



Tours For  
*"Independent Thinking"*  
Women



# FRANCE - The Original Tour



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## **PARIS TO THE COTE D'AZUR - AND BACK.**

This very special 21 day tour has been developed in response to requests from our clients. We have included substantial stays in the most well known areas of France.

In **PARIS**, we spend almost a week in the **Marais district (3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> arrondissement)**. Then, a fast train to **NICE** and 5 days there with trips to the surrounding areas of the **Cote d'Azur**. Train again to **Provence**, where we stay in **AVIGNON** for 5 nights. On then, to our favourite chateau hotel in the **LOIRE VALLEY**. Finally, return to Paris for the opening of **Monet's** garden at **Giverny** – a perfect end to our tour.

### **WE ARE DIFFERENT!**

Our **hotels** are always boutique style. We choose them to be in the centre, so that we are relaxing with a coffee when the tourist buses are leaving. We also choose them for their uniqueness. Our **PARIS** hotel has been chosen for its place in the Marais district, close to the bohemian sector and the city centre. The hotel in **NICE** is close to the sea and has a beautiful garden. **AVIGNON'S** hotel choice is an ancient cloister and monastery in the medieval town. Chateau de Beauvois Hotel in the **LOIRE**, is a privately owned, historic chateau.

We *never* have early starts or one night stays. Emphasis is always on relaxation and great experiences.

The **experiences** we offer cater to all tastes. There are always opportunities for a quiet sit with a coffee or cocktail – and time to do your own thing too.

Our *Experiences List* includes: Making your own perfume in Grasse, markets of many types, an evening tour of the Louvre, wine tasting in the Loire, walk the glorious Rothschild Gardens near Nice, inside Monaco's Casino, artisans in St Remy, lavender farm in Provence, a concert in the Sainte Chapelle Paris, following the Van Gogh trail in Provence, Chateau visits in the Loire Valley – and a mushroom farm inside a hill! Of course – Monet's garden at Giverny.

We have **women guides** at each stop. These women, along with their Art History qualifications, have unqualified passion for their regions.

All museum **entrances** are designed to avoid queues. We visit 'must see' places as well as special spots 'off the beaten track'.

**Travel** is by TGV fast train between each stay. We have First Class seats. Within each area, we travel by minibus or taxi or we walk. In Paris, we use both the metro and taxis.

**Two meals** are included each day. You can expect them to be breakfast and dinner unless notified otherwise. We dine in a mix of restaurants, cafes, home-style and silver service.

## **INCLUSIVE.**

What this means is:

- All transfers, tips etc
- First class train travel
- Your own double room, single use
- No single supplement
- Two meals each day
- Private transport in country eg: mini bus, taxi,
- All entrances
- Private guides
- Private events eg: perfume making, wine tasting, artisan visits, concerts, specialist talks, private villa/garden visits...
- Accompanying tour manager
- Your own tailored photo album of the tour.

NOT INCLUDED: insurance, personal expenses, extra meals or wines, room service.

**\*\*Optional** supper show at *Moulin Rouge Nightclub* approx \$150

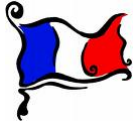
**FLIGHTS: \*\*\*Airfares** (for the first time in almost 20 years of tours, recent unpredictable pricing has resulted in the removal of flights from our inclusions) They can still be booked & discussed with Jenny, our Travel Agent. Or of course you may do your own.

## **COST AND PAYMENT.**

The tour cost is payable by 6 monthly payments.

A deposit of \$750 is required on receipt of your Registration form.

Payment is always made to our registered Travel Agent where it is retained in trust, by law.



# Tours for “Independent - thinking” Women

## FRANCE - The Original Tour - 2024

Day 1 - Saturday 21 September- **Leave Australia**

Day 2 - Sunday -

22 September

**Hotel Croix de la  
Bretonnerie**

**(5 +2 nights)**

**Arrive Paris:** (most will arrive around 1.30pm- est. arrival time at hotel = 3pm)

Meet in the hotel lobby and assist with check-in.

We will wander around our area - Afternoon tea on **Place de Vosges**

Back to the hotel for a break.

Early Dinner nearby

Day 3 - Monday -

23 September

We begin our day with a walk across to *Notre Dame Cathedral* on the Ile de la Cite (Isle of the City in the River, at the end of our street) \*\* Map of our area at end of this itinerary...

