

SOUTHERN FRANCE BY RAIL

- Atlantic France to the Mediterranean –
Paris, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Molitg-Les-Bains, Narbonne,
Montpellier, Nîmes, Avignon, Aix-en-Provence and Nice

Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June 2027

Join us for a twenty-one day tour to experience the beauty of Southern France. Moving from the Atlantic-influenced, historic wine estates of the west, through the rugged medieval heartland of the south, and culminating in the sun-drenched, high-octane glamour of the Mediterranean. Journey on some of the most scenic and spectacular rail lines of Southern France and sink into the rhythm of the French *art de vivre*. Enjoy relaxed winery lunches, rugged mountain landscapes, historic sites, scenic rail journeys, stay and dine at French Château and enjoy seaside hotels. Appreciate the land that inspired master painters like Matisse and Van Gogh, and indulge in sensory overload with lavender fields, olive groves, outdoor markets, and staggering Roman architecture bathed in the famous Mediterranean light.



ITINERARY

The itinerary for the tour is shown below, with the key activities and highlights of each day. On some days additional activities will be possible at no extra cost. Optional additions to the tour (at extra cost) when shown below are followed by (O). Meals included are shown as Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D). The tour is limited to 16 travellers.

Saturday 22 May 2027 (in-flight meals) – Australia to Paris

Depart Australia for Paris. There are options of one-stop flights with Singapore Airlines via Singapore, Japan Airlines via Tokyo, Cathay Pacific via Hong Kong, Emirates via Dubai, Qatar through Doha and more - or have an overnight stop in Asia or the Middle East enroute. We can assist with your air travel arrangements, or you are welcome to make your own arrangements to meet us in Paris.

Sunday 23 May 2027 (B) – Arrive Paris

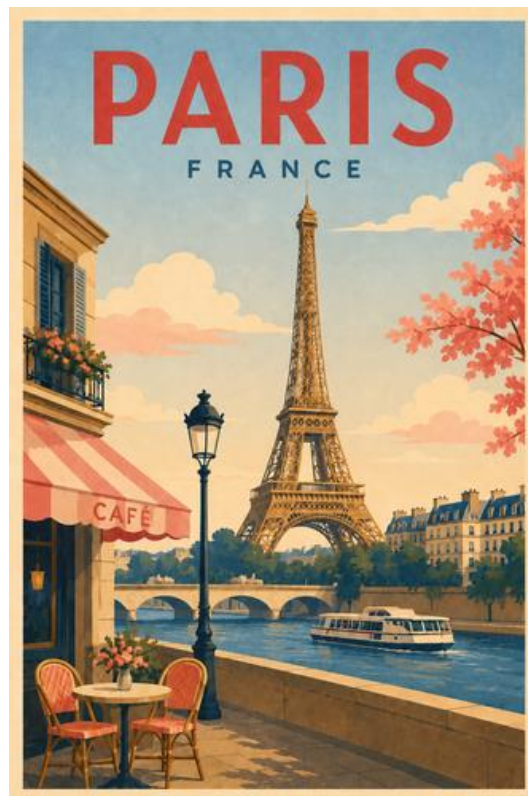
On arrival into Paris, transfer to our hotel and the remainder of the day is free for rest or sightseeing in Paris. Depending on flight arrival times, enjoy a stroll through the Parisian neighbourhoods, enjoy an afternoon café, or ascend to Montmartre and Sacré-Cœur for early evening light over La Ville Lumière (the City of Light.) Dinner is at leisure and there are a range of dining options at and close to our hotel. Overnight Paris.

Monday 24 May 2027 (B/D) – Paris

After breakfast enjoy a day exploring the city at leisure or join us for a classic day of sightseeing in Paris. Begin at the iconic Eiffel Tower, where the morning light offers perfect views from the Trocadéro before we head over to the towering Arc de Triomphe. From here, a leisurely stroll down the grand Avenue des Champs-Élysées leads you toward the historic Place de la Concorde. After pausing for lunch at a bustling sidewalk bistro, pass the majestic glass pyramids of the Louvre Museum and wander the tree-lined paths of the Tuileries Garden toward the historic heart of the city at Notre-Dame Cathedral. You may like to explore the Louvre at your leisure, or cross over to the Left Bank to get lost in the narrow, winding alleys of the vibrant Latin Quarter, passing the Panthéon and historic bookstores. Dinner is included tonight and overnight Paris.

