



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

FRANCE UNCOVERED: CHÂTEAUX, VINEYARDS & QUAIN VILLAGES

Paris, Loire Valley, La Rochelle, Dordogne & Bordeaux

From elegant Parisian boulevards and magnificent Renaissance châteaux to charming medieval villages, dramatic Atlantic coastlines and world-renowned wine regions, this journey showcases the very best of Western France.

Travel through the heart of the Loire Valley, where fairy-tale castles, picturesque vineyards and beautiful riverside towns reveal centuries of French history and culture. Continue west to the historic port of La Rochelle before discovering the timeless charm of the Dordogne, a region of medieval villages, prehistoric caves and some of France's finest gastronomy.

Your journey concludes in Bordeaux, one of the world's great wine capitals, where elegant architecture, celebrated vineyards and exceptional cuisine provide the perfect finale to an unforgettable French adventure.

Combining history, gastronomy, spectacular scenery and authentic local experiences, this carefully designed itinerary offers an excellent introduction to one of France's most rewarding and diverse regions.

SUMMARY (16 days)

Start Point: Paris

End Point: Bordeaux

4 Nights Paris

3 Nights Loire Valley

2 Nights La Rochelle

2 Nights Dordogne

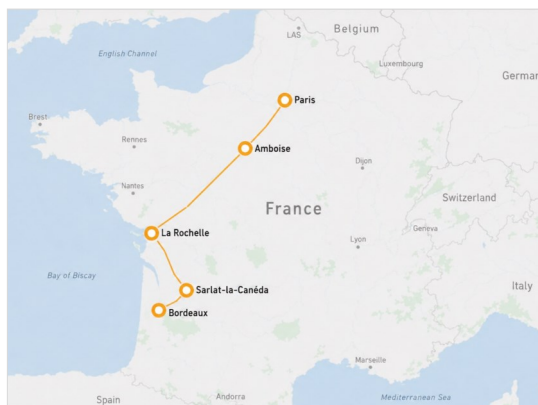
4 Nights Bordeaux

What's Included?

- Private transfers and train tickets as detailed in the itinerary
- Hotels (4-star)
- Breakfasts & all meals mentioned in the itinerary
- Guided tours with English-speaking guides, as specified (all entrance tickets included)

What's not Included?

- International Air Flights
- Medical/Travel Insurance
- Meals & Drinks, other than those mentioned in the itinerary
- Tips & Gratuities



This is an example itinerary which can always be adjusted to meet your individual requirements and budget.



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ITINERARY

DAY 1: Bienvenus! Welcome to France's Capital

Upon arrival in Paris, we will arrange for a private transfer to your hotel in the city centre.

Morning: Paris Panoramic Tour with Private Driver-Guide (approx. 3 hrs)

Your private driver-guide will meet you in the lobby of your hotel for an introductory panoramic tour of Paris, offering the perfect introduction to the French capital from the comfort of a private vehicle.

During this flexible sightseeing experience, you will discover many of Paris' most iconic landmarks, including Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Louvre Museum, Place Vendôme, the magnificent Opéra Garnier, Place de la Concorde, La Madeleine Church, the famous Champs-Élysées, the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, Les Invalides, and the spectacular viewpoints from the Trocadéro.

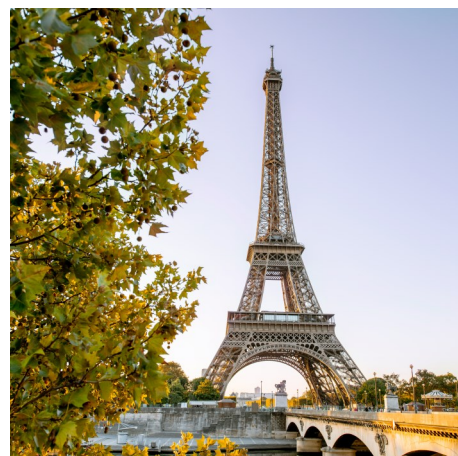
Throughout the tour, your driver-guide will share fascinating insights into Paris' history, architecture and culture while tailoring the pace and route to your interests. There will be opportunities to stop for photographs and short walks at some of the city's most emblematic sites.

The itinerary remains flexible and can be adapted according to your preferences, allowing for a relaxed and personalized introduction to one of the world's most beautiful cities.

Afternoon & evening free to explore Paris at your leisure.

We will provide you with tips, and recommendations for local cafés, restaurants, and areas to explore during your free time.

Paris, the elegant capital of France, is a city where history, art, and culture blend effortlessly with everyday life. From the iconic Eiffel Tower and the world-renowned Louvre Museum to the charming streets of Montmartre and the cafés that line the Seine, every neighbourhood reveals a different side of the city. Renowned for its magnificent architecture, exceptional gastronomy, and timeless atmosphere, Paris has inspired artists, writers, and travellers for centuries. Whether you're admiring its grand monuments, exploring its hidden passages, or simply enjoying a coffee on a bustling terrace, the French capital offers an unforgettable introduction to the country and remains one of the world's most celebrated destinations.



