



Côte à Côte

Group Organizer: Ms. Hélène Simon

Tour Includes

Departure Date

May 31, 2027

Overnights

Paris 3 • St. Malo 2 • Loire Valley 2 • Avignon 4

Accommodations

Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels. Rooming on a triple basis. Double rooms: \$550 per person.

Transportation

Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline. Deluxe touring motorcoach. Unlimited public transportation.

Meals

All breakfasts. All dinners.

Tour Director

Services of a specially-trained **passports** Tour Director throughout. Tipping is included in the Program Cost. Whisper headsets included.

Travel Protection

passports provides a complimentary Post-Departure Travel Protection Plan that includes coverage for Trip Interruption, Trip Delay, Medical Expenses, and more.

Investment

\$6533

Program Cost \$6633

-\$100 Early Enrollment Discount

Total \$6533

Early Enrollment Discount expires September 15, 2026. Final payment is due 1/31/2027 or, with E-Z Pay, 5/1/2027. Tour cost is based on a minimum group size of 20 participants. Departure from Tampa, FL. Adults 24 years or older are automatically charged for double rooms. With doubles, total price is \$7,083.

For More Information

1 Visit our website
passports.com

2 Enter Tour ID
HSIMON2027-3

Côte à Côte

Departs: May 31, 2027



Days 1-2: Home - Paris

Arrival Paris: Arrival transfer

Excursion to Versailles: Palace of Versailles State Apartments and Hall of Mirrors, Versailles Palace Gardens

Day 3: Paris

Paris City Sightseeing: See Napoléon's Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Place de la Concorde, Opéra Garnier, the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter, the Luxembourg Gardens, and Saint-Germain-des-Prés: Local Guide

Visit to the Musée d'Orsay

Visit Notre-Dame Cathedral

Seine River cruise

Day 4: Paris

Ascent to the second level of the Eiffel Tower

Day 5: Paris - St. Malo

Travel to St. Malo via the D-Day Beaches: Arromanches 360, D-Day Beaches, Normandy American Cemetery

Day 6: St. Malo

Excursion to Mont Saint-Michel: Mont Saint-Michel

Day 7: St. Malo - Loire Valley

Travel to the Loire Valley via Amboise and Clos Luce: Amboise, Clos-Lucé Castle

Day 8: Loire Valley

Excursion to Chenonceau, Amboise Castle and Chambord: Château de Chenonceau, Royal Château of Amboise, Visit to the *Château de Chambord*, Chambord *HistoPad* interactive tablet

Day 9: Loire Valley - Avignon

Travel to Paris

Train to Avignon: TGV train Paris-Avignon, Arrival transfer

Day 10: Avignon

Excursion to the Pont du Gard and Nîmes: Visit to the Pont du Gard Roman aqueduct, Nîmes Walking Tour, Nîmes' Amphitheater and Maison Carrée, Stroll in Nîmes

Day 11: Avignon

Excursion to Aix-en-Provence: Walking Tour in Aix-en-Provence, Atelier de Cézanne

Day 12: Avignon

Tour director-led walking tour in Avignon: Palace of the Popes, Cathédrale Notre-Dame des Doms

Excursion to Les Baux-de-Provence: Sightseeing stop at the village of Les Baux, Carrières de Lumières Immersive Digital Art Show

Day 13: Departure

Depart Avignon via Marseille: Departure transfer

To enroll or view full text itinerary, point your camera here:



Detailed Itinerary

Days 1-2: Arrival in Paris, Excursion to Versailles

Weeks, or even months of preparation come to fruition at last as you board your airplane bound for Europe and the glittering jewel at her heart, Paris. *Bienvenue!*

Time permitting, you may want to head to Montmartre, Paris' highest hill and its most celebrated bohemian district. Artists still flock to the charming *Place du Tertre*, as they did when Toulouse-Lautrec painted the French Cancan dancers at the famous *Moulin Rouge* cabaret. Visitors enjoy panoramic views of the city as they make their way to the *Sacré-Coeur*, the white-domed basilica that anchors the Parisian skyline.

Settle into your hotel, then have a look at one of the world's most beautiful capital cities.

