



Paris to Nice Through Vineyards and Mountains 2026

Glasses glinting with shimmering bubbles, windows opening out onto soaring mountain ranges and rustic villages enveloped in the sweet scent of fresh lavender... This leisurely voyage through quintessential France is guaranteed to ignite all your senses! From uncovering tales of heroism in medieval Reims to savouring the plumpness of Burgundy's juicy grapes, you'll discover what makes this *belle* country so unique. Are you ready to become fully immersed in local French life?





About your tour notes

These tour notes contain everything you need to know before your tour departs – from where to meet your fellow guests and local guide to what essentials to pack for your journey. We recommend you print this document out and bring it with you on your tour. Give a copy to loved ones at home so they can follow your adventure, too.

Important: please refresh this document as close to your departure as possible to ensure you're equipped with the latest information available.

Hotel Alexandrine Opéra @ 18:00

Hotel Locarno @ 16:00

4 Av. des Baumettes, Nice

Worth noting

Please note, experiences in Chamonix on Day 7 are seasonal and often weather dependent.

Guests joining us on 17 June will stay in Chamonix instead of Annecy due to the Annecy International Animation Film Festival.



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Tour highlights

- ✓ Admire the exceptional panel paintings and half-timber galleries of the 15th-century Hospices de Beaune
- ✓ Savour the feeling of soft cheese crumbling deliciously in your mouth at a local fromagerie in the Alps
- ✓ Indulge in a plenitude of local tastings as we weave our way through the famed wine-growing regions of Champagne, Burgundy and Chablis
- ✓ Feast your eyes on breathtaking scenes of soaring peaks and glittering lakes in Annecy and Chamonix

More inclusions

- ✓ 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
- ✓ 11 nights in thoughtfully selected accommodation
- ✓ Luxury minicoach

Currencies you'll use

- France - EUR



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Included meals

Breakfast (B) is included daily.

Some of your lunches and dinners are also included, either in hotels or local restaurants. These are indicated by (L) and (D) in the itinerary.

Please note that drinks will not always be included.

We will do our best to accommodate any specific dietary requirements you may have. Please ensure to make these clear to us before your tour begins so we can communicate them to our hotels, restaurants and suppliers.



Your itinerary

Day 1 | Paris (France)

The City of Light. The City of Love. Paris has so many names – and all of them are evocative of its rich culture and centuries of epic history. Meet your Tour Leader and your small group of fellow travellers in the city's vibrant heart where we'll share our back stories over some sumptuous French fare at a local bistro. *Bon appetit!*

Included today



Accommodation

Hotel Alexandrine Opera (or similar)



Meals

+ Dinner

Day 2 | Paris – Reims – Troyes

What better way to kick off our French adventure than with a few glasses of bubbles at an authentic Champagne winery? But first: say *au revoir!* to Paris and settle in for a comfortable ride to Reims. We'll walk in the regal footsteps of France's most famous kings as we pass beneath the splendid Gothic façade of Reims Cathedral – the historic location of royal coronations. The monument also has links to Joan of Arc, so don't forget to keep your eyes peeled for the statues dedicated to the famous female warrior.

Then, today's *pièce de résistance* awaits: a family-owned winery. We'll enjoy a masterclass in grape cultivation before sipping a trio of delicious champagnes. *Salut!* Feeling merry, we'll move onto our final stop of the day: the romantic town of Troyes. The unofficial capital of Champagne, it's awash with medieval timber-framed buildings and narrow lantern-lit lanes that will make you feel like you've stepped into a traditional Charles Perrault fairytale.

Tonight, seek out a local restaurant to sample some tasty traditional fare – accompanied by another glass of bubbling champagne, of course!

Included today



Accommodation

Hôtel Mercure Troyes Centre (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

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Day 3 | Troyes

There's nothing better than beginning the day with a fresh, buttery croissant smothered in jam. Once you've licked the last flakes off your fingers, we'll hit the cobblestones for a walking tour of Troyes with our knowledgeable Tour Leader – soaking up key sights like the incredibly narrow Cats Alley.