DAY 2: Notre-Dame & the Seine by Night

Guided tour of Notre-Dame and Île de la Cité, with independent visit inside the Cathedral

This morning, enjoy a private guided tour in the heart of Île de la Cité, discovering Notre-Dame de Paris and its historic surroundings.

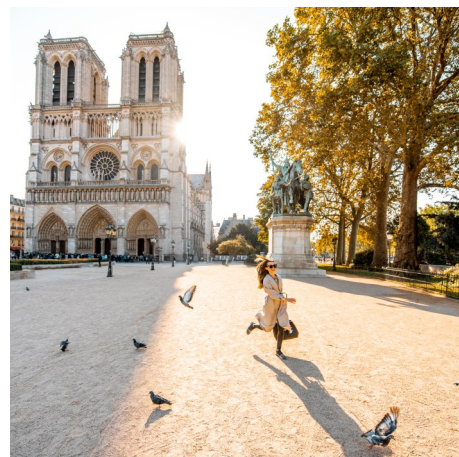
Your guide will lead you around the exterior of the cathedral, the Seine quays, the streets of Île de la Cité and the area around Sainte-Chapelle. This walk will help place Notre-Dame within the history of Paris and give you a deeper understanding of the island's role as the historic cradle of the capital.

Part of the visit will be dedicated to Notre-Dame itself, including its construction from the 12th century, Gothic architecture, rose windows, 19th-century renovations by Viollet-le-Duc, the 2019 fire and the main stages of its restoration.

Since July 2026, guides are no longer permitted to comment freely inside Notre-Dame without specific authorisation. After the exterior explanations, you will have time to explore the interior of the cathedral independently and at your own pace.

At the end of your independent visit, you will meet your guide again to continue the customised tour of Île de la Cité and its main monuments. The tour is organised in the morning to minimise waiting time at the entrance as much as possible. Tickets or time slots are purchased on site, as advance online availability is currently very limited. Please note that the order of the visit may be adjusted by your guide depending on crowd levels, access conditions and the pace of travellers.

Notre-Dame Cathedral is one of France's most iconic landmarks and a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Commissioned by Bishop Maurice de Sully, construction began in 1163 and continued for nearly two centuries, shaping the silhouette of medieval Paris. Its soaring arches, sculpted façades and world-famous rose windows reflect centuries of artistry and devotion. Following the French Revolution, the cathedral underwent a major restoration in the 19th century under architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, who carefully restored and reinterpreted key elements of the structure. Today, Notre-Dame remains a powerful symbol of French heritage, resilience and the enduring spirit of Paris.



Seine River Cruise — 1 hr, tickets included

Later in the afternoon or evening, embark on a scenic cruise along the Seine River, often described as the most beautiful avenue in Paris.

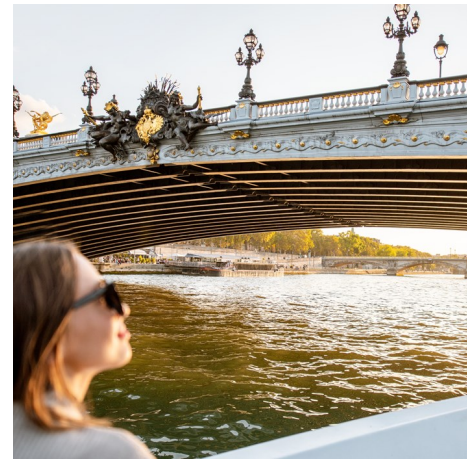
For one unforgettable hour, you will discover the City of Light from a unique perspective as you glide past some of its most iconic monuments and elegant bridges, including the Louvre Museum, Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, Pont Alexandre III and the Hôtel de Ville.

As night falls, Paris transforms into a shimmering spectacle of golden lights and reflections on the water. If timed correctly, you may also enjoy the magical moment when the Eiffel Tower sparkles on the hour, creating an unforgettable highlight of your evening.

Your ticket is an open ticket, valid for any departure on the selected day. Departures usually run regularly throughout the day and evening, although schedules may vary depending on the season.

The Seine River offers one of the most memorable ways to experience the French capital. From the water, Paris reveals itself through illuminated bridges, elegant façades and timeless silhouettes. A cruise along the Seine captures the romance and grandeur of the City of Light, from the historic heart of the Île de la Cité to the sparkling Eiffel Tower.

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 3: The Louvre & Eiffel Tower

Small-group guided tour of the Louvre Museum — approx. 2 hrs

Your cultural guide will meet you outside the museum, at the statue of Louis XIV located near the Louvre Pyramid.

