



# The Nearest Thing to Paradise: A Literary Tour of Southern France

5 SEP – 22 SEP 2018

Code: 21828

Tour Leaders **Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN, David Henderson**

Physical Ratings 

Discover the sunny paradise that is the South of France through the eyes of R L Stevenson, Dumas, Pagnol, Daudet, Scott Fitzgerald, Cocteau, and others, while also revelling in its artistic treasures.



## Overview

### Tour Highlights

- Lectures and site visits by [Susannah Fullerton](#), President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, with the assistance of award-winning artist [David Henderson](#).
- Live out the experiences of one of the world's great travel books as you follow the path of Robert Louis Stevenson, accompanied by Modestine the donkey, through the stunning landscapes of the Cévennes.
- Lunch in the elegant 5-star Hotel Belles Rives at Cap d'Antibes, immortalised by F. Scott Fitzgerald in *Tender is the Night*.
- Enjoy the opportunity to see great art, the homes and gardens of artists, and the landscapes that inspired many famous paintings.
- Stay in Château de Mazan, family residence of the infamous Marquis de Sade, where he hosted the first theatre festival in France.
- Take an exceptional guided walk through the 'enchanted' hills of Marcel Pagnol's *Jean de Florette*.
- Stroll through some of the most beautiful villages of France, such as Lourmarin in the Lubéron ranges.
- Travel through French history, from the Roman occupation to the Resistance of World War II.
- The cuisine of France is intimately linked to the genius of her greatest men, such as Auguste Escoffier – learn about French food, and dine on *bouillabaisse*, local cheeses and wines, and other delicacies. Savour haute cuisine at 2-Michelin star Mauro Colagreco's Restaurant Mirazur, perched above the Mediterranean.

### 18-day Literary Tour of Southern France

Overnight Menton (5 nights) • Aix-en-Provence (4 nights) • Mazan (2 nights) • Avignon (2 nights) • Sète (1 night) • Florac (3 nights)

### Overview

"One has the most exquisite things that nature can offer", Friedrich Nietzsche said of the French Riviera. True, one has panoramas, stunning coastlines and beaches, impressive hills, and trees and gardens that are absolutely glorious, but one also has writers, scores of them, who were drawn like magnets to this sunny, and beautiful part of France. For 700 years writers have visited or resided, have been inspired by the landscapes, have desperately tried to improve their health and have died and been buried in the south of France.

This literary tour takes you to what Scott Fitzgerald called 'the nearest thing to paradise'. We will encounter French writers, past and present – see Daudet's windmill which inspired his wonderful *Letters from my Windmill*, enter the prison where Dumas' Count of Monte Cristo was incarcerated, walk the paths that so enchanted Marcel Pagnol, stroll through the cobbled town which shaped Jean Cocteau, and visit places connected with Proust, Colette, Sartre and De Beauvoir, cookbook writer Escoffier, Camus, poets Paul Valéry and Jacques Prévert, Henri Bosco and René Char. There will also be delightful encounters with visiting writers, such as Scott Fitzgerald, Dickens, Somerset Maugham, Ian Fleming, Lawrence Durrell, Dorothy Parker, Graham Greene, Robert Louis Stevenson, Chekhov, Peter Mayle and many more. You will enjoy some very special literary experiences – following the path of Robert Louis Stevenson in the stunning Cévennes National Park accompanied, just as he was, by a donkey! We will stay two nights in the Château de Mazan and learn from expert guides about the local novelists and poets who were so inspired by the stunning landscapes.

This tour is not purely literary. Artistic people tend to mingle and many of the famous writers made friends with painters and sculptors. Jean Cocteau was both artist and writer, Cézanne's best friend was Émile Zola, while Van Gogh's reading of French novelists inspired the landscapes he painted. We will visit galleries and museums connected with Cézanne, Matisse, Chagall, Cocteau, Renoir, Modigliani, Van Gogh and others. The tour also includes a boat trip along a spectacular gorge, châteaux, forts, windmills, fishing villages, cathedrals, bridges, lovely gardens and grand villas. It also includes French food, a subject on which so many writers have waxed lyrical. We will dine at restaurants famed for their literary patrons, will sample local delicacies and learn more about them. "Oh for a beaker full of the warm south", begged John Keats. We will have just such beakers of local wines, to accompany our cheeses, tartes aux citrons, and other delicious foods.

There is a magic about the very words 'the south of France'. Come and experience that magic for yourself. This is a tour for anyone who loves literature, natural beauty and sunshine. You do not need a great familiarity with the authors encountered – Susannah will tell you about their fascinating lives, and introduce you to their works. You will travel with like-minded literary enthusiasts. However, the tour must come with a warning – you will not want to leave!

"All the beauty of this Provençal countryside is born of the sun; it lives by light." (Daudet)



## Leaders



### Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN

President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Susannah has published several books on Jane Austen and has lectured extensively on famous authors, their lives and works both in Australia and overseas.

Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRS(N), majored in English Literature at the University of Auckland. She then completed a postgraduate degree in Victorian fiction and prose at the University of Edinburgh. For the past 21 years Susannah has been President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia. She has lectured extensively on Jane Austen in Australia and overseas and has published many articles about Jane Austen's works. She is the co-author of *Jane Austen – Antipodean Views* and published *Jane Austen and Crime* in 2004, and *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia* (Picador) in 2009. Susannah's latest books are *A Dance with Jane Austen*, *Happily Ever After: Celebrating Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* and a new memoir *Jane & I: A Tale of Austen Addiction*.

Susannah is very well known on the Australian speakers' circuit as a literary lecturer. She gives talks on famous authors, their lives and works, and on history, at the Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of NSW, ADFAS, WEA, schools and for a great variety of clubs and societies. Susannah uses her training in drama to delight her audiences with dramatic readings from novels and poems. Her interest in literature is wide ranging. She is a member of the Dylan Thomas Society of Australia, the Australian Brontë Association, the NSW Dickens Society and she is Patron of the Kipling Society of Australia. She has worked on literary prize committees, organised literary conferences and is a most experienced lecturer and group leader. To discover more about Susannah's activities, visit [www.susannahfullerton.com.au](http://www.susannahfullerton.com.au)

- Media coverage of recent tour to the Southern States: <https://msgr.smugmug.com/Australians-tour-Putnam/>



### David Henderson

Award-winning artist & Royal Academy graduate who paints half the year in Italy, David brings an artist's eye & profound knowledge of European art to ASA tours.

After initial studies in architecture in Brisbane, David's interest in the visual arts and their history was given new impetus when he made his first trip to Italy at the age of 20. Soon after, he enrolled in a course in painting at London's Royal Academy Schools, graduating in 1985. During his time in London, the Royal

Academy awarded him a prize for painting, and he was twice selected for their annual summer exhibition.

David has held many solo exhibitions of his work in Brisbane, Melbourne and London. He has exhibited in the Doug Moran Prize, Tattersalls and Rotary art exhibitions, and has been the recipient of several awards and commendations. He has also painted a number of commissioned portraits for private and institutional clients.

Until recently, David taught art part time at various institutions, including the Queensland Art Gallery and the Brisbane Institute of Art. For many years, he lectured and ran courses in the history of art and design at the Queensland University of Technology.

David now paints full time and divides his year between Australia and Italy. He believes Italy to be unique in its concentration of artistic treasures, architectural splendour and beauty of light and landscape. Italy provides him not just with a wealth of subject matter, but also the opportunity to develop his art through first-hand study of the classical, Mediterranean tradition: a synthesis of light, space and harmonious proportion.

Since joining ASA Cultural Tours in 1995, David has lectured on or led over 40 tours to a variety of destinations for ASA. He is an enthusiastic advocate of ASA's philosophy of travel, and believes that cultural tourism should not mean that cities, landscapes or objects become mere illustrations to a specialised text, but rather themselves be 'read' from a multiplicity of contexts and engaged with all the senses. He brings a trained artist's eye to an analysis of painting, sculpture and architecture and takes great pleasure in sharing his encounters with some of world culture's most exciting moments with others.

For more about David's work as an artist, see his website: [www.visualartist.info/davidhenderson](http://www.visualartist.info/davidhenderson)

See YouTube short commentary "Painting in Venice" by David Henderson [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

See: *Grand Tour: Artist Abroad brings home swag of sentimental works*, Brisbane News August 26 – September 1 issue.

See a narrated video by David Henderson, in which he makes drawings from a painting by Tintoretto in Venice's Accademia Galleries as a way of engaging with its composition, technique and subject matter: [www.visualartist.info/davidhenderson/video-drawing-from-tintoretto](http://www.visualartist.info/davidhenderson/video-drawing-from-tintoretto)

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### *Combine this tour with*

**Paris: The Great World City**  
26 SEP – 5 OCT 2018

**Sicily and the Aeolian Islands**  
27 SEP – 11 OCT 2018



## Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of site visits which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but some require special permission. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches & evening meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B =breakfast, L=lunch and D=evening meal.

### Menton - 5 nights

Day 1: Wednesday 5 September, Nice Airport – Menton

- Arrival transfer for participants arriving on the ASA 'designated flight'
- Short Orientation Walk
- Light Evening Meal

Participants arriving on the designated flight will be transferred from Nice Airport to our hotel in Menton. Situated on the French Riviera, Menton is nicknamed 'the pearl of France'. Writers discovered this charming town a long time ago. Dante came here when in exile from Florence. Guy de Maupassant loved it and called it "warmest and healthiest of winter residences", and when doctors recommended its climate to the sick, it attracted tubercular patients from around Europe. Among them were Laurence Sterne, Katherine Mansfield, Chekhov, Nietzsche, Swinburne, Aubrey Beardsley, Robert Louis Stevenson (who was inspired by the town to write his essay *Ordered South*) and Nabokov – they all came in hope of a miracle, but they did not find it. Queen Victoria, Blasco Ibanez (who created there a garden of ceramics dedicated to important writers) and Agatha Christie were other, though healthier, literary visitors. Samuel Beckett lived in Menton too and, appropriately for the author of *Endgame*, his street is the last one in France – it ends at the Italian border.

This evening we will take a 'promenade' to see, as did Katherine Mansfield, "the houses all bright in the

sun". We then enjoy our first group dinner at a restaurant near the sea. (Overnight Menton) D

Day 2: Thursday 6 September, Menton – Monaco – Menton

- Princess Grace Library, Monaco
- Guided tour of Menton incl. the Salle des Mariages (Wedding Room) by Jean Cocteau
- Welcome Dinner at Restaurant Le Mirazur

The earliest recorded writer-tourist to Monaco was Casanova, who was there in 1763 (typically, he recorded amorous adventures). Scotsman James Boswell was carried in a sedan chair up the steep hill; Guy de Maupassant sailed there on his luxury yacht, as did Edith Wharton. Petrarch, Smollett, Hans Christian Andersen, Vita Sackville-West, Colette, Proust and Paul Theroux have all been in Monaco. Karl Marx felt nature had been improved by art there, and Baroness Orczy wrote over 20 novels when resident there. Some writers came to gamble – Chekhov, Arnold Bennett, Graham Greene, Dorothy Parker and Ian Fleming, and they also created fictional gamblers in Lily Bart (*The House of Mirth*), Bertram (hero of Greene's *Loser Takes All*) and James Bond. Little wonder that W. Somerset Maugham called Monaco "a sunny place for shady people". Virginia Woolf entered the casino and found the gamblers a "rather sordid crew, with their faces all set and expressionless ... They had something peculiar. One couldn't place them." The same look is on the faces of gamblers playing there today.

In 1955 one visitor to Monaco, an American film star, had a meeting with Prince Rainier. One year later she married him in the cathedral and became Princess Grace of Monaco. Canadian poet Robert Service, who lived there, wrote a poem to celebrate the wedding, as did Jean Cocteau. The last book Princess Grace read before her death in a car crash was Anthony Burgess's *Earthly Powers*, and it was Burgess who suggested that the Prince set up a library to house the hundreds of books and manuscripts about Ireland that she had collected in her lifetime. The Princess Grace Irish Library was opened in 1984. We will visit the library and see its treasures.

This afternoon, we do a walking tour of Menton (nicknamed 'the pearl of France'). Our tour will make us imagine we are people convalescing in Menton during the Belle Epoque era, an age when royals, artists and writers came to spend the winter and improve their health.

Jean Cocteau was a remarkable man – poet, novelist, playwright, painter, designer and filmmaker, and friend to Proust, André Gide, Picasso, Coco Chanel, Marlene Dietrich and Edith Piaf. He was an exponent of the avant-garde. He spent a great deal of time in Menton over the years, and we will visit the Jean Cocteau Wedding Room, a room in the City Hall which Cocteau decorated with frescoes in 1957 and 1958. He chose the furnishings, carpets and even the doors, and illustrated it all with a theme of 'Love'.

