



The Nearest Thing to Paradise: A Literary Tour of Southern France 2022

7 SEP – 24 SEP 2022

Code: 22233

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

- 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*.
- View the work of Cocteau, Matisse and Picasso; visit the workshop of Cézanne and the home and gardens of Renoir; and explore the landscapes that inspired many famous paintings including *The Starry Night* by Van Gogh.
- Stay 3 nights at [Benvenuto](#), a traditional Provençal *mas* surrounded by gardens in the picturesque countryside of Les Baux-de-Provence. This boutique hotel features a fine-dining restaurant run by Chef Julie Chaix who trained at the Bastide de Moustiers with Alain Ducasse.
- Enjoy a guided walk through the 'enchanted' hills of Marcel Pagnol's *Jean de Florette*; view the windmills of Fontvieille described in Alphonse Daudet's short stories; and travel by boat to Château d'If made internationally famous by Alexandre Dumas.
- Stroll through some of the most beautiful villages of France, such as Lourmarin in the Lubéron Ranges described in Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence*.
- 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 the Michelin-starred restaurant, [La Petite Maison de Cucuron](#).

Overnight Menton (5 nights) • Aix-en-Provence (4 nights) • Les Baux-de-Provence (3 nights) • Sète (2 night)
• Florac (3 nights)

Overview

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

"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 three nights in Benvenuto, a charming family-run *mas* in the countryside of Les Baux-de-Provence, 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!

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, FRSN, 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 over 25 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 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 and art, at the Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of NSW, ADFAS, WEA, schools, for a great variety of clubs and societies, and on zoom. 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.



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 graduated in painting from London's Royal Academy Schools in 1985. 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 and has been the recipient of several awards. He has taught art part-time at various institutions; for many years, he lectured and ran courses in the history of art and design at QUT. David now paints full-time and divides his year between Australia and Italy. Since joining ASA in 1995, David has led over 50 tours to a variety of destinations including Italy, France and the UK. He brings a trained artist's eye to an analysis of painting, sculpture and architecture and takes great pleasure in sharing his knowledge.

Combine this tour with

Venice: Jewel of the Adriatic 2022
29 SEP – 13 OCT 2022



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=dinner.

Menton - 5 nights

Day 1: Wednesday 7 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 the [Hotel Napoléon](#) 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 8 September, Menton – Monaco – Menton

- Princess Grace Library, Monaco
- Guided tour of Menton incl. the Salle des Mariages (Wedding Room) by Jean Cocteau

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'. (Overnight Menton) B

Day 3: Friday 9 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 10 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 11 September, Menton – Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat – Villefranche-sur-Mer – Beaulieu-sur-Mer – Menton

- Villa Ephrussi, Cap Ferrat
- Chapelle Saint-Pierre by Jean Cocteau, Villefranche-sur-Mer
- Villa Grecque Kérylos, Beaulieu-sur-Mer

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. One 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 then 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. After lunch at leisure, we will admire Cocteau’s chapel.

Next we visit the Grecian Villa Kérylos, one of the most extraordinary sites on the French Riviera. It was built in the early 1900s, in the Belle Époque era, and is a unique and extremely luxurious re-creation of an ancient Grecian dwelling, complete with wall decorations and furniture. It was built as the tribute to Greek civilisation by two great Hellenophiles, Théodore Reinach, an archaeologist and patron of the arts, and the architect Emmanuel Pontremoli who based the design on the remains of noble houses from the 2nd century BC on the Island of Delos. Everything inside, from the arrangement of rooms to the details of the décor, was designed to recreate the atmosphere of a luxurious Grecian villa. From the garden around the villa there are fine views of the Cap-Ferrat peninsula, dotted with magnificent mansions. The garden contains a pleasing mixture of typically Greek plants: olive trees and vines, pomegranate and carob trees, acanthus and myrtle, oleanders and irises, pine and cypress trees, palm trees and papyrus which all help create a Grecian look and feel in the bright Mediterranean sunshine. (Overnight Menton) B

Aix-en-Provence - 4 nights

Day 6: Monday 12 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 Renoir museum, displaying 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 13 September, Aix-en-Provence – Marseille – Aix-en-Provence

- Musée des Beaux-Arts
- The Old Port area of Marseille
- 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 Notre-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, we 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 8: Wednesday 14 September, Aix-en-Provence – Cucuron – Aix-en-Provence

- Guided tour of Aix-en-Provence on the footsteps of Cézanne and Emile Zola
- Atelier Cézanne, Aix-en-Provence
- Lunch at the Michelin-starred restaurant, La Petite Maison de Cucuron
- Art and Architecture Tour, Château La Coste, Le 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 nearby Terrain des Peintres (Painters Park), we shall enjoy views of Mont Sainte-Victoire, painted so often by Cézanne.