Excursion to Versailles

Enjoy a bit of relevant French history today at the palace where the Sun King, Madame de Pompadour and Queen Marie-Antoinette all come to life. In this ultimate example of Baroque architecture, you will marvel at the lavish decoration, abundant gilding and exuberant ornamentation, particularly in the Royal Apartments of Louis XIV and in the Hall of Mirrors. Imagine the sense of self-importance that must have inflated the ego of these kings and queens.

If time allows, you may want to enrich your royal experience with an optional visit to the *Petit Trianon* and Marie-Antoinette's Hamlet, located within the grounds, about a mile and a half from the palace.

Explore the park. Buy refreshments at a booth, or enjoy the picnic you may have planned earlier by purchasing typically French food at a market. In season, opt for a ride on the tourist train, rent a bike, or rent a boat to row down the length of the *Grand Canal*.

Versailles Palace Gardens

The main gardens, designed by the famous landscape architect André Le Nôtre, are an integral part of the palace's overall design, showcasing a harmonious blend of French formal gardens and Italian Renaissance influences. Covering approximately 800 hectares, the gardens boast intricate geometric patterns, magnificent fountains, and extensive parterres, all aligned with the palace's central axis, creating an awe-inspiring vista.

A walk through the main gardens of Versailles offers visitors a chance to witness the spectacular fountains, such as the grand Fountain of Apollo, which represents the Sun King himself riding a chariot drawn by four horses. Visitors can also explore the perfectly manicured lawns, the grand canal, and the numerous statues and sculptures that adorn the garden. The intricate groves, such as the enchanting Bosquet de la Salle de Bal, provide a sense of intimacy and a place for quiet contemplation amidst the grandiosity of the estate. A visit to Versailles' main gardens is a journey through history, offering a glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of the French royalty.

RER train Versailles-Paris

Return to Paris using the efficient RER transit system.

Monday 5/31 - Tuesday 6/1

Home - Paris

Arrival Paris: Arrival transfer

Excursion to Versailles: Palace of Versailles
State Apartments and Hall of Mirrors,
Versailles Palace Gardens

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight: Paris

Wednesday 6/2

Paris

Paris City Sightseeing: See Napoléon's Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Place de la Concorde, Opéra Garnier, the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter, the Luxembourg Gardens, and Saint-Germain-des-Prés: Local Guide

Visit to the Musée d'Orsay

Visit Notre-Dame Cathedral

Dinner

Seine River cruise

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Paris

Thursday 6/3

Paris

Dinner

Ascent to the second level of the Eiffel Tower

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Paris

Friday 6/4

Paris - St. Malo

Travel to St. Malo via the D-Day Beaches: Arromanches 360, D-Day Beaches, Normandy American Cemetery

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: St. Malo

Day 3: Paris City Sightseeing, Musée d'Orsay, Notre-Dame, Seine River Cruise

Set out on a coach tour of the city. On the Right Bank of the River Seine, see Napoléon's Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, the Place de la Concorde, and the exuberant Opéra Garnier. On the Left Bank, you'll drive by the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter, the Luxembourg Gardens, and Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

A local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Paris, will accompany your group.

Visit to the Musée d'Orsay

View the exceptional collection of Impressionist works on display at the Orsay Museum, including Monet's famous series on the Rouen Cathedral, the tortured canvases of Vincent van Gogh, and works by Renoir, Manet, Gauguin, and Cézanne.

Visit Notre-Dame Cathedral

Visit *Notre-Dame de Paris*, gutted by the fire of April 15, 2019, but still standing, solemn and magnificent with its iconic towers miraculously preserved from destruction.

Begun in 1163 and completed in 1272, this cathedral has presided over centuries of glorious and somber French history, including its desecration during the French Revolution. In 1831, Victor Hugo launched a campaign of restoration with a novel he titled *Notre Dame de Paris*. Because he saw the cathedral as the main character, he strongly objected to the title of the English edition: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

Seine River cruise

See Paris transformed into a wonderland like no other during a cruise along the River Seine.

Day 4: Paris, Eiffel Tower

Enjoy some free time in Paris.