This evening we dine at the Restaurant Le Mirazur, which enjoys spectacular views of Menton's old town and harbour. 2-Michelin star chef Mauro Colagreco excels in original Mediterranean-style dishes, using wild herbs, edible flowers and the freshest vegetables obtained from the restaurant's garden. (Overnight Menton) BD

Day 3: Friday 7 September, Menton – Antibes – Cap d'Antibes – Juan-les-Pins – Châteauneuf-Grasse – Menton

- Walking tour of Antibes, including the Musée Picasso, Château Grimaldi
- Cap d'Antibes scenic drive
- Lunch at Hôtel Belles-Rives, Juan-les-Pins
- Jardin de la Villa Fort France, Châteauneuf-Grasse



This morning we explore the historic Old Town of Antibes and the Musée Picasso in the Château Grimaldi. Picasso arrived in 1946 and stayed for 6 months, and the museum now holds one of the world's finest collections of his art.

Then, we take a scenic tour of the Cap d'Antibes, stopping to admire the bust of Victor Hugo gazing out to sea, the wonderful view from Plateau de la Garoupe, the homes of Graham Greene (who, in spite of his wealth, roughed it in a one-room apartment), Scott Fitzgerald and Nikos Kazantzakis (author of *Zorba the Greek*).

We lunch in a luxurious hotel, Hôtel Belles Rives at Cap d'Antibes, Juan-les-Pins. Located right on the beach, it was where Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald stayed in 1926: "On the pleasant shore of the French Riviera, about half way between Marseille and the Italian border, stands a large, proud, rose-coloured hotel. Deferential palms cool its flushed facade, and before it stretches a short dazzling beach", he writes in *Tender is the Night*. Many writers were seduced by the charm of Cap d'Antibes, including Greene, Nabokov, Hemingway and Verne. W. Somerset Maugham wrote a brilliant story, *The Three Fat Women of Antibes* which is set in a hotel there, and involves a lot of eating! Scott loved dining there – he once lured a local band inside the villa, then locked them in an upstairs room and tossed away the key. The band was forced to play dance music all night for Scott and Zelda's guests, before finally being allowed to depart at sunrise.

After lunch, we drive up in the hills near Grasse, overlooking the Côte d'Azur, to visit the garden of the Villa Fort France. The original owners, Lady Winifred Fortescue and her husband Sir John, an archivist and military historian, bought it in 1935. Lady Fortescue wrote a best-selling account of her struggles to create her home there entitled *Perfume from Provence*, which was illustrated by A.A. Milne. She followed this success with two further books written when she moved to Opio: *Sunset House* and *Trampled Lilies* (which recounts her time during the war years). The rose garden she created was expanded to form the current garden by Jeanne Gruniaux, who continued to advise the present owners Pierre and Valérie de Courcel until her death. The de Courcel have added their own deft and artistic touches to create a lovely garden full of colour, much of which comes from a superb use of annuals (poppies, larkspur, love-in-the-mist and aquilegia plus a sweet pea hedge). (Overnight Menton) BL

#### Day 4: Saturday 8 September, Menton – Saint-Paul-de-Vence – Vence – Menton

- Walking tour of Saint-Paul-de-Vence
- Maeght Foundation
- Matisse Chapel, Vence

Saint-Paul-de-Vence was once a frontier post facing Savoy. Today its 16th-century ramparts offer views over a delightful landscape of cypresses, red-roofed villas and palms, and it is one of the most visited hill villages near Nice. It proved a magnet to artists – Picasso, Signac, Bonnard and Modigliani came and often paid for their rooms with paintings, resulting in the priceless collection there today. Marc Chagall is buried in the cemetery. Galleries and studios still dot the village today. It also attracted writers – Colette, Sartre and De Beauvoir, and Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. American novelist James Baldwin came in 1970, Yves Montand purchased local property and poet Jacques Prévert lived in the village for several years.

We will take a walking tour with a local guide who will conjure up Jacques Prévert's memory through readings, reveal to us the links that Chagall had with the area, and tell us the stories of the literary and artistic visitors and residents, past and present. The local restaurant 'La Colombe d'Or' has, over the years, attracted many writers and famous people. The Fitzgeralds fought here, Richard Wright and Jacques Prévert often dined there, and artists decorated the walls in lieu of payment for their meals.



After lunch, we visit the Marguerite and Aimé Maeght Foundation, which hosts an exceptional collection of twentieth-century works. Writer André Malraux, then Minister of Cultural Affairs, inaugurated the Foundation on July 28th 1964. It is a unique example of a private European art foundation. This architectural ensemble was entirely conceived and financed by the Parisian art dealers Aimé and Marguerite Maeght to display modern and contemporary art in all media. Painters and sculptors collaborated closely in the realization of the complex with Catalan architect Lluís Sert by creating works, many of them monumental, that were integrated into the building and its gardens: the Giacometti courtyard; the Miró labyrinth with sculptures and ceramics; mural mosaics by Chagall and Tal-Coat; a pool and stained glass window by Braque, and a Bury fountain. We shall enjoy its collection of paintings, sculptures, drawings and graphic works by artists such as Bonnard, Braque, Calder, Chagall, Giacometti, Léger, and Miró.

Nearby Vence is where D.H. Lawrence came to die in 1930. He had hoped the high altitude would cure him and went first to the sanatorium. His wife then optimistically took a 6-month lease on a local house – Lawrence died a day after getting there. Matisse moved there towards the end of WWII, and designed and decorated a chapel. Evelyn Waugh called it “the Matisse public lavatory cocktail bar chapel”, but Sylvia Plath knelt to pray in its “pure white heart” and loved it. We will visit the chapel. (Overnight Menton) B

Day 5: Sunday 9 September, Menton – Villefranche-sur-Mer – Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat – Menton

- Chapelle Saint-Pierre by Jean Cocteau, Villefranche-sur-Mer
- Villa Ephrussi, Cap Ferrat
- Jean Cocteau Museum, Menton

This morning we stop at Villefranche-sur-Mer with its 16th-century citadel, historic port, and majestic sweep of shoreline. Cocteau decorated a chapel there, working on it from morning till night for 6 months. “Villefranche shaped my youth”, he once told his friend Coco Chanel. We will admire Cocteau’s chapel before driving on to Cap Ferrat.

W. Somerset Maugham once described Cap Ferrat as “the escape hatch from Monaco for those burdened with taste”. The town dangles like an earring from the Riviera coastline and today some of the most sumptuous villas on the Riviera are to be found there, including Maugham’s own Villa Mauresque, where he entertained Kipling, T.S. Eliot, Arnold Bennett, Churchill, H.G. Wells, Cocteau, Dorothy Parker, Ian Fleming and Noel Coward. It’s not possible to see Maugham’s home, but we will see two grand villas to get a sense of Riviera life for the rich and famous.