Tuesday 25 May 2027 (B) – Paris to Bordeaux

After a relaxed breakfast, we depart mid-morning on the TGV train journey from Paris to Bordeaux - a remarkably fast and seamless experience that shrinks a 500-kilometre trip down to just 2 hours and 15 minutes. Our journey begins at the bustling Gare Montparnasse in southwest Paris, where we board a sleek, double-decker high-speed train. As the train clears the Parisian suburbs, it accelerates quietly and smoothly to its top cruising speed of 320 km/h. The engineering is so refined that the ride remains completely vibration-free, leaving you to watch the French countryside blur past the large panoramic windows. The route bullets straight through the rolling green hills, dense forests, and quiet farmland of central France before the landscape shifts into the sprawling, sun-drenched vineyards of the Aquitaine region. The train slows down as it crosses the Garonne River, pulling into the magnificent Gare de Bordeaux-Saint-Jean. Arriving under a stunning, historic 19th-century glass canopy, you step right into a fully modernized transit hub in the centre of Bordeaux. We transfer to our hotel for the next three nights. Dinner is at leisure at one of many nearby bistros and restaurants, and overnight Bordeaux.



Wednesday 26 May 2027 (B/L) – Bordeaux – wine, architecture and gastronomy

Famous as the world capital of wine, iconic 18th-century neoclassical architecture, and rich local gastronomy, Bordeaux has much to enjoy and experience. The region produces hundreds of millions of bottles each year across famous appellations like Médoc, Saint-Émilion, and Pomerol. The city centre features the largest urban area inscribed by UNESCO, known for its uniform blonde limestone buildings, as well as being a centre for gastronomy. Today we head out of the city for a scenic drive, as well as a wine tasting experience and luncheon in the beautiful Bordeaux countryside. Visit nearby Saint-Émilion, with its narrow 9th century cobblestone alleys and its 12th century stone monuments. Enjoy a coffee in one of the classic cafes, before we head out of this famous medieval village for a wine tasting and tour at one of the region's famous vineyards, then enjoy a relaxed and casual dining experience with local wine. In the mid-afternoon return along the Dordogne River valley and the western edge of the Entre-Deux-Mers and Fronsac wine regions back to Bordeaux. Walk to the **Place de la Bourse** to see the famous **Miroir d'eau** (Water Mirror)—the world's largest reflecting pool—which is stunning in the late-afternoon or evening light. Dinner is at leisure, and overnight Bordeaux.



Thursday 27 May 2027 (B) – Bordeaux

After a leisurely breakfast, today is free to explore the sights that appeal to you. Walk south along the pedestrian-friendly stone quays into the winding, medieval streets of the Saint-Pierre and Saint-Michel districts. Here, you can admire the towering Grosse Cloche bell tower and stop at a local café for a fresh espresso and a caramelized canelé pastry. Heading westward, you will encounter the grand Gothic Cathédrale Saint-André before stepping onto the bustling Rue Sainte-Catherine—Europe's longest pedestrian shopping street—vibrant with local boutique culture and lively street performers. In the afternoon, perhaps board one of Bordeaux's sleek, silent trams to travel north toward the revitalised Bassins à Flot district. A short ride on Line B drops you off at La Cité du Vin, a striking, ultra-modern architectural marvel where interactive exhibits bring global wine history to life – an excellent experience and fascinating even for those that do not generally enjoy or consume wine. Afterward, a brief walk around the historic wet docks leads you to the Bassins des Lumières, a former World War II submarine base transformed into an awe-inspiring, immersive digital art cavern. As the sun begins to set, take the tram back to the grand Place des Quinconces to enjoy a relaxing glass of local Bordeaux wine at a terrace, watching the city's historic limestone facades illuminate into a warm, golden glow. Dinner is at leisure and overnight Bordeaux.



Friday 28 May 2027 (B/D) – to Toulouse

After breakfast, a mid morning departure for Toulouse. The train journey takes about 2.5 hours to cover roughly 250 kilometres through southwestern France. Departing from Gare de Bordeaux-Saint-Jean, glide past the rolling vineyards of Aquitaine, quiet rural farmlands, and historic towns like Agen and Montauban before arriving at Toulouse-Matabiau. On arrival we store luggage at our hotel and then enjoy lunch. After lunch we check in to our hotel, and then you may like to join us for an afternoon stroll to view the sprawling Place du Capitole, to walk along Rue du Taur to explore the UNESCO Basilique Saint-Sernin, a historic stop on the Camino de Santiago. Dinner is included and overnight Toulouse.

Saturday 29 May 2027 (B) – Toulouse

After breakfast we start the day by heading to the historical city centre, and the Couvent des Jacobins, a gothic masterpiece featuring a stunning palm-tree-like stone vault inside. We explore the Renaissance heritage of the city at the Hôtel d'Assézat, which houses the rich fine art collection of the Fondation Bemberg. For lunch, head to the bustling indoor Marché Victor Hugo to sample local cheeses, charcuterie, and southwestern French specialties at a market-level restaurant. Afterward, walk down to the banks of the Garonne River and cross the historic Pont Neuf—Toulouse's oldest standing bridge—to reach the quiet riverside promenades. We finish near the towering dome of La Grave, watching the warm afternoon light set the terracotta-hued buildings and the river ablaze in deep shades of rose and gold. Dinner at leisure and overnight Toulouse.



