

## 14 Days | The Best of France with Flights | 2024 & 2025

Paris - Dijon - Lyon - French Riviera - Avignon - Carcassonne - Lourdes - Bordeaux - Cognac - Loire Valley

From **\$7,999** Typically \$8,999 ✈️ pp twin share



Return International Economy Class Airfares from Australia to Paris

12 Nights of First Class Accommodation throughout your program

Discover the BEST of France with visits to Dijon, Lyon, Avignon, Lourdes and MORE!

Rub shoulders with the Rich and Famous while enjoying the French Riviera

## Description

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Traveling through Paris, Dijon, Lyon, the French Riviera, Avignon, Carcassonne, Lourdes, Bordeaux, Cognac, and the Loire Valley over 14 days is an exceptional journey that allows you to experience the diverse and enchanting facets of France.

Starting in Paris, you'll be immersed in the vibrant art, history, and culture of the French capital. Each city you visit along the way has its own unique cultural identity, offering a fascinating mosaic of France's heritage. France is renowned for its world-class cuisine, and each of these destinations boasts its own culinary specialties. Savor escargot and coq au vin in Lyon, enjoy seafood on the French Riviera, and indulge in Bordeaux wines and Cognac spirits.

From the picturesque coastline of the French Riviera to the vineyard-covered hills of Bordeaux, this journey offers a visual feast. The diversity of landscapes, from the Loire Valley's charming castles to the Mediterranean beaches, is truly breathtaking. Explore the rich history of France as you wander through the medieval streets of Carcassonne, visit the ancient Roman ruins in Avignon, and pay a visit to the sacred pilgrimage site of Lourdes. Lourdes, a significant pilgrimage destination, offers a unique spiritual experience. Whether you are religious or not, the atmosphere in this city is truly moving.

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France is known for its world-class wine and spirits. Bordeaux and Cognac are both famous for their production of exceptional beverages. Touring the vineyards and distilleries is a delightful experience for wine and spirit enthusiasts. Paris, with its iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, sets the stage for architectural wonder. Avignon's Palais des Papes and the fortified city of Carcassonne further showcase France's architectural prowess.

The journey includes stops in picturesque villages throughout the Loire Valley. These quaint towns, with their cobblestone streets and charming cottages, transport you to a different era. The destinations on this route have inspired countless artists, writers, and musicians throughout history. Strolling through these cities can be a great source of inspiration for creative souls. If you time your visit during the spring or summer, you'll experience pleasant weather in most of these destinations, making outdoor activities and sightseeing even more enjoyable.

**Multilingual Experience:** While French is the official language, many people in tourist areas can communicate in English. This makes the journey more accessible to travelers who may not be fluent in French.

Whether you're interested in history, art, wine, beachcombing, spiritual exploration, or simply relaxing in a charming setting, this itinerary offers something for everyone. Embarking on a 14-day journey through multiple regions of France will create lasting memories and a sense of adventure that you'll treasure for a lifetime.

This 14-day journey through Paris, Dijon, Lyon, the French Riviera, Avignon, Carcassonne, Lourdes, Bordeaux, Cognac, and the Loire Valley offers a diverse and enriching experience. From cultural



immersion to culinary delights, historical exploration, and natural beauty, this itinerary showcases the best that France has to offer, making it a great choice for an unforgettable travel experience.

## Itinerary

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### Day 1

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#### Australia ✈ Paris, France

Today you will check-in and board your flight bound for Paris!

**Meals:** Inflight Menu

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### Day 2

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#### Paris

Bonjour! Welcome to Paris... On your arrival into the "City Of Light", transfer to your hotel by taxi. The rest of the day is at leisure. Your tour begins with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 5PM. Afterwards, a cruise on the River Seine introduces you to the beauty of Paris at night.

**Meals:** None

**Accommodation:** Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel or similar

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### Day 3

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#### Paris

Today is a full-day tour of the City. Drive along the impressive Champs Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe, Concorde Square, and the iconic Eiffel Tower, a symbol of Paris. On to the celebrated "Rive Gauche", the vivacious Left Bank, the artistic community at Montparnasse. View the Latin Quarter, and pass the colorful Luxembourg Gardens, housed in the Luxembourg Palace. This afternoon perhaps join the optional tour to Versailles to witness the grandeur of French classical architecture on the visit to the Palace and extravagant State Apartments. Tonight, you may wish to join the optional Montmartre & Illuminations tour with dinner and wine

*Optional Tour: Palace of Versailles (PM)*

*Optional Tour: Montmartre & Illuminations with dinner (PM)*

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel or similar

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### Day 4

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#### Paris 🚗 Dijon

Today, travel from Paris to the famed Champagne region with its stretches of vineyards as far as the eye can see. This historic province in the northeast of France, formerly ruled by the Counts of Champagne, is best known for the sparkling white wine that bears its name. In Epernay, visit one of the renowned cellars, learn more about the process and enjoy tastings of this bubbly delight. Its main boulevard is the residential Avenue de Champagne, with its timeless Neoclassical villas and Victorian townhouses. Then continue to Dijon, View Dijon Cathedral and the Ducal Palace, a remarkably well-preserved Gothic structure that served as the royal residence for the estates of Burgundy. Overnight in Dijon, also known as home of the tasty mustard.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel Oceania Le Jura Dijon or similar

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## Day 5

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### Dijon Lyon

Depart Dijon via the Route des Grand Crus to Beaune, the celebrated capital of Burgundy wines, nestled in the heart of France's finest vineyards. The facilities and cellars of many prominent wineries are situated in Beaune itself. This walled city still displays its original battlements, ramparts, moats and a historic Old Town. A walking tour takes you to the lively central square. Enjoy a tasting at one of the local cellars. At the Hotel-Dieu de Beaune, see the original an example of 15th-century French architecture. Then, drive south to 2000-year-old Lyon. Upon arrival, visit Place Bellecour, and ascend Fougère Hill to view the Roman amphitheater and gardens that overlook the city.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Radisson Blu Hotel or similar