The first of those villas is the Villa Ephrussi, the terracotta and marble mansion that belonged to the Baroness Ephrussi de Rothschild. It is furnished as she left it, with items that belonged to Marie Antoinette, paintings by Fragonard and superb tapestries and paintings. There are 9 gardens, each with a different theme, which we will explore before having lunch in the tearooms overlooking the water. This villa was part of the fabulous Ephrussi heritage described so memorably by Edmund de Waal in his book *The Hare with Amber Eyes*.

We return to Menton to visit the new Jean Cocteau Museum which includes 990 works by Cocteau. All of the artist’s key periods are represented, from the first self-portraits of the 1910s up to the ‘Mediterranean’ period towards the end of his life. There are drawings, prints, paintings, ceramics, tapestries, jewellery, books and manuscripts and 172 photographs relating to Cocteau. There are also works by fellow artists Picasso, Modigliani, Di Chirico and others. (Overnight Menton) BL

[Aix-en-Provence - 4 nights](#)

#### Day 6: Monday 10 September, Menton – Cagnes-sur-Mer – Villeneuve-Loubet – Aix-en-Provence

- Musée Renoir – Domaine des Collettes, Cagnes-sur-Mer
- Lunch at local restaurant, Villeneuve-Loubet
- Fondation Auguste Escoffier, Villeneuve-Loubet

This morning we travel to Cagnes-sur-Mer, now a suburb of Nice, where we visit the totally renovated and recently reopened Renoir museum, displaying for the first time to the public 17 sculptures in plaster and 2 original paintings. Renoir moved there hoping to cure his arthritis. Cézanne and Modigliani also visited this charming medieval fishing village.

We have lunch at a local restaurant. Our second visit of the day is to the Escoffier museum in Villeneuve-Loubet. Auguste Escoffier, who was born there, is the founder of French haute-cuisine, a culinary writer who updated and popularised traditional French cooking methods. The museum is in his childhood home, and contains historic cooking equipment (some invented by Escoffier), his menus and even chocolate sculptures. Escoffier created Pêche Melba in honour of Australian soprano, Dame Nellie Melba. We continue our journey to Aix-en-Provence. (Overnight Aix-en-Provence) BL

#### Day 7: Tuesday 11 September, Aix-en-Provence – Puy Sainte Réparate – Aix-en-Provence

- Guided tour of Aix-en-Provence on the footsteps of Cézanne and Emile Zola
- Atelier Cézanne, Aix-en-Provence
- Lunch at Château La Coste, Puy Sainte Réparate
- Art and Architecture Tour, Château La Coste, Puy Sainte Réparate

This morning we visit the studio of one of the world's great painters, Paul Cézanne. Dickens visited Aix, Provençal poet Frédéric Mistral went to school and Marcel Pagnol attended university there, and it was Émile Zola's home town. As a boy he became friendly with Cézanne, and the two enjoyed long excursions where Paul would paint and Émile would write. In Zola's fiction Aix becomes Plassans, a quiet provincial town in *The Conquest of Plassans*. The studio gives a fascinating glimpse into the life of a great artist, an artist who also inspired a novel, Zola's *The Masterpiece*. From the studio, we shall enjoy views of Mont Sainte-Victoire, painted so often by Cézanne.

Near Aix-en-Provence, we visit the Château La Coste, the creation of Irish property magnate Patrick (Paddy) McKillen, where we will have lunch. It is a vineyard where wine, art and architecture live in harmony. Since 2008, the Château has been inviting artists and architects to choose a place in the landscape and create a work that they feel belongs there. Jean Nouvel designed the estate's *chai de vinification* (wine vault); while in 2011, Tadao Ando designed the art centre surrounded by a shallow pool of water, on which Louise Bourgeois' *Crouching Spider* masterpiece perches.

We take a guided tour through the wooded hilltops and valleys, alongside olive groves and vineyards, to discover the many installations of contemporary art by Alexander Calder, Frank O. Gehry, Ai Wei wei, Andy Goldworthy, Paul Matisse, Tom Shannon, Jean Prouve, Sean Scully, Richard Serra, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Tunga, and others. (Overnight Aix-en-Provence) BL

#### Day 8: Wednesday 12 September, Aix-en-Provence – Marseille – Aix-en-Provence

- The Old Port area of Marseille
- Musée des Beaux-Arts
- Château d'If, Marseille

- Bouillabaisse dinner, Marseille

We set off this morning for Marseille, once a Greek settlement founded in 7th century BC. It is France's largest port and second-largest city, and is exotic and lively. Dickens opens his novel *Little Dorrit* with a brilliant scene set at the Marseille port on a very hot day: "Everything in Marseille, and about Marseille, had stared at the fervid sky, and been stared at in return, until a staring habit had become universal there. Strangers were stared out of countenance by staring white houses, staring white walls, staring white streets, staring tracts of arid road, staring hills from which verdure was burnt away." The city has many other literary associations – Rimbaud had his right leg amputated in a Marseille hospital, Joseph Conrad lived there for 3 years and gained his first experiences of seamanship and loved eating "bouillabaisse ladled out into a thick plate" in its cafes, Edmond Rostand (author of *Cyrano de Bergerac*) was born there in 1868, Simone de Beauvoir taught at a local school, and Senegalese novelist Sembène Ousmane set his book *Black Docker* in the city where he himself had worked at the docks.

Dominated on one side by the old town, 'Le Panier', and on the other by the church of Nôtre Dame de la Garde, our walk reveals the city's ancient Greek and Roman origins. Nearby we also visit the recently renovated Musée des Beaux Arts in the 19th-century Palais Longchamp where the highlight is a fine collection of nineteenth century French art including works by Daubigny, Courbet, Corot and Millet.

After lunch, take a boat from the port out to a small island made internationally famous by Alexandre Dumas – the island of If, where the Château d'If is located. The château was built in 1524 and became a state prison. One inmate was Mirabeau, revolutionary, writer and journalist, who was locked up for debt. But the most famous prisoner is a fictional one – Edmond Dantès, Count of Monte Cristo in Dumas' novel. We will visit the cells where he and the Abbé Faria lived so many years: "a room almost underground, whose bare and reeking walls seemed as though impregnated with tears".

Dinner will be enjoyed in Marseille, where the bouillabaisse so enjoyed by Conrad is still a speciality. (Overnight Aix-en-Provence) BD

Day 9: Thursday 13 September, Aix-en-Provence – La Treille – Aix-en-Provence

- Nature walk in the steps of Marcel Pagnol
- Lunch at Le Cigalon restaurant, La Treille
- Maison Natale de Marcel Pagnol, Aubagne

This morning, we follow in the footsteps of Marcel Pagnol. "As soon as we left the village the enchantment began and a love that lasted all my life was born. Immense scenery in a semicircle arose before my eyes up to the sky", he wrote in his autobiography. As a boy he walked the hills with his friend Lili des Ballons, as a man he used this terrain for his fiction and his movies. La Treille, perched high above Marseille, was where he spent holidays and is the model for his fictional village Les Bastides Blanches. He loved the local springs (so important to the plot of *Jean de Florette*), and he now lies in the little cemetery near La Treille. Our walking tour in this magnificent countryside will include superb panoramas, places used in his films, readings from his works and, as an added artistic bonus, views of Mont Sainte-Victoire, painted so often by Cézanne.