There we will meet our guide and take a walking tour of the *Left Bank - historic, infamous sights*

Taxis to Coffee/lunch on the top floor of *Galleries Lafayette*

Then we can tour the *Opera Garnier* - OR - you may like to spend some time in the very glamorous shops of the area.

Return to the hotel - time at leisure..

Dinner this evening in the Marais at *Le Connetable*.

Day 4 - Tuesday -

24 September

Take our own minibus to *Versailles*. Tour at your own speed, with our own whispers guides

Catch the mini train for lunch at *La Flotille* in the palace gardens

Return to Paris and our hotel.

Dinner in the *Pigalle* area for all.

\*\* Optional Supper Show: *Moulin Rouge* at 9.00pm

<p><b>Day 5 Wednesday - 24 September</b></p>	<p>This morning we have a 'no queue' entry to the <i>Musee d'Orsay</i>. Once a railway station, now home to the Impressionists</p> <p>Meet in the D'Orsay Restaurant for lunch.</p> <p>At 5pm we meet for an early evening visit to <i>The Louvre</i> with our guide Oriel</p> <p>After the visit - coffee, a light meal nearby.</p>
<p><b>Day 6 Thursday 25 September</b></p>	<p>We join our local guide for a visit to the artists of <i>Montmartre</i> and the <i>Sacré Coeur</i> cathedral on this famous hilltop. Time to see the <i>Salvadore Dali's</i> unusual art work too.</p> <p>Lunch/coffee together in <b>Montmartre</b></p> <p>Afternoon free</p> <p>Evening candle-light concert at magnificent <i>Sainte Chapelle</i></p> <p>Dinner to follow, on the island - Ile de la Cite' ...</p>
<p><b>Day 7 Friday - 26 September</b></p> <p><i>Hotel Villa Victoria</i></p> <p><b>(4 nights)</b></p>	<p><b>The Cote D'Azur</b></p> <p><u>First class TGV to Nice on the French Riviera</u> - we leave at 9am and arrive at 3pm. Lunch on the train as we cross France. Jean Jacques will be there to collect us.</p> <p>Wander along the sea to the Nice old town to get to know our area. A drink on the promenade in the sun...</p> <p>Dinner at <i>Maison Marie</i></p>
<p><b>Day 8 Saturday - 27 September</b></p>	<p><i>Walking tour of Old Nice</i> with <i>Agnes</i> - including a visit to the famous flower markets and little specialist shops. Maybe an art gallery - or two!</p> <p><i>Little train</i> around <b>Nice Port</b> and view from the top of the cliffs</p> <p>Meet in the hotel bar for a cocktail</p> <p>Walk to Dinner at <i>Le Vingt 4</i> - near our hotel</p>
<p><b>Day 9 Sunday - 28 September</b></p>	<p><i>Cote d'Azur</i> with <i>Agnes</i> - first stop - magnificent <i>Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild</i></p> <p>On to <i>Monte Carlo</i> in the Principality of <i>Monaco</i></p> <p>Afternoon tea and a look around at the Monte Carlo <i>Casino</i></p> <p>Return to Hotel Villa Victoria</p> <p>Dinner on the harbor in Nice - <i>La Vigna</i></p>