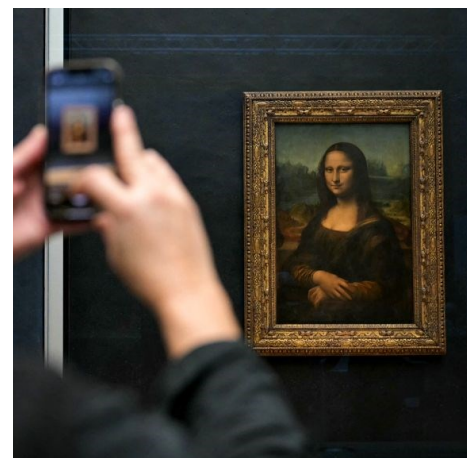
You will then begin your guided visit with skip-the-line tickets to the Louvre, one of the most visited museums in the world. Your guide will lead you through the galleries of this extraordinary French institution, helping you discover some of the museum's most celebrated masterpieces and understand the evolution of the Louvre through its remarkable architecture and design.

During the visit, you will admire iconic works such as the Venus de Milo, the Winged Victory of Samothrace and Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, along with other exceptional pieces by artists such as David, Géricault and Delacroix.

At the end of your tour, you will have the option to continue exploring the museum independently and at your own pace.

Note: A **private** tour can also be arranged upon request, should you prefer a more personalised and flexible visit. This would be quoted separately.

The Louvre is one of the greatest museums in the world and an essential stop for any art and culture lover visiting Paris. Originally a medieval fortress and later a royal palace, it has evolved over the centuries into an extraordinary museum housing more than 35,000 works of art, from antiquity to the 19th century. Its vast galleries, monumental architecture and world-famous masterpieces make it one of the most important cultural landmarks in France.



Eiffel Tower tickets with escorted access — approx. 2 hrs

Later in the day, you will visit one of the world's most iconic landmarks: the Eiffel Tower.

With your pre-booked admission ticket, you will meet a member of the local team near the Eiffel Tower. As you stroll towards the monument, your host will share an introduction to its history, engineering and cultural significance.

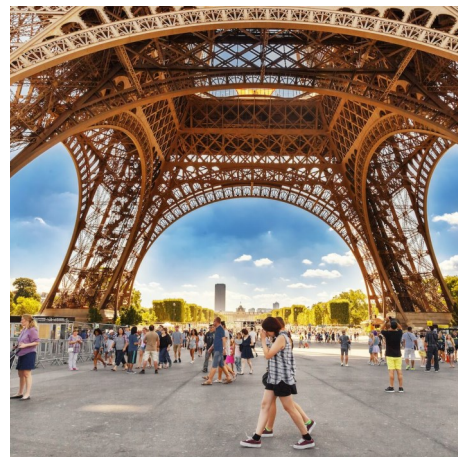
Upon arrival, your host will assist you through the entry process, accompany you through the mandatory security lines and escort you into the tower, ensuring a smooth and well-organised start to your visit. They will also provide practical information about the different levels and facilities before accompanying you to the elevator.

From there, the rest of the experience is yours to enjoy independently and at your own pace.

Your ticket includes access to all visitor levels of the Eiffel Tower, including the summit. You may begin on the first floor, where you can admire views over the Champ de Mars and step onto the tower's famous glass floor. Continue to the second floor for panoramic views across Paris, with landmarks such as Notre-Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, Les Invalides, Montmartre and the Champs-Élysées visible in the distance.

The highlight of the experience is the summit, the highest point accessible to visitors, offering an unforgettable 360-degree panorama over Paris and beyond.

Few monuments capture the spirit of Paris quite like the Eiffel Tower. Built for the 1889 Universal Exposition, it was once considered a daring feat of engineering and has since become the city's most recognisable symbol. Rising proudly above the skyline, it offers one of the most spectacular perspectives over the French capital, from the historic heart of the city to the elegant avenues, domes, gardens and rooftops that define Paris.



DAY 4: Versailles Half-Day Trip

Half-day small group tour to Versailles from Paris — approx. 5 hrs

Today, enjoy a half-day excursion from Paris to discover the magnificent Palace and Gardens of Versailles, one of the most iconic royal estates in France.

You will travel in comfort aboard a small, air-conditioned minivan, with round-trip transportation from a central Paris meeting point. The group size is limited to a maximum of 8 participants, making this a comfortable and efficient way to visit Versailles.

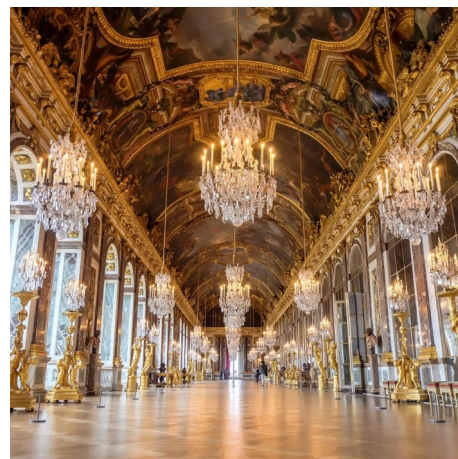
Upon arrival, your priority access ticket will allow you to avoid the long general admission queues during busy periods and begin your visit more smoothly.

Inside the palace, you will explore at your own pace with an audio guide, discovering some of the most beautiful and historically significant rooms of Versailles. Highlights include the King's Grand Apartment, the Hall of Mirrors and the grand ceremonial rooms that reflect the power, refinement and ambition of the French monarchy.