For a change of pace, go have a look at 21st-century Paris at the *Quartier de la Défense*, on the outskirts of the city. Admire *la Grande Arche*, a feat of modern architecture with its hollow cube large enough to contain *Notre-Dame*. See how it is situated in near-perfect alignment with the Arc de Triomphe, the Place de la Concorde and the Louvre (you may want to take the elevator to the top for a better perspective). Check out *Les Quatre Temps*, a huge shopping center located nearby.

Ascent to the second level of the Eiffel Tower

Take an elevator to the *deuxième étage* of the most famous cast iron structure ever built, *la Tour Eiffel*, for an unforgettable panorama of Paris.

Day 5: D-Day Beaches, St. Malo

Travel to St. Malo via the D-Day Beaches

Travel to the English Channel coast where D-Day dawned on June 6, 1944.

Film at the Arromanches 360 circular cinema

Stop on the cliff that overlooks the landing beach of Arromanches to watch the impressive *Normandy's 100 Days*, an HD film with surround sound that's presented in a circular cinema. It places spectators in the middle of the Battle of Normandy, thanks to archival footage.

This is indeed Second World War country, with sobering memorials, bunkers, and occasional remnants of barbed wire. Three-quarters of a century after D-Day, the beaches of Normandy are still referred to by their WWII code names.

Saturday 6/5

St. Malo

Excursion to Mont Saint-Michel: Mont Saint-Michel

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: St. Malo

Sunday 6/6

St. Malo - Loire Valley

Travel to the Loire Valley via Amboise and Clos Luce: Amboise, Clos-Lucé Castle

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Loire Valley

Visit to the Normandy American Cemetery

Just over the coastal bluffs, in Colleville-sur-Mer, lie the 9,387 military graves of the American Cemetery. The endless, crisp rows are poignant reminders of heroic days that changed the outcome of World War II.

Travel to St. Malo

Proceed to the medieval harbor known as *la Cité des Corsaires* for famous native seafarers such as Surcouf, who captured countless English ships, and Jacques Cartier, who sailed to the New World and up Canada's St. Lawrence River in 1535. *Saint-Malo* is perched on a rock at the mouth of the River Rance, its only link to the mainland a narrow causeway.

Day 6: Excursion to Mont Saint-Michel

Excursion to Mont Saint-Michel

As you get closer to the site, see how the *Mont Saint-Michel* rises out of the sea mists, its spired abbey church perched upon a rocky island set in a tidal bay.

On your way up the hill for a visit to the abbey, you will walk along steep streets filled with tales of pilgrimages and of prisoners who were once kept on this small island.

On the way back, spend some time browsing in the village's souvenir shops. Have a look at the surrounding seabed, a flat sandy expanse at low tide, where incoming tides are said to rush in as fast as a galloping horse.

Day 7: Clos Lucé, Loire Valley

Travel to the Loire Valley via Amboise and Clos Luce

Travel to the Loire Valley

Depart for the *Val de Loire*, the 'Garden of France' where, during the Renaissance, French monarchs built fancy castles to entertain their courtiers.

Amboise

Stop in Amboise, whose castle was one of the first French royal residences to be built for pleasure. Yet it is remembered for the tragic events it hosted in 1560, when Protestant conspirators were hanged from its balcony. Stroll around town and see the Hôtel de Ville, the fountain designed by Max Ernst and the Church of St. Denis, which dates back to the 12th century.

Visit to Leonardo da Vinci's Château du Clos Lucé

At the manor where King François I spent time as a child, Leonardo da Vinci continued to work with *ostinato rigore* (in his own words), for the last years of his life (1516-1519). Some forty models of his intricate machines, recently constructed from his plans, are on display and give ample testimony to his creative genius.

Monday 6/7

Loire Valley

Excursion to Chenonceau, Amboise Castle and Chambord: Château de Chenonceau, Royal Château of Amboise, Visit to the *Château de Chambord*, Chambord *HistoPad* interactive tablet

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Loire Valley

Day 8: Excursion to Chenonceau, Amboise Castle and Chambord

Excursion to Chenonceau, Amboise Castle and Chambord

An excursion takes you into the very essence of the history and culture of France. See some of France's loveliest *châteaux*, which define the sophistication of the Renaissance.