Sunday 30 May 2027 (B/D) – to Latour-de-Carol-Enveitg, the *Petit Train Jaune* (Little Yellow Train) and to Molitg-Les-Bains

This morning we depart by train from Toulouse-Matabiau to Latour-de-Carol-Enveitg - a remarkably scenic 2.5-hour climb from the flat plains of Occitanie into the heart of the high Pyrenees. Initially we glide through rolling countryside before tracing the Ariège River valley into the mountains, offering views of the dramatic medieval castle in Foix and deep rocky gorges. As the train ascends past alpine towns like Ax-les-Thermes and L'Hospitalet-près-l'Andorre, the landscape shifts to dramatic evergreen forests and rugged peaks, ultimately arriving at a unique international border station situated over 1,200 metres above sea level. For the rail aficionados, it is one of the very few railway stations in the world that accommodates three different track gauges and three different electrical voltage systems in a single location.



From Latour-de-Carol-Enveitg we join the *Petit Train Jaune* bound for Villefranche-de-Conflent, to experience a breathtaking, slow-paced alpine adventure that winds its way for 63 kilometres across the sun-drenched Cerdagne high plateau in the Catalan Pyrenees. Operating on an historic, narrow metric gauge, the train, often with open-air iconic canary-yellow carriages, gently rattles through a dramatic landscape of deep granite gorges, dense forests, and high-altitude pastures. Along the route, it ascends to Bolquère-Eyne—France's highest railway station at 1,593 metres—and crosses architectural marvels like the spectacular Séjourné viaduct and the engineering feat of the suspension-style Gisclard Bridge, offering exhilarating, unobstructed panoramic views of the surrounding Pyrenean peaks. In Villefranche-de-Conflent we transfer to Molitg-Les-Bains for our two-night stay in this picturesque, sun-drenched thermal village. Nestled in the green, mountainous valley of the Castellane river within the Pyrénées-Orientales region of southern France, the village exudes an atmosphere of serene timelessness, characterised by stone-built houses, lush Mediterranean vegetation, and panoramic views of the imposing Mount Canigou. Its crown jewel is the historic Thermes de Molitg-les-Bains, a sprawling wellness domain built over a peaceful lake, where visitors come to relax in pools made of local pink marble. Whether relaxing or exploring the surrounding Catalan Pyrenees, this charming hillside hamlet blends wild, rugged nature with historic French elegance. Dinner is included and overnight Molitg-Les-Bains.



Monday 31 May 2027 (B/D) – Molitg- Les-Bains

After a relaxed breakfast, enjoy a morning of sightseeing through medieval Catalan history and rugged Pyrenean landscapes. We begin in the upper old village, strolling along quiet cobblestone streets lined with traditional stone houses with panoramic views of the surrounding valley. The architectural highlight is the Romanesque Église Sainte-Marie, a unique church physically attached to the old village chateau, Le Casteil, where the church's bell tower doubles as a medieval castle defense tower. Then follow the scenic walking paths heading down toward the Castellane gorges. The trail offers striking viewpoints of the Fortress de Paracolls, a dramatic set of medieval ruins perched high on a rocky outcrop overlooking the tree-filled valley. This mix of ancient architecture and fresh mountain air makes for a perfectly paced, refreshing morning before heading down to the lower valley's local bistros for lunch. After lunch we return to our hotel, for a relaxing afternoon. Dinner is included and overnight Molitg-Les-Bains.



Tuesday 1 June 2027 (B) – to Rivesaltes, the Red Train (Train du Pays Cathare et du Fenouillèdes) to Axat, and to Narbonne

This morning we join our coach and head to Rivesaltes, about an hour towards the coast. Today you have the choice of free time exploring the city of Perpignan, or join the little red train for an impressive return journey into the foothills of the Pyrénées. As the vintage railcar leaves behind the Agly valley and passes the imposing clifftop fortress of Château de Puilaurens, the landscape shifts dramatically from olive groves to steep, limestone cliffs, before rumbling over dizzying viaducts and plunging through cool mountain tunnels. Arriving in the alpine oasis of Axat, enjoy a leisurely riverside lunch break in this small village nestled in the foothills of the Pyrenees mountains along the fast-flowing Aude River. The journey back to Rivesaltes offers a completely fresh perspective on the Saint-Georges gorges, bathed in the golden, shifting light of the late afternoon sun, making the descent feel like a peaceful, cinematic rewind through time and geography. Alternatively spend free time in Perpignan - wander through the historic centre to admire the stunning Gothic architecture of the Perpignan Cathedral and the peaceful cloisters of the adjacent Campo Santo, before heading south to explore the majestic Palace of the Kings of Majorca perched on its scenic hill. After pausing for lunch at a lively square or a local bistro along the River Basse, browse the fine collections at the Hyacinthe Rigaud Art Museum or retreat into the opulent interior patio of Hôtel Pams for a refreshing drink. On the return of our train we collect those who've chosen to spend time in Perpignan, and then make the 50 minute journey north to Narbonne for our two night stay - enjoy dinner at leisure and overnight Narbonne.



