

## TOURING HOLIDAYS

A touring holiday is the quintessential holiday to France. A touring holiday is a voyage of discovery, not only of new places and sights but of experiences, feelings and reactions too. With its contrasts of geography and climate, architecture and culture, France has almost been fashioned as a perfect destination for a touring holiday. From snowy mountain peaks and alpine pastures to palm-fringed promenades and Mediterranean sun, from the rugged cliffs and sandy beaches of temperate Brittany to the verdant cherry orchards in the foothills of the Pyrenees, France abounds in contrasts and variety. The architecture too reflects this variety of landscape, culture and history, from the granite roofed cottages of Brittany to the golden stone of the Dordogne and the terracotta roofs of the Côte d'Azur. On top of all this, taste the flavours of the creamy cuisine of Normandy and those of the sun-dried southerly regions: tomatoes, garlic. Prices for all seasons with supplements are available on request from us.



### A GRAND TOUR OF FRANCE

The classic grand tour! Starting from the gateway to France, Calais, we journey cross-country south-eastwards through the Pas-de-Calais and Picardy, reaching first the vineyards of Champagne then those of Burgundy, with its Romanesque churches and abbeys. Your descent through France runs parallel with the Saône until your arrival at Lyon, the point of confluence with the mighty Rhône, where you follow its course southwards, the scenery changing as you go, until you reach the bright skies, cypress trees and red terracotta roofs of Provence. Delight in this charming region, ancient province of the Romans, land of poets and painters, and then continue even further southwest across the Languedoc-Roussillon. Through Cathar country, then northwards to the picturesque Dordogne, the quintessence of rural France. The scenery changes once more as you reach the Loire Valley, with its more temperate climate, majestic châteaux, regal gardens and hunting forests. Our final region to discover is that of Normandy, its close links with Britain over the years still obvious. Our Grand Tour of France is a luxurious tapestry of different textures and colours, reflecting the variety of the regions of France.

#### Driving times:

Calais to Épernay	3 hours
Épernay to Dijon	3 hours
Dijon to Crillon le Brave	3 hours 45 minutes
Crillon le Brave to Carcassonne	2 hours
Carcassonne to Bergerac	2 hours
Bergerac to Chinon	4 hours
Chinon to Honfleur	3 hours
Honfleur to Calais	2 hours 35 minutes

#### We include:

- One night's bed and breakfast at Royal Champagne in Champagne
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Château de Gilly in Burgundy
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at Hostellerie de Crillon le Brave in Provence
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Domaine d'Auriac near Carcassonne
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Chateau des Vigiers near Bergerac
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Château de Marçay in the Loire Valley
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Auberge de la Source near Honfleur, Normandy
- Eurotunnel crossing Folkestone to Calais return for car and passengers

From £1980 per person, TE12

### LAVENDER AND SUNFLOWERS OF PROVENCE

Summer in Provence is a sight to behold. Fly from London to Nice and collect your hire car before embarking on a journey that bypasses some of the region's most beautiful scenery. At this time the fields burst with colour and scent, as fragrant lavender and dazzling sunflowers are in full bloom. A drive of one and a half hours will bring you to La Bastide de Tourtour, which enjoys a tranquil setting between mountains and sea. After a night here, continue on in a northwest direction, enjoying views of the numerous sunflower fields en route, particularly between Avignon and Carpentras. Stay for three nights at Hotel Crillon Le Brave in a hilltop hamlet surrounded by vineyards and olive groves. Sault, known as the Lavender Capital of Provence, is just 45 minutes away. The heart of the Luberon is an hour south, where you will stay at the Provencal farmhouse of Le Mas des Herbes Blanches. Senanque Abbey is just 20 minutes away - home to a much-photographed lavender field. Pass through the Valensole Plateau, a vast area where rows of lavender sway alongside fields of sunflowers and golden wheat, with charming villages scattered throughout. Another magical diversion would be to Arles, the city where Van Gogh painted some of his famous 'Sunflowers' paintings.

#### Driving times:

Nice to Tourtour	1 hour 35 minutes
Tourtour to Crillon-le-Brave	2 hours 25 minutes
Crillon-le-Brave to Joucas	1 hour
Joucas to Tourtour	2 hours 20 minutes
Tourtour to Nice	1 hour 35 minutes

#### We include:

- Two nights' bed and breakfast at La Bastide de Tourtour (one each way)
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at Hotel Crillon Le Brave
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at La Mas des Herbes Blanches in Joucas
- Scheduled return flights with British Airways London Gatwick to Nice return and hire of a group A car for the duration of the holiday

From £1500 per person, TE35

### A TOUR TO PROVENCE

Travel by car to the beautiful South of France and a holiday combination that allows you to visit the sites and monuments of Roman Provence. These include Orange, Nîmes and the Pont du Gard, Van Gogh's sunflower fields near Arles and Saint-Rémy de Provence, immortalised in the timeless masterpiece *Starry Night* and the glorious scenery of inland Provence, with its lavender beds, perched villages, olive groves and thyme-scented air. On the way, you journey across the chalky rolling fields of northern France, perhaps stopping off at the attractive UNESCO World Heritage city of Arras en route to your first hotel, set just a short distance from the renowned champagne vineyards of Épernay. Continue into Burgundy, home of noble vintages, where village after village produces great wines. Follow the course of the Saône into the patchwork landscapes of the Beaujolais, picking up the mighty Rhône at its confluence in Lyon, a city of gastronomic and architectural brilliance, until you reach the green-grey hills and bright skies of Provence. Enjoy six nights soaking up the sights, smells and atmosphere of this enchanting and enduring region, staying firstly amidst the many treasures of the Golden Triangle before heading southeast to hilltop Tourtour, formally recognised as one of France's most beautiful villages, with its sweeping views across St Victoire, Provence and all the way to the Mediterranean.

