

# THE ESSENCE & ELEGANCE OF FRANCE



operatunity

*Travel*

Romance, Music, Style, Gardens,  
History and Beauty

26 MAY ~ 19 JUNE 2017



# THE ESSENCE & ELEGANCE OF FRANCE

Romance, Music, Style, Gardens, History and Beauty

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## Be captivated by the beauty of France, with its effortless style and impeccable taste!

From elegant chateaux and grand boulevards to charming villages, fairy tale castles, thousand-year-old cathedrals and glorious countryside and gardens, we will be enthralled by it all. From the romance of Paris with its magnificent buildings, cafes and inspiring art galleries, to the charm and quaintness of beautiful historical villages, we will understand how this country has inspired so many of the greatest artists, poets and composers.

But France is more than that. It is a sensual experience that effortlessly engulfs all our senses.

**TASTE:** mouth-watering ham off the bone, cheese and warm French bread from a local food market in Provence, exquisite chocolates, vintage wines, gourmet meals and cooking demonstrations. Ah, but best of all is the pastries which melt in your mouth and we know why: butter!

**SIGHT:** A visual symphony of colour - French countryside, architecture, gardens and art, vast texture and beauty with so much history and colour including the very garden that inspired Monet to paint as well as many of his actual paintings in the Louvre, the Orangerie and the Musee D'Orsay.

**SOUNDS** of France, the music like Rigoletto, Verdi's masterpiece with confirmed tickets at the Paris Opera Bastille, Sainte-Chapelle twilight concert, other concerts to be confirmed plus the beauty of the language.

**SCENT:** and the essence of France, its perfume, the scent of flowers in one of our fairy tale castles in the Loire Valley, garlic wafting from a street stall, the smell of freshly baked bread or chalk from a picture drawn by a street artist in Paris beside the Seine.

**FEEL:** But the best of all is how France makes us feel. Romantic, captivated, wondrous, spell-bound, breathless. France gave us the phrase Joie de Vivre. This is what we will feel!



Provence



Chateau de Chenoueau

## PLACES WE STAY

**Scribe Paris Opera Hotel by Sofitel** is a five star hotel, ideally located between the Opéra Garnier, La Madeleine, the Louvre, Place Vendôme and the department stores and occupies a majestic 19th century building.

**The Cité de Carcassonne Hotel** is a historic hotel with an amazing history situated in the heart of the medieval fortress. Overlooking the lower town, it offers an amazing panoramic view of the city walls.

**Le Manoir du Lys, Normandy** is an authentic hunters' lodge nestled in the Andaine forest this period resort is surrounded by three hectares of parklands.

**Hotel le Domaine de Beauvois, Tours** is a 4 star hotel, located west of Tours on the road to the vineyards and surrounded by forests, meadows and a pond.

**Hotel le Canberra, Cannes** is a glamorous boutique hotel located centrally, across the street from the shops on Rue d'Antibes, is a 7-minute walk from the beach and 1.2 km from Palais des Festivals et des Congrès.

**Hotel de Selves, Sarlat-la-Canéda** is set in beautiful gardens with wide terraces and an amazing swimming pool, just 400m walk from the old town.



## SINGAPORE

### (1 night plus late check out - outbound) (Early check in, 1 night, late check out – inbound) ~ York Hotel

The York Hotel is conveniently located in the heart of the city. It is a short distance to Orchard Road, Singapore's main shopping and entertainment belt.

#### HIGHLIGHTS in Singapore include:

- Local tour with guide.
- High tea at Raffles Hotel.

### PARIS (4 nights plus early check in) ~ Scribe Paris Opera Hotel by Sofitel

Paris is the capital and largest city of France. The city is built on an arc of the River Seine, and is thus divided into two parts: the Right Bank to the north and the smaller Left Bank to the south. Paris is also famous for its tree-lined boulevards such as the Champs-Élysées, and for its many architectural gems.

#### HIGHLIGHTS in Paris include:

- Numerous musical experiences including Rigoletto, with confirmed tickets at the Paris Opera Bastille, plus Sainte-Chapelle twilight chamber concert.
- A beautiful welcome dinner cruise on the Seine River to watch the beautiful sights of Paris.
- Drive around Paris to see some of its famous monuments by night.
- City tour of Paris including Champs-Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, Invalides and Eiffel Tower plus a visit to the magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral.
- Tour of the fabulous Louvre Museum with private guide and see amongst other famous art treasures, the Mona Lisa.
- Day free to explore Paris at leisure.
- Excursion to Versailles Palace and Gardens when the fountains are operating.

#### On route to NORMANDY, highlights include:

- A visit to Giverny to see Claude Monet's house and glorious gardens including lunch.
- Our first chance to see the beautiful French countryside.



## **BAGNOLES DE L'ORNE, NORMANDY (3 nights) ~ Le Manoir du Lys**

Le Manoir du Lys is an elegant and classic French mansion, with beautiful individually decorated rooms. It is situated in the beautiful Normandy countryside.