We next drive to the well-preserved medieval village of Cucuron in the heart of the Luberon National Park. Here we enjoy lunch at Michelin-star chef Eric Sapet’s *La Petite Maison de Cucuron*, one of the finest restaurants in Provence. Located on the central square in the shade of hundred-year-old plane trees, it serves traditional Provençal dishes made with fresh market produce.

On our way back to Aix-en-Provence, we visit Château La Coste, the creation of Irish property magnate Patrick McKillen. Since 2008, the Château has invited artists and architects to create a work there. Jean Nouvel designed the estate’s *chai de vinification* (wine vault). In 2011 Tadao Ando designed the art centre surrounded by a shallow pool of water, on which Louise Bourgeois’ *Crouching Spider* perches.

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

Day 9: Thursday 15 September, Aix-en-Provence – La Treille – Aubagne – 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 return to Aix-en-Provence. (Overnight Aix-en-Provence) BL

Les-Baux-de-Provence - 3 nights

Day 10: Friday 16 September, Aix-en-Provence – Lourmarin – Ménerbes – Lacoste – Les-Baux-de-Provence

- Walking tour of Lourmarin on the steps of Albert Camus and Henri Bosco
- Village of Lacoste and the Castle of Marquis de Sade
- Dinner at the fine dining restaurant at Benvengudo

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 lived in Lourmarin) described his time here in *A Year in Provence*, which made the place incredibly popular with the British.

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 three nights in a very special hotel. Benvengudo, is a traditional Provencal *mas* that has been restored as an elegant boutique hotel surrounded by seven acres of gardens in the picturesque countryside of Les Baux-de-Provence. The hotel features a fine dining restaurant run by Chef Julie Chaix who trained at the Bastide de Moustiers with Alain Ducasse. (Overnight Les-Baux-de-Provence) BLD

Day 11: Saturday 17 September, Les-Baux-de-Provence – Maillane – Fontaine-de-Vaucluse – Les-Baux-de-Provence

- 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 the fine dining Bec restaurant, Paradou

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 enjoy our meal at Bec restaurant, a gourmet restaurant located in an old Provençal mas in the shadow of the small church of Saint-Martin-de-Castillon in the nearby village of Paradou. (Overnight Les-Baux-de-Provence) BLD

Day 12: Sunday 18 September, Les-Baux-de-Provence – Pont du Gard – Fontvieille – Saint-Rémy-de-Provence – Les-Baux-de-Provence

- Pont du Gard
- Walking tour on the steps of Alphonse Daudet, Fontvieille
- Saint-Paul de Mausole monastery, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence
- Dinner at the fine dining restaurant at Château d'Estoublon, Fontvieille

In the morning we visit 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.

We then drive south and across the Rhône river to reach Fontvieille. 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.

Our next stop is Saint-Rémy-de-Provence where we visit the monastery of Saint-Paul de Mausole. Van Gogh stayed there from 1889 to 1890 as a self-admitted patient. He had two cells with barred windows, one of

which he used as a studio. The clinic and its garden became the main subjects of his paintings. Some of his works from this time are characterised by swirls, such as *The Starry Night*. Due to limited access to life outside, Van Gogh also worked on interpretation of other artist's paintings such as Breton, Courbet or Millet. In 1890 he left the clinic for Auvers-sur-Oise where he killed himself two months later. The monastery still functions as a psychiatric hospital today.

Tonight we enjoy our final meal around Les Baux-de-Provence at La Table d'Estoublon, on the forecourt of the Château d'Estoublon and its rose garden. (Overnight Les-Baux-de-Provence) BD

Sète - 2 nights

Day 13: Monday 19 September, Les-Baux-de-Provence – Arles – Aigues-Mortes – Sète

- Musée de L'Arles Antique (Museum of Antiquities), Arles
- Saint-Trophime and its cloister, Arles
- Theatre and Amphitheatre, Arles
- Medieval town of Aigues-Mortes

"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.

The perfectly preserved walled town of Aigues-Mortes was once an important port. It was established in the 13th century by Louis XI to consolidate his power on the Mediterranean. This became a starting point for the Crusades. We will travel to the village across the famous salt marshes of the Camargue, with their wild and beautiful scenery, flamingos and wild horses. In *Deadly Camargue* by Cay Rademacher Capitaine Roger Blanc has to solve the mystery of how a cyclist came to be gored by one of the black bulls of the region.

Aigues-Mortes was the birthplace of 18th-century French playwright Emmanuel Theaulon. Ernest Hemingway honeymooned with his second wife Pauline at nearby Le-Grau-du-Roi, and used Aigues-Mortes, a place he loved, as the setting for his unfinished and posthumously published book *The Garden of Eden*. In the novel, the village becomes a hotbed of tension when young writer David Bourne and his glamorous wife Catherine experiment with sexual identity and both fall in love with the same woman. It is fitting that today there is a 'Rue Ernest Hemingway' in the village. His friend F. Scott Fitzgerald also holidayed in this area.

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. (Overnight Sète) BD

Day 14: Tuesday 20 September, Sète – Montpellier – Sète

- Musée Fabre, Montpellier
- Place de la Comédie and lunch at leisure in Montpellier
- Afternoon at leisure in Sète

This morning we drive to Montpellier. This is a vibrant town because of its university – established in 1289, it is one of the oldest in the world. Petrarch, Rabelais, Nostradamus and Paul Valéry are amongst its alumni. About a third of the town's population consists of students. Here we will visit the Musée Fabre. In 1802 the painter François-Xavier Fabre gave the town 30 paintings which formed the basis of its collection. Other fabulous donations followed, and in 1968 Madame Espeyran gave her home to house the art works. Additions and modernisation took place recently (the 61.2 million euro renovation was completed in 2007) and today the museum holds a choice collection of Dutch, Flemish, French and Italian paintings, some Fauvist works, ceramics and sculpture.

After lunch at leisure in the egg-shaped Place de la Comédie, we make our way back to Sète where Italianate houses with their wrought-iron balconies overlook the Grand Canal. There will be time to make the climb to the Cimetière Marin where poet Paul Valéry is buried, or to explore the quirky Musée International des Arts Modestes which displays everyday objects in amusing new contexts. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (Overnight Sète) B

Florac - 3 nights

Day 15: Wednesday 21 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 22 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 23 September, Cévennes NP

- Boat excursion through the Gorges du Tarn
- Causse 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 24 September, Florac – Nîmes. Tour Ends.

- Corniche des Cévennes

Our last morning, we travel by coach to Nîmes. 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

ASA has selected 3- and 4-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom.