After your palace visit, you will have free time to stroll through the formal Gardens of Versailles, designed by André Le Nôtre. With their elegant perspectives, fountains, statues and perfectly ordered avenues, the gardens offer a wonderful contrast to the richness of the palace interiors. At the end of the visit, return to Paris and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Note: A **private** Versailles experience with private transportation and guide can also be arranged upon request, should you prefer a more personalised and flexible visit. This would be quoted separately.

Versailles is one of the great symbols of royal France. Originally a hunting lodge, it was transformed by Louis XIV into an extraordinary palace that became the centre of political power and court life in the 17th century. Its grand apartments, ceremonial halls and celebrated Hall of Mirrors reflect the splendour of the French monarchy, while the gardens designed by Le Nôtre remain one of the finest examples of classical French landscape design. A visit to Versailles offers a fascinating insight into the art, power and ceremony of the royal court.



Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 5: Paris to Amboise

Morning: Paris to Amboise by train and private transfer

After checking out, you will travel by train from Paris to Saint-Pierre de Corps, a comfortable journey of approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. Upon arrival, your private driver will meet you at the railway station and transfer you to Amboise (aprx. 30 mins), in the heart of the Loire Valley.

Afternoon: Amboise at your own pace

After checking in at your hotel, enjoy time to explore the town at your own pace. Amboise has an attractive historic centre, lovely riverside views and two of the most important historical monuments in the region: the Royal Château of Amboise and the Château du Clos Lucé, better known as the final home of Leonardo da Vinci.

Before visiting the main monuments, today, we recommend taking time just to stroll through the historic district of Amboise, with its small streets, local shops, cafés and restaurants. The Loire River is just a short walk from the main square, and the bridge in the centre of town offers some of the best views of Amboise, the château and the river itself.

Depending on your interests and available time, you may also wish to discover some of the attractions in and around Amboise independently, such as the Saint-Hubert Chapel, the Mini-Châteaux Park, the Pagoda of Chanteloup, the Royal Estate of Château-Gaillard or the Touraine Aquarium.

If your visit falls on a Friday or Sunday morning, you may also enjoy strolling through Amboise's popular local market.

Amboise is one of the most enchanting towns of the Loire Valley, combining royal history, Renaissance elegance and a relaxed riverside atmosphere. Once favoured by French kings, it became an important centre of court life during the Renaissance and remains closely associated with Leonardo da Vinci, who spent his final years nearby at Le Clos Lucé. With its château rising above the town, cobbled streets, river views, local markets and surrounding vineyards, Amboise makes a beautiful base from which to begin exploring the Loire Valley.

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 6: Loire Valley E-Bike Tour & Chambord

Full-day small group e-bike tour through the Loire Valley châteaux — approx. 25 km

Today, enjoy a scenic guided e-bike tour through the Loire Valley, combining countryside landscapes, château heritage and a relaxed outdoor experience.

From your selected meeting point in Tours, Amboise or directly at Villesavin Castle, set off by e-bike through the monumental forest of Chambord, an estate of more than 13,000 acres surrounded by 32 km of stone walls.

Cycle among peaceful forest paths before arriving at the magnificent Château de Chambord, one of the great symbols of the French Renaissance. Your guide will introduce you to its most iconic rooms and architectural details, before allowing you time to explore this UNESCO World Heritage site at your own pace.

Lunch is at leisure today, either as a picnic or at one of the options available within the park.

In the afternoon, continue by e-bike to Château de Villesavin, built by Jean le Breton, minister under François I and supervisor of Chambord's construction. Enjoy time to stroll around this charming family château and taste local specialities before returning to your original meeting point.

Note: A **private** experience with private transportation and guide can also be arranged upon request. This would be quoted separately.

The Loire Valley is one of France's most graceful cultural landscapes, where forests, vineyards and Renaissance châteaux come together beautifully. Cycling through this region offers a gentle and immersive way to enjoy its wooded paths, historic estates and open countryside. Château de Chambord is one of the Loire Valley's most recognisable landmarks and a masterpiece of the French Renaissance, famous for its monumental scale and double-helix staircase traditionally associated with Leonardo da Vinci.

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 7: Boat, Wine & Clos Lucé

Half-day private boat & wine tasting experience — approx. 4 hrs

Today, enjoy a refined private experience through the heart of the Loire Valley, where vineyard traditions meet the serenity of the river.

Your English-speaking driver-guide will pick you up from your accommodation and transfer you to the riverside, where you will board a traditional Loire river boat.

Relax as you cruise along the gently flowing waters, taking in the natural landscapes of the Loire Valley and views of timeless châteaux such as Château de Montsoreau or Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire, depending on the final route and river conditions.

During your boat experience, you will enjoy a tasting of at least three different Loire Valley wines, carefully selected to showcase the diversity of the region. The wines will be paired with delicious local delicacies, making this a peaceful and authentic way to experience the flavours and landscapes of the Loire.

After the cruise, your driver-guide will transfer you back to your accommodation.