### **HIGHLIGHTS in Normandy include:**

- ☞ A demonstration of French culinary skills followed by dinner. Bon appétit!
- ☞ A drive through an ocean of rolling green meadows and thick forest brings us to the border of Normandy and Brittany.
- ☞ Visit to the most splendid of all the abbeys of France, Le Mont-St-Michel.
- ☞ Time at leisure in lovely Bagnoles de l'Orne plus time to enjoy our lovely country manor house, a walk in the woods or swim in the pool before relaxing with a glass of renowned Normandy cider over dinner.
- ☞ Drive to the D-Day landing beaches, and visit Arromanches Museum.
- ☞ Drive to Bayeux and view the 11th century tapestry embroidered by Queen Mathilda.

### **On route to THE LOIRE VALLEY, highlights include:**

- ☞ Drive to Saumler, famous for its 10th century fairy tale castle over looking Loire Valley.
- ☞ Visit the Chateau Villandry, and enjoy a guided tour of the Chateau and its famous 16th century gardens.

## **TOURS (2 nights)**

### **~ Hotel Le Domaine de Beauvois**

The Loire River is in the region of Saumur, famous for its fairytale castles, sparkling wine and mushrooms.

### **HIGHLIGHTS in the Loire Valley include:**

- ☞ Visit 'The Chateau of Six Women' at Chenonceau with local guide plus gardens.
- ☞ Visit the quaint little town of Amboise.
- ☞ Afternoon wine tasting in Tours.

### **On route to SARLAT-LA-CANEDA highlights include:**

- ☞ Visit to the Limoges Factory, famous for its manufacture of bone china since the 18th century.

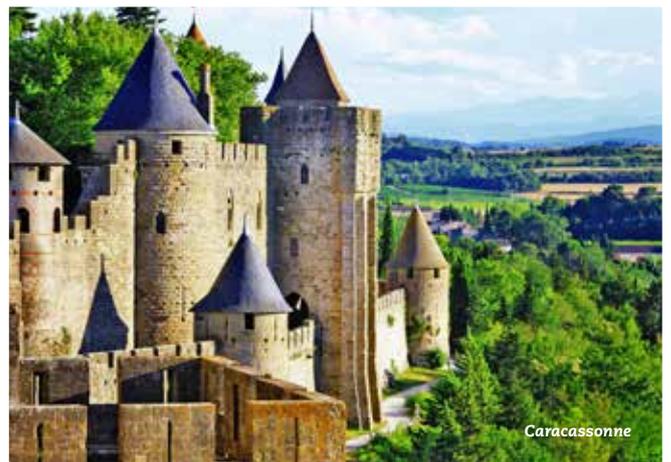
## **SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA (3 nights)**

### **~ Hotel de Selves**

Considered one of the most beautiful towns in France, Sarlat-la-Canéda is a picturesque tangle of honey-coloured buildings, alleyways and secret squares!

### **HIGHLIGHTS in Sarlat-la-Canéda include:**

- ☞ Morning walking tour of Sarlat with private guide.
- ☞ Visit the small food market in Place de la Liberté.
- ☞ Scenic drive of the Dordogne, visit Lascaux II - Stone Age cave drawings.
- ☞ Visit Rocamadour, a small clifftop village.
- ☞ Free time to wander Sarlat at leisure.



## CARGASSONNE (1 night)

### ~ Hotel de la Cité

Carcassonne, is a medieval citadel famous for its 53 watchtowers and double-walled fortifications that have stood the test of time and look today much as they did 700 years ago.

#### HIGHLIGHTS in Carcassonne include:

- 👁️ Guided tour with local guide.
- 👁️ Stay at the 5 star luxury Hotel de la Cité
- 👁️ Free time to explore this stunning town.

#### On route to AVIGNON highlights include:

- 👁️ Visit the Pont du Gard, an almost perfectly preserved aqueduct built by the Romans in the 1st century and regarded as one of the wonders of the ancient world.

## AVIGNON (2 nights)

### ~ Avignon Grand Hotel

Avignon, a city in southeastern France's Provence region, is set on the Rhône River. From 1309 to 1377, it was the seat of the Catholic popes, and remained under papal rule until becoming part of France in 1791.

#### HIGHLIGHTS in Avignon include:

- 👁️ Sightseeing of Avignon, including a visit to the Papal Palace on walking tour with private guide and the Place de l'Horloge and the Pont St Bénézet's, the bridge across the Rhône River made famous by the song 'Sur le pont d'Avignon'.
- 👁️ Note we are here when the Festival d'Avignon is on so we have included one performance either there or at the Avignon Grand Opera, subject to availability

- 👁️ Visit the lovely town of St Rémy-de-Provence. Nostradamus was born here in 1503 and for one very productive year Vincent Van Gogh lived among its tree-lined boulevards, narrow streets and bubbling fountains.
- 👁️ Walking tour of St Rémy-de-Provence with a private guide
- 👁️ Visit Saint Paul-de-Mausole (Van Gogh – Starry Night)
- 👁️ View the citadel of Les Baux-de-Provence
- 👁️ Visit the Carrières de Lumières



**On route to CANNES highlights include:**

- 👁 Scenic and leisurely drive to Cannes via the Luberon and Alpes-Maritimes.