Visit to the Château de Chenonceau

Discover the prettiest of the Loire Valley *châteaux*, which spans the River Cher. In 1547, King Henri II gave this property to his mistress, Diane de Poitiers. On her orders, splendid gardens were added and a bridge was built to link the castle to the other bank of the Cher. The famous gallery later erected upon that bridge by Queen Catherine de Medici served, during World War II, as an escape route between Nazi-occupied northern France and unoccupied southern France.

Visit to the Royal Château of Amboise

Enter the first French royal residence that was transformed from a medieval fortress into a pleasant royal retreat, and you'll soon learn that the *Château Royal d'Amboise* is mostly remembered for the tragic events it hosted in 1560, when Huguenot (Protestant) conspirators were hung from hooks on the castle's façade.

During your visit, you will see the Royal Apartments and, on the grounds, the Chapel of St. Hubert. This Gothic jewel houses a grave marker memorializing Leonardo da Vinci, who was buried on the castle grounds in 1519, in a chapel that was later destroyed.

Visit to the Château de Chambord

Enter the largest of the Loire Valley castles (440 rooms and 80 staircases). At the age of 25, King François I decided to build a sumptuous residence, and he did. However, over the 32 years of his reign he only spent 42 days at Chambord!

Today, visitors marvel at the park (enclosed by a wall 18 miles long), at the grand façade, and at the famous Double Helix Staircase (*Grand Escalier*), which leads to a roof adorned with 200 chimneys!

Let the 3D and virtual reality technology of your *HistoPad Chambord* fill up castle rooms as they were in their heyday, back in the 16th century, while you listen to automatically triggered commentaries.

Day 9: Paris, Train to Avignon

Travel to Paris

Travel to Paris

Pick up speed on the *autoroute* that takes you into a whole different world: the stately monuments and broad boulevards of the French capital.

Train to Avignon

Today, there's the excitement of a ride on a *Train à Grande Vitesse* (no clickety-clacks on these smooth rails) all the way down to Avignon, *au coeur de la Provence*.

This lovely city has been known as "la Cité des Papes" since Roman Catholic popes took up residence there in the 14th century.

Tuesday 6/8

Loire Valley - Avignon

Travel to Paris

Train to Avignon: TGV train Paris-Avignon,
Arrival transfer

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Avignon

Wednesday 6/9

Avignon

Excursion to the Pont du Gard and Nîmes:
Visit to the Pont du Gard Roman aqueduct,
Nîmes Walking Tour, Nîmes' Amphitheater
and Maison Carrée, Stroll in Nîmes

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Avignon

Day 10: Excursion to the Pont du Gard and Nîmes

Excursion to the Pont du Gard and Nîmes

It's a short ride to the *vallée du Gardon*, where a small river made its way to the Rhône River by carving rows of cliffs. The Romans used two of these cliffs to build one of their best-known structures.

Visit to the Pont du Gard Roman aqueduct

Marvel at the Romans' engineering genius at the *Pont du Gard*, an aqueduct constructed in 19 BC which delivered 44 million gallons of water each day to the Roman city of *Nemausus* (Nîmes).

Continue to the city the Romans called *Nemausus*.

Tour director-led walking tour in Nîmes

On a walk through the city's historic center, you will see impressive ruins such as the *Porte d'Auguste*, a Roman gate built at the entrance to the *Via Domitia* when *Colonia Nemausus* was founded by the Romans in 28 BC.

Visits to the Roman Amphitheater and the Maison Carrée

Enter the *Maison Carrée*, the best preserved Roman Temple, built c. 7 AD. Thomas Jefferson used it as a model for the Virginia State Capitol Building.

Then, visit the Roman amphitheater, which is better preserved than Rome's Colosseum.

Stroll in Nîmes

Walk through town, checking out local specialties such as fragrant perfumes, fine olive oils, or the attractive fabrics sold as *tissus provençaux*. Nîmes also gave us the less colorful but ubiquitous blue cloth known in the USA as "denim," a deformation of the name of the fabric first woven in this city and called *serge de Nîmes*.

Day 11: Excursion to Aix-en-Provence

Excursion to Aix-en-Provence

Tour director-led walking tour in Aix-en-Provence

Discover the historic district of the "City of a Thousand Fountains" as you stroll along its best-known avenue, the *Cours Mirabeau*, past monumental fountains from the 17th century. Other landmarks include the *Place de l'Hôtel de Ville* with its open-air cafés and the *Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur*, whose Romanesque cloisters house a famous triptych, *The Burning Bush*, painted in 1476.