#### Driving times:

Calais to Épernay	3 hours
Épernay to Bagnols-en-Beaujolais	4 hours 15 minutes
Bagnols-en-Beaujolais to Arles	4 hours 30 minutes
Arles to Tourtour	3 hours
Tourtour to Gilly-lès-Cîteaux	6 hours
Gilly-lès-Cîteaux to Calais	5 hours 15 minutes

#### We include:

- One night's bed and breakfast at the Royal Champagne in Champagne
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Chateau de Bagnols in Beaujolais
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at Grand Hotel Nord-Pinus in Provence
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at La Bastide de Tourtour in Provence
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Chateau de Gilly in Burgundy
- P&O ferry crossing for car and passengers Dover to Calais return

From £2110 per person, TE10



**BRETON SEASCAPES**

This tour introduces you to the northern, western and southern shorelines of Brittany and, with it, some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in the whole of France, arguably amongst the finest in Europe. An eclectic mix of rocky coves, white sandy beaches, picturesque fishing villages and charming little resorts, your tour starts on the northern Bretonne Corniche at Trébeurden and the lovely Hotel Ti al Lannec, set atop a wooded cliff overlooking the sea. From here, you can explore this fascinating coastline, including the pink granite rocks at Ploumanach and the natural harbours at Trégastel, or perhaps take a boat trip from Perros-Guirec to the Sept Iles sea bird sanctuary. The western and southwestern coastlines are equally full of treasures and, if time allows, we recommend visits to the Crozon peninsula, Quimper, the picturesque capital of Cornouailles, and the artists' haven of Pont-Aven. Your final stop is right in the south of Brittany, at the fantastic resort of La Baule and one of the best gastronomic hotels in the region, Castel Marie-Louise. Whilst here, relax on La Baule's beautiful sandy beach, indulge in a thalassotherapy treatment or perhaps explore the Guérande salt marshes nearby. The walled city of Vannes and the beautiful Golfe du Morbihan are also well worth a visit.

**Driving times:**

Calais to Trébeurden	6 to 7 hours
Saint-Malo to Trébeurden	2 hours
Roscoff to Trébeurden	1 hour 20 minutes
Trébeurden to La Baule	3 hours 30 minutes
La Baule to Calais	6 to 7 hours
La Baule to Saint-Malo	2 hours 30 minutes
La Baule to Roscoff	3 hours 30 minutes

**We include:**

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at Hotel Ti Al Lannec in Trébeurden, in a room with sea view (Type B)
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Castel Marie-Louise in La Baule
- P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers

**From £1390 per person self-drive, TE23**



**TARN, ROUSSILLON AND PROVENCE**

This popular combination takes you from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean. It offers an opportunity to experience the individual characters of these southern regions, from the Bordeaux vineyards into the Tarn region, down into French Catalonia and the foothills of the Pyrenees, where they touch the Mediterranean, and finally northeast to the lavender fields of the Lubéron and Provence. Arriving in Bordeaux, your first night is spent amongst the vineyards of Smith Haut Lafitte, before following the course of the Garonne River as it snakes its way southeast across Aquitaine towards Tarn and the Midi-Pyrenees. Your second hotel, the Château des Salettes, occupies an idyllic pastoral setting with far-reaching views over vine-clad hills. Here, you're but 15 minutes from impressive Cordes-sur-Ciel and just half an hour from Albi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and birthplace of Toulouse-Lautrec. Your journey continues across Cathar country into Languedoc-Roussillon as you descend towards Perpignan and the French-Spanish frontier. Reaching your charming hideaway in the foothills of the Albères, you're within easy striking distance of Céret, Collioure and the coastal villages along the Côte Vermeille and the Costa Brava, just the other side of the border. Finally, begin your ascent northeast, passing timeless Mediterranean resorts and renowned names such as Montpellier, Nîmes, Avignon and Orange, where centuries of culture and heritage abound.

**Driving times:**

Bordeaux to Saint-Émilion	45 minutes
Saint-Émilion to Gaillac	2 hours 30 minutes
Gaillac to Le Boulou	2 hours 30 minutes
Le Boulou to Avignon	3 hours
Avignon to Marseille	1 hour 20 minutes

**We include:**

- One night's bed and breakfast at Château du Grand Barrail at Saint-Émilion
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Château des Salettes in Cahuzac sur Vère, near Gaillac
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Relais des Chartreuses in Le Boulou, near Perpignan
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hostellerie la Magnaneraie near Avignon
- Scheduled flight from London to Bordeaux out and Marseille to London back with British Airways and a hire of a group A car for the duration of the holiday

**From £2090 per person fly-drive, TE30**



**BORDEAUX, THE BASQUE COUNTRY AND CARCASSONNE**

This gentle tour of southwest France starts amidst the renowned vineyards of the Libourne, with a three-night stay at the prestigious Château Grand Barrail. From here, all the great vineyards of the Bordeaux region are within easy reach and the town itself, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a delight to explore. Next, your journey takes you southwest through the Landes, characterised by the sweet-smelling pine forests that encircle tranquil lakes and long stretches of uninterrupted beaches along the Côte d'Argent bordering the mighty Atlantic. The thermal town of Dax makes for a good stop-off en route, or you may consider a short diversion to the beaches of Biscarrosse or Mimizan. Your second hotel, La Reserve, occupies a clifftop setting overlooking Saint-Jean-de-Luz and provides easy access to Biarritz, just 10 miles away, and the town of San Sebastián on the other side of the Spanish border, one of the great food capitals of Europe. And finally, head directly east, passing awesome panoramas of pastoral foothills set against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks. Take time to visit Pau, dominated by its château, and perhaps even consider a short diversion to the pilgrimage town of Lourdes en route to the mediaeval citadel of Carcassonne, your final destination.

