



ACADEMY  
TRAVEL

TAILORED  
SMALL GROUP  
JOURNEYS

# BURGUNDY PROVENCE & THE RIVIERA

MEDIEVAL & MODERN

## OVERVIEW

For centuries travelers have been seduced by the intriguing blend of medieval and modern cultures found in the picturesque French regions of Burgundy, Provence, and the Riviera.

Likewise, artists such as van Gogh, Matisse, Picasso and Renoir have been inspired by the region's rich landscapes, bold colours and unique light.

Our 16-day tour begins in beautiful Burgundy, a region renowned for its charming medieval villages, world-famous wines and Romanesque architecture. Following the Rhône River south from Lyon to the Côte d'Azur, we admire the ancient streetscape and immense Gothic architecture in the City of the Popes, Avignon, and marvel at the World Heritage Listed Roman aqueduct bridge, the Pont du Gard, built in the first century AD. We enjoy excellent provincial cuisine, visit regional art galleries and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of the French Riviera.

Through background talks and a carefully thought-out program of walking tours, archaeological site visits, museums and galleries, you will gain a meaningful and enjoyable understanding of what these regions have to offer.



## TOUR LEADER

**Dr Jeni Ryde** is a linguist and art history specialist with over fifteen years experience leading tours to Italy, Spain, France and Portugal.

## TOUR DATES

**May 17 - June 1, 2025** | 16 Days

## TOUR PRICE

**\$12,340** per person, twin share  
**\$2,460** single supplement

## TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

## GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

## ITINERARY

Dijon (4 nights), Lyon (3 nights),  
Nîmes (4 nights), Antibes (4 nights)

## INCLUSIONS

**15** nights' accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels. All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners. 2 wine tastings. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.



## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Start & Finish

The tour starts at 6.30pm on Saturday 17 May, at the Hostellerie du Chapeau Rouge, Dijon.

The tour ends after breakfast on Sunday 1 June, at the Royal Antibes Hotel, Antibes.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D. Wine tasting with WT.

### Saturday 17 May

#### Arrival

After you've made your own way to Dijon, we will meet for drinks and introductions in our hotel bar before enjoying our first dinner together at a local restaurant. Overnight Dijon (D)

### Sunday 18 May

#### Dijon and the Dukes of Burgundy

The Dukes of Burgundy were among the most sophisticated, powerful, and wealthy men in medieval Europe. At its apotheosis, their territory was larger than the Kingdom of France – indeed, they appropriated large parts of France by playing the French and English off each other in the Hundred Years' War. After an informative talk, we enjoy a morning walk of Dijon including a visit to the Romanesque crypt of Saint-Benigne cathedral and the church of Notre-Dame. In the afternoon we visit the Palace of the Dukes, home to Dijon's Museum of Fine Art since the 18th century. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Dijon (B)

### Monday 19 May

#### Vézelay and the Magdalene

The transfer of relics and the pilgrims who swarmed to see them were key parts of the medieval economy. This morning we visit the town of Avallon to visit the superb pilgrim church of Saint Lazare to admire its outstanding Romanesque sculpture, a combination of piety and fantastical imagination. The afternoon is devoted to Vézelay Abbey and its important shrine to Mary Magdalene, who is thought to have ended her days in southern France. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, the basilica is a masterpiece of Burgundian Romanesque. We then enjoy a wine tasting in a local vineyard. Evening is at leisure. Overnight Dijon (B, WT)

### Tuesday 20 May

#### Burgundian Beaune and Autun

We spend the morning in Beaune, home to the Hôtel-Dieu and its beautifully preserved architecture. This medieval hospital contains Rogier van der Weyden's *Beaune* altarpiece, the rich colours and intense emotions of its *Last Judgement* challenging European painters for many generations. At Notre-Dame, we admire 15th-century tapestries on the

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

### Stunning Art

Admire Burgundian refinement at Dijon's Musée des Beaux-Arts and Beaune's Hôtel-Dieu and appreciate post-Impressionists and modernists at the Fondation Vincent van Gogh in Arles.

### Medieval Art & Architecture

Survey the best of medieval art and architecture, from the sturdy new style developed by Romanesque masons to the birth of the Gothic in Avignon.

### Inspiring Landscapes

The landscapes of southern France influenced generations of artists: from the rich, earthy colours and contours of Arles to the watery azures of the Riviera, we see the imprint of these places in the art.

### Roman Ruins & Archaeology

Explore more than 300 years of well-preserved Roman Gaul history in southern France at sites like the Gallo-Roman Museum in Lyon and the aqueduct known as the Pont du Gard.

### Fine Food & Wine

Savour the storied traditions of France's premier gastronomic regions and their modern reinterpretations, from fine wines in Burgundy's historic vineyards to haute cuisine on the Riviera.

Hôtel Dieu, Beaune



life of the Virgin. In the afternoon we travel to Autun, to admire the fine Romanesque sculpture of its St-Lazare Cathedral, among the world's best. We then visit the Roman Gate of Porte Saint-André and the Roman amphitheatre before returning to Dijon. Evening at leisure. Overnight Dijon (B)

### Wednesday 21 May

#### Benedictines at Cluny & Berzé-la-Ville

We depart Dijon for Lyon today, travelling to Cluny Abbey, which was the headquarters of the Benedictine order that dominated medieval pilgrim routes. It was also the world's largest church until the expansion of St Peter's in Rome and its architecture was enormously influential. We trace it from its magnificent remains to the intimate dimensions of the nearby 11th-century Chapelle des Moines at Berzé-la-Ville, perhaps the private retreat of the abbot. Evening at leisure. Overnight Lyon (B, L)

### Thursday 22 May

#### Roman Lyon

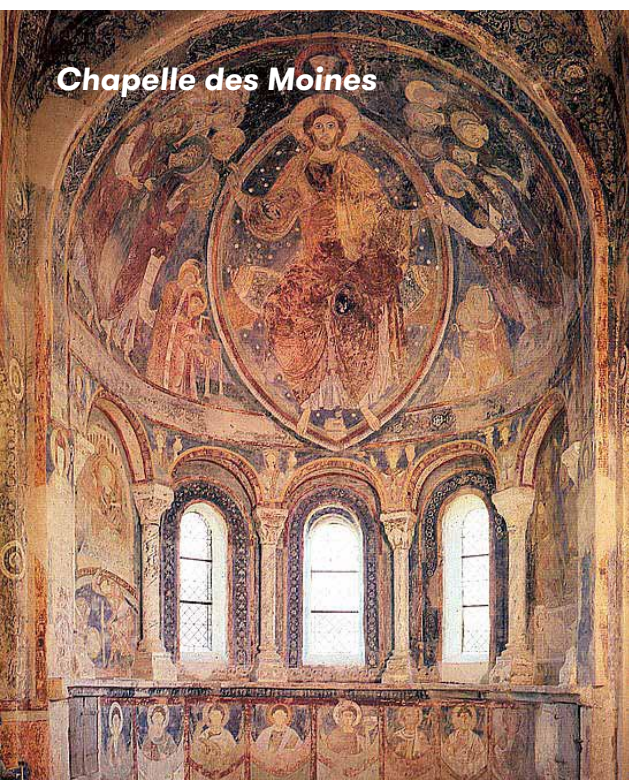
Lyon (Lugdunum) was the thriving capital of Roman Gaul and the birthplace of the emperors Claudius and Caracalla. This morning we embark on a walking tour through the streets of Old Lyon. In the afternoon we enjoy a guided visit of Lyon's Roman ruins and the adjoining Gallo-Roman Museum, that has a fine collection of archaeological finds from the area, including jewellery, mosaics and everyday objects. A highlight will be our visit to the nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Basilica of Our Lady of Fourviere, before partaking in contemporary cuisine at a local fine dining institute. Overnight Lyon (B, D)

### Friday 23 May

#### Fine Art & Contemporary Murals

We begin the day by exploring Croix-Rousse, Lyon's silk workers' district, and learning more about the colourful industry at La Maison des Canuts, before viewing the Roman theatre and some of the playful contemporary murals dotting the town. After lunch we enjoy a guided tour of Lyon's Musée des Beaux-Arts, which has a diverse collection of antiquities, objets d'art, and an excellent collection of painting and sculpture, from Impressionism to Léger, Picasso and Bacon. An early evening talk at the hotel completes the day. Evening at leisure. Overnight Lyon (B)

Chapelle des Moines



Lyon



### Saturday 24 May

#### The Mighty Rhône

In pre-modern Europe, rivers were key to the development of cities, allowing easy movement of people and goods. Lyon boasted an excellent location between two rivers, the Saône and the Rhône – the latter one of Europe's most important waterways for trade. As we transfer to Nîmes, we admire the tranquil scenery of the river and hills alongside it. We pause for lunch and wine-tasting in Tain-l'Hermitage before immersing ourselves in the world of good chocolate, at Valrhona's Cité du Chocolat. Evening at leisure. Overnight Nîmes. (B, L, WT)

## Arles



### Sunday 25 May

#### Roman Nîmes

Nîmes, like Lyon, boasts outstanding Roman remains and this morning we explore the sites for which the town is justifiably renowned. The magnificent Roman temple Maison Carrée is considered the purest and best preserved of all Roman temples. Other impressive sites we visit include the amphitheatre and the Jardins de la Fontaine, the 18th-century parklands with the remains of a Roman tower and temple. In the afternoon we recommend visiting the Roman Museum or the Contemporary Art Museum at your own leisure. Overnight Nîmes (B)

### Monday 26 May

#### Van Gogh in Arles

Today we head to Arles, famed for an exceptional Roman and medieval heritage. Arles is one of the most important centres of Provençal culture, proud of its past yet vibrantly modern. We survey its ancient history at the amphitheatre and encounter its great modern admirer, Van Gogh, who produced many of his greatest works here. What he loved was not the culture or history, but the brilliance of light. After our guided visit of the Fondation Vincent van Gogh and St Trophime, which so inspired him, we return to Nîmes for an evening at leisure. Overnight Nîmes (B)