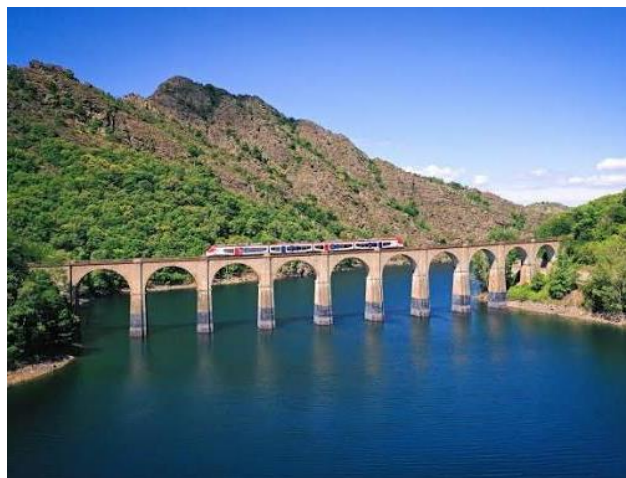
Wednesday 2 June 2027 (B) – Narbonne and/or Carcassonne



Enjoy a relaxed day in and around Narbonne, or journey to nearby Carcassonne for morning sightseeing and lunch. Begin with a slow morning stroll along the Canal de la Robine under the shade of the plane trees. Head to the vibrant Les Halles covered market to admire fresh local cheeses and pastries, or simply grab an espresso at a lively counter to soak in the bustling atmosphere. Wander over to the city centre to marvel at the towering, unfinished Cathedral of Saint-Just and Saint-Pasteur before looking down at the ancient stones of the Via Domitia right outside the Archbishops' Palace. Alternatively visit nearby Carcassonne for a morning exploration and lunch. Dominating the landscape from a rocky hill above the Aude River, the UNESCO-listed Cité de Carcassonne transports you straight back to the Middle Ages with its labyrinth of cobbled streets, gothic cathedral, and the historic Château Comtal. While the upper medieval fortress offers a fairytale silhouette and dramatic crusade history, the lower town (Bastide Saint-Louis) offers a relaxed, everyday French atmosphere. After exploring the city and enjoying lunch, we return to Narbonne in the early afternoon, with a few hours to explore. Dinner is at leisure and overnight Narbonne.

Thursday 3 June 2027 (B) – Narbonne to Clermont-Ferrand or Nîmes

After breakfast we board our train in Narbonne and head to Nîmes for our four night stay. There are two scenic rail lines that head north towards Clermont-Ferrand – one from Beziers and the other Nîmes. At the time of writing, timetables for services on these lines is unavailable, and we will make a decision of our exact plan closer to the time. The train journey from Béziers to Clermont-Ferrand via the historic Aubrac Line is one of the most scenic and breathtaking slow rail journeys in France. Winding its way north from the Mediterranean coast up through the wild and rugged plateaus, gorges, and mountains of the Massif Central, the single-track train meanders past dramatic viaducts, remote rural villages, and medieval ruins before arriving in the capital of Auvergne. The Le Cévenol is a ride through the rugged and remote Massif Central region of France. Winding along steep hillsides, deep valleys, and chestnut forests, the historic single-track railway carries passengers across dramatic stone viaducts like the Chamborigaud and through dozens of dark tunnels while climbing to high mountain summits over 1,024 metres at La Bastide. As the train chugs southward from central France toward the Mediterranean warmth, travellers are treated to a slow-paced, wild, and profoundly scenic landscape that remains untouched by major motorways. Overnight Clermont-Ferrand or Nîmes.



Friday 4 June 2027 (B/D) – Nîmes

We have three full days in and around Nîmes, using it as a base for exploration of Nîmes itself, as well as the surrounding scenic rail corridors, Montpellier, Pont du Gard and Avignon. Start today at the city's crown jewel, the Les Arènes de Nîmes, a remarkably preserved 1st-century Roman amphitheatre that still hosts vibrant cultural events today. After exploring its vaulted stone corridors, take a short stroll through the lively pedestrian historic centre to the Maison Carrée, a flawlessly intact Roman temple that gleams with elegant Corinthian columns. Enjoy a refreshment before heading toward the spectacular Jardin de la Fontaine - these elegant 18th-century formal gardens are built directly over an ancient sacred spring, offering tranquil paths lined with waterways, classical statues, and the enigmatic ruins of the Roman Temple of Diana. In the afternoon, for the active, a scenic uphill walk through the garden's Mediterranean pine groves to reach the Tour Magne, the last surviving tower of the city's ancient Roman walls. Climbing to the top rewards you with a breathtaking, panoramic view over the terracotta rooftops of Nîmes and the sweeping countryside beyond.

In the afternoon explore the vibrant core of the old town, navigating the narrow, shaded alleyways that open into charming hidden squares like the Place du Chapitre or stroll along the bustling Boulevard Victor Hugo reflecting on a city where antiquity feels entirely alive. Join tonight for a relaxed dinner and overnight Nîmes.