**CANNES (3 nights)  
~ Hotel Le Canberra**

Cannes is the “star” of the French Riviera, famous for the International Film Festival and the glitzy hotels, cars, beaches and visitors attracted here.

The hotel is located in the very heart of the city. We can act like a star and stroll down La Croisette or Rue d'Antibes with their luxury boutiques or take a five minute walk to Palais des Festivals.

**HIGHLIGHTS in Cannes include:**

- 👁 Morning drive to extraordinarily fortified hill-top village of St-Paul- de-Vence with ample time to shop and explore.
- 👁 Cannes for afternoon at leisure to explore and shop.
- 👁 Monte Carlo and Monaco with drive along the famed corniches of the French Riviera.
- 👁 A coastal drive along the famed ‘corniches’ of the French Riviera towards Antibes, Nice and Monaco.
- 👁 Visit Villa Ephrussi and Gardens (from the book, The Hare with Amber Eyes). A member of the Rothschild banking family, Béatrice de Rothschild built her rose-colored villa, filled with sculpture and art and surrounded by what is considered one of the most notable gardens in France.
- 👁 Dinner of regional cuisine in local restaurant on one of the Corniches.

**On route to PARIS, highlights include:**

- 👁 Orientation tour of Nice and short time to explore city.
- 👁 Early afternoon we board the 300 km an hour high speed TGV train and speed off to our final night in Paris.

**PARIS (1 night)  
~ Scribe Paris Opera Hotel by Sofitel**

Farewell dinner in a charming character filled restaurant including music and wine in Latin Quarter.





## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 👁 For further information please ring our office or visit our website.
- 👁 All trips are subject to change but any changes will be of equal or greater value.
- 👁 All deposits are refundable up until final payment date minus any costs that the company has incurred.
- 👁 Please refer to our terms and conditions on our booking form.
- 👁 While we carefully plan our trips to be well paced, all travellers need to possess a certain level of fitness. Some trips are more arduous and carry an advisory note in the itinerary that a specific level of fitness is required.
- 👁 Operatunity Travel requires all travellers to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. Please be sure to ring our office if you require any information or clarification about insurance or any questions regarding travelling with Operatunity Travel.

For your travel bookings call our Travel Department toll free on 0508 886 489 or email [travel@operatunity.co.nz](mailto:travel@operatunity.co.nz)

**\$18,529** *per person twin share*

*Single Room supplement add \$4,930*

**Initial Deposit on booking \$2,000**  
**Second Deposit due 7 December 2016 \$3,000**  
**Final Balance due 31 January 2017**

*Deposits refundable (less costs incurred) prior to FINAL BALANCE DUE DATE. Itinerary details are subject to change, however any changes will be replaced with a comparable or better option. All our trips are specifically designed for our core market but this trip does contain travel challenges, either because of the region visited or the walking distances or uneven surfaces that arise at some sites. We do advise that you and your doctor evaluate your level of fitness before you consider booking this tour.*

### THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

- Singapore Airlines return flights to Paris with stopovers in Singapore each way including taxes.
- Fully escorted 25 day tour with beautiful accommodation including 3 nights in Normandy, 3 nights in Sarlat-la-Canéda, 2 nights in Avignon, 2 nights in Tours, 1 night in Carcassonne and 3 nights in Cannes.
- 5 nights plus early check in Paris at the magnificent 5 star Scribe Hotel, including city tour, Tour of the Louvre, Notre Dame, night cruise on the River Seine, Versailles Palace & garden excursion.
- 5 musical experiences including Rigoletto at the Paris Opera Bastille (confirmed tickets) plus twilight chamber concert at Sainte-Chapelle Plus other concerts to be confirmed.
- Special flavours including French cooking demonstration, wandering local French markets and cute villages such as St Rémy-de-Provence, Bayeaux tapestries, wine tasting, Limoges factory tour, fabulous churches, museums and galleries.
- All excursions, entrances and tours as listed in this itinerary, with full time guide as well as local guides for special places of interest.
- Visits to many famous houses and gardens including Claude Monet's house and glorious gardens, the 16th century gardens of Chateau Villandry, The Chateau of Six Women, and the Luberon region.
- D-Day landing beaches and Arromanches museum.
- Other highlights include Loire Valley, Lascaux (Stone Age cave drawings), Pont du Gard, Monte Carlo, Mont St Michel, and TGV train for speedy rail journey Nice to Paris.
- All tips, portage and taxes.
- All breakfasts, 1 afternoon tea, 3 lunches and 7 dinners included.
- Escorted by Sue, John and our European guide the fabulous Fred!

## THE YEAR AHEAD

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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