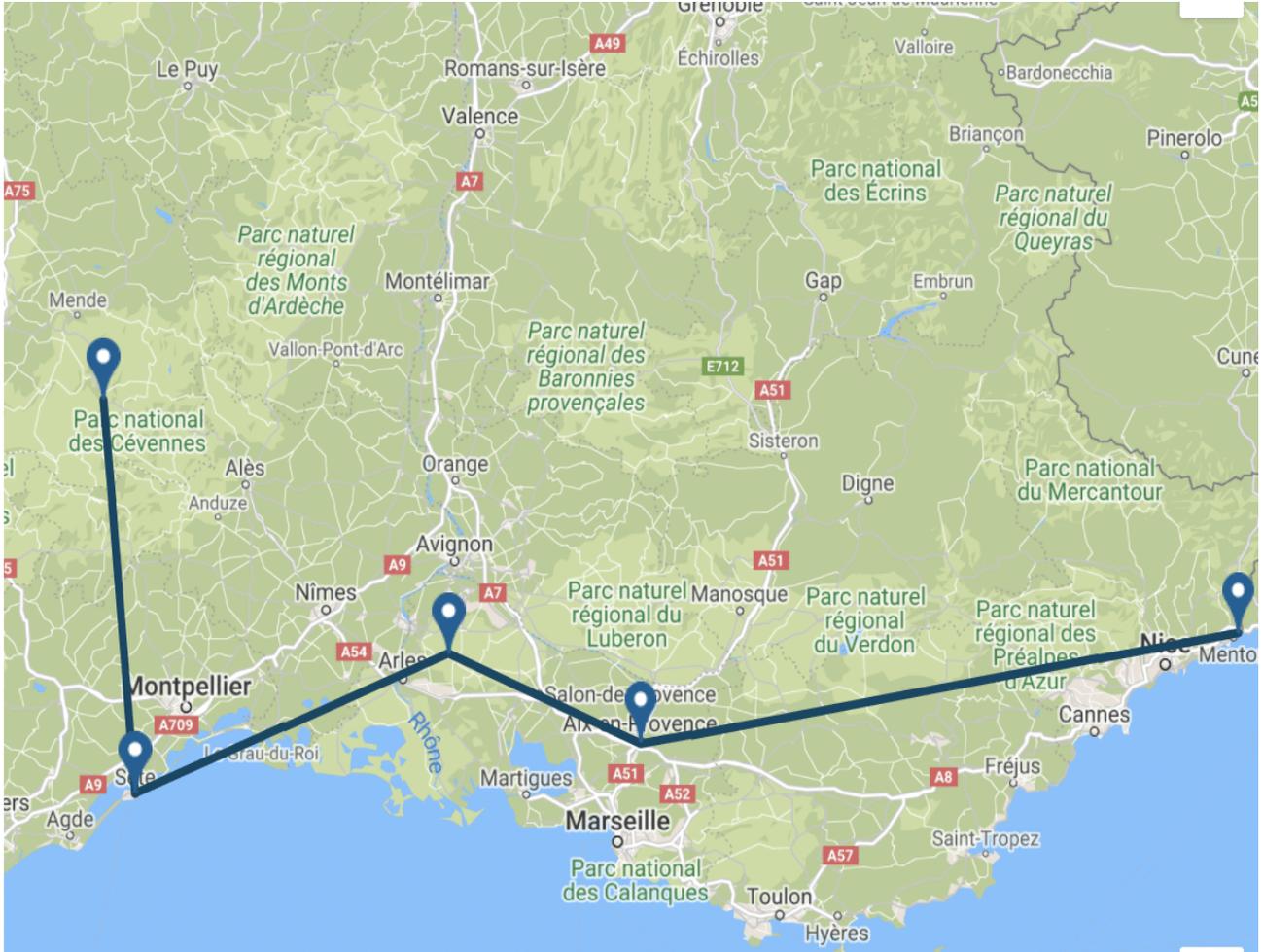
- Menton (5 nights): 4-star Hotel Napoléon – located on the seafront, overlooking the picturesque Bay of Garavan and within walking distance to the old town and harbour. www.napoleon-menton.com
- Aix-en-Provence (4 nights): 4-star Grand Hotel Roi René – located in the heart of the city, a short stroll from the famous Cours Mirabeau and the old town. www.accorhotels.com
- Les-Baux-de-Provence (3 nights): 4-star Hotel Benvenuto – a traditional Provencal *mas* that has been restored as an elegant boutique hotel surrounded by seven acres of gardens in the picturesque countryside of Les Baux-de-Provence. The hotel features a fine dining restaurant run by Chef Julie Chaix who trained at the Bastide de Moustiers with Alain Ducasse. benvenuto.com
- Sète (2 nights): 3-star Grand Hôtel de Sète – a refined 19th-century hotel overlooking the Canal de Sète. 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 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.*

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.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$12,890.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2190.00 Single Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class 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 dinners indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- 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
- Hotel-TGV station departure transfer
- 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.
- 3- to 4-star hotels with four 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.

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

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.

Covid-19 Vaccination Certificate

Commencing from November 2021 it will be a condition of travel that all group leaders and ASA travellers are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. All participants must send ASA a copy of their vaccination certificate at the time of submitting their Reservation Application Form. For information on how to obtain either a Covid-19 digital certificate or a certificate in PDF format please view the [Australian Government Services Australia "What types of proof there are"](#) web page.



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
 Other _____

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

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
- 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 tel: 1300 658 444; 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? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen? YES NO

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? YES NO
 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? YES NO

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? YES NO

Are you insulin dependent? YES NO

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? YES NO
 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 the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or 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 only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with 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 booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, 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 preparing for, 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; and
 - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

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, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

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

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. 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 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 or services 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. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to 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 & 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 _____