Self-guided visit of Château du Clos Lucé and gardens — tickets included

Later, discover the fascinating Château du Clos Lucé, one of the great Loire Valley châteaux to visit in Touraine and the final home of Leonardo da Vinci.

Your tickets include a self-guided visit of the Château du Clos Lucé, Leonardo da Vinci Park, and the galleries dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci as painter, architect and inventor.

During your visit, you will explore the rooms of this elegant red-brick residence, including Leonardo's bedroom, the bedroom of Marguerite de Navarre, the kitchen, the council room and the workshops. The visit also includes a unique collection of models and inventions inspired by Leonardo's notebooks, displayed throughout the château and its beautifully wooded park.

The Loire Valley is a region where history, wine and river landscapes come together beautifully. Its gentle waterways, vineyard-covered hills and Renaissance châteaux create one of France's most elegant cultural landscapes. A private boat experience offers a particularly peaceful way to appreciate the valley, combining scenic views, local wines and the quiet rhythm of life along the river.

Château du Clos Lucé holds a special place in the history of France and the Renaissance. In 1516, Leonardo da Vinci accepted the invitation of King Francis I to settle in Amboise, bringing with him his notebooks and several major works. He spent the last three years of his life at Clos Lucé, working as an engineer, architect, artist and organiser of court festivities. Today, the château and its gardens bring his extraordinary world to life through his living spaces, workshops, inventions and creative legacy.



Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 8: Amboise to La Rochelle

Morning: Amboise to La Rochelle by private transfer and train

After checking out, your private driver will transfer you from Amboise to Saint-Pierre-des-Corps railway station, where you will take the train to La Rochelle, on France's Atlantic coast.

Upon arrival, you will make your way to your hotel and have some time to settle in before your afternoon guided visit.



This afternoon, enjoy a private guided walking tour of La Rochelle with your local guide.

Following a circuit of approximately 5 km, you will explore the city under its elegant arcades and around the old ports, discovering its most remarkable buildings and the stories behind them. Your guide will bring to life the complex history of this beautiful and independent-minded Atlantic city, from its role as a major trading port to its English, French, Templar and Protestant influences. During the visit, you will learn how La Rochelle became one of the great Atlantic trading cities before the rise of Nantes and Bordeaux. Its wealth came from trade with Scandinavia, New France and the West Indies, leaving behind magnificent Renaissance buildings, imposing mansions and the city's famous medieval towers.

La Rochelle is one of the most atmospheric port cities on France's Atlantic coast. Long shaped by maritime trade, religious conflict and its fiercely independent spirit, it has a rich and layered history that can still be felt in its old harbour, arcaded streets and elegant stone façades. Its famous towers, historic quays and merchant houses speak of a prosperous trading past, while its lively streets and seaside setting give the city a relaxed and distinctive coastal charm.

Meals included: Breakfast



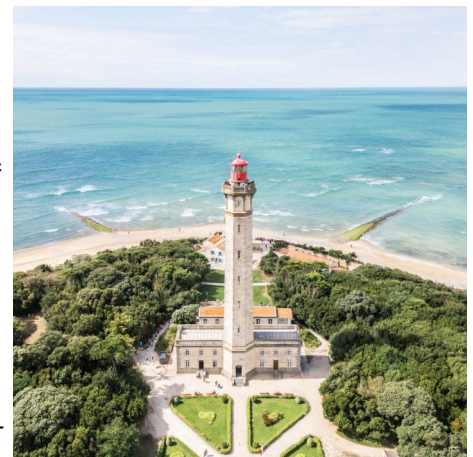
DAY 9: Île de Ré Day Trip

Private day trip to Île de Ré with driver-guide

Today, enjoy a private day trip to Île de Ré, one of the most charming islands on France's Atlantic coast.

Your private driver-guide will pick you up from your hotel in La Rochelle and drive you across the bridge to Île de Ré. Once on the island, you will spend the day discovering its whitewashed villages, coastal landscapes, small harbours, markets and relaxed seaside atmosphere.

The day can include stops in some of the island's most beautiful villages, such as Saint-Martin-de-Ré, known for its pretty harbour and historic fortifications; La Flotte, with its traditional market and charming streets; and Ars-en-Ré, famous for its distinctive black-and-white church spire and peaceful village atmosphere.



Your driver-guide will accompany you throughout the day, suggesting the best viewpoints, scenic stops and local places to explore. Depending on the season and your interests, the route can also include the island's salt marshes, oyster-farming areas, beaches and coastal paths, with time for lunch at leisure in a harbour village or by the sea.

After a relaxed day exploring Île de Ré, your driver-guide will transfer you back to your hotel in La Rochelle.

Île de Ré is beloved for its understated elegance and gentle Atlantic charm. Connected to La Rochelle by bridge, the island is known for its whitewashed houses with green shutters, flower-filled lanes, sandy beaches, salt marshes and picturesque harbour villages. Life here moves at an easy rhythm, with bicycles, markets, seafood terraces and coastal views creating one of the most relaxed and authentic seaside experiences on the French Atlantic coast.