Then, you'll be dreaming in technicolour tonight after a visit to Cite Du Vitrail. Nestled in the heart of the city, this museum is a tribute to Troyes' mesmerising heritage of producing intricate stained-glass windows. There'll be time to wander the town at leisure afterwards and grab yourself some lunch. Don't miss browsing the many local boulangeries for tempting treats like *brioche au Chaource* that's stuffed with soft and oh-so-creamy Chaource cheese.

And on the menu this evening? Whatever takes your fancy! There's a plenitude of cosy cafes and intimate bistros to settle into for the night – and lots more regional dishes to devour.

Included today



Accommodation

Hôtel Mercure Troyes Centre
(or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

Day 4 | Troyes – Chablis – Beaune

Ready for another tantalising wine tasting? Today, our path leads us out of the city and towards the vineyards of Chablis: the northernmost corner of the Burgundy region. Soak up vistas of sun-dappled vines as we glide slowly up the driveway to our next heavenly winery. The family-run estate produces several sumptuous organic wines, and we'll savour six during a guided tasting.

With the flavour of crisp Chablis still on our tongues, we'll move onto nearby Beaune – our *très belle* base for the next few days. You'll stumble across Gothic masterpieces at every turn in this medieval town. Spend the rest of the afternoon leisurely roaming its picture-perfect streets before we meet for another memorable group dinner. Expect to spot traditional Burgundian dishes like rich *beef bourguignon* on the menu – an explosion of rich flavour for your palate!

Included today



Accommodation

Alfred Hôtel Beaune (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner



Day 5 | Beaune

Did you know that Beaune is the wine capital of Burgundy? Or that it hosts an art museum entirely dedicated to the works of Salvador Dali? We'll connect with Beaune on a deeper level today, including visiting the city's crowning glory: the Hospices de Beaune. Originally founded as a hospital for the poor by the Chancellor of Burgundy back in 1443, this unique building is now a museum – and an exceptional example of 15th-century French architecture.

Once we've sauntered beneath the hospice's timbered galleries and examined the exquisite detailing of the majestic nine-panelled Beaune Altarpiece, you'll have some free time to dive further into the city's secrets. Peer across intricately tiled rooftops into flower-filled gardens and across serene moats while wandering around the 900-year-old ramparts. Or discover firsthand how wine was pressed in medieval times at the local Burgundy wine museum. Feeling thirsty? There's plenty of charming little wine bars where you can pull up a stool and sample a glass or two of smooth Hautes-Côtes de Beaune.

Included today



Accommodation

Alfred Hôtel Beaune (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 6 | Beaune – Annecy

We might be saying *à bientôt* to Beaune today – but there’s a tempting treat in store for us before we venture into the French Alps. If there’s time, we’ll break up the journey with a pitstop in captivating Cluny to soak up the intricate stonework and panoramic countryside views from its former Benedictine monastery.

Then, prepare your tastebuds for utter indulgence at a vineyard that’s been owned by the same family for four generations! Gliding up the driveway of this historic winery is a moment you’ll always remember. We’ll embrace the magic further by gazing out across acres of verdant vines and up at the chateau’s enchanting turrets during a guided tour followed by an essential tasting of four sumptuous wines.

Afterwards, we’ll settle down in the soft shade of the plane trees in the chateau’s manicured grounds for a sumptuous picnic – washed down with another glass of local wine, of course! Take another moment to soak up the peaceful surroundings before we swap southern Burgundy’s rolling hills for the jagged alpine peaks of the Haute-Savoie region.

Annecy – the so-called ‘Pearl of the French Alps’ – is our final destination. We’ll see how it lives up to its nickname on an orientation walk around its cobbled streets which are a riot of colour thanks to sunset-hued townhouses and canal side bistros embellished with seasonal blooms. Why not find a table at one of the latter for dinner? We hear *tartiflette* (a delectable concoction of lardons, potatoes and melted cheese) is the local delicacy...