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## Day 6

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### Lyon French Riviera

Heading south, journey through the colorful landscapes of Provence, an inspiration for the early Impressionist painters. Travel past the olive groves and pine forests to the city of Aix-en-Provence, famous for being the birthplace of Post-Impressionist painter Paul Cézanne. Spend free time for lunch on your own. Later, continue to a French perfumery and hear about the many ways to produce this major export and try some of the popular fragrances. Tonight, at dinner, a taste of the French Riviera's specialties.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Accommodation:** AC Ambassadeur Antibes or similar

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## Day 7

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### French Riviera

A full day to discover the delights of the Cote d'Azur and your resort in the Mediterranean twin towns of Antibes and Juan-Les-Pins. Don't miss the optional tour to St. Paul de Vence. Drive into the pine-scented hills above Nice to visit the hilltop St. Paul de Vence, which still retains its medieval character. Wander the cobbled streets to the central fountain, and see the burial place of Marc Chagall. Tonight, see glamorous Monte Carlo's lights glisten as you travel along the seaside Corniche on the optional night tour.

*Optional Tour: St. Paul de Vence (AM)*

*Optional Tour: Monte Carlo by Night (PM)*

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** AC Ambassadeur Antibes or similar

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## Day 8

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### French Riviera Avignon Pont du Gard Carcassonne

This morning journey on to Avignon, the "City of Popes" named after seven popes who reigned there during the 1300s. Admire the Place de l'Horloge, the city's main square and the vast Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes), a fortress-like palace that once served as the papal residence. View the famed Bridge of Avignon, the city's landmark. In the afternoon, drive to the Pont du Gard, an ancient Roman aqueduct that crosses the Gardon River dating from 19 AD, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, travel to Carcassonne for dinner and overnight.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Accommodation:** Mercure Carcassonne La Cite Hotel or similar

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## Day 9

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### Carcassonne Lourdes

This morning, take a walking tour of Carcassonne. Stroll along the cobbled streets to the St. Nazaire Basilica, adorned with stained glass and intricate carvings. Afterward, sip a small tasting of Hippocras wine. This spiced wine was highly prized during the medieval era. In the afternoon, your journey continues to Lourdes, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, a major site of Roman Catholic pilgrimage and of reported miraculous healings. Witness the candlelight procession tonight, which has unfailingly taken place since the 1800s. Dinner and overnight is in Lourdes.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Accommodation:** Grand Hotel Gallia & Londres Spa NUXE or similar

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## Day 10

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### Lourdes Bordeaux

In Lourdes, visit the sacred church, sanctuary, and grotto where the apparitions took place and behold the healing water spring from the grotto, believed to possess healing properties. Afterward, drive north, to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of St. Emilion. Views of the city include Romanesque churches and fascinating historic ruins stretching along steep and narrow streets. Enjoy a wine tasting and then free time to wander on your own before continuing to Bordeaux. Tonight, dinner is at the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Accommodation:** Mercure Bordeaux Chateau Chartrons or similar

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## Day 11

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### Bordeaux

Take a morning tour of Bordeaux, on the crescent-shaped Garonne River. Bordeaux is distinguished for the wines that bear its name. The city tour begins at the Place des Quinconces, with its mighty pillar centerpiece, the Girondist Column. In the historic Old Town, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, view the Grand Theater and the Victory Arch. The afternoon is yours to independently explore this city. This evening, an optional dinner in the Bordeaux countryside will complete the day.

*Optional Tour: Bordeaux Countryside with Dinner (PM)*

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Mercure Bordeaux Chateau Chartrons or similar

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## Day 12

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### Bordeaux Loire Valley

Depart Bordeaux for the town of Cognac, world-famous for the grape-based spirit produced here for over 300 years. Visit one of the cellars, hear about the history of cognac and enjoy a tasting. Onward to the very heart of the Loire Valley. Tour the elegant Chateau de Chenonceau. Stretching across the river Cher, the chateau boasts a 197-foot gallery, built over a series of arches. Proceed to Amboise, a riverside town with an imposing castle, before continuing to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Accommodation:** Novotel Amboise or similar

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## Day 13

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### Loire Valley Paris

Begin by crossing the Loire River and head back to the capital city of Paris for time at leisure. Tonight, gather together for dinner in a Parisian bistro, including wine as you bid au revoir to your Tour Manager.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Accommodation:** Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel or similar

## Day 14

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### Paris ✈ Australia

Your Best of France tour has come to an end. Check out from your hotel and make your way to the airport for your flight home or onward journey. If you would like to discuss options for extending your stay in Europe, please speak with our friendly Customer Service Team.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Inflight Menu

## Inclusions & Exclusions

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### Inclusions

- Return Economy Class Flights from Australia to Paris
- 12 nights First Class Accommodations
- 18 meals: 12 breakfasts, 6 dinners with wine
- Sightseeing per itinerary in a modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of local guides in Paris, Dijon, Lyon, Carcassonne and Bordeaux
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

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### Exclusions

- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Meals & drinks not mentioned
- Any additional requests
- Tipping

**Group Size:** The typical group size on this program is 40 guests.

**Single Supplement:** Solo supplement is \$2500 for this program.

**Travel Insurance:** We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#).

**Travelling on your own?** Why not join the [Traveldream Solo Travellers Facebook group](#) where you can interact with other travellers.