Saturday 5 June 2027 (B/MT/L) – Pont du Gard and Avignon

An early start to beat the crowds, we head to the mind-boggling, three-tiered Roman aqueduct bridge Pont du Gard. Towering majestically over the Gardon River, cross the ancient structure, exploring the interactive on-site museum to understand its masterful 1st-century engineering, or simply walking along the riverbank to capture photos of the golden stone against the blue sky. From here we head 30 minutes east to Avignon, arriving in time for a leisurely lunch. Walk straight up the bustling pedestrian Rue de la République to the lively Place de l'Horloge, a grand square lined with outdoor cafés and a charming carousel. From there, step into the massive plaza ahead to marvel at the soaring Gothic exterior of the Palais des Papes, a colossal 14th-century fortress that dominates the city skyline. From the cathedral walk up into the hilltop Rocher des Doms gardens, where the viewing terraces offer a sweeping panorama over the Rhône River and the legendary Pont d'Avignon stretching halfway across the water. Wind your way back down through the atmospheric, stone-carved medieval side streets to catch a quick espresso before a straight 15-minute stroll delivers you back to the station. Following your afternoon in the medieval grandeur of Avignon, navigating the colossal, fortress-like Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes) or walking out onto the legendary, partial arches of the Pont d'Avignon, return to Nîmes. Depending on whether you are joining us on the cruise at the end of our tour – which visits and tours Avignon, enjoy as long or as little time as you wish, before heading to the central Avignon railway station to board a direct SNCF regional TER train for the 40 minutes journey back to Nîmes. Dinner is at leisure and overnight Nîmes.



Sunday 6 June 2027 (B) – Nîmes and to Montpellier

After breakfast we head to the station to join a train to Montpellier. Stepping out of Montpellier Saint-Roch station, walk straight into the sun-drenched Place de la Comédie, the magnificent pedestrian heart of the city, before melting into the maze of medieval, car-free stone alleys known as the Écusson. Spend your morning exploring boutique shops or admiring fine art at the world-class Musée Fabre, then enjoy a leisurely outdoor lunch of fresh Mediterranean seafood in a shaded plaza like Place Saint-Roch. In the afternoon, marvel at the fortress-like towers of the Gothic Cathédrale Saint-Pierre, wander through the serene bamboo groves of the Jardin des Plantes (France's oldest botanical garden), and catch the golden hour sunset by Montpellier's own Arc de Triomphe at the elevated Promenade du Peyrou, which offers stunning views of the double-arched Saint-Clément Aqueduct. As twilight sets in, a relaxing stroll back through the illuminated old town brings you to the station for a quick, stress-free train ride back to Nîmes. Dinner is at leisure and overnight Nîmes.

Monday 7 June 2027 (B/D) – through the Luberon Valley to Aix-en-Provence



A morning departure from Nîmes for a day of sightseeing through the Luberon Valley to Aix-en-Provence. We depart the ancient Roman city of Nîmes, crossing the Rhône River into the rolling, sun-drenched landscapes of Vaucluse. As the vehicle ascends the winding roads of the Luberon regional park, the striking silhouette of Gordes appears ahead, its dry-stone houses stacked dramatically against a rocky promontory. Enjoy a breathtaking panoramic view of this perched village from the coach windows before stopping to wander through its labyrinth of medieval cobblestone lanes. From there, a short drive through the valley brings you to Roussillon, where the dramatic change in scenery is immediately apparent. The village glows in brilliant shades of yellow, orange, and deep red, carved directly from the world's largest public ochre deposits, offering a vibrant contrast to the surrounding green pine forests. Leaving Roussillon, travel deeper into the heart of the Luberon Valley, cruising past a picturesque tapestry of ancient olive groves, sprawling vineyards, and historic stone huts. The route hugs the rugged base of the Luberon massif, offering sweeping views of the rural countryside that has inspired artists and writers for generations. As the afternoon sun begins to lower, casting a warm golden light over the landscape, our journey concludes in Aix-en-Provence, where the elegant, plane-tree-lined Cours Mirabeau welcomes you for an evening of relaxed exploration in the historic city of fountains. Dinner is included tonight and overnight Aix-en-Provence.

Tuesday 8 June 2027 (B) – Aix-en-Provence

After a relaxed breakfast, a short stroll leads you into the labyrinthine alleys of the Vieille Ville (Old Town), where the golden hues of 17th-century stone buildings glow in the morning sun. You can immerse your senses in the vibrant Place de Richelme daily market, sampling fresh goat cheese, lavender honey, and local calissons (sweet almond pastes). Visit the striking Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur, a unique architectural marvel blending Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque styles built over an ancient Roman temple. After lunch, explore the elegant Mazarin Quarter, a quiet residential district defined by symmetric streets, grand aristocratic mansions, and the iconic Fontaine des Quatre Dauphins. Art enthusiasts can walk uphill to Cézanne's Studio, preserved precisely as the post-impressionist master left it, offering an intimate look at his original still-life props and painting tools. As the late afternoon sun casts a warm glow over the city, perhaps walk through the bustling Place de l'Hôtel de Ville to a local wine bar where you can unwind with a crisp glass of local Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence rosé, reflecting on a day spent steeped in classic Provençal charm. Dinner at leisure and overnight Aix-en-Provence.