Our lunch will be in Pagnol's 'Le Cigalon'. In the 1935 film *Le Cigalon*, written and directed by Pagnol, Cigalon is a chef who refuses to cook for anyone who will not appreciate his cuisine. The woman next door opens a restaurant and serves anybody, which means Cigalon has to ask her to marry him!

We then drive to the pretty town of Aubagne, just out of Marseille, where we visit Marcel Pagnol's



birthplace. Marcel Pagnol was a novelist, playwright and filmmaker and was the first French 'cinéaste' to be elected to the Académie française. All his work was influenced by the language, society and culture of his native Provence. His best known books are *Jean de Florette* and *Manon des Sources* (which have both been filmed). Following this visit, we continue to Aix-en-Provence. (Overnight Aix-en-Provence) BL

### Mazan - 2 nights

Day 10: Friday 14 September, Aix-en-Provence – Lourmarin – Ménerbes – Lacoste – Mazan

- Walking tour of Lourmarin on the steps of Albert Camus and Henri Bosco
- Lunch at Restaurant La Bastide de Marie, Ménerbes
- Village of Lacoste and the Castle of Marquis de Sade

Lourmarin is listed as one of the most beautiful villages of France. It has a castle, winding streets, great views and, most importantly, famous writers. Albert Camus, Nobel Prize winner, lived and wrote in Lourmarin, as did novelist and biographer Henri Bosco. Both men are buried in the cemetery. We will follow their footsteps through this charming village.

Lunch will be just outside of Ménerbes, a walled village. Peter Mayle (who now lives in Lourmarin) described his time here in *A Year in Provence*, which made the place incredibly popular with the British. The restaurant, La Bastide de Marie, is situated in the vineyards of the Luberon Valley.

Lacoste, located just a few kilometres away, was a stronghold for the Resistance in WWII. The town bridge is a 1st-century Roman bridge, which was closed to traffic in 2005. The last person to cross was Irish writer, Finnbar Mac Eoin. In the 18th century the castle at Lacoste was inhabited by the Marquis de Sade, who had to flee after various scandals. It is now the site of a theatre and is owned by Pierre Cardin. From the castle, one can enjoy superb views over the surrounding valley and village below.

We will stay for the next two nights in a very special hotel. Château de Mazan, a honey-toned château at the foot of Mt Ventoux, was built about 1720, in the French Regency period. It was the notorious Marquis de Sade's family estate (his father and uncle were born there) and it was here that the Marquis organised France's very first theatre festival in 1772. He usually acted in his own plays and was very innovative in his theatrical works. (Overnight Mazan) BL

Day 11: Saturday 15 September, Mazan – Maillane – Fontaine-de-Vaucluse – Mazan

- Musée Frédéric Mistral, Maillane
- Picnic lunch
- Walking tour of Fontaine-de-Vaucluse
- Musée-Bibliothèque François Pétrarque, Fontaine-de-Vaucluse
- Time at leisure: Optional visit to Musée d'Histoire Jean Garcin: 'L'appel de la Liberté', Fontaine-de-Vaucluse
- Dinner at Château de Mazan

This morning we visit the small town of Maillane, home of Frédéric Mistral, Provence's most important poet and winner of the Nobel Prize in literature. When he was born on a farm just outside of town, his mother wanted to call him Nostradamus, but the authorities wouldn't let her! We will visit the Mistral Museum to learn about this poet, translator, lexicographer (in the Occitan language) and ethnographer. He was a champion of Provençal culture, writing his own poems in Provençal, then translating them into French for a wider audience. His home was always in Maillane, and he was visited here by authors, Presidents and

celebrities. He is buried in the Maillane cemetery.

Fontaine-de-Vaucluse has a natural wonder – an underground stream that comes out into daylight through a great hole in the cliff, forming a lovely pool. Petrarch came to brood over his love for Laura and be inspired and this has made it a place of pilgrimage for other romantics. Chateaubriand visited in 1849, Henry James was charmed by the “vast sad cliff, covered with the afternoon light, still and solid forever, while the liquid element rages and roars at its base”, but hated the commercialisation he saw going on there. We will visit the spring and also the Petrarch Library which contains valuable editions, drawings and stamps, as well as information on artists of the area.

In the afternoon there is time at leisure to explore the local history museum which recounts the story of this part of France during the Occupation, the Resistance work done by local heroes, their clandestine publications, and information about artists and writers involved in the struggle against the Nazis.

Tonight we dine at Château de Mazan. During pre-dinner drinks you will hear about the infamous Marquis and his contribution to literature. (Overnight Mazan) BLD

### Avignon - 2 nights

Day 12: Sunday 16 September, Mazan – Avignon – Sorgues – Avignon

- Papal Palace
- Pont Saint-Benezet
- Afternoon at leisure
- Château de Brantes, Sorgues: Garden tour, Provençal dinner and Classical music concert

One of the most fascinating towns in southern France is Avignon, enclosed in its massive ramparts, dominated by the Palace of the Popes, and so historically important it was created a World Heritage site by UNESCO. It has a famous theatre festival every year and has long attracted famous writers. Dickens visited, John Stuart Mill is buried there, novelist Henri Bosco was born there, and Pierre Boulle (who wrote *The Bridge over the River Kwai* and *Planet of the Apes*) was also born there. Italian poet Petrarch considered the town a hotbed of corruption and immorality, but it was in Avignon that he first saw Laura, the woman who inspired his famous sonnets. The poet Mistral came to school in Avignon, poet Stéphane Mallarmé taught at a local school, Daudet set his short story *La Mule du Pape* there, and the town was used as a key setting by Lawrence Durrell in his Avignon Quartet.

We will spend the morning seeing the magnificent Papal Palace. Seven popes resided there, from 1305 to 1378, and the building is rich in history. The original Pont d'Avignon, celebrated in song, was completed in 1185 and had 22 arches, but floods tore it down. The inhabitants loved their bridge and kept repairing it, but in 1690 they finally gave up. Today there is a St-Bénézet bridge, named after the shepherd who caused the bridge to be built after seeing an angel.

