

Women With Wings Presents:



Come away with Corinne and nestle into a 300 year old country home just south of Avignon to experience the brilliant colours of Provence. Enjoy the market of St. Remy before visiting Van Gogh's "Hotel Dieu" and follow his footsteps through Arles and Stes. Maries de la Mer. Cézanne's studio in Aix and Mte. Ste Victoire are a short drive away. Roman ruins and cliff top village are in abundance as Corinne leads you down the "impressionist path" in Provence. Ahh Paris! Spending time in the cafes of Montmartre where these renegade artists got their start; the Musée d' Orsay and Musée Marmottan as well as breathtaking Monet's Garden in Giverny.

Impressions of France

April 23 > May 3, 2010

11 days in Paris & Provence

\$3850 CDN (no taxes applicable)



WHAT IS INCLUDED?

LODGING with breakfast

- 6 nights in Mas St. Antoine
- 4 nights in Paris

MEALS

- Welcome provencale reception
- Pizza night around the pool
- Picnic lunch at a winery
- Farewell gourmet meal
- Gourmet supper – Grand Colbert
- Luncheon at Café du Marché
- Dinner Cruise on the Seine

TRANSPORT

- Fast train from and to Paris
- All ground transport in minivan while Provence and around Paris
- Metro tickets in Paris

SIGHT-SEEING

- Walking tours of Arles, Avignon, Aix
- Monet's Garden; Chateau d' Auvers; Musée d' Orsay; Musée Marmottan; St Paul Maussole;

ADD > Extra days on your own in Paris

ARTISTS

- *Cezanne's* Aix-en-Provence
- *Van Gogh's* St Remy de Provence; Arles; Auvers-sur-Oise
- *Monet's* Garden in Giverny, Musée Marmottan
- *Degas Renoir Manet Pissaro Caillebotte Morisot*
Paris Montmartre

Non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due at time of booking.

Final balance is due on February 23, 2010.

Not included in this tour: International flight to Paris; meals not mentioned in itinerary; tips and gratuities; travel and medical insurance; personal expenses



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Tour Itinerary • Impressions of France

Day 1. Friday, April 23 Morning arrival at the Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris where you will meet Corinne. Enjoy the comfort of the fast train that will take you to Avignon in the south of France in less than 3 hours. Close by is our quaint country accommodation Mas St. Antoine, a 300 year old guest house with an award winning garden. Enjoy a special Provencale welcome reception in the courtyard of the Mas.

Day 2. Saturday, April 24 Bike to the boulangerie with Corinne for fresh croissants for breakfast before driving to the colourful Uzès market, the best in France! En route to Arles visit the old Roman Aqueduct at Pont du Gard. This 2000 year old Roman Antiquity transported water from Uzès to Nîmes. Arles is an ancient Roman city where we can follow Van Gogh's footsteps. It was here that he produced over 300 works of art in 18 months when he was hospitalized in the "Hotel Dieu". The Café Van Gogh is a wonderful spot to take a refreshing break before continuing the walk around Arles to the scenes he painted. Return to the Mas to share in a potluck with the fresh vegetables and fruits from the market.

Day 3. Sunday, April 25 After a leisurely breakfast at the Mas Corinne will take you to explore the Luberon Valley. Stop at Fontaine de Vaucluse to take a short hike to the mysterious source of the Sorgue River. Catch a light lunch in one of the restaurants along the blue-green waterfalls. The backroads will take us to a photo op at Gordes, the cliff top village of the movie "A Good Year" with Russell Crowe. Further on in the Luberon Valley visit the Ocre cliffs in Roussillon. You will have free time here for photography, painting or simply enjoying the outdoor cafes. This valley is full of enchanting villages perched high upon the cliffs and surrounded by vineyards. Back at the Mas we will enjoy a special pizza night around the pool.