Wednesday 9 June 2027 (B/D) – to Marseilles, and to Nice

A relaxed start to the door before we join a local TER rail service to Marseille's Saint-Charles station, where we change for Nice. Departing from the bustling, historic hub of Marseille Saint-Charles, the train glides eastward, quickly leaving the urban sprawl behind to trace one of Europe's most spectacular coastlines. As the tracks hug the very edge of the Mediterranean, you are treated to a front-row view of a shifting landscape, where rugged limestone cliffs gradually give way to hidden coves and sun-drenched seaside towns. The true visual highlight of the journey unfolds as the train winds through the dramatic Estérel Massif. Here, the striking contrast of fiery, rust-red volcanic rocks plunging directly into the deep turquoise waters of the sea creates a breathtaking spectacle right outside your window. Continuing along the glittering Côte d'Azur, the route weaves through legendary Riviera destinations like Cannes and Antibes, offering fleeting glimpses of yacht-lined marinas, elegant palm-fringed promenades, and historic stone ramparts. The sea remains a constant, shimmering companion under the southern sun as the train sweeps past crowded sandy beaches and exclusive coastal villas hidden in the pines. As the journey nears its destination, the landscape opens up to reveal the sweeping Baie des Anges. The train slows to a halt at the grand Nice-Ville station, delivering you directly into the heart of Nice, ready to step out into the warm, vibrant atmosphere of the French Riviera. We transfer tour hotel and dinner is included and overnight Nice.



Thursday 10 June 2027 (B) – to Italy for coffee, Monaco and a relaxing afternoon in Nice

The short railway journey from Nice to Ventimiglia is one of the most glamorous commuter train rides in the world, tightly hugging the steep cliffs of the French Riviera before crossing into Italy. Departing from Nice-Ville, the train quickly punches through a series of coastal tunnels, emerging to reveal breathtaking, elevated vistas of the glittering Baie des Anges and the exclusive peninsula of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. To catch these dramatic Mediterranean views and see the yachts floating in the turquoise bays below, you must sit on the right-hand side of the carriage when departing Nice. As the train rattles eastward, it services a legendary string of coastal towns, including the picture-perfect bay of Villefranche-sur-Mer and the towering skyscraper-clad cliffs of Monaco. Beyond the glitz of the Principality, the rugged landscape softens into the pastel-hued, sun-drenched hills of Menton, the final stop in France. Moments later, the train crosses the invisible border and pulls into the bustling Italian frontier station of Ventimiglia. Here, the French language instantly gives way to Italian, and the crisp smell of espresso and fresh focaccia from the station platforms signals that you have arrived. After a morning refreshment, we will return to Monaco for lunch. Stepping off the train into the sleek, cavernous station, a short, scenic walk brings you into the heart of Monte Carlo, where the sun-drenched Place du Casino buzzes with the purr of supercars and the timeless elegance of the Belle Époque casino. For lunch, securing an outdoor table at a glamorous chic brasserie allows you to indulge in refined Mediterranean cuisine—like fresh sea bass or handmade truffle pasta paired with a glass of crisp French rosé—all while soaking in prime people-watching. With lunch concluded, you have just enough time for a breezy stroll down to the Port Hercule marina to gaze up at the towering multi-million dollar superyachts, before catching a local bus back up the cliffs to the station, thoroughly enchanted by the Principality's sheer opulence. Return to Nice for a later afternoon walk along the promenade, and dinner is at leisure and overnight Nice.

Friday 11 June 2027 (B/D) – exploring Nice or the Nice to Tende railway

Today relax and soak up the atmosphere of the famous city of Nice, or explore on a scenic rail journey north. You could start with a peaceful morning walk along the famous Promenade des Anglais watching the bright blue sea. The wide path is lined with tall palm trees and refreshing ocean breezes. Next, step into the narrow, colourful streets of the old town, known as Vieux Nice. Visit the lively Cours Saleya market to look at fresh flowers and local treats, and stop to eat a warm piece of socca, a traditional chickpea pancake. In the afternoon, climb the stone steps up to the Colline du Château or Castle Hill. At the top, a shaded park waits for you with a hidden waterfall and a stunning view of the entire bay and red rooftops. Head back to the old town square at Place Rossetti and reward yourself by tasting sweet gelato.