We settle in our new hotel, Cloître Saint-Louis, a restored 16th-century Jesuit school. We then make our way to the Château de Brantes, located just outside the village of Sorgues, for a special evening tour and reception. The garden, which has the oldest magnolia tree in France (1780), was designed by the Danish landscape architect Mogens Tvede in 1956. The château, listed as a historic monument in 1987, is surrounded by an extensive plane-tree wood, and features a series of basins through which flows the river Sorgues. After a guided tour through the park and garden, we enjoy an *al fresco* Provençal buffet dinner, followed by delightful classical music concert given under the magnolia tree by a duo of professional harp and flute musicians. (Overnight Avignon) BD

### Day 13: Monday 17 September, Avignon – Arles – Pont du Gard – Avignon

- Musée de L'Arles Antique (Museum of Antiquities), Arles
- Saint-Trophime and its cloister, Arles
- Theatre and Amphitheatre, Arles
- Pont du Gard

"I wish I could have stayed longer", wrote Flaubert after his visit to Arles in 1840. "These Roman monuments are like a skeleton whose bones stick out here and there through the ground." He also admired the women of Arles, whom he thought particularly beautiful. Like Flaubert, we will be tourists in Arles, and will discover the wonders of this ancient city on the Rhône. We will visit the amphitheatre, the theatre, the Romanesque St Trophime church, the outstanding archaeological museum, and admire the statue of Mistral.

Daudet often came to visit his friend Frédéric Mistral in Arles. He thought the place "one of the most picturesque in France", and the two men sat in cafes eating eel stew. Arles has also attracted artists, notably Vincent Van Gogh, who arrived in 1888. He wandered around reading Daudet and Zola – their literary landscapes influenced his art just as much as the real ones. He knew *Letters from my Windmill* almost by heart. Gauguin came to visit him in Arles, but the two men fought. Then Van Gogh cut off his ear and presented it to a prostitute. Tragically, his life ended in 1890.

We shall return to Avignon in the afternoon via the Pont du Gard, one of the best preserved of all Roman aqueducts. Its survival testifies to the building skill of the Romans, for the massive blocks of which it is fabricated have remained in place despite the fact it is a dry stone construction using no cement. (Overnight Avignon) B

### Sète - 1 night

#### Day 14: Tuesday 18 September, Avignon – Fontvieille – Sète

- Walking tour on the steps of Alphonse Daudet, Fontvieille
- Afternoon at leisure

Alphonse Daudet was a prolific author and, in his day, very successful. Today he is best remembered for his comic Tartarin novels, and also for his evocative *Letters from my Windmill*. It was at a windmill in Fontvieille that he found spiritual peace: "That mill was in ruins. A pile of stones, iron, and old boards that had not been aired out in years that lay, with its limbs broken, useless like a poet... I loved it for its pitiful condition." It became a symbol of his attachment to Provence.

A short walk away is the Castle of Montauban, where Daudet was a frequent guest: "Blessed home! ... How many times, in winter, did I come here, to breathe the healthy airs of our small Provençal hills, return to nature, and cure myself of Paris and its fevers." We will take this walk to see that 'blessed home', and visit the Daudet Museum to learn about his prose and poetry, his sad life and his inspirations.

In the late morning we continue to Sète, a fascinating small town on the French Mediterranean coast. The site is wonderful. Sète encircles a lone hill, the Mont St-Clair, on the otherwise flat Languedoc coast. It is all-but an island with the sea out front and the Thau lagoon behind (a vast expanse of salt water, colonised by oyster- and mussel-beds). Between the two, a network of canals brings the scramble of port and fishing activity right into the town centre. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (Overnight Sète) BD

### Florac - 3 nights



#### Day 15: Wednesday 19 September, Sète – Sainte-Eulalie-de-Cernon – La Couvertoirade – Florac (Cévennes)

- Sainte-Eulalie-de-Cernon
- La Couvertoirade, Templar & Hospitaller village

Our day begins with a scenic drive into the Cévennes National Park, where we will enjoy the last very special days of our tour. En-route, we shall explore Templar territories in the Larzac region to the east of Albi, visiting Sainte-Eulalie de Cernon, their regional headquarters (commanderie), and their stunningly picturesque fortified village of La Couvertoirade.

Sainte-Eulalie de Cernon occupies a deep valley between ridges of the Larzac. It is the best-preserved Templar commandery in France, having been established by the Order in 1159, and then taken over by the Hospitallers when Philip IV eliminated the Templars.

La Couvertoirade, in a wildly beautiful setting, deep in the Larzac on the edge of the Cévennes National Park, was a Templar stronghold until the fall of the Order, when it also was taken over by the Knights Hospitaller who built the village's curtain wall between 1439 and 1450. This wall still stands, and within it are a church, a small château, and a number of lovely old houses.

We shall also dine at a small restaurant in La Cavalerie, another fortified Larzac Templar site, halfway between Sainte-Eulalie de Cernon and La Couvertoirade. Our drive to Florac takes us over the impressive Millau Viaduct. We will stay in Florac which Stevenson described as having "an old castle, an alley of planes, many quaint street-corners, and a live fountain welling from the hill", and "notable for handsome women". The owner of our hotel, Monsieur Paulet, is also its chef, and he will introduce us to the culinary specialities of the region with a short talk about local foods. Stevenson dined on tinned meat, bread, cheese and chocolate – we shall dine in a greater comfort and style. (Overnight Florac) BLD

#### Day 16: Thursday 20 September, Cévennes NP

- Exhibition 'Travels with Robert Louis Stevenson', Florac – presented by the Association 'Sur le Chemin de Robert Louis Stevenson'
- Nature walk with a donkey, in the footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson
- Mont Lozère scenic drive – Pont de Montvert

We spend the next two days exploring the Cévennes National Park in the company of local expert mountain guide Anne Nourry, Vice President of the Association 'Sur le Chemin de Robert Louis Stevenson'.

The Cévennes are a range of mountains in south-central France, part of the Massif Central. There are deep gorges, rocky bluffs and panoramic views. In 1878 a young Scotsman wandered into the area, accompanied by a donkey. Her name was Modestine, and she was stubborn and recalcitrant. His name was Robert Louis Stevenson, and he was making the journey to gather material for a book. He slept out, and invented an early model of the sleeping bag for warmth, and underwent a gruelling 12 day journey which left him, and the donkey, exhausted. We will not follow Stevenson for 12 days, and we will travel in greater comfort, but we will enjoy a walk in this spectacular region and we will even be accompanied by a donkey (who will naturally answer to the name of Modestine for the day!). Our walk will be a true literary pilgrimage! As a result of his journey, Stevenson published one of the classic travel books of all time, *Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes*. It was also one of the very first books to present hiking and camping out as recreational activities.