### Tuesday 27 May

#### The Popes in Avignon and the Pont du Gard

By the early 14th century, Rome was unsafe: prone to malaria and ruled by scheming feudal families angling for the papal throne. After a deadlocked conclave in 1305, the newly elected Frenchman Clement V refused to move to Rome, and a succession of seven popes ruled “in exile” from Avignon until 1377. This morning we visit the vast Palais des Papes and the Pont Saint-Bénézet, better known as the Pont d’Avignon – made famous by the song. After a group lunch in a local restaurant, we continue to the astonishing Pont du Gard, part of the highest of the elevated Roman aqueducts. It runs for 50 kilometres and here crosses the Gardon river. On return to our hotel, we enjoy another informative talk. Overnight Nîmes (B, L)

## Pont du Gard



## Antibes



### Wednesday 28 May

#### In Aix-en-Provence with Cézanne

We depart for Antibes today, travelling via Aix-en-Provence. This elegant provincial centre owed its prominence to its thermal springs and was an important Roman site thanks to these health benefits. In the modern era it has been indelibly associated with Cézanne, who experimented with abstraction and tone here and was so inspired by nearby Mont-Sainte-Victoire. We enjoy a walking tour of central Aix, including a guided visit of Cézanne’s atelier. In the afternoon, we continue to Antibes, where we enjoy a stroll and dinner in a local restaurant after check-in. Overnight Antibes (B, D)

### Thursday 29 May

#### The world of Picasso and Renoir

From the 19th century, artists flocked to the French Riviera for the qualities of its light and landscape, the economy of

## HOTELS

These premiere 4-star hotels have been selected principally for their central location.

### Dijon, Hostellerie Chapeau Rouge

(4 nights)

[www.chapeau-rouge.fr](http://www.chapeau-rouge.fr)

### Lyon, Hotel Beaux Arts

(3 nights)

[all.accor.com](http://all.accor.com)

### Nîmes, Appart'City Collection

#### Nîmes Arènes

(4 nights)

[www.appartcity.com](http://www.appartcity.com)

### Antibes, Royal Antibes Hotel

(4 nights)

[www.hotel-royal-antibes.com](http://www.hotel-royal-antibes.com)

## WEATHER

May is a great time to visit France. The days are long, rainfall is low and temperatures are mild to warm. Nevertheless, you should bring a light jacket and jumpers for the evenings.

## FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

### Grade Two

This tour is physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 5-7 kilometres over the day at a moderate pace
- stand and slow walk for up to 90 minutes galleries and museums
- negotiate walking over uneven ground on dirt tracks
- walk up and down steps and slopes
- get on and off a coach with steps unassisted
- move your luggage unassisted

its lifestyle, and the relative permissiveness of its morals! This morning we encounter this exuberance in a walking tour of Old Antibes, the city's historic quarter and a microcosm of great Mediterranean ports. After admiring Picasso's bold and innovative artworks at the Musée Picasso we travel to the Musée Renoir, located in Renoir's charming villa at nearby Cagnes-sur-Mer. This evening is at leisure in Antibes. Overnight Antibes (B)

### Friday 30 May

#### Villa Life on the Riviera

On the heels of the great modern artists, the rich and famous, and eventually mass tourism, came to the Riviera. The stunning coastline, running from France into Italy, still preserves some of the 20th century's most extraordinary pleasure villas, including the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, a magnificent example of Neoclassic architecture. After admiring the villa and its gardens, we continue to seafront Villefranche-sur-Mer for lunch at leisure. Here, the tiny 16th-century Chapelle Saint-Pierre was neglected and filled with fishing nets when artist Jean Cocteau offered to restore it in 1957. With the help and support of the local community he decorated the chapel with murals celebrating the life of St Peter and dedicated to the local fishermen. We finish our day at the bold Matisse Museum in Nice before returning to Antibes for an evening at leisure. Overnight Antibes (B)

### Saturday 31 May

#### Miró, Matisse and Giacometti

Today we make our way to the town of Vence. Here we visit the Chapelle du Rosaire, the simple chapel decorated by Henri Matisse for a convent of Dominican nuns in gratitude for kindness shown to him when ill. Afterwards we travel to the charming village of Saint-Paul-de-Vence that has been a mecca for artists since the 20th century and where we visit the Fondation Maeght, an exceptional museum of modern art set in beautifully landscaped gardens. The museum displays artworks by Calder, Chagall, Braque, Giacometti and Miró. Returning to Antibes, we enjoy a farewell dinner together in a fine local restaurant. Overnight Antibes (B, D)

### Sunday 1 June

#### Departure

Our tour concludes after breakfast at our hotel in Antibes. Nice Airport is close by, and transfers to the airport are included for those whose flights have been booked with Academy Travel. (B)



## ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Lucy Yeates** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

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