Alternatively experience the Nice to Tende railway, what is famously known as the Train des Merveilles (Train of Wonders), on one of Europe's most spectacular and engineered alpine rail routes. Departing from the palm-fringed coast of Nice, the train instantly leaves the Mediterranean behind to climb deep into the rugged Paillon and Roya valleys. As the train ascends, the landscape transforms dramatically from sun-drenched olive groves and pastel-coloured Provençal villages to soaring limestone cliffs, dense pine forests, and rushing mountain torrents. To soak in the most dramatic vistas of the plunging gorges and medieval perched villages like Touët-de-l'Escarène and Sospel, securing a seat on the right-hand side of the train when departing Nice provides the ultimate vantage point. What makes this journey truly legendary is its astonishing marvel of civil engineering, constructed to conquer the vertical terrain of the Maritime Alps. The train masterfully navigates a dizzying labyrinth of viaducts, grand stone bridges, and extraordinary looping spiral tunnels bored directly into the mountain rock, which allow the train to gain elevation rapidly. As the air grows crisp and cool, the journey culminates in the dramatic alpine enclave of Tende, an historic border town of grey-stone houses with distinctive green schist roofs clutched tightly against a sheer mountain amphitheatre. Stepping off the train here feels like entering a bygone era, world's away from the glitz of the French Riviera you left just under two hours prior. After some time for lunch we return, and tonight enjoy a farewell dinner which is included and overnight Nice

Saturday 12 June 2027 (B) – to Arles, Australia or beyond

After a relaxed breakfast our tour concludes. Those continuing with us on the Arles to Lyon river cruise along the Rhône and the Saône rivers will depart late morning for Arles to overnight before joining our cruise tomorrow. Those heading to Australia and other destinations may depart choose to depart from Nice Côte d'Azur Airport (NCE) or catch an SNCF TGV service to Paris for other rail or flight options. We trust you will have enjoyed your time with us on our Southern France tour.

ACCOMMODATION, MEALS AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Accommodation is generally in 4 – 4 ½ star hotels. In some locations we have chosen simpler accommodation due to its proximity to the station, and in some locations we have selected superior hotels as they are part of the experience of the location. Whilst we will do all possible to ensure the room quality (size, perspective, outlook, features) are shared equitably through the tour, some hotels will have no room exactly the same as others. All are comfortable, clean and well located hotels for our tour. Breakfast is included almost every morning, with lunch and dinners as identified in the itinerary. Where there is a range of lunch and dinner options, we have not included these in the itinerary to provide choice in style and time of dining. Travel will be by a combination of mainline first class rail, chartered coach, standard class regional rail and heritage railways.

PERSONAL SERVICE AND MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

SJR prides itself on its personal service and attention to detail. The tour is escorted by the organiser/s of the itinerary. You are assured of the utmost service and our commitment to your satisfaction. We recognise that each passenger has different interests, and we will aim to provide the opportunity to allow you to rest from the group, explore by yourself or visit special sites you've read about – if you wish. Detailed advice and assistance will be given to help you, and many travel requirements can be made for you.

RAILWAY EXPERIENCES

A feature of the tour is to experience a selection of scenic rail journeys in southern France. Many of these have yet to finalise their 2027 programme. Exact details of these may not be known until closer to the time, and we may adjust the tour programme to accommodate what is possible.

FARES AND BOOKING PROCEDURES

The tour is limited in size, with a maximum of 16 participants, with bookings confirmed in order of receipt of a deposit of \$3,000 per person. **The tour fare is \$21,680* per person (twin share) plus airfares from Australia, with a \$5,880* single supplement for hotels.** The tour fare includes all hotels and sightseeing, rail and coach travel as indicated, all bus, tram, metro and light rail transfers when part of the group; all accommodation on a double/twin share basis (single accommodation is available on payment of the single supplement); sightseeing and entrance fees to sites as indicated, and meals as shown in the itinerary for each day. The fare does not include meals not identified, drinks, excess baggage charges, gratuities, telephone calls, laundry, any items of a personal nature, travel outside the organised group. Due to the variety of interests of individuals, and the range of sites, museums etc. available for inspection on some days, we have included key features in the tour cost. Inspection and entry fees when not part of the planned group activity are not included in the tour cost. Additional or optional activities or entrance fees (shown as (O) in the itinerary, are not included in the cost. Bookings should be made on the attached form. The deposit of \$3,000 per person should be forwarded by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and the booking form scanned and emailed to sjr@digitor.com.au - bank account details are:

Account Name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB: 033364
Account Number: 612826
Reference: Your name and 'France'

Debit/credit card payment is available for Visa/MasterCard. Please call us to make payment by debit/credit card.

BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Bookings will be accepted on the attached form. Cancellation fees apply as follows: the initial deposit is non-refundable. After payment of further deposits towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf will incur cancellation charges equal to the cancellation charges incurred to us, imposed by suppliers/operators, plus a fee to cover administrative costs – more than three months prior to departure, \$2,000 per person; within three months, \$3,000 per person. No refund will be made from two months prior to departure from Australia. Cancellation fees for hotel, rail, coach and other travel components apply in accordance with the terms and conditions of the providers. (Note conditions relating to Government restrictions below.) All cancellation or administration charges imposed by the suppliers/operators of components of this tour must be borne by you, the passenger.