The route he followed has today become one of the most popular hiking trails in France, thanks in part to

the work of the Association 'Sur Le Chemin de Robert Louis Stevenson', which was established in 1994 to develop the trail for tourism. The Association has put together an exhibition entitled 'Travels with Robert Louis Stevenson' featuring images, photographs, drawings and texts from and about Stevenson that illustrate his travels across France and highlight the writer's international connections. Our guide Anne will guide us through this exhibition that has been set up in time for our visit.

We shall also take a scenic drive to the summit of Mont Lozère to view the Pic de Finiels which rises 1699m, highest peak in the Cévennes National Park. It offers some stunning natural scenery and is covered by coniferous plantations and moorland. In the heart of the National Park is Pont de Montvert, a pretty granite village with Neolithic standing stones, associations with the Knights Hospitaller, ancient cattle market, and an interesting Huguenot history. Stevenson passed through and thought the place "wore an indescribable air of the South". He admired the waitress Clarisse who served him lunch, and reflected on the history of the Camisards (the Huguenots who were persecuted) while he ate. (Overnight Florac) BLD

#### Day 17: Friday 21 September, Gorges du Tarn – Causse du Méjéan

- Boat excursion through the Gorges du Tarn
- Causse du Méjéan & Roc des Hourtous viewpoint
- Belvédère des Vautours (Vulture Lookout), Gorges de la Jonte
- Farewell Dinner

This morning we explore the great Gorges du Tarn, an impressive canyon cut by the Tarn through the harsh limestone plateaux south of the Massif Central. After driving along the gorge, we then take a boat excursion down the Tarn as it winds through the most spectacular section of the valley, passing through Les Détroits, the most beautiful and narrow section of the canyon, between towering vertical cliffs of up to 400 meters, through to the Cirque des Baumes, where the gorge widens forming a magnificent amphitheatre. The history of the boatmen and the boats of the Gorges du Tarn is tied to the area's rugged geography and since at least the 14th century, the boat has been the primary means of getting around in the canyon. In the late 19th century, the first tourists arrived in the Gorges du Tarn by the new Paris-Béziers railway; hotels were created in the villages, and the first boat tours were offered.

Robert Louis Stevenson came well before other tourists and was greatly impressed by the landscape and the castles along the way. Stevenson struggled to find a place to camp as the terraces were so narrow. He washed in the river – "It was marvellously clear, thrillingly cool; the soap-suds disappeared as if by magic in the swift current, and the white boulders gave one a model for cleanliness." He felt at peace beside the Tarn.

We next travel up onto the limestone plateau of the Causse Méjéan stopping to enjoy the spectacular view from the Roc des Hourtous, which towers 500m above the narrowest part of the Gorges du Tarn: Les Détroits. Following a picnic lunch we travel to the western edge of the park, where the Gorges du Tarn meets the Gorges de la Jonte. Here we visit the Belvédère des Vautours, an interpretive centre and viewing point for the many vultures that nest in the gorge, mostly Griffon Vultures, but now also Black Vulture. With the aid of national park officers, we may view their nests, and watch individuals and groups perched on the dramatic gorge walls. Two decades or so ago these giant airborne scavengers were almost extinct in the Cévennes. Now, thanks to a successful reintroduction program, some 75 pairs breed in the national park. Following a majestic aerial ballet performed by 30 or so vultures we return to our hotel and enjoy a farewell meal together.

When Stevenson finished his incredible journey, he wept. Perhaps we will follow his example as we end our tour with a group dinner at the hotel. But there will be cheering food and wines as consolation and we will

have wonderful 'souvenirs' of our journeys in Southern France to take home with us. (Overnight Florac) BLD

Day 18: Saturday 22 September, Florac – Saint-Laurent-de-Trèves – Nîmes. Tour Ends.

- Viewing *Grallator Minusculus* foot prints, Saint-Laurent-de-Trèves
- Corniche des Cévennes

Our last morning, we travel by coach to Nîmes. Shortly after leaving Florac, we stop at the natural site of Saint-Laurent-de-Trèves to see the 190-million-year-old footprints left by *Grallator Minusculus* dinosaurs.

Following the spectacular scenic route of Corniche des Cévennes, we briefly stop at Col Saint-Pierre where Stevenson's trail crosses our road one last time. We then continue our descent to Nîmes, birth place of Alphonse Daudet, to the TGV station, where you will be able to take a high-speed train to the airport or next French destination. **B**



## Accommodation

### 18-day Literary Tour of Southern France

ASA has selected 3- to 4-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom. Double/twin rooms for single occupancy may be requested – and are subject to availability and payment of the Double (as Single) Supplement. A hotel list will be given to all participants prior to departure.

Menton (5 nights): 4-star Hotel Napoléon – located on the seafront, overlooking the picturesque Bay of Garavan and within walking distance to the old town and harbour. The beautiful hotel garden was designed by famous landscape architects Arnaud Maurières and Eric Ossart. [www.napoleon-menton.com](http://www.napoleon-menton.com)

Aix-en-Provence (4 nights): 4-star Grand Hotel Roi René – located in the heart of the city, a short stroll from the famous Cours Mirabeau and the old town. [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com)

Mazan (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Château de Mazan – located at the foot of Mont Ventoux. Family residence of the infamous Marquis de Sade, where he hosted the first theatre festival in France. [www.chateaudemazan.com](http://www.chateaudemazan.com)

Avignon (2 nights): 4-star Cloître Saint-Louis – located in the heart of Avignon. Housed in a restored 16th-century Jesuit school, the hotel spread across the cloister and a contemporary design building. The vibrant centre of the old city with its theatres and numerous cafés are all within easy walking distance. [www.cloitre-saint-louis.com](http://www.cloitre-saint-louis.com)