Included today



Accommodation

Hôtel Hébé (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Lunch



Day 7 | Annecy – Chamonix – Annecy

We'll be taking to the skies (well, almost) today as we ascend further into the magical French Alps to Chamonix. Bask in the crisp mountain air as you wander around the market town's quaint streets – and don't forget to look up at the majestic Mont Blanc that looms large over the entire region like a monarch surveying its kingdom.

Depending on the weather conditions and the time of year, we might venture even higher than Chamonix via the Brévent cable car or on the charming cogwheel Montenvers railway. Breathe in the scent of fresh pine needles and gaze out across verdant foothills that are blanketed in kaleidoscopic wildflowers throughout the summer.

Back in Annecy this evening, we'll clink glasses and swap stories of the day over an included group dinner. Expect to encounter more classic and utterly mouthwatering Haute-Savoie dishes on the menu such as *raclette*. Because who doesn't love gooey, melted cheese?

Included today



Accommodation

Hôtel Hébé (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

Day 8 | Annecy

Picture-perfect canals and a backdrop of cragged peaks – it's not hard to see why Annecy has been dubbed the 'Alpine Venice'. Romance and mystery radiate off every cobblestone of this tranquil mountain town which we'll have an entire day to explore – beginning with a guided orientation stroll with your knowledgeable Tour Leader.

Then, the day's path is yours to choose. You could easily spend a morning getting lost in the warren of lanes that make up the pedestrianised Old Town – passing pink, peach and yellow houses hosting all manner of local delights. Inhale the sweet scent of fresh *brioche aux pralines* and sugar-dusted *beignets* wafting out of the doors of the town's boulangeries. Or soak up soul-stirring vistas of the tiny Le Palais de l'Île from the flower-dotted Pont Perrière. *Magnifique!*

Included today



Accommodation

Hôtel Hébé (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 9 | Annecy – Drôme Region

If you spent the night dreaming of cheese (melted or otherwise), today's your lucky day! While we will be making our retreat from idyllic Annecy, our next stop in the heart of the breathtaking Geopark du Massif des Bauges more than makes up for it.

Fromagerie Les Aillons has been producing traditional cheeses for decades – and we'll learn all its secrets on a tour. Make sure you bring your appetite as we'll also indulge in a tasting of several regional varieties, including rustic *tomes de Bauges* and melt-in-your-mouth *val bleu*. Washed down with a glass of French cider, what could be more divine?

Then, we'll swap the craggy French Alps for the undulating hills and aromatic meadows of the Drôme region. After settling into our hand-picked hotel, we'll reconvene for another memorable meal in excellent company.

Included today



Accommodation

Les Oliviers Hotel Spa (or similar)



Meals

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner

Day 10 | Drôme Region – Sisteron – Gréoux-Les-Bains

Oceans of fragrant lavender. Sleepy, sun-dappled stone villages. Cypress trees swaying lazily in the warm breeze. This morning, we're stepping into a real-life Van Gogh painting in picture-perfect Provence.

Sisteron will be our first port of call – specifically its enchanting 12th-century Citadel. Perched on a rugged spur, this historic monument offers stunning panoramic views which stretch out over 150 kilometres towards the snow-capped Alps. Spend an hour or so exploring Sisteron's bastions and crumbling medieval keep before seeking out some lunch. Lamb is the local meat of choice, so why not tuck into a succulent grilled chop dusted in aromatic *herbes de Provence*?

Then, it's onwards to Gréoux-Les-Bains: a tranquil spa town that's attracted visitors to its soothing thermal waters for over 2000 years. Villa Borghese will be our home for the next two nights and it's a true oasis of calm – with palatial gardens and an outdoor pool that's drenched in Provençal sunshine throughout the spring and summer.