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 10: Cognac on the way to Sarlat

Full-day private transfer from La Rochelle to Sarlat-la-Canéda, with a stop in Cognac

After checking out, your private driver-guide will pick you up from your hotel in La Rochelle and drive you south-east towards the Dordogne region, with a stop in Cognac along the way.

On arrival in Cognac, you will have time to discover this elegant riverside town, world-famous for the spirit that bears its name. Your visit will include a Cognac house experience with a guided visit and tasting, offering an introduction to the region's celebrated distilling traditions.

Depending on timing, you may also enjoy a short walk through the historic centre or along the Charente River before continuing your journey.

After your time in Cognac, continue by private vehicle towards the Dordogne, passing through the gentle countryside of south-west France before arriving in Sarlat-la-Canéda, one of the most beautiful historic towns of the Périgord.

Upon arrival, check in at your accommodation and enjoy the evening at leisure.

Cognac is a refined town set on the banks of the Charente River, known throughout the world for its prestigious eaux-de-vie and centuries-old trading houses. Its historic centre, riverside warehouses and elegant façades reflect the prosperity brought by the Cognac trade, while its cellars and tasting rooms offer an insight into one of France's most celebrated traditions.

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 11: Périgord Experience

Full-day private discovery of the Dordogne and Périgord region

Today, spend the day discovering the beautiful Périgord region, an area known for its medieval villages, prehistoric heritage, rolling countryside and exceptional gastronomy.

Your private driver-guide will pick you up from your accommodation in Sarlat-la-Canéda and take you through the scenic landscapes of the Dordogne. Depending on the final route and the day of the week, the experience can include a visit to a local market, where you can discover regional products such as walnuts, duck, cheeses, seasonal vegetables, preserves and, when in season, truffles.

The day can also include a farm or gastronomy experience, offering an authentic insight into the food traditions of the Périgord. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about local production and taste some of the flavours for which the Dordogne is so famous.

You will also enjoy a guided visit of the Lascaux cave replica, one of the most important prehistoric sites in Europe. During the visit, you will discover the extraordinary cave paintings that have made Lascaux world-famous, gaining a deeper understanding of prehistoric art, symbolism and daily life thousands of years ago.

After a day combining food, history and countryside landscapes, your driver-guide will transfer you back to your accommodation in Sarlat-la-Canéda.

Transport:

Local driving around the Dordogne: approx. 1–2 hrs total, depending on the final route

The Périgord is one of France's most atmospheric rural regions, where medieval towns, castles, river valleys and prehistoric sites are woven into a landscape of forests, farms and golden-stone villages. The area is also renowned for its gastronomy, from walnuts and strawberries to foie gras, duck, mushrooms and truffles. Around Sarlat-la-Canéda, history and flavour come together beautifully, offering an authentic taste of the Dordogne countryside.

Lascaux is one of the great treasures of prehistoric Europe. Its remarkable cave paintings, created more than 17,000 years ago, reveal the artistic skill and symbolic world of early humans. Although the original cave is now protected, the visitor experience allows you to appreciate the power, beauty and mystery of these extraordinary works in a carefully recreated setting.

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 12: Bergerac on the way to Bordeaux

Private transfer from Sarlat-la-Canéda to Bordeaux, with a stop in Bergerac

After checking out, your private driver will pick you up from your accommodation in Sarlat-la-Canéda and drive you towards Bordeaux, with a stop in Bergerac along the way.

Set along the gentle banks of the Dordogne River, Bergerac is a charming town that perfectly captures the atmosphere of southwestern France. During your stop, you will have time to explore its historic centre, a maze of cobbled streets lined with cafés, boutiques, timber-framed houses and flower-filled courtyards.

Depending on timing and your interests, you may wish to visit the Maison des Vins, located near the river, where you can discover the wines of Bergerac and Monbazillac. Alternatively, you could enjoy a short stroll along the riverfront or simply take time to soak up the relaxed atmosphere of the old town.

For wine lovers, an optional visit to the nearby Château de Monbazillac may be arranged, subject to timing and availability. Any entrance fees or tastings would be quoted separately.

After your visit, continue by private vehicle to Bordeaux. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

We will provide you with recommendations for places to eat, drink and explore during your free time in Bordeaux.

Bergerac is one of the most appealing towns of the Dordogne Valley, where medieval charm, river life and wine culture come together beautifully. Its old town is full of character, with half-timbered houses, lively squares and reminders of Cyrano de Bergerac, while the surrounding vineyards produce some of the region's most distinctive wines. From its riverside setting to its markets, restaurants and nearby châteaux, Bergerac offers a wonderful final taste of the Dordogne before continuing towards Bordeaux.

Bordeaux is one of France's most elegant cities, known for its grand 18th-century architecture, lively riverfront and world-renowned wine culture. Its UNESCO-listed centre, graceful squares, historic gates and vibrant food scene make it a wonderful city to explore at leisure. From the famous Water Mirror and Place de la Bourse to Rue Sainte-Catherine, the Garonne River and the Cité du Vin, Bordeaux offers the perfect balance of heritage, gastronomy and urban charm.