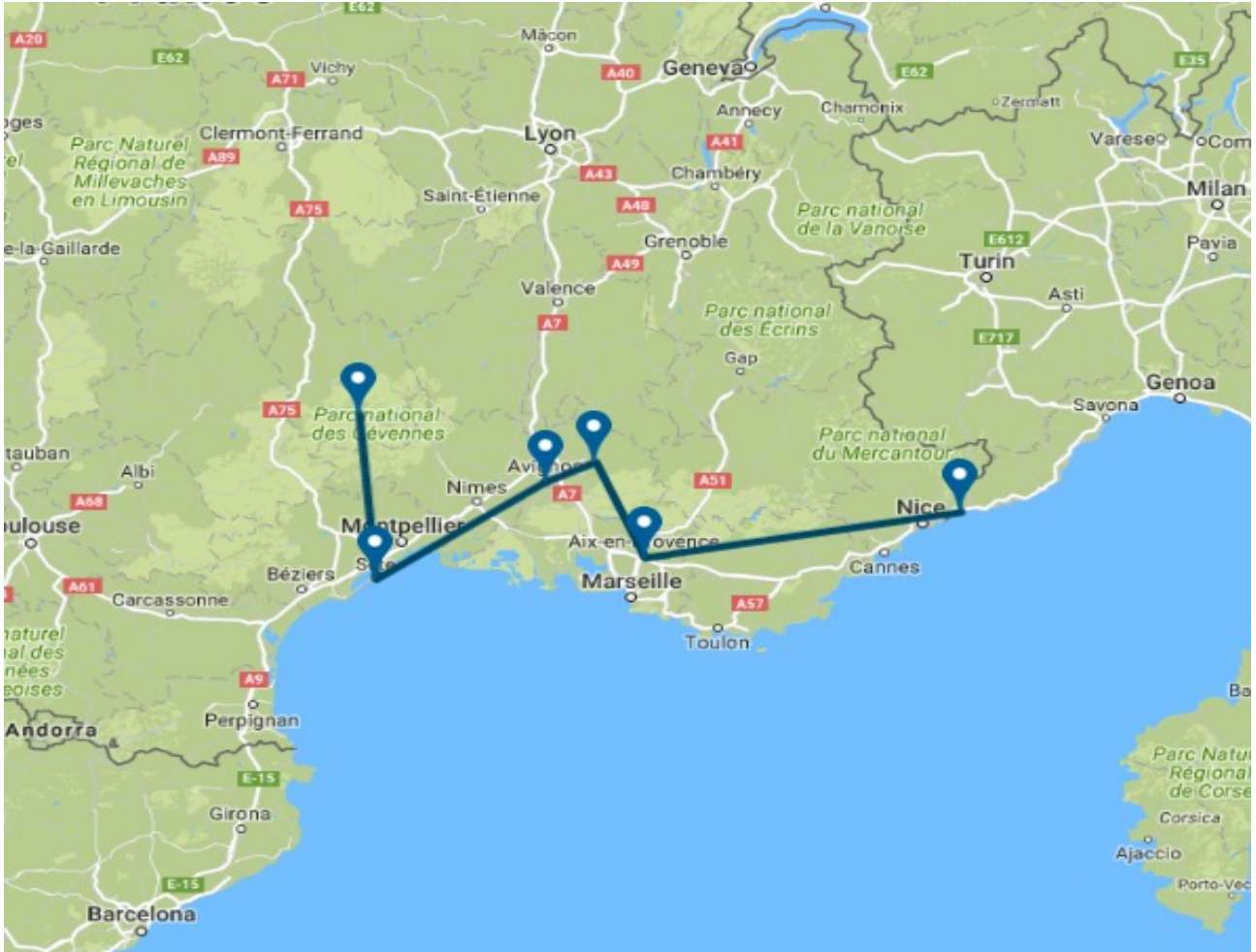
Sète (1 night): 3-star Grand Hôtel de Sète – refined 19th-century hotel overlooking the Canal de Sète [www.legrandhotelsete.com](http://www.legrandhotelsete.com)

Florac (3 nights): 3-star Hotel des Gorges du Tarn – a charming family-run hotel set in the heart of the Cévennes National Park, in the picturesque village of Florac. The hotel restaurant L'Adonis serves creative seasonal menus with locally sourced produce, such as duck in cherry liqueur and local cheese with chestnut honey. [www.hotel-gorgesdutarn.com](http://www.hotel-gorgesdutarn.com)

Note: due to mountainous terrain, internet service in this area can be intermittent.

Note: *Hotels are subject to change. In this instance a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

## Tour Map



## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$10,480.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$1590.00 Double (as Single) Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

### Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3- to 4-star hotels
- Breakfast daily, lunches and evening meals indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=evening meal.
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights on arrival and departure
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour Handbook
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

### Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Nice; Nîmes-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visa (if applicable)





## Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 18-day Literary Tour of Southern France involves:

- A daily schedule generally involving an early-morning departure (between 8.00-8.30am), concluding in the late afternoon (5.30-6.00pm).
- 2-3 site visits most days, involving up to 1-2 hours of walking at each (sometimes on uneven terrain, cobbled streets, and steep slopes) and/or standing, interspersed with coach travel.
- The use of audio headsets which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to move freely during site visits without missing any information.
- 3- to 4-star hotels with seven hotel changes.
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

**Please note:** it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

### Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers: [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

## Booking Conditions

### ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

### Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

### Double (as Single) Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double (or twin) room for single occupancy throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



# Reservation Application

TOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TOUR DATES \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

## Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr  Mrs  Ms  Miss  Dr  Other \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth / / \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER Male  Female

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date / / \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed  I'm renewing my passport  ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

## Travel Plans

I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options.  Business Class  Economy Class

I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / / \_\_\_\_\_

I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Frequent Flyer \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Airline Seat preference \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ (please note request only)

## Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like:  a twin-bedded room  a double-bedded room  a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling:  on my own  with a friend/family member Travel Companion \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish  poultry  red meat  dairy products

eggs  pork  nuts

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence  Postal Mail  Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Traveller \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at [www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au)
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. [www.traveldoctor.com.au](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) tel: 1300 658 444; [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au) tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

## Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- |   | YES                   | NO                    |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you carry an epipen?

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

**Diabetics:** You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?

Are you insulin dependent?

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness?
- Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.



## Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services provided for the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of travelling to, on and from any tour.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Indemnity applies with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
  - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
  - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
  - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally.
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of my continued participation on a tour for whatever reason (refund conditions in ASA's Booking Conditions excepted).

## Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products or services. If a service provider does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (eg. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any such service provider however caused (contingencies). You must take out adequate travel insurance against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour will be limited to the refund of amounts received from you less all non-refundable costs and charges and the costs of any substituted event or alternate services provided. The terms and conditions of the relevant service provider from time to time comprise the sole agreement between you and that service provider.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

## Booking Conditions

### DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

### CANCELLATION FEES

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: \$500\*  
75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due  
45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due  
30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due  
14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

*\*This amount may be **credited** to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.*

**We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.**

### UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

### WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. If an ASA tour is forced to cancel you will get a full refund of all tour monies paid. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to daily itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

### FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

## PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

I accept the conditions on this booking form  I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

## Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Traveller 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- Intention to Travel     Tour Deposit  
 Balance of Payment     Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit  
 Travel Insurance     Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

## International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

### By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

### Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

### Australians Studying Abroad bank details

**Bank** ANZ  
**Branch** 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic  
**Swift Code** ANZBAU3M  
**BSB** 013-423  
**Account No** 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard & Visa 2%  
 American Express 2%

Please debit my:  Mastercard  Visa  American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (CVC) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD

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