Included today



Accommodation

Hôtel Villa Borghese (or similar)



Meals

- + Breakfast



Day 11 | Gréoux-les-Bains – Gorges du Verdon – Gréoux-Les-Bains

Stomachs sated with breakfast, we'll hop back in our luxury minicoach and prepare to soak up some pinch-me-I-must-be-dreaming vistas at the Gorges du Verdon. This immense canyon is one of the largest in Europe and its scenery is utterly spellbinding – with plunging limestone walls formed by millions of years of erosion from the snaking Verdon River.

And if that wasn't enough, we'll also stop to marvel the topaz-blue waters and pine-dotted shores of Lac de Sainte Croix at the very end of the canyon. You'd never guess it was a man-made reservoir and not a natural phenomenon!

Then, our path takes us back to Gréoux-Les-Bains where one final group dinner in Villa Borghese's restaurant awaits. Savour the fresh flavours of Provence cuisine and clink glasses as you fondly round off a wonderful journey together. *Santé!*

Included today



Accommodation

Hôtel Villa Borghese (or similar)



Meals

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



Day 12 | Gréoux-les-Bains – Entrevaux – Nice

It's hard to believe our French fairytale is coming to an end! We'll embark on one final chapter this morning, pressing deeper into the exquisite Provençal countryside towards Entrevaux. En route, all our senses will ignite as we weave our way through the spectacular flower fields of the Valensole Plateau.

When we arrive in enchanting Entrevaux, you'll have free time to wander the fortified walkways of its medieval citadel – uncovering just why the locals proudly call it the 'most beautiful town in France'. Speaking of beauty, the French Riviera awaits...

Golden beaches, shimmering water, glamorous resorts. As a region that's charmed so many of the world's greatest artists and writers over the centuries, the Côte d'Azur seems a fitting place to end our French journey! We'll arrive at its shining capital, Nice, mid-afternoon and bid a fond farewell to our fellow travellers.

Then, the next chapter is yours to write... Why not delve further into Southern France's many treasures on our Provence and the French Riviera tour?

Included today



Meals

+ Breakfast



Travel advice

Finances

Changing money

Cash: Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, some railway and tube stations, and at major hotels (though at a less favourable rate).

Credit cards: Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. American Express is only accepted in some larger establishments.

Cash machines: ATMS are widely available.

Tipping

Tipping is entirely at your discretion. If you feel you have received exceptional service, it is recommended that you tip £1-2/€ per day for Drivers and £4- 5/€ per day for Tour Leaders.

Insurance

Before travelling with Back-Roads Touring, it is compulsory for all guests to take out comprehensive travel insurance. Please ensure your insurance covers medical expenses (including repatriation), cancellation cover, loss or damage to baggage and personal effects, money and personal liability.

We recommend you carry your insurance details with you at all times. You may be asked to provide details of your medical insurance or a payment guarantee in some countries before medical assistance can be provided.

For more information, please see our [FAQ page](#).

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).

Passports and visas

Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your tour. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain



countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your tour's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

Please note: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

We advise you to either carry a photocopy of your passport (and visa, if applicable) with you while abroad, or to ensure that you leave a copy with relatives back at home. This will enable the local embassy or high commission to arrange a replacement if the original should be lost or stolen. If you do take copies with you on your tour, please ensure that you keep these separate from your original documents.

Medication and mobility

Whilst on your tour, we want you to have the smoothest journey possible which requires x mobility conditions:

- You must be fit enough to get on and off the vehicle on a regular basis, and to walk around towns and villages or to attractions.
- You must be able to walk up and down stairs and use a shower over the bath.

Please note that, unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate mobility scooter or wheelchair users as we frequently stay in traditional-style hotels and the majority do not have lifts or ground-floor rooms.

If you take medicine for certain conditions, such as diabetes or heart problems, please carry it with you at all times.

Please declare any medical conditions you may have in advance of your tour. If you are in any doubt as to whether our tours are suitable for you, please contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).



Mental health and wellbeing

Culture shock, homesickness and periods of feeling down happen regardless of age. Be rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Tour Leader and Driver will do their utmost to make you smile.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call loved ones. Hearing a familiar voice whilst in an unfamiliar destination can help ground you and remind you you're not alone.
- Eat well. Nobody feels their best when they're hungry. There are plenty of nutritious culinary delights to be savoured along the road!
- Integrate with your fellow guests. The more you socialise with the group, the less likely you'll feel homesick.

