoon to explore the city, we attend a special champagne dinner.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

BW Hotel de la Paix or similar.

**Day 4**

**Locations:** Beaune

**Overview:**

En route to Beaune we will make 2 stops. The first, at Troyes, offers the opportunity to explore a delightful town with many well-preserved, half-timbered houses and 10 churches all remarkable for their stained-glass windows and exquisite sculptures. We continue with an afternoon visit to the hilltop town of Vézelay and its Basilica of St. Mary Magdalene – one of the largest Romanesque churches in France and only just shorter than Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The Basilica is said to guard the remains of the “Sinner Saint” and was one of the departure points for the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Dinner tonight will

be in the hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

4 nights at Hotel Henry II or similar.

**Day 5**

**Locations:** Beaune

**Overview:**

After breakfast today we travel through the picturesque countryside to the village of Châteauneuf-en-Auxois. A guided tour of the castle will be followed by a regional lunch in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon we explore one of the great canals of France aboard a modern canal boat. The Burgundy Canal, opened in 1833, was the first navigable connection between Burgundy and the Paris basin. It leads from St. Jean de Losne on the river Saône, past the city of Dijon to Migennes on the river Yonne and then on to the Seine. Our cruise will take us from Vandenesse to Pouilly, through several locks and the summit pound tunnel. Dinner tonight will be at your own arrangement.

The grape plays an important role in this city and the surrounding regions. In fact, the annual wine auction at the Hospices de Beaune (Hôtel-Dieu) is considered by many wine experts to be the primary wine auction in France. The town is surrounded by an incredible collection of celebrated wine villages.

Burgundy is noted as the home of some classic French dishes such as coq au vin, oeufs meurette (eggs poached in red wine), and boeuf bourgignon. It is also famous for its escargots (snails).

(B,L)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Henry II or similar.

**Day 6**

**Locations:** Beaune

**Overview:**

This morning our local guide will take us on a walking tour of Beaune including a visit to the magnificent Hôtel Dieu with its multi-coloured tiled roofs. The afternoon is free for our own exploration of the town.

Historically Beaune is intimately connected with the Dukes of Burgundy who endowed the city with many treasures. On a plain near the hills of the Côte d'Or, Beaune is a walled city, with about half the original battlements, along with ramparts and moat, still in excellent state of preservation.

Dinner will be in a local restaurant.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Henry II or similar.

**Day 7**

**Locations:** Beaune

**Overview:**

The city of Dijon is famed for mustard and gingerbread. The conundrum is that the gingerbread has no ginger. It is known as pain d'épice, or spice bread!

On our guided walking tour of Dijon, we will have the chance to taste both these products and to explore the historical monuments of the city. Lunch will be in a local restaurant and will feature some of the local popular dishes.

During the afternoon we will drive through some of the prestigious wine-producing villages and will enjoy a tutored wine-tasting experience. Dinner will be at own arrangements tonight.

(B,L)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Henry II or similar.

**Day 8**

**Locations:** Beaune to Avignon

**Overview:**

Our drive south takes us via the Saône and Rhône Valleys to Avignon. On arrival we will have a guided walking tour of the city including a visit to the Palais des Papes. Our hotel, inside the city walls, will be the venue for our dinner tonight.

Avignon is considered amongst the greatest of Europe's walled cities. Always powerful, it reached its zenith during the time of the Babylonian captivity of the Popes (1309-1377).

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

3 nights at Hotel Cloître St Louis or similar.

**Day 9**

**Locations:** Avignon

**Overview:**

During our next 2 days we have all-day excursions in Provence – a region where there are some of the best-preserved Roman remains in Europe.

On our first day our guide will take us to Orange to visit the 1st-century Triumphal Arch and Roman Theatre. Regarded as one of the finest and best-preserved in the entire Roman world, the theatre is the only one to have preserved a statue of the Emperor Augustus. We continue with a guided walk in the excavated town of Vaison-la-Romaine. A visit and tasting at one of the famous Châteauneuf-du-Pape cellars will complete our day. Dinner will be at the hotel tonight.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Cloître St Louis or similar.

**Day 10**

**Locations:** Avignon

**Overview:**

On Day 10 we continue our Roman theme with another all-day excursion – this time to Arles, the city situated on a low hill at the point where the Rhône River branches into 2. Here the famous Roman sites such as the Arena and the Amphitheatre are the focus for us. We will also see the famous Cathedral of St. Trophime with its magnificently carved 12th century doorway. Arles also has associations with Vincent Van Gogh, who spent about 15 months here during 1888-89. We take an afternoon visit to St Rémy de Provence, where Van Gogh painted some of his last works. We also visit the ancient site of Glanum.

Dinner will be at our hotel with more regional dishes.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Cloître St Louis or similar.

**Day 11**

**Locations:** Avignon

**Overview:**

Our tour ends after breakfast.

(B)

## Inclusions / Exclusions

**What's included in our Tour**

- 10 nights of hotel accommodation including breakfast.
- Meals as per the itinerary.
- All excursions, entrance fees, and local guides.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.

- Services of Odyssey Program Leader for the duration of tour.
- Transport in comfortable and modern coaches.
- Detailed information booklet.

**What's not included in our Tour**

- International airfares and departure taxes.
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.
- Porterage.

**Level 2 - Moderate**

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.