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 13: Bordeaux Gourmet Tour & Cité du Vin

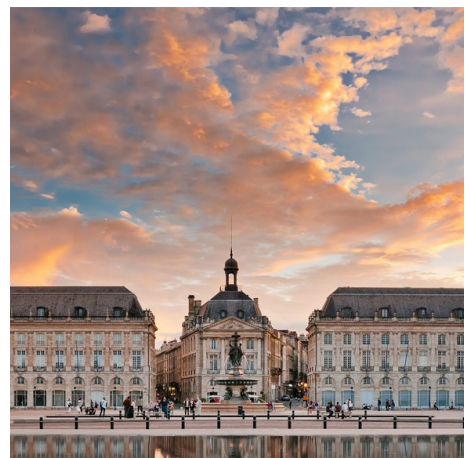
Morning: Private Bordeaux gourmet walking tour — approx. 3 hrs

This morning, enjoy a private guided walking tour of **Bordeaux**, one of France's most elegant and historic cities.

Your local guide will introduce you to the city's graceful architecture, lively squares, historic neighbourhoods and beautiful riverfront. During the tour, you will discover some of Bordeaux's most emblematic sights, such as the **Place de la Bourse**, the **Water Mirror**, the **Grand Théâtre**, the **Grosse Cloche**, the medieval gates and the atmospheric old quarter.

Along the way, you will meet local artisans and enjoy a selection of regional specialities, which may include local cheeses paired with wine, canelés, Dunes Blanches pastries, chocolates, noisettines and local honey.

Bordeaux is one of the most beautiful cities in France, known for its harmonious 18th-century architecture, grand avenues and lively riverfront along the Garonne. Once one of Europe's great trading ports, the city has transformed into a vibrant cultural capital while preserving its historic elegance. Its UNESCO-listed centre, graceful squares, wine heritage and excellent gastronomy make Bordeaux a wonderful city to explore on foot.



Self-guided visit of the Cité du Vin — skip-the-line tickets and tasting included

The afternoon is free for you to visit the Cité du Vin independently. This striking contemporary museum is dedicated to the world of wine, with immersive exhibitions exploring wine culture, history, landscapes and traditions from around the world.

Your visit can be enjoyed at your own pace, and usually ends with a tasting experience overlooking the city from the panoramic belvedere.

The Cité du Vin has become one of Bordeaux's most recognisable modern landmarks. More than a traditional museum, it offers an immersive journey through the history, geography and culture of wine across the world. Its bold architecture, interactive exhibitions and panoramic tasting space make it a fitting introduction to Bordeaux's deep connection with wine.

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 14: Arcachon & Dune du Pilat

Small-group visit to Arcachon Bay — approx. 6 hrs

Today, enjoy a small-group excursion to the magnificent Arcachon Bay, a stunning natural bay on the Atlantic coast, located less than an hour from Bordeaux.

Meet your local bilingual guide in central Bordeaux and drive towards the coast. Along the way, your guide will introduce you to the landscapes and traditions of the Arcachon Basin, a 1,500-hectare bay fed by the Atlantic Ocean, often taking on the colours of a lagoon.

Upon arrival, visit the spectacular Dune du Pilat, the highest sand dune in Europe, rising to around 110 metres. Climb to the top and enjoy sweeping views over the ocean, Arcachon Bay and the Landes forest, followed by a glass of white wine.

You will then continue to the town of Arcachon, where your guide will introduce you to the unique 19th-century architecture of the winter district and the elegant coastline of Pereire Beach. This area is known for its eccentric villas, once built by the French upper classes as seaside retreats.

The experience ends with lunch at a local producer's, where you will taste the region's famous oysters, accompanied by a glass of white wine, while enjoying views of the port. Please note that the local producer serves fresh oysters or shrimps only, with no alternative available on this tour.

After the visit, return to Bordeaux and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Arcachon Bay is one of the most beautiful natural sites on France's Atlantic coast, where tides, sandbanks, pine forests and ocean light create an ever-changing landscape. Known for its oyster farms, seaside villas and relaxed coastal atmosphere, it offers a wonderful contrast to the city of Bordeaux. Nearby, the Dune du Pilat rises dramatically above the bay and the Landes forest, offering one of the most memorable views in western France.

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch



DAY 15: Médoc & Saint-Émilion Wine Day

Full-day small-group Médoc and Saint-Émilion wine experience

Today, enjoy a full-day wine experience discovering two of Bordeaux's most prestigious wine regions: the Médoc and Saint-Émilion.

Your English-speaking guide will meet you in Bordeaux and drive you towards the Médoc, on Bordeaux's Left Bank. As you travel through the famous wine route, your guide will introduce you to the history of Bordeaux wines and the legendary appellations that have shaped the region's reputation, such as Margaux, Pauillac and Saint-Estèphe.

Your first visit will be at a beautiful classified growth château, where you will walk through the vineyards, visit the vat room and cellar, and learn about the winemaking process from vine to bottle. The visit will finish with a tasting of the estate's wines.

You will then continue to a second wine estate, possibly a smaller family-run property, where you will enjoy a more intimate introduction to the Bordeaux grape varieties and the character of the Médoc terroir. The visit may include a tasting accompanied by a light aperitif of local French delicacies such as fresh bread and cheese.



Afterwards, continue towards Saint-Émilion, on Bordeaux's Right Bank. Lunch is included at a charming wine estate.

During the day, you will also take part in an introductory wine-tasting class, learning how to identify the principal aromas, flavours and characteristics of Bordeaux wines.

In the afternoon, visit an authentic château in the Saint-Émilion wine region. Your visit will usually begin in the vineyards, followed by a tour of the traditional vat room and cellar, before finishing with a tasting of the château's wines.

The day will also include time to discover the famous medieval village of Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO-listed site known for its atmospheric streets, limestone architecture, underground heritage and beautiful views over the surrounding vineyards.

After a full day of wine, history and landscapes, return to Bordeaux.

Note: A **private** tour can also be arranged upon request, should you prefer a more personalised and flexible visit. This would be quoted separately.

The Médoc, located on Bordeaux's Left Bank, is synonymous with some of the world's most prestigious red wines. Known for Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant blends, gravelly soils and iconic appellations such as Pauillac, Margaux and Saint-Estèphe, the region produces powerful, structured wines with remarkable ageing potential. Its landscape is dotted with grand châteaux, elegant estates and historic vineyards, making it an essential destination for lovers of classic Bordeaux wines.

Saint-Émilion, on Bordeaux's Right Bank, offers a very different but equally captivating wine experience. This picturesque medieval village is surrounded by vineyards known for rich, Merlot-based wines, shaped by limestone and clay soils. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Saint-Émilion combines wine excellence with historic charm, from ancient streets and family-run estates to underground cellars and sweeping vineyard views. Together, Médoc and Saint-Émilion reveal two distinct and complementary sides of Bordeaux wine culture.

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch



DAY 16: Departure

We will arrange for a private driver to take you to the airport for your flight home :(

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end...

We hope you enjoyed your stay with us here in France.

À la prochaine!

Meals included: Breakfast



PRO TIP: Optional Beyond France Extensions

If you would like to extend your journey beyond western France, we would be delighted to create a customised itinerary combining more of France and/or continuing into Spain, Portugal or Morocco.

This itinerary can be adapted in different ways. For example, your journey could continue from Bordeaux towards northern Spain, including regions such as the Basque Country, La Rioja or beyond. Alternatively, the route could also be arranged in reverse, starting in Spain and travelling north through Bordeaux, the Charente and the Loire Valley before ending in Paris.

We can also design a wider journey including Portugal or Morocco, depending on your interests, preferred pace and travel dates.

Let us know your ideal arrival and departure cities, as well as the regions you would most like to explore, and we will be happy to assist with any pre- or post-tour arrangements to create a seamless multi-country journey.

PRICE & INCLUSIONS



ACCOMMODATION

At Just Explore we understand one of the biggest worries when booking a holiday is the standard for your hotel. That's why we only use pre-viewed character hotels with great locations to help you relax and enjoy your stay with us.

Your accommodation will be made up of:

4-star hotels with double rooms sharing

Breakfasts included - All centrally located where possible

Air conditioning - En-suite rooms

TRANSPORT (all included)

Luxury AC vehicle

All private transfers from airport/railway station to hotels and vice versa.

All private transfers from town to town mentioned in above Itinerary.

All trains and flights mentioned in the above itinerary.

GUIDED VISITS & TOURS (all entrance fees included)

Paris - Panoramic city tour

Paris - Notre-Dame & Île de la Cité guided visit

Paris - Seine River cruise

Paris - Louvre Museum guided visit

Paris - Eiffel Tower entrance ticket

Versailles - Half-day trip

Loire Valley - E-bike tour to Chambord & Villesavin

Loire Valley - Private boat & wine tasting

Amboise - Clos Lucé visit

La Rochelle - City tour

Île de Ré - Day trip

Cognac - Cognac house visit & tasting

Dordogne - Périgord experience

Dordogne - Lascaux cave replica visit

Bergerac - Stop en route to Bordeaux

Bordeaux - Gourmet walking tour

Arcachon Bay - Dune du Pilat & oyster tasting

Médoc & Saint-Émilion - Wine day trip

MEALS & TASTINGS (all included)

- 4 wine and food tastings in Loire Valley, Cognac, Arcachon and Saint-Emillion

Assistance During Your Trip

Full support & assistance on hand 24/7

As with all our clients we will provide you with maps, a list of recommended places to visit, bars & restaurants etc. to help you enjoy the authentic Spain whilst you're exploring at your leisure.

Insurance

We recommend that all travelers take out there own private medical & travel insurance whilst traveling to avoid any unforeseen expenses...

Please Note:

The above itinerary may change at any time due to circumstances beyond our control. We will duly advise of any such changes as soon as possible.

PRICE* (Per person)

Depends on the number of travelers and dates

Please enquire for further details

*Children older than 12 pay full price

* Subject to our standard terms & conditions (full details on separate sheet)