Atelier de Cézanne

Visit the Atelier de Cézanne, the famed studio where Paul Cézanne, a master of post-impressionism, created many of his timeless works. This is a unique opportunity to step into the artist's authentic workspace, preserved as he left it, providing a rare glimpse into his creative process. The studio is surrounded by the lush Provençal landscape that inspired some of Cézanne's most celebrated paintings. Experience a connection to art history and gain insight into the life and work of one of the most influential painters of the 19th century.

Thursday 6/10

Avignon

Excursion to Aix-en-Provence: Walking Tour
in Aix-en-Provence, Atelier de Cézanne

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Avignon

Friday 6/11

Avignon

Tour director-led walking tour in Avignon:
Palace of the Popes, Cathédrale Notre-Dame des Doms

Excursion to Les Baux-de-Provence:
Sightseeing stop at the village of Les Baux,
Carrières de Lumières Immersive Digital Art Show

Dinner

Overnight

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Avignon

Day 12: Avignon Walking Tour, Excursion to Les Baux-de-Provence

Tour director-led walking tour in Avignon

Enjoy a walking tour: see landmarks such as the imposing fortress-like Palace of the Popes, the *Cathédrale Notre-Dame des Doms*, the Saint-Bénézet Bridge (*Pont d'Avignon!*), the central *Place de l'Horloge*, and the charming *rue des Teinturiers*.

Visit to the Palace of the Popes with HistoPad tablet

Visit the *Palais des Papes*, which is the world's largest Gothic palace. Begun in 1334, it was built with walls 18 feet thick because the Avignon Popes, controlled by the French kings, had to ward off invaders. The private apartments of the Popes, now empty, have retained their frescoes: the augmented reality technology of your HistoPad tablet will fill up the rooms as they were in their heyday while you listen to automatically triggered commentaries.

Visit to the Cathédrale Notre-Dame des Doms

Enter the *Cathédrale Notre-Dame des Doms*, which stands next to the Palace of the Popes. It dates back to the 12th century and houses richly decorated altars, and the magnificent tombs of a few Popes.

Excursion to Les Baux-de-Provence

A scenic ride takes you through a valley called *Val d'Enfer* because the Alpilles Range's rock formations evoke at dusk the caves of Dante's inferno. The ruins of the high-perched village of Les Baux will appear on the horizon.

Sightseeing stop at the village of Les Baux

Discover a ruined village set on sun-drenched cliffs. In the Middle Ages, *Troubadours* from all over Europe came to this "court of love" to recite Western Europe's earliest-known vernacular poetry. The high-perched castle, now a mere shell, old houses, narrow streets hollowed out of the rock, and a stunning setting contribute to the village's appeal.

Immersive digital art show at the Carrières de Lumières

Enter huge galleries that once were part of a limestone quarry. A *This Site Naturel Protégé* was transformed in the 1970s into a *Cathédrale d'Images* that projected sound-and-light shows on the quarry walls. Nowadays, under the name "Quarries of Lights," the spellbinding shows go on, with state-of-the-art sound and light effects.

Day 13: Departure

Depart Avignon via Marseille

Board your coach for the short ride to Marseille.

Le retour, hélas... On to the airport. Your plane awaits. This time the earth rotates towards you, allowing an arrival in the U.S. only shortly after you left Europe. You're eager to share your adventures with family and friends.

Saturday 6/12

Departure

Depart Avignon via Marseille: Departure transfer

Meals included: Breakfast

Cost Breakdown

Itinerary	Côte à Côte
Departing	May 31, 2027
Departure City	Tampa, FL
Rooming	Triples
Program Cost	\$6,633
	-\$100 Early Enrollment Discount for enrollments before 9/15/2026
Total Cost	\$6,533
Monthly Payment	\$726 with \$0 deposit
Standard Final Payment Deadline	01/31/2027
E-Z Pay Final Payment Deadline	05/01/2027
Available Add-ons not included in price	Double rooms: \$550 per person - 11 @ \$50 per night (mandatory for adults 24 years and older)