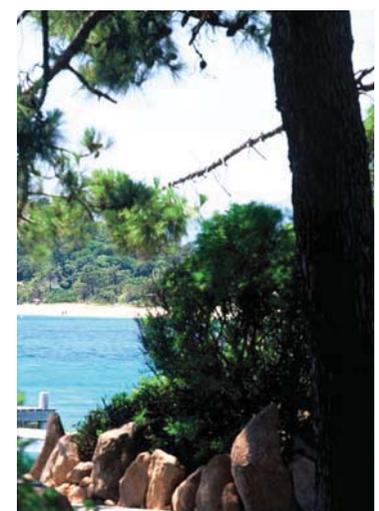
**Driving times:**

Bordeaux to Saint-Émilion	45 minutes
Saint-Émilion to Saint-Jean-de-Luz	2 hours 30 minutes
Saint-Jean-de-Luz to Carcassonne	3 hours 45 minutes
Carcassonne to Toulouse	1 hour

**We include:**

- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Château Grand Barrail near Saint-Émilion
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at La Reserve in Saint-Jean-de-Luz
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Domaine d'Auriac near Carcassonne
- Scheduled return flight with British Airways London to Bordeaux out and Toulouse or Bordeaux to London back and hire of a group A car

**From £1510 per person fly-drive, TE46**





## OVERLAND TO THE DORDOGNE

The Dordogne region is a truly rewarding and enjoyable holiday destination. It is also perfectly situated for you to be able to drive through France, experiencing the fun of the open country roads, sleepy villages and the changing landscape and architecture as you head further south. This holiday allows you a leisurely sojourn in the Dordogne and a taster of France en route as you stop at different hotels in Normandy and the Loire Valley. Travel to Normandy and stay for the night in the Calvados region near Honfleur before continuing your journey south through the hill country of la Suisse Normande, where lofty crags tower above undulating pastures and wooded valleys. As you descend into the regal garden of France, the landscapes level to offer mile-upon-mile of glorious pastoral views, dissected by the Loire, France's longest river. After a brief stay outside historic Angers, continue through the Loire Valley, rightfully declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site to the environs of Chinon, in readiness for your journey south to the Dordogne. Here, spend five nights at the Chateau des Vigiers near Bergerac, where a veritable treasure trove of delights, both natural and man-made, are all just a stone's throw away. On your return journey stop over near Chinon before heading back to Calais.

### Driving times:

Calais to Honfleur	3 hours
Honfleur to Angers	3 hours
Angers to Bergerac	4 hours 15 minutes
Bergerac to Chinon	4 hours 45 minutes
Chinon to Calais	6 hours

### We include:

- One night's bed and breakfast at the Auberge de la Source in Normandy
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Château de Noirieux in the Loire Valley
- Five nights' bed and breakfast at the Chateau des Vigiers in the Dordogne
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Château de Marçay in the Loire Valley
- P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers

From £1460 per person self-drive, TE27

## VALLEYS, FORTRESSES AND MOUNTAINS OF THE SOUTHWEST

From the rose-hued city of Toulouse, travel to Albi in the Tarn to explore the vineyards of Gaillac, the village of Cordes and the Gothic and Romanesque architectural sites of the area. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Albi is a mediaeval gem, where narrow streets and half-timbered houses juxtapose the imposing Sainte-Cécile cathedral and Berbie Palace, home to over 1,000 works by the city's most famous inhabitant, Toulouse-Lautrec. Next, head south over the rising landscapes of the Montagne Noire to Carcassonne, where your tranquil hotel sits, just a few kilometres outside the citadel walls, and offers the perfect base for independent exploration of the surrounding area. From here, your journey continues south through Cathar country before reaching the neat vines of the Corbières and Côtes du Roussillon vineyards and our final hotel in the foothills of the Pyrenees, overlooking the Vallespir Valley. From here, you're just a stone's throw from the artist havens of Céret and Collioure, beloved by Picasso and Matisse respectively, not to mention an easy distance from Figueres, just over the border in northern Catalonia, dominated by its imposing Dalí Museum. And of course, the Mediterranean coastal villages along the Côte Vermeille and the Costa Brava just the other side of the French-Spanish frontier are but a short drive away.

### Driving times:

Toulouse to Albi	1 hour
Albi to Carcassonne	1 hour 50 minutes
Carcassonne to Le Boulou	1 hour 15 minutes
Le Boulou to Toulouse	2 hours 15 minutes

### We include:

- Three nights' bed and breakfast at La Reserve in Albi
- Three nights' bed and breakfast Le Domaine d'Auriac in Carcassonne
- Four nights' bed and breakfast at the Relais des Chartreuses in Le Boulou, near Perpignan
- Scheduled return flights with British Airways London to Toulouse and hire of a group A car

From £1716 per person fly-drive, TE75

## GARDENS AND VINEYARDS AT THE HEART OF FRANCE

An enchanting tour which combines some of the best-loved vineyards and wine producing regions of France with some of its most beautiful gardens, both well-known and elusive. You start in the Champagne region before visiting Burgundy, allowing time to stop and visit the wine merchants and their vines as you go. Then you cross into the very heart of France and the little-known region of Berry. From the magical Priure d'Orsan, with its own fascinating restored mediaeval monastic garden, it is only a short drive to the Sancerre vineyards and the city of Bourges. Then you head north to the Loire with its renowned chateaux and undulating vineyards, producing rare light reds and popular whites. Stay at the Château de Marçay, dating back to the 12th-century, which is the perfect setting from which to visit mediaeval Chinon and numerous gardens including Villandry and the chateaux of Amboise, Cheverny, Blois, Chenonceau among others. If time permits extend your stay to include a few days in Normandy giving you time to visit Monet's garden before returning home.

