



Provence, the Riviera & Tuscany

12 days | 14 days with Florence extension

Make your way from the seaside in Provence to the rolling hills of Tuscany, taking in some of France and Italy's most striking vistas as you go. Stroll down picturesque, tree-lined boulevards in Aix before heading to the coast, where the Mediterranean traces your route from Cassis to Cinque Terre. From admiring stunning seascapes and Renaissance art to indulging in regional cuisine, you'll slow your pace and slip into a more laid-back lifestyle on this immersive journey.



Your tour package includes

10 nights in handpicked hotels
10 breakfasts
4 dinners with beer or wine
6 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

Sénanque Abbey
Hilltop Gordes
Aix Cathedral
Calanques of Cassis
Monaco
Cinque Terre
Siena Cathedral
Florence Duomo

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15–38

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Marseilles today.

Aix-en-Provence Region → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Marseilles & transfer to the Aix-en-Provence Region

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to France! Arrive in Marseilles and transfer to the Aix-en-Provence region, where you'll meet your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner this evening.

Day 3: Sénanque Abbey & Gordes

Included meals: breakfast

Start your morning browsing the stalls at Aix's farmers' market (seasonal). Then, admire stunning landscapes as you transfer through the Luberon Regional Nature Park on your way to the hilltop village of Gordes.

- Stop to enter the 12th-century Sénanque Abbey with a local guide, and learn how the monks cultivate the lavender that grows around the abbey (seasonal)
- Enjoy free time for lunch and shopping in Gordes, known as one of most beautiful villages in France
- Stop to sample some regional olive oil as you travel back to Aix-en-Provence

Tonight, explore the Aix-en-Provence region at your leisure or add an excursion.

+ Provençal Dinner & Wine Tasting

Day 4: Sightseeing tour of Aix-en-Provence

Included meals: breakfast

Set off on a walking tour of Aix-en-Provence, a Roman-influenced city and hometown of Post-Impressionist painter Paul Cézanne.

- Stop at Cézanne's birthplace, the school he attended, and the studio where many of his famous paintings came to light
- Visit Aix Cathedral, built on the site of a 1st-century Roman forum

Spend a free afternoon in the Aix-en-Provence region or add an excursion.

+ A Day in Arles

French Riviera → 2 nights

Day 5: French Riviera via Cassis

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel to the French Riviera, stopping to discover the seaside village of Cassis on the Côte d'Azur.

- Board a boat and take a cruise through Cassis Harbor
- Soak in beautiful vistas of the surrounding coastline and *calanques*, narrow fjord-like inlets carved into the white limestone
- Make stops to snap photos of the scenic harbor and *calanques*
- Enjoy free time for lunch before continuing on to the French Riviera

Please note: The cruise is weather-dependent. In the case of inclement weather, the cruise will be replaced with another activity.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 6: Free day on the French Riviera

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day on the French Riviera or add an excursion.

+ A Day on the French Riviera: Cape Ferrat & Nice

Italian Riviera → 2 nights

Day 7: Italian Riviera via Monaco

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Leave France for the Italian Riviera today. Stop en route to explore the tiny principality of Monaco with your Tour Director.

- Visit Le Rocher, or the Rock of Monaco, to see the cathedral and Old Town
- Stop outside the Prince's Palace, first built as a fortress in the late 12th century

This evening, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Cinque Terre

Included meals: breakfast

Join your Tour Director to discover Cinque Terre, an idyllic cluster of five villages set on seaside cliffs.

- Board a train to Monterosso and soak in views of the pebble beach that the village is known for

- Hop aboard a boat to the village of Vernazza and admire the colorful houses that dot the waterfront
- Continue by boat to the dramatic coastal village of Riomaggiore
- Learn about Via dell'Amore, one of the area's most famous hiking paths, which connects two of the five villages
- Enjoy short walks through each village before spending free time exploring, shopping, and eating
- Admire the Liguria regions' varied landscape as you transfer back to your hotel by train

Please note: The boat ride is weather-dependent. In the case of inclement weather, you'll visit the villages by train. In addition, the specific villages you visit may vary.

Siena → 2 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Siena & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Make your way to Siena and set off on a guided tour of the charming Tuscan city.

- Walk through the Campo, the square that's the center of civic life, and learn about the Palio horse race that takes place there every summer
- Learn about the marble details carved into the panels surrounding Fonte Gaia
- Discover the town's black-and-white marble duomo and see brilliantly colored 16th-century frescoes in the Piccolomini Library

Day 10: Free day in Siena

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Siena or add excursions.

+ San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan Flavors

+ Tuscan Villa Winery & Dinner

Florence → 1 night

Day 11: Transfer to Florence & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Transfer to Florence this morning. Join a local guide and get to know the birthplace of the Renaissance as you make your way through the city's UNESCO-recognized historic center.

- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- Walk past Piazza della Repubblica to the medieval Ponte Vecchio
- Stroll along the Arno River and through the courtyard of the Uffizi Gallery to Piazza della Signoria, center of Florentine life

Tonight, celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner with your group.

morning departures)

Transfer to the airport to board your flight home.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay in Florence.

+ Florence extension

Not ready to say arrivederci? Continue your trip in the Tuscan capital of Florence, where Renaissance beauty and really (really) good food are practically everywhere. See the highlights alongside a local guide, then lean on your Tour Director's expert recommendations to seek out even more.

Florence → 2 nights

Day 12: Free day in Florence

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Florence or add excursions.

- + Accademia Gallery
- + Tuscan Cooking Class & Dinner

Day 13: Free day in Florence

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Florence or add an excursion.

Raise a glass and toast to your trip with a farewell drink this evening.

- + Medieval Lucca & Farmhouse Lunch
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Flight Home

Day 14: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/PRT | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Provençal Dinner & Wine Tasting

\$185CAD/\$195CAD* (6 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Travel to a rustic Provençal village outside of Aix-en-Provence. Start your evening with a tasting of red, white, and rosé wines at a vineyard and learn how each one is produced. Then, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant featuring the traditional herb-accented Provençal dishes, which the region is known for.

Day 4: A Day in Arles

\$119CAD (6 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Make your way to Arles, a picturesque Provençal city replete with extensive history and stunning vistas. This beautiful locale has long been a destination for artists, including famous Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh. He created hundreds of masterpieces while living in Arles, and you'll admire the landscapes and sites that inspired him on a guided tour with a local expert. Stroll through quaint streets and pass the city's old hospital, where van Gogh stayed when his mental health started to decline. Then, learn more about Arles' storied Roman history while exploring the UNESCO-listed Roman Arena. This amphitheater dates back to the 1st century B.C., and is one of many significant monuments in the city. Enjoy free time before making your way back to Aix-en-Provence this afternoon. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 6: A Day on the French Riviera: Cape Ferrat & Nice

\$119CAD/\$129CAD* (7 hours, departs in the morning)

The French Riviera is known as the land of the rich and famous, where views of the stunning Mediterranean seascape appear around every corner. Today, experience a slice of this lifestyle as you explore the area. Travel to Cape Ferrat and stop along the way to snap photos of the dramatic cliffside views. Then, join a local guide for a tour of Villa Ephrussi. The opulent mansion was built by a member of the Rothschild banking family and houses a collection of fine art. Learn about the architecture, which was designed like an Italian Renaissance-style palazzo and features elements from the French Belle Époque period. Then, stroll through the villa gardens to admire the manicured lawn and flowerbeds while soaking in the coastal vistas. Continue on to Nice's Old Town and enjoy free time to eat lunch, shop, walk along the boardwalk, and visit the local market.

Day 10: San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan Flavors

\$159CAD/\$169CAD* (6 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Travel through the beautiful Tuscan countryside to discover the medieval village of San Gimignano. During the Renaissance, the rival Guelph and Ghibelline political factions flexed their muscles by constructing tall towers throughout San Gimignano; fourteen of

those towers survive today. Later, visit a local winery for a taste of the area's wines and a sampling of olive oil and balsamic vinegar that you simply won't find anywhere else. Then, enjoy lasagna during a light lunch.

Day 10: Tuscan Villa Winery & Dinner

\$199CAD/\$209CAD* (4.5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Set off into the rolling hills of the Chianti region to visit a winery and farm estate, known locally as an agriturismo. You'll tour the villa and gardens to learn about wine production surrounded by the stunning scenery of the Tuscan countryside. Then, enjoy dinner accompanied by three wine varietals produced on the estate.

Extension excursion options

Day 12: Accademia Gallery

\$89CAD (2 hours, departure time varies)

Home to Michelangelo's masterpiece David, the Accademia Gallery is one of the most famous museums in Florence. Skip the ticket lines, and join a local guide on a tour of the museum as you learn about Renaissance art history and view a variety of pieces, including the marble statue of David. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

Day 12: Tuscan Cooking Class & Dinner

\$159CAD (2.5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

This evening, learn how to make a traditional Tuscan meal under the direction of expert local chefs. Craft authentic pici, a thick, hand-rolled pasta, two kinds of bruschetta, and tiramisu. Then, pair your creations with wine, and sit down to a delicious dinner with your group. Please note: Depending on the size of the group, the class may be divided into two shifts. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 13: Medieval Lucca & Farmhouse Lunch

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (8 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Visit the gorgeous Tuscan town of Lucca, famous for its Renaissance-era city walls, medieval churches, and awe-inspiring towers. Enjoy free time soaking in the town's history before making your way to the provincial town of Colle Verde in the Tuscan hills. Here, you'll visit an authentic agriturismo, or farm stay, to learn about the process by which olive oil is extracted and refined. Enjoy a tasting of wine and olive oil produced right on the farm before sitting down to a lunch in the farmhouse to savor more locally made products.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms