



## 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.

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## Aix-en-Provence → 3 nights

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

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to France! Arrive in Marseilles and transfer to Aix-en-Provence, 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 Aix-en-Provence 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.

- Browse the stalls at the Aix-en-Provence farmers market, known for their local specialities like honey, fruits, textiles, antiques, and more.
- While exploring the markets you'll be treated to a surprise from your local guide from one of the stalls.
- Visit Aix Cathedral, built on the site of a 1st-century Roman forum.

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

+ A Day in Arles

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## 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

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## 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 Vernazza and admire the colorful houses that dot the waterfront.
- Continue by train to the dramatic coastal village of Riomaggiore.
- Enjoy a scenic boat ride to Monterosso and soak in views of the pebble beach that the village is known for.
- 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.*

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## 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

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## 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.

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## **Flight Home**

### **Day 12: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast*

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

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## **+ 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.

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## **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 morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport to board your flight home.

# 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.com/PRT](https://goaheadtours.com/PRT) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Provençal Dinner & Wine Tasting

\$135/\$145\* (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

\$85 (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

\$85/\$95\* (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

\$115/\$125\* (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 won't find anywhere else. Then, enjoy lasagna during a light lunch.

## Day 10: Tuscan Villa Winery & Dinner

\$145/\$155\* (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

\$65 (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

\$115 (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

\$129/\$139\* (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.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)