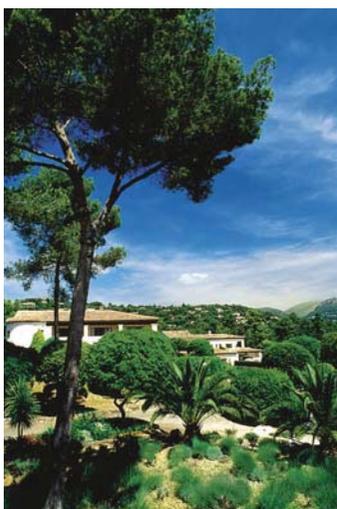
### Driving times:

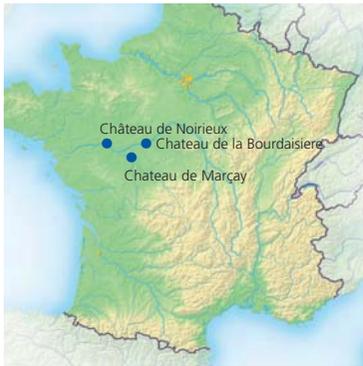
Calais to Epernay	3 hours
Eprenay to Gilly	3 hours
Gilly to Berry	5 hours
Berry to Chinon	3 hours
Chinon to Calais	6 hours

### We include:

- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Royal Champagne near Eprenay.
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Chateau de Gilly in Burgundy.
- Two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Priure d'Orsan in Berry.
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Chateau de Marçay near Chinon
- Self-drive with P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers

From £1650 per person self-drive, TE21





### CHÂTEAUX OF THE LOIRE

A leisurely tour of the Loire Valley giving you ample opportunity to explore the famous corners and hidden gems of this delightful region, bursting with Renaissance châteaux, mediaeval strongholds and vineyards. The first of your three hotels is the Château de Noireux, a superbly restored edifice set in extensive parkland and overlooking the River Loir, a short distance to the northeast of Angers. Capital of the Anjou and cradle of the Plantagenet dynasty, Angers and its famous Apocalypse Tapestry makes for an interesting excursion. From here, journey through tranquil landscapes punctuated by stately châteaux and fields of vines of the Parc Naturel Régional Loire Anjou Touraine en route to your second hotel set just south of Chinon. Stop off perhaps in the delightful town of Saumur, set between the Loire and Thouet rivers and renowned for its famous vineyards and Cadre Noir riding school. The Château de Marçay is an enchanting building, dating back to the 12th-century, which is the perfect setting from which to visit mediaeval Chinon, birthplace of Richard the Lionheart. From Marçay, head east, past the stunning château of Azay-le-Rideau, towards the cathedral city of Tours and the heart of châteaux country – Amboise, Cheverny, Blois, Chenonceau among others. Your last hotel is a unique chateau with fine gardens and parkland not far from Chenonceau. With gourmet restaurants accompanied by the finest local wines, your stay in the Loire is certain to delight.

#### Driving times:

Calais to Angers	4 hours 45 minutes
Angers to Marçay	1 hour 15 minutes
Marçay to Chenonceau	1 hour 15 minutes
Chenonceau to Calais	5 hours

#### We include:

- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Château de Noireux near Angers
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Chateau de Marçay near Chinon
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Chateau de la Bourdaisiere near Chenonceau
- Self-drive with P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers
- Or Fly-drive with British Airways scheduled flight London to Paris return and hire of a group A car for the holiday

From £1090 per person self-drive

From £1130 per person fly-drive, TE21



### NORTHERN VINEYARDS

An interesting wine tour combining Alsace, with its wooded hills, gently sloping vineyards, picturesque half-timbered villages and fairytale-like towns, with the popular but contrasting wine regions of Burgundy and Champagne, each with their own distinct character. Your tour starts with a drive through Picardy, perhaps stopping off en route at attractive Arras, with its cobbled streets and Flemish architecture. You'll also pass Laon, famous for its Gothic cathedral and the champagne capital of Reims, en route to your first hotel, set just a short distance from Épernay. Here you'll discover many of the renowned champagne houses including Lafitte, Mercier and Moët and Chandon. Heading directly east, you'll pass the city of Verdun, site of one of the major battles of World War I and Metz, where you'll find the Centre Pompidou Metz, sister museum of its prestigious Parisian counterpart. You'll also pass through picturesque Strasbourg, with its canals and half-timbered buildings of Petite-France, before picking up the Route des Vins as it snakes its way south through the glorious scenery of the Alsace. After a couple of nights here, make your way southwest through the Doubs Valley, running parallel for a time with the Franco-Swiss border. Arriving at the Château de Gilly, situated amidst the revered vineyards of the Nuits-Saints-Georges and the Côte d'Or, be sure to take in Beaune's 15th-century Hôtel-Dieu and the mediaeval mustard city of Dijon, as well as the many wineries of the region. Finally, head back north for one last overnight in Champagne.

#### Driving times:

Calais to Épernay	3 hours
Épernay to Rouffach	4 hours 15 minutes
Rouffach to Beaune	2 hours 30 minutes
Beaune to Épernay	3 hours

#### We include:

- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Château d'Isenbourg in Alsace
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Château de Gilly in Burgundy
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Royal Champagne in the Champagne region (one night each way)
- P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers

From £1140 per person self-drive, TE16



### CHÂTEAUX AND MANOR HOUSES TO THE DORDOGNE VALLEY

An inspirational touring holiday, offering you extremely comfortable accommodation in ever-favourite places, yet just off the beaten track. From the pretty fields and thatched farms of Normandy, you head south to the meandering Loire, hunting grounds of the Kings of France, and then further south to the glorious rolling hills, craggy valleys and turreted villages of the Périgord. Your first port of call is the charming Auberge de la Source near Honfleur. En route to your second hotel, you'll travel through the undulating hill country of the Swiss Normande, passing the lace-making town of Alençon and Le Mans, famous for its 24-hour race. After an overnight stay just outside historic Angers, continue through the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Loire Valley, towards the Dordogne. Here your hotel, the Château des Vigiers, is an idyllic pastoral getaway with extensive leisure facilities set amidst its own vineyards on the prestigious Route des Vins between Bordeaux and Bergerac. Perfectly situated for exploring the abundant wineries around Bordeaux and Saint-Émilion to the west, and the copious cultural treasures towards the east, you have plenty of time to really get under the skin of the Dordogne. Heading back north, we include stopovers in the heart of the Loire's châteaux country and in the delightful town of Arras, just a stone's throw from Calais.

#### Driving times:

Calais to Honfleur	3 hours
Honfleur to Angers	3 hours
Angers to Monestier	4 hours 45 minutes
Monestier to Chenonceau	4 hours 30 minutes
Chenonceau to Arras	4 hours
Arras to Calais	1 hour 5 minutes

#### We include:

- One night's bed and breakfast at the Auberge de la Source near Honfleur in Normandy
- One night's bed and breakfast at Chateau de Noireux near Angers in the Loire Valley
- Five nights' bed and breakfast at Château des Vigiers in Monestier in the Dordogne
- One night's bed and breakfast at Chateau de la Bourdaisiere near Chenonceau
- One night's bed and breakfast at Hotel de l'Univers in Arras
- P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers

From £1540 per person self-drive, TE41





## THE DORDOGNE, LOIRE AND NORMANDY

A comfortable, leisurely and immensely satisfying touring holiday that combines three regions of great popularity and limitless attractions: Normandy, with its historical ties and pretty countryside, the Loire Valley, hunting and pleasure ground of the kings of France, and the Dordogne, cradle of civilisation and a land of deep valleys, castles and golden stone villages. Your first hotel is an idyllic pastoral getaway with extensive leisure facilities in the delightful and unspoilt Périgord countryside, set amidst its own vineyards on the prestigious Route des Vins between Bordeaux and Bergerac. After a few days exploring this popular area, head directly north to the Loire, perhaps stopping en route in Angoulême, capital of the Poitou Charente. Your second hotel, the Château de Marçay, is the perfect setting from which to visit mediaeval Chinon, some of the region's finest vineyards and a wealth of grand châteaux which dominate the landscape. From here, journey through the beautiful countryside of the Parc Naturel Régional Loire Anjou Touraine en route towards historic Angers and the Château de Noirieux, one of our favourite hotels overlooking the River Loir. Leaving the Loire, continue north into Normandy and to your final hotel, the Auberge de la Source, set just outside the picturesque port town of Honfleur, inspiration for many an Impressionist painter. From here, you're just a stone's throw from the chic seaside resort of Deauville and charming Trouville-sur-Mer.

### Driving times:

Calais to Monestier	8 hours 30 minutes
Monestier to Marçay	4 hours 30 minutes
Marçay to Angers	1 hour 15 minutes
Angers to Honfleur	3 hours
Honfleur to Calais	2 hours 35 minutes

### We include:

- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Château des Vigiers in the Dordogne
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Château de Marçay in the Loire Valley
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Château de Noirieux in the Loire Valley
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Auberge de la Source in Normandy
- P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers

**From £1507 per person self-drive, TE07**



## SECRET PICARDY

Discover the secrets of this rural corner of northern France, its valleys, its market towns and its fortified churches all steeped in history and tradition. Your main hotel, La Tour du Roy, is situated in historic Vervins, capital of the Thiérache, characterised by its winding cobbled streets. From here, you're within easy reach of the champagne vineyards and capital, Reims, where you'll find many of the finest names in the business, including Taittinger, Pommery, Veuve Clicquot and Piper Heidsieck. Discover, too, the hilltop city of Laon, dominated by one of the oldest Gothic cathedrals in France, as well as the delights of the Ardennes, including Charleville-Mézières and the fortress town of Sedan. To allow a leisurely pace, we also include two nights at the Hotel de l'Univers, just over an hour's drive from Calais. This four-star hotel is situated right in the heart of Arras, a beautiful city rightfully declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site thanks to its attractive cobbled squares and impressive Flemish architecture. From here, the vibrant city of Lille is just a 40-minute drive away and its prestigious Palais des Beaux Arts is a must-see. As you travel between your two hotels, stop off at the tiny Musée Départemental Matisse in Le Cateau-Cambrésis, a veritable hidden gem housing some 170 works by the great Henri Matisse.

### Driving times:

Calais to Arras	1 hour 5 minutes
Arras to Vervins	1 hour 40 minutes
Vervins to Calais	2 hours 40 minutes

### We include:

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Hotel la Tour du Roy in Vervins
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel de l'Univers in Arras
- P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers for up to 120 hours in France

**From £858 per person self-drive, TE14**



## BURGUNDY, BEAUJOLAIS AND THE RHONE VALLEY TO PROVENCE

A leisurely tour from Burgundy to Beaujolais, then south to the Rhone Valley and the lavender beds and Mediterranean feel of the Vaucluse in Provence. As you head southwest towards Burgundy, you'll pass the Forest of Fontainebleau, a former royal hunting park and home to one of France's largest royal châteaux. Approaching Auxerre, you enter Chablis wine country and your journey takes you past endless vine-clad vistas of rolling pastoral countryside. Consider a diversion to the mediaeval town of Semur-en-Auxois before arriving at the Château de Gilly, situated amidst the revered vineyards of the northern Côte d'Or. As well as the wine houses, be sure to take in the visually splendid, 15th-century Hôtel-Dieu in Beaune and Dijon, most famous for its mustard but also in possession of one of the best-preserved mediaeval centres in France. Following the southerly course of the Saône, travel through the Côte de Beaune past Maçon into Beaujolais country, where you'll spend a further two nights exploring and sampling the cultural and viticultural delights on offer. Continue south along the mighty Rhône River through the patchwork panoramas of the undulating Beaujolais hills, breaking your journey at Lyon for a wander around beautiful architectural masterpieces reminiscent of Tuscany. Your final destination is La Magnaneraie, just a stone's throw from Avignon and its mighty Palais des Papes. Here you're well placed to discover the extensive treasures that abound in this historically, culturally and visually rich region.

