

JULY 11–20, 2023

Arts Festivals in Southern France:

Summer Music & Dance Festivals in Avignon & Aix-en-Provence





At the heart of this music-filled journey to Provence are two renowned summer festivals, the Festival d'Avignon, the oldest existent festival in France, and the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, an annual international music festival devoted mainly to opera but that also includes orchestral, chamber, vocal and solo instrumental concerts. During our eight-night sojourn in Avignon and Aix-en-Provence, attend several performances and soak up the energetic festival vibe of both cities.

Provence is a region of mountains, hills, and beaches as well as handsome cities and romantic villages. Founded more than 2,000 years ago by Roman invaders on top of even older ruins, this ancient, alluring land holds many of the world's richest Roman monuments. Although far from the Italian border, discover the splendors of ancient Rome while visiting Roman arenas, amphitheatres, and aqueducts scattered throughout the region. During visits to nearby villages and towns, learn more about the history and art that is part of the fabric of daily life in Provence. Gain a deeper understanding about French traditions and culture and a firsthand view of Provence's beautiful, varied landscape that has for years attracted writers, musicians, and artists who are inspired by Provence's timeless beauty.

Cover Image: Les Baux des Provence. (Kent Wang)

Image (above): Festival d'Avignon parade. (Véronique Panier)

CUSTOM ITINERARY

This custom travel program has been created uniquely for the Meany Center for the Performing Arts, University of Washington.

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

DEPART USA

Depart on independent flights from the United States to Marseille Provence Airport (MRS).

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

WELCOME TO AVIGNON

Arrive at the Marseille Provence Airport in the mid-afternoon and take a group transfer by private motorcoach to beautiful, historic Avignon, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Upon arrival in Avignon, check into the gracious four-star Hotel Cambis and take time to get settled into your room and rest. This evening, gather with fellow travelers for a casual dinner welcome together in a bustling brasserie.

Hotel Cambis: (Dinner)

Thursday, July 13, 2023

AVIGNON: ROMANS & POPES

Absorb Avignon's unique atmosphere while seeing the city's most historic landmarks and scenic viewpoints, including Avignon's iconic bridge, during a guided walking tour of the Old Town. Skip the lines and stroll right into the centuries-old interior of the Papal Palace, one of the largest and most important medieval Gothic buildings in Europe. While exploring its towers and turrets, learn about Avignon and its elevation during the 14th century from a sleepy riverside community to the capital of Roman Catholicism as the residence of seven French popes. Finish at the lively, historical Les Halles market in time for a quick independent lunch. Spend the afternoon exploring the Festival d'Avignon, the oldest existent festival in France, and attend the first of many festival performances.

Hotel Cambis (Breakfast)

Friday, July 14, 2023

THE PONT DU GARD

Drive to the Pont du Gard and be awed by this mighty aqueduct, one of the "Wonders of the Ancient World" and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built by the Romans in 19 BC, this stunning example of Roman architecture is built of masonry blocks weighing up to six tons, and its three tiers of arches span the valley and reach a height of more than 150 feet above the river. Be treated to a casual lunch in a restaurant with magnificent views of the Pont du Gard. Continue to a family-run vineyard and sample local wines in this bucolic setting. Return to Avignon and attend an evening festival performance.

Hotel Cambis (Breakfast, Lunch, Winetasting)



Saturday, July 15, 2023

ARLES: ART AND GLADIATORS

Drive to Arles and explore the city's history from the Roman Empire to its role as a haven for artists seeking inspiration from the Provençal sun, including Vincent van Gogh who painted *The Night Café* while living here. At the Musée de l'Arles antique, admire a captivating collection of ancient treasures. Enjoy free time to explore Arles' renowned Saturday market and have an independent lunch. During a guided afternoon walking tour, see the city's unique monuments of Roman and medieval fame, including the outstanding Romanesque façade of St. Trôphime Cathedral, and the charming streets that inspired van Gogh's work. At the magnificent two-tiered Roman Les Arènes, still intact more than 1900 years after its construction, imagine the gladiatorial combats once held here. Return to Avignon and attend an evening festival performance.

Hotel Cambis (Breakfast)

Sunday, July 16, 2023

LES BAUX DE PROVENCE

Drive to Les Baux de Provence, one of France's most beautiful villages. Perched on a bare rock spur, Les Baux's winding streets, tiny squares and ancient fortress offer a glimpse of medieval life. During a guided walk, see its stone houses and churches, and marvel at the magnificent views looking out as far as Marseille and Arles from one of its lookouts. Continue to nearby Val d'Enfer, a valley with outstanding solid mineral deposits that have long inspired artists, including Dante and Jean Cocteau. Enter the Carrières du Val d'Enfer quarry, now home to the monumental Carrières de Lumières, an extraordinary art-based audio-visual center where works of art are projected onto the huge rock walls of the quarry. Following lunch in a lovely rustic bistro, visit a beautiful olive orchard to see its olive mill and taste some of the finest olive oil and black olives in southern France. Return to Avignon for a free afternoon to explore the Avignon Festival.

Hotel Cambis (Breakfast, Lunch)

Monday, July 17, 2023

CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Check out of your hotel and break up your drive to Aix-en-Provence with a stop at Château la Coste. Ensnared in the vine-clad hills outside Aix, the Château La Coste is one of Europe's great centers for contemporary culture, offering an amazing mix of contemporary art, architecture, and wine culture. View unique architectural and sculptural installations by renowned artists and architects such as Richard Serra, Andy Goldsworthy, Tadao Ando, and Frank Gehