



FRENCH PROMENADE



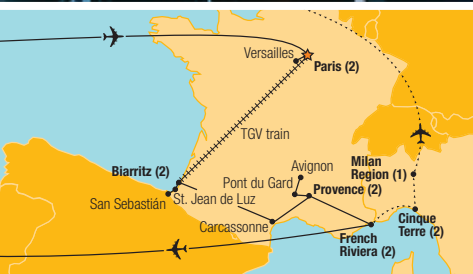
*Educational
Tours*

→ **Discover the Global Classroom**

10 or 13 DAYS

French Promenade

France • Spain • Monaco



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.



Peruse old books, postcards and other wares from *les bouquinistes* that line the Seine River in Paris.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (11 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Paris
- 7 sightseeing tours led by your tour director: Biarritz • San Sebastián and St. Jean de Luz • Carcassonne • Avignon • Aix-en-Provence • Nîmes
- 1 walking tour: Paris
- 1 orientation tour: Nice
- 6 visits to special attractions: Louvre • Notre Dame Cathedral • Palais des Papes Amphitheater • Pont du Gard • Calanques • Perfume factory
- TGV high-speed train

OPTIONAL:

Versailles

EXTENSION : All of the above, PLUS:

- 2 sightseeing tours led by your tour director: Cinque Terre • Genoa

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to France • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Paris

Arrival in Paris • Touch down in Paris, City of Light. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Walking tour of Paris • Our walking tour takes in the chic Opéra district and the Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré, famous for its haute couture boutiques. Stroll through the Place de la Concorde, the city's largest public square, built to honor Louis XV. During the Revolution, this was the location of Joseph Guillotin's famous machine; the next Louis, Marie Antoinette and many others were beheaded here. Continue through the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades. Pass the Ritz hotel at no. 15, a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway. (The exact walking route may vary depending on your hotel location and other activities.)

Visit to the Louvre • Built to defend the city in the 13th century, the Louvre today safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's glass pyramid, constructed in 1989. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Asia, Greece and Rome. You'll also see precious objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as iconic European paintings such as the *Mona Lisa*.

Day 3 Paris

Guided sightseeing of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine: from the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, to the Île de la Cité, birthplace of Paris. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV's grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You'll also see the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to lieutenant and was told he'd go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centerpiece for the 1889 World's Fair. You'll hear the story of how this impressive—but once highly controversial—symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral • Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Optional excursion to Versailles • Join an optional excursion to Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Here, the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. Stroll through the elegantly landscaped gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre, tour the State Apartments of the King himself, walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors and admire the ornate decor of the State Apartments of the Queen. (Please note: Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace. Please also note that Versailles is closed on Mondays. Participants must enroll in this excursion no later than 50 days prior to departure.)

Day 4 Paris • Biarritz

Transfer to Biarritz • Travel via TGV past the vineyards of Bordeaux into Basque country, a linguistically and culturally unique region. Today's destination: the world-famous seaside resort of Biarritz, located at the foot of the Pyrenees.

Day 5 Biarritz

Excursion to San Sebastián • Cross the Spanish border and continue through the Basque region to oceanside San Sebastián (known as *Donostia* in Basque). While in the Old Town, notice the numbers on the balconies above, which used to be ringside seats for bullfights.

Return via St. Jean de Luz • Visit the charming fishing town of St. Jean de Luz. Here Louis XIV married the Infanta Maria Teresa in 1660.

Tour director-led sightseeing of Biarritz • As you are introduced to Biarritz, enjoy views of the Atlantic and the town's sandy beaches. Keep in mind that the area has been a favorite among international royalty since the early 19th century.

Day 6 Biarritz • Provence

Tour director-led sightseeing of Carcassonne • During your transfer to Provence, visit Carcassonne. Relive medieval times as your tour director leads you past the city's age-old ramparts (which slowly turned to ruin after falling to the Crusaders in the 13th century). Carcassonne is also home to Europe's largest and most complete medieval fortress.

Overnight in Provence • Painter Paul Cézanne once said of Provence: "Everywhere are the fragrances of honey, thyme, lavender, all the herbs of the nearby hills." Spend the night in this vibrant land, which also beckoned Picasso, Cocteau and van Gogh.

Day 7 Provence

Tour director-led sightseeing of Avignon and visit to the Popes' Palace • Join your tour director for a tour of Avignon, capital of the Provence region. Pope Clement V, a native of France, moved the seat of the papacy to Avignon in 1309. Stroll through the sprawling Palais des Papes in which he and his six successors resided. View the stunning Italian frescoes in the chapel, step inside the papal vestry, and see the hidden vaults where the church's riches were stored.