<p><b>Day 10 Monday -</b> <b>29 September</b></p>	<p>Visit to the old 'perched village' of <i>Gourdon</i> - a country drive to the village, magnificent views, unique crafts, shops and cafes.</p> <p>On to <i>Grasse</i> to make our own perfume at <i>Galimard 1747, parfumeur</i>: 2pm.</p> <p>Return to Nice at 4pm. Free time</p> <p>Dinner in Nice TBA</p>
<p><b>Day 11 Tuesday -</b> <b>30 September</b></p> <p><i>Hotel Cloitre St Louis</i></p> <p><i>(4 nights)</i></p>	<p><b>Avignon and Provence</b></p> <p>TGV Train trip 3.5hrs takes us to Avignon, arriving at 1.30pm</p> <p>Check in and explore this former cloister.. now hotel.</p> <p>Introduction to Avignon's medieval town -within the town walls.</p> <p>Dinner at <i>Cour de Louvre Restaurant</i></p>
<p><b>Day 12 Wednesday - 1</b> <b>October</b></p>	<p><i>Around Provence</i> by mini bus with <i>Laurence</i></p> <p>We follow the <i>Van Gogh trail</i> to the places he lived and painted..</p> <p><i>St Remy de Provence</i> - this is Market Day!</p> <p><i>Les Baux de Provence</i>, a medieval village - home to the amazing <i>Carrières de Lumières</i> set in an abandoned quarry!</p> <p>Return to our hotel for Dinner.</p>
<p><b>Day 13 Thursday -</b> <b>2 October</b></p>	<p>The <i>Luberon</i> region with <i>Laurence</i> ...Drive through <i>L'Isle sur la Sorgue</i>, to the spectacular village of <i>Gordes</i>, continue to <i>Roussillon</i> with its red and orange cliffs &amp; then the Lavender museum.</p> <p>Lunch along the way - and <i>Wine</i>-tasting at <i>Menerbes</i></p> <p>Dinner overlooking the <i>Palace of the Popes</i></p>
<p><b>Day 14 Friday -</b> <b>3 October</b></p>	<p>Morning of medieval Avignon and the <i>Popes' Palace</i> with <i>Laurence</i></p> <p>Lunch overlooking the medieval palace. We stroll out onto the "<i>Pont d'Avignon</i>"</p> <p>Afternoon at leisure for shopping, packing, other museums...</p> <p>Dinner in an historic restaurant near old the water wheels.</p>

<p>Day 15 Saturday - 4 October</p> <p><i>Château de Beauvois</i> <i>(4 nights)</i></p>	<p><b>Loire Valley</b></p> <p><u>TGV to Tours - Loire Valley</u></p> <p>The bus takes us to the magnificent <b>Chateau de Beauvois</b> (16<sup>th</sup> Century) where we are welcomed by our hosts with a glass of champagne in the salon.</p> <p>Explore the Chateau and its chapel, cellars and grounds</p> <p>Dine this evening in the Chateau</p>
<p>Day 16 Sunday - 5 October</p>	<p>Out and About in the <i>Loire Valley</i></p> <p>We drive to the Royal castle town of <i>Amboise</i> Time to spend in the <i>weekly town market</i> along the River Loire. Stalls, tastings, music etc</p> <p>Lunch / coffee at <i>Bigot</i> (<i>chocolate maker -fabulous!</i>)</p> <p>Visit the mighty castle and then on to <i>Clos Luce</i>, home of <i>Leonardo da Vinci</i> (see many of his inventions at work)</p> <p>Dinner in our Chateau</p>
<p>Day 17 Monday - 6 October</p>	<p>Tour today a wonderful pair of Chateaux ..</p> <p>Visit <i>Villandry</i> - the most famous gardens in the Loire et Cher region</p> <p>On to <i>Chenonceau</i>... the magnificent chateau of the two women -</p> <p>Light lunch together in the Orangerie - Afternoon free</p> <p>Dinner in the Chateau</p>
<p>Day 18 Tuesday - 7 October</p>	<p>Suit yourself today - talk with PK about some options...</p>
<p>Day 19 Wednesday - 8 October</p> <p><i>Hotel Croix de la Bretonnerie</i></p>	<p><b>Loire to Paris</b></p> <p>Leisurely start to the day at the chateau.... Farewell picture on the steps ..</p> <p>Return by TGV to Paris (55mins). Taxis to Hotel</p> <p>Afternoon free ... OR come with Penny to the <i>Carnavalet</i> Museum</p> <p>Dinner at the oldest café in Paris - <i>Le Procope</i></p>

<p><b>Day 20 Thursday-</b> <b>9 October</b></p>	<p>Private mini bus takes us to the little town of <i>Giverny</i>, west of Paris. We visit the gardens of the Impressionist painter <i>Monet</i>.</p> <p>Lunch – A delightful visit for lovers of the Impressionists. The restaurant where <b>Renoir</b> painted '<i>Luncheon of the Boating Party</i>'.</p> <p>Free time.</p> <p>Dinner on the <i>Eiffel Tower</i> at 9pm</p>
<p><b>Day 21 Friday -</b> <b>10 October</b></p>	<p>Breakfast together in the old wine cellar</p> <p>Transfers for the Airport</p> <p><b>We leave Paris for home</b></p>
	<p><b>*** This Itinerary may be subject to change</b></p>