Transport

We travel in premium mini-coaches equipped with comfortable seats, air conditioning and large windows for enjoying the view.

With far more flexibility than a standard-size coach, we're able to take the scenic route – winding through beautiful countryside to the heart of tiny villages and coastal towns.

Will I have regular access to Wi-Fi?

Most accommodation we stay in will offer free Wi-Fi as well as many restaurants and cafes you may visit. If you would like more regular internet access without large roaming fees, you can purchase a Back-Roads Touring eSIM [here](#).



What to Pack

Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Back-Roads Touring tours. What you pack will depend on the countries you're visiting as well as the time of year you plan to travel.

Clothing

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Sun hat | ✓ Long-sleeved tops | ✓ Light jacket |
| ✓ Sunglasses | ✓ Short-sleeved tops | ✓ Waterproof jacket |
| ✓ Sleepwear | ✓ Shorts/skirts | ✓ Trousers |
| ✓ Warm jacket | ✓ Socks | ✓ Swimwear |
| ✓ Underwear | ✓ Smart casual evening wear | ✓ Walking/comfortable shoes |

Other essentials

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ✓ Multi-use adapter plug | ✓ Toiletries | ✓ Camera |
| ✓ Batteries | ✓ Sunscreen | ✓ Towel |
| ✓ Umbrella | ✓ Reusable water bottle | ✓ Insect repellent |
| ✓ Any personal medication | ✓ Basic medical kit (paracetamol, aspirin, plasters etc) | |

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How much luggage can I bring

As we travel in mini-coaches, luggage space is limited. Here's what you can take with you on tour:



1 x suitcase



1 x small carry-on bag
(backpack or handbag)

If you have more luggage, please make arrangements to store it prior to joining the tour. **We are unable to carry extra luggage on the mini-coach.**

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FAQs

Which type of hotels will we stay in?

Our thoughtfully selected accommodation is full of charm and historic details – expect elegant country inns, grand town centre hotels and even the odd castle! For this reason, rooms vary in size, and most hotels don't have lifts – meaning you'll likely need to access your room via stairs. Porterage will be included wherever possible.

Although air conditioning is mostly unavailable in historic buildings, fans will be provided during hot spells. Most hotels have bathtubs with overhead showers (rather than walk-in showers), so you'll be able to enjoy a soak at the end of the day.

What activities will we do in Chamonix?

On day 7 during your explorations of Chamonix, your included activity will differ depending on your departure date and the season. Most departures include either a ride on the Brévent cable car or the charming cogwheel Montenvers railway. A select few feature a visit to the Vallorcine Farm instead – a local alpine fromagerie close to the stunning Swiss border.

How long are the driving days on this tour?

Typically, we'll be navigating France's scenic backroads (and the odd unavoidable motorway) for three to four hours per day. You'll be comfy in our spacious minicoach though, plus there will be plenty of stops along the way where you can stretch your legs. This tour additionally features a couple of non-driving days where you'll be exploring entirely on foot.

What pace is this tour?

As with all Back-Roads tours, the pace is slow enough for you to fully immerse yourself in every destination you visit. We'll snooze in most locations for two nights and you'll



enjoy plenty of free time to delve into France's hidden gems.

How much walking can I expect to do?

This tour features several fascinating walking tours which take you down cobblestone streets, around ancient citadels and through lush vineyards. We'd recommend packing your comfiest pair of walking shoes and a sun hat to keep you protected on warmer days.

What's breakfast like in France?

A typical French breakfast spread is simple but wholesome. It usually includes a range of cold meats, cheeses and bread, buttery homemade pastries, freshly squeezed juices and a hot drink of your choice. If you have any dietary requirements, we'll ask about these before you begin your tour and accommodate them whenever we can.

That's everything!

We can't wait to welcome you on tour.

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