### Driving times:

Paris to Gilly-lès-Cîteaux	3 hours 30 minutes
Gilly-lès-Cîteaux to Bagnols-en-Beaujolais	1 hour 30 minutes
Bagnols-en-Beaujolais to Avignon	3 hours
Avignon to Marseille	1 hour

### We include:

- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Château de Gilly in Burgundy
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Château de Bagnols in Beaujolais
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at La Magnaneraie near Avignon
- Fly-drive into Paris and out of Marseille with British Airways and group A hire-car

**From £1958 per person self-drive TE39**





**TO NICE BY TRAIN, THEN TOUR BY HIRE CAR**

Utilising the efficient connections provided by Eurostar, take the train to Lille Europe and then change for the TGV to Nice. By taking a 7am train from London, you reach Nice by about 7pm the same evening. Arriving in Nice, enjoy the fragrant flower market, art museums and the fish restaurants before venturing inland to discover the delightful villages of the arrière-pays, including the artists' colony of Saint-Paul-de-Vence and the perfume town of Grasse. Before heading west, perhaps spend a day to the east of Nice, soaking up the sophistication of the resorts of Beaulieu-sur-Mer, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat and of course, Monaco. The next part of your journey takes you west along the Riviera, passing opulent Antibes, Cannes, Fréjus and Saint-Tropez, arriving at the Bay of Pampelonne and the tranquil luxury of your second hotel, La Réserve. Enjoy the serenity of your surroundings before heading back inland to hilltop Tourtour, formally recognised as one of France's most beautiful villages, with its sweeping views across St Victoire, Provence and all the way to the Mediterranean. Stay here for a couple of nights before returning to Nice, from where you'll travel by TGV to Lille, connecting with the Eurostar to London.

**Driving times:**

Nice to Saint-Tropez	1 hour 45 minutes
Saint-Tropez to Tourtour	1 hour 45 minutes
Tourtour to Nice	1 hour 30 minutes

- We include:**
- Four nights' bed and breakfast the Hotel la Pérouse in Nice
  - Three nights' bed and breakfast at La Réserve near Saint-Tropez
  - Two nights' bed and breakfast at La Bastide de Tourtour
  - Eurostar 2nd class London to Lille return, then TGV Lille to Nice return, 2nd class and a group A hire-car for 9 days

**From £1710 per person, TE49**



**TO AVIGNON BY TRAIN, THEN TOUR BY HIRE CAR**

Make the most of the excellent connections by leaving London by Eurostar at about 7am, changing at Lille Europe and taking the TGV to Avignon to arrive at about 3pm. On the return journey, you leave Avignon at about midday to reach London by about 8pm. (Times may vary). In between, your hire car allows you to tour the glorious scenery of inland Provence, with its cypress and plane trees, almond and olive groves, fragrant lavender and magnolia, village perched and market towns, ancient Roman remains and the landscapes immortalised on canvas by Cézanne and Van Gogh. Upon arrival in Avignon and collection of your hire car, we recommend travelling along the picturesque A-roads that show off Provence at its finest. Heading southeast across the Lubéron, you'll take in delightful and stunning villages such as L'Isle sur la Sorgue, Gordes, the market town of Apt and the thermal baths of Gréoux les Bains. Your first hotel is set but a short distance from the quaint village of Fayence, offering easy access to the perfume town of Grasse and the A-list resort of Cannes. Aix-en-Provence is your second destination, a cosmopolitan and vibrant city of exceptional character. From here, Marseille and the fishing ports along the Côte des Calanques make for a lovely excursion. And finally, back up to Avignon and the myriad of cultural and historical delights centred in and around the Golden Triangle of Orange, Nîmes and Salon de Provence.

**Driving times:**

Avignon to Fayence (cross country)	4 hours 30 minutes
Avignon to Fayence (direct)	2 hours 30 minutes
Fayence to Aix-en-Provence	1 hour 45 minutes
Aix-en-Provence to Avignon	1 hour 10 minutes

- We include:**
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Terre Blanche Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort near Fayence
  - Three nights' bed and breakfast at Villa Gallici in Aix-en-Provence
  - Two nights' bed and breakfast at La Magnaneraie near Avignon
  - Eurostar 2nd class London to Lille return, then TGV Lille to Avignon return, 2nd class and a group A hire-car for 8 days

**From £2160 per person, TE48**



**TO CARCASSONNE AND PERPIGNAN BY TRAIN, THEN TOUR BY HIRE CAR**

Depart London just before 7am for your Eurostar to Lille Europe, where you change to the TGV departing for Narbonne to arrive just after 5pm. From here, connect to a local train, taking just 30 minutes, to Carcassonne, where your hotel enjoys a privileged position within the mediaeval citadel walls. Here you'll spend a few days discovering the delights of this popular city and the surrounding region, perhaps taking the train to the pink city of Toulouse, so named for the rose-tinted hue of its palatial public buildings. The second part of your southwestern itinerary takes you deep into the heart of French Catalonia, just a stone's throw from the Franco-Spanish frontier. Take the train back to Narbonne and change for Perpignan (alternatively, there is a direct train late-afternoon). On arrival, you'll pick up your hire car and drive the 30-minute journey to your hotel, situated in the foothills of the Pyrenees, overlooking the Vallespir Valley. From here, you're within striking distance of Picasso's beloved Céret, at the heart of the Tech Valley, beautiful Collioure, and the coastal villages along the Côte Vermeille. Return to Perpignan, where your lunchtime TGV whisks you up to Lille, arriving just before 8pm (earlier trains are available but involve a change). Your homebound Eurostar arrives in London just after 9pm.