Pont du Gard • See the astonishing Pont du Gard aqueduct. Dating back 2,000 years, it once supplied Roman villas with running water.

Tour director-led sightseeing of Nîmes

• Your tour director will show you the best of Nîmes, the birthplace of denim. Get acquainted with the famous Roman architecture in one of Provence's most important cities. You will have the opportunity to visit an ancient Roman amphitheater, originally built to accommodate thousands of spectators. The arena is still occasionally used for bullfights! (Please note: Depending on hotel location, some groups may visit Arles, whose meandering streets once inspired van Gogh. Arles also has an ancient Roman amphitheater.)

Day 8 Provence • French Riviera

Tour director-led sightseeing of Aix-en-Provence • On your way to the French Riviera, your tour director shows you the artistic and historical charm of Aix-en-Provence, the oldest Roman settlement in Gaul. This city of abundant fountains derives its name from the Latin word for water, or *aqua*.

Cassis and Calanques Cruise • Transfer by way of the seaside village of Cassis, where you'll embark on a cruise through inlets of sparkling, turquoise water cradled by jagged limestone cliffs. The *calanques*, as these steep-sided fjords are called, create a craggy, white trim along a stretch of France's most beautiful coastline.

Arrival on the French Riviera • Arrive at the spectacular coastline of the glamorous French Riviera, land of sparkling waters, waving palm trees and sun-drenched promenades.

Day 9 French Riviera

Excursion to Monaco • Follow the coastline of the Riviera to Monaco, a tiny principality that packs wealth, royalty and the world's most famous casino into just 0.8 square miles. The Grimaldi family has ruled Monaco since 1297, making it the longest-reigning family dynasty in Europe. See the Prince's Palace and pass by the Cathédrale de Monaco, site of Prince Rainier's wedding to Grace Kelly in 1956. The cathedral is also the final resting place of both Prince Rainier, who died in 2005, and Princess Grace, who was killed in a car accident in the hills of Monaco in 1982. Catch a glimpse of the stately Monte-Carlo Casino as you stroll the streets with your tour director. The casino was built in 1878 by Charles Garnier, who also designed the Paris Opéra.

The Pont du Gard is a Roman masterpiece that allows the Nîmes aqueduct to cross the Gard River.



Visit to Eze • En route to Nice, stop in Eze, a small medieval town perched on a cliff high above the waters of the Mediterranean. Here, you'll enjoy a guided tour of a perfume factory.

Orientation tour of Nice • Acquaint yourself with the palm trees and promenades of this exclusive seaside resort. Walk in the footsteps of the rich and famous as you stroll through the Vieille Ville past whitewashed villas, and down the Promenade des Anglais. Nice's spectacular scenery has inspired such artists as Renoir, Matisse and Toulouse-Lautrec.

Day 10 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 10 Nice • Cinque Terre

Transfer to the Italian Riviera • Alternatively, choose to extend your stay with a visit to the Italian Riviera. Along your travels today, stop for free time in San Remo before reaching Cinque Terre, a rugged stretch of the Riviera coastline.

Day 11 Cinque Terre

Tour director-led sightseeing of Cinque Terre • Embark on a day-long excursion to explore Cinque Terre. Literally translating to "five earths," Cinque Terre is comprised of five coastal towns—Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore—dramatically situated on cliff faces overlooking the Mediterranean. Each village has its own unique character. The markets of Monterosso, the medieval forts of Vernazza and the pastel-colored edifices of Manarola add to the charm of Cinque Terre.

Day 12 Genoa • Milan region

Tour director-led sightseeing of Genoa • Your tour director leads you through the city where Christopher Columbus purportedly spent his childhood. Situated along the northwestern coast of Italy, Genoa is a city steeped in maritime history. As early as the third century B.C., Genoa was an established coastal trade center and it flourished into a thriving port city throughout the Renaissance. Stroll along the Via Garibaldi, once known as Via Aurea (Golden Street) for the palace homes built here in the late 16th century. Find yourself at the religious focal point of Genoa as you observe the San Lorenzo Cathedral. Named for St. Lawrence, who ventured through Genoa in the third century, the cathedral was also the administrative center of the city for centuries.

Free time in Genoa • Take advantage of free time in Genoa to visit the aquarium, one of the most impressive marine facilities in Europe. More than 5,000 types of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, insects and mammals make their home here. Built for the 1992 Columbus World Exposition, the aquarium was fully opened to the public in 1993.

Transfer to Milan region • Continue on to the Milan region, where you will spend the night.

Day 13 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.



ITN0309BJF/X
Itinerary subject to change.

Discover the Global Classroom



Educational Tours

**Enroll at eftours.com/student
or call 1-800-665-5364**

2010/Fall