Responsibility - St James' Rail acts as the organiser of the tour. Some transportation, accommodation and other tour arrangements are made by our travel agent, MTA Travel. On acceptance of tickets and travel documents for this tour, which may be evidenced in writing by a ticket, voucher, letter, or other document, you accept that neither St James' Rail nor representatives from any other firm supplying services in conjunction with this tour programme, shall be liable in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, loss, damage, accident, sickness, delay or additional expense to you or your possessions arising directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including, but not limited to, civil disturbance, fire, floods, acts of God, acts of Governments or other authorities, changes in itinerary, weather, strikes, war, transportation disruption, failure of machinery or equipment, industrial action, pandemic, quarantine or any other cause. Where travel is by scheduled carrier, or charter service, that carrier's responsibility is limited in accordance with their conditions of carriage. Similarly, all luggage is your responsibility, and we cannot be held liable for any loss or delay however caused. The care of your travel documents are your own responsibility. All expenses incurred by loss must be borne by you. Airline regulations and conditions are written on the airline tickets and are issued to passengers subject to their acceptance of these conditions. Changes in exchange rates, taxes and any land arrangements costs may alter the price of the tour, and St James' Rail reserves the right to change, amend or cancel this tour and/or itinerary if necessary. We reserve the right to amend the itinerary en-route to account for unforeseen changes or conditions, or to improve the tour experience for the majority, as determined by the tour leader. Passports and visas – a valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required. St James' Rail cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred as a result of a passenger not holding valid and necessary passport or visa documents. Full details of terms and conditions: if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you. **Special conditions relating to Government imposed restrictions** – if the tour is unable to proceed due to Government restrictions, SJR may at our election: postpone your travel arrangements to a future date, in which case we will issue you with a credit note equal to amounts paid at the time of postponement; or cancel your travel arrangements, in which case our contract with you will terminate. If we cancel your travel arrangements and our contract terminates, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third-party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund. SJR will refund payments it is able to recover or not incur from the various suppliers of services to this tour. Refunds will be made when the funds have been received by SJR from third party suppliers. **Full details of terms and conditions:** if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you.

INSURANCE

We strongly advise that you have a comprehensive travel insurance policy to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. On receipt of your booking, an insurance policy can be sent to you from our travel agent, Sarah Manche, MTA Travel, for your consideration. Please let us know if you would like us to send it to you. Obtaining insurance cover for the tour is your responsibility.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please call us on (02) 9326 9660, 0418 585 838, email at sjr@digitor.com.au or visit www.stjamesrail.org

SOUTHERN FRANCE BY RAIL

- Atlantic France to the Mediterranean -

Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June 2027

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name:

Address: Suburb: Postcode:

Home tel: Work tel: Mobile:

Email:

BOOKING DETAILS (Full passenger names EXACTLY as shown in the passport – please include a scan of the data page of your passport, either with the booking form, or after)

Passenger 1 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

If asking us to book flights - Frequent Flyer No: Airline No:

Passenger 2 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

If asking us to book flights - Frequent Flyer No: Airline No:

FOR ADDITIONAL PASSENGERS PLEASE PROVIDE THE ABOVE DETAILS ON A SEPARATE SHEET

PAYMENT

..... I have paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) as described previously. Please email SJR to advise and send this form.

Account Name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB: 033 364
Account Number: 612826
Reference: Your name and 'France'

..... I wish to pay the deposit by credit card. Please call me to obtain details.

A letter will be sent acknowledging receipt of your deposit and providing further details.

AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM EUROPE

..... Please provide a quote for me/us to travel to Paris on Saturday 22 May 2027, and from
on (Departing/returning from/to which Australian city?:

We will call/email to advise of the best fare option at the time of booking.

..... Economy class air travel Premium Economy class air travel Business class air travel

..... Please call me to discuss air travel options.

..... I will make my/our own air travel arrangements and meet you in Paris on Sunday 23 May 2027.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms:

Double rooms:

Twin (two bedded) rooms:

A single supplement is payable for sole use of rooms in hotels.

ARLES TO LYON UNIWORLD RIVER CRUISE

..... I/we have booked / wish to book on the UniWorld river cruise from Arles on 13 June to Lyon on 20 June 2027.

..... Please include us in travel arrangements to Arles on 13 June 2027, including overnight accommodation.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please indicate any dietary or any other sort of special request :

.....

.....

INSURANCE

..... Please send an insurance policy from our travel agent, Sarah Manche, MTA Travel.

YOUR SIGNATURE

I have read the reservation conditions outlined above and accept them on behalf of myself and my party by whom I am authorised to make this agreement.

Signature of person making reservation: Date:

Cancellation charges will apply as advised in this itinerary. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent Sarah Manche, at MTA Travel, upon request. It is your responsibility to obtain appropriate travel insurance for your personal circumstances.

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Email sjr@digitor.com.au

Mobile +61 418 585 838
Web www.stjamesrail.org

October 2026