- We include:**
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel de la Cité in Carcassonne
  - Five nights' bed and breakfast at the Relais des Chartreuses in Le Boulou, near Perpignan
  - Eurostar 2nd class London to Lille return, then TGV Lille to Narbonne/local train to Carcassonne and TGV Perpignan to Lille, 2nd class and a group A hire-car for 5 days

**From £1890 per person, TE24**





## NORMANDY COAST AND THE LOIRE VALLEY

Here is an opportunity for a leisurely holiday of sightseeing and relaxation or, for the more active, a wide range of sports is available on both doorsteps. This tour combines a few nights at a former refuge of the Impressionists, today a luxurious five-star hotel in the picturesque seaside town of Honfleur, with a stay in an elegant and extremely comfortable château overlooking the river Loir near Angers. Your first port of call is the Ferme Saint-Siméon, a favourite amongst illustrious names of the Impressionist movement such as Courbet, Boudin and the master himself, Claude Monet, who came to capture on canvas the beautiful vistas offered by Honfleur and the Normandy coastline. A trip to the chic resort of Deauville, with its boutiques and casino, is an absolute must, and the delightful towns of Pont Audemer, Venice of Normandy and Pont l'Évêque, famous for its cheese, are also well worth a visit. En route to your second hotel, you'll pass by the lace-making town of Alençon and Le Mans, which is famous for its 24-hour race and worth a stop off to visit its mediaeval old town and Musée de l'Automobile. And on to Briollay, a short distance northeast of Angers and your hotel, the Château de Noirieux. Here, explore the many châteaux of the Loire and enjoy a tasting at the excellent local vineyards.

### Driving times:

Calais to Honfleur	2 hours 35 minutes
Caen to Honfleur	1 hour
Honfleur to Angers	3 hours
Angers to Caen	2 hours 30 minutes
Angers to Calais	4 hours 45 minutes

### We include:

- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Ferme Saint-Siméon in Honfleur
- Four nights' bed and breakfast at the Château de Noirieux near Angers
- P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers

**From £1155 per person self-drive, TE22**

## THE HISTORIC SOUTHWEST OF FRANCE

This tour is a delight for the lover of history and architecture. Start your holiday near Albi in the tranquil setting of La Reserve, its grounds bordering the River Tarn. Famous as the home of Toulouse-Lautrec and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the episcopal city of Albi is a must-see, its brick cathedral the largest of its type worldwide and the Berbie Palace home to over 1,000 artistic works by its most famous son. Continue south to the mediaeval fortress of Carcassonne, perhaps detouring via the pink city of Toulouse, so named for the rose-tinted hue of its palatial public buildings, or across the dramatic landscapes of the Montagne Noire. Your second hotel enjoys a privileged position right within the very heart of Carcassonne's mediaeval walls, where your two-night stay allows you to uncover the delights of this attractive citadel. And finally, journey through Cathar country and the vine-clad vistas of the Côtes du Roussillon and towards the Spanish frontier south of Perpignan to your rural hideaway, nestled deep in the foothills of the Albères. From here, you're within easy striking distance of Picasso's beloved Céret, at the heart of the Tech Valley, beautiful Collioure, and the coastal villages along the Côte Vermeille. Cross the border into northern Catalonia too and you'll discover the individuality of Figueres, with its eccentric Dalí Museum and mediaeval Girona, not to mention the charms of the Costa Brava.

### Driving times:

Toulouse to Albi	1 hour
Albi to Carcassonne	1 hour 50 minutes
Carcassonne to Le Boulou	1 hour 15 minutes
Le Boulou to Toulouse	2 hours 15 minutes

### We include:

- Three nights' bed and breakfast at La Reserve near Albi
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel de la Cité in Carcassonne
- Five nights' bed and breakfast at the Relais des Chartreuses in Le Boulou, near Perpignan
- Scheduled return flights with British Airways London to Toulouse and hire of a group A car

**From £1804 per person fly-drive, TE44**

## TO THE FOOTHILLS OF THE PYRENEES AND BACK

The variety of landscapes and stunning panoramas on this tour will not fail to enchant even the most seasoned of Francophiles. Heading down the eastern fringes of France, stopping off to visit the champagne capital of Reims if time permits, your first hotel is found between the cities of Dijon and Beaune, amidst the revered vineyards of Nuits-St-Georges. Continue south through the patchwork vistas of the undulating Beaujolais hills, break your journey at Lyon for lunch and a wander around its beautiful architectural masterpieces, which are reminiscent of Tuscany. Stay overnight at La Magnaneraie, just a stone's throw from Avignon and its mighty Palais des Papes, before heading southwest through the spectacular topography of Languedoc-Roussillon, passing Nîmes and Montpellier as well as timeless resorts hugging the Mediterranean shoreline. At your charming hideaway in the foothills of the Pyrenees, you're within striking distance of Picasso's beloved Céret, Matisse's Collioure, and the coastal villages along the Côte Vermeille and the Costa Brava, just the other side of the border. Returning back up France's western side, you'll pass the mediaeval citadel of Carcassonne, Toulouse, and mile-upon-mile of sunflower-clad landscapes on your journey through Gascony to Saint-Émilion, one of the world's most prestigious wine regions. Bordeaux, Cognac and La Rochelle are all enticing options for breaking your journey towards the Loire. Your final overnight stay is in historic Angers, cradle of the Plantagenet dynasty, before your final push through Normandy and the Nord to Calais towards home.

### Driving times:

Calais to Dijon	5 hours 30 minutes
Dijon to Avignon	3 hours 45 minutes
Avignon to Perpignan	2 hours 30 minutes
Perpignan to Saint-Émilion	4 hours 30 minutes
Saint-Émilion to Angers	4 hours
Angers to Calais	4 hours 45 minutes

### We include:

- Five nights' bed and breakfast at the Relais des Chartreuses near Perpignan
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Château de Gilly in Burgundy
- One night's bed and breakfast at La Magnaneraie in Provence
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Château du Grand Barrail near Saint-Émilion
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Chateau de Noirieux in the Loire Valley
- P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers

**From £1560 per person self-drive, TE11**





**DORDOGNE, BASQUE COUNTRY AND THE MASSIF CENTRAL**

Arriving in Bordeaux, your first night is spent in Martillac, amongst the vineyards of Smith Haut Lafitte, before journeying southwest through the Landes, characterised by its sweet-smelling pine forests and long stretches of uninterrupted beaches along the Côte d'Argent. Your second hotel, La Reserve, occupies an Atlantic clifftop setting overlooking Saint-Jean-de-Luz, a short distance away and, from here, Biarritz and gastronomic San Sebastián make for interesting excursions. Continue your journey east through the foothills of the Pyrenees, passing pastoral panoramas set against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks. Take time to visit Pau and the pilgrimage town of Lourdes before sweeping up towards the rose-hued city of Toulouse and on to Gaillac, where your hotel, the Château des Salettes, occupies an idyllic rural setting with views over vine-clad hills. Here, you're but 15 minutes from dramatic Cordes-sur-Ciel and just half an hour from Albi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and birthplace of Toulouse-Lautrec. After a few days of exploration, continue northwest into the volcanic mountains and plateaux of the Massif Central. Arriving in Laguiole, a gastronomic experience of epic proportions awaits, with a two-night stay at Bras, the three Michelin-starred hotel-restaurant of father and son duo, Michel and Sébastien Bras. Finally, head west towards the Dordogne for an overnight stop, before continuing on to Bordeaux for your homebound flight.