Day 4. Monday, April 26 This morning we will take the autoroute to Aix-en-Provence, home of Cézanne and the famous Monte Ste Victoire which he painted in every kind of light imaginable. Visit Cézanne's workshop and then travel the road to Mte Ste. Victoire that Cézanne walked every day. On to Cassis, a colourful fishing village on the Mediterranean Sea where you have the option of a fresh seafood lunch on the quai and free time to take the excursion into the Calanques. Enjoy shopping here.

Day 5. Tuesday, April 27 Another relaxing morning at the Mas, listening to the frogs in the pond or biking to the local boulangerie for fresh pastries! Today you will have the afternoon and evening free to sightsee and shop in Avignon. The Palais des Papes and the Pont d' Avignon are worth a visit. Perhaps you will catch a performance in the baroque Opera House of Avignon— magnifique. Supper at one of the many good restaurants recommended by Corinne.

Day 6. Wednesday, April 28 The market in St. Remy de Provence is reputed to be one of the best markets in Provence. Morning to shop for provencale souvenirs and provisions for a picnic. Saint Paul Maussole, again another sanatorium where Van Gogh was hospitalized is being restored to offer another glimpse of this flamboyant artist. Close by a beautiful view can be enjoyed from Les Baux, a medieval village perched on the Bauxite. The landscape of poppies and olive trees present many opportunities to capture the sunlight of Provence. Evening to enjoy a special gourmet meal in the Gardens of Norbert DuSerre.

Day 7. Thursday, April 29 This morning we will need some time to pack up before heading off to the famous wine region of Chateauneuf-du-Pape where we will have time to visit the ruins of the Papal Summer home and walk down to the cobbled streets lined with wine tasting boutiques. Close to Carpentras and Mt Ventoux is a new winery Domaine de Marotte which offers a Table d' Hote. Share a tasting then take our lunch to one of the many picnic tables in the vineyard. This is a great opportunity for cameras and sketchbooks! In the late afternoon we will take the TGV or fast train to the Gare de Lyon in Paris. After arrival we will have time to check into the charming hotel in Paris and freshen up. Head off through the Galleries to one of the oldest brasseries in Paris, Le Grand Colbert for a traditional 3 course meal.

Day 8. Friday, April 30 - Today we will be on an all day excursion to the French countryside. Giverny is home to Monet and his famous gardens. Enjoy the ambiance of this colourful spot before returning via Auvers sur Oise, a quaint town about 30 km outside of Paris where artists such as Pissaro and Daubigny created some of their finest works. This village too is where Van Gogh spent his final days and his tomb is now found beside that of his brother Theo in the local cemetery. A visit to the Chateau d' Auvers will have you experience a very animated presentation of all the Impressionist artists and the countryside that inspired them. Walking paths in the area puts one right back in their paintings. Supper on your own back in Paris.

Day 9. Saturday, May 1 A morning visit to Monet's Musée Marmottan will have you examine Monet's originals up close as well as some of the other Impressionist Artists. We will take the metro to the Café du Marché for an interesting meal ordered off the blackboard! Then we are off to the Eiffel Tower to view this magnificent dame. Afternoon and evening free to pursue personal interests with helpful suggestions from Corinne. May 1 is a national holiday so there will be many Parisiens in the streets.

Day 10. Sunday, May 2 Today is reserved for the Musée d'Orsay, a converted railway station along the Seine that was destined to be demolished in 1970. Its natural light displays the works of the impressionists exquisitely. In the afternoon visit Sacre Coeur is a huge white basilica that overlooks Paris and see budding artists at work in the famous artist's square – Place du Tertre. Quaint sites on this Butte Montmartre are Van Gogh's Billiard House, Renoir's studio, Moulin de la Galette, Degas' grave, Moulin Rouge and other traces of the Impressionist footprints. Evening dinner cruise on the Seine to say adieu to this beautiful city of lights.

Day 11. Monday, May 3 Morning departure for the Charles de Gaulle airport to continue your visit of Paris.