**Driving times:**

Bordeaux to Martillac	25 minutes
Martillac to Saint-Jean-de-Luz	2 hours 15 minutes
Saint-Jean-de-Luz to Gaillac	3 hours 30 minutes
Gaillac to Laguiole	2 hours 15 minutes
Laguiole to Dordogne	3 hours 30 minutes
Dordogne to Bordeaux	2 hours

**We include:**

- One night's bed and breakfast at the Les Sources de Caudalie near Bordeaux
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at La Reserve in Saint-Jean-de-Luz
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Château des Salettes in Cahuzac-sur-Vère, near Gaillac
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at Bras in Laguiole
- One night's bed and breakfast accommodation at Le Vieux Logis in the Dordogne
- Return scheduled flight between London and Bordeaux with British Airways and hire of a group A car for the duration of the holiday

From £2170 per person fly-drive, TE20



**TO THE ALPS AND LAKES**

Arriving in Calais, begin your journey across Picardy towards the fertile valleys of Champagne and to your first hotel set just outside Épernay, the location for many famous champagne houses. After an overnight stay, continue your journey south into Burgundy for a second stopover between Dijon and Beaune. Follow the course of the Saône as the landscapes of the Côte d'Or are replaced by the patchwork vistas of the Beaujolais. At Maçon, you head east towards the towering peaks of the Alps, skimming the Jura and the Franco-Swiss frontier before following the southern shores of Lake Geneva, arriving at Evian-les-Bains and your prestigious resort hotel, complete with 18-hole golf club, spa and kids' club, for a three-night stay. From here, explore many cultural treasures, water sports and outdoor pursuits afforded by your stunning lakeside position, perhaps heading into Switzerland to explore Lausanne, Geneva, Montreux or Vevey, city of Charlie Chaplin. Continuing on to your next destination, be sure to visit the charming and romantic town of Annecy, Venice of the Alps, before arriving at the world's largest natural lake, Lake Bourget, of which your second hotel, the Ombremont, has a magnificent view from its shoreline position. Picturesque Aix-les-Bains and historic Chambéry make for easy day trips, returning for dinner in the hotel's renowned two Michelin-starred restaurant, Le Bateau Ivre. Stop off in Lyon, city of gastronomic and architectural renown before you begin your homebound journey.

**Driving times:**

Calais to Épernay	3 hours
Épernay to Dijon	3 hours
Dijon to Evian-les-Bains	3 hours 15 minutes
Evian-les-Bains to Le Bourget-du-Lac	1 hour 45 minutes
Le Bourget-du-Lac to Bagnols-en-Beaujolais	1 hour 45 minutes
Bagnols-en-Beaujolais to Épernay	4 hours

**We include:**

- Two nights' bed and breakfast at Royal Champagne in Champagne (one night each way)
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Château de Gilly in Burgundy
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Evian Royal Ermitage in the Alps
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Ombremont in the Alps
- One night's bed and breakfast at the Château de Bagnols in Beaujolais
- P&O return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais for car and passengers

From £1850 per person self-drive, TE26



**A GASTRONOMIC TOUR OF TARN AND THE AUVERGNE**

This is a journey through the heartland of France and French gastronomy, where your three hotels have five Michelin-starred restaurants between them. Arriving in Lyon, your journey takes you in a westerly direction, firstly crossing into the department of the Loire then traversing the Durolle Valley in the northern Puy-de-Dôme. Nestled amidst 40 acres of verdant parkland in the heart of the stunning volcanic Basse-Auvergne countryside, your first hotel, the Michelin-starred Château de Codignat, provides easy access to the historic Vichy and Clermont-Ferrand, one of the oldest cities in France. Your journey south takes you through the region known affectionately as the Tuscan Auvergne for its Mediterranean architectural style, green rolling valleys, poplar trees and brilliant sunlight. Continuing further south, the landscapes change as you reach the sweeping Aubrac plateau, over which your second hotel, Bras, commands far-reaching vistas. Home to the gastronomic genius of Michel and Sébastien Bras, with three Michelin stars between them, your stay in Laguiole promises to deliver a memorable and unsurpassed culinary experience. Be sure to visit the renowned knife factory during your stay here, before journeying further southwest into the Tarn, past fields of vines to Gaillac, from where it's just a short drive to the artisan town of breathtaking Cordes-sur-Ciel, seemingly floating above the clouds from its lofty position atop an isolated knoll. Nearby Castelnau-de-Montmirail is also a must, today classified as one of the most beautiful cities in France. After three nights at the Michelin-starred Château des Salettes, fly home from Toulouse.

**Driving times:**

Lyon to Bort de l'Étang	2 hours
Bort de l'Étang to Laguiole	2 hours 15 minutes
Laguiole to Gaillac	2 hours 15 minutes
Gaillac to Toulouse	1 hour

**We include:**

- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Château de Codignat near Clermont-Ferrand
- Two nights' bed and breakfast at Bras in Laguiole
- Three nights' bed and breakfast at the Château des Salettes near Gaillac
- Scheduled flight from London to Lyon/Toulouse to London with British Airways and hire of a group A car for the duration of the holiday

From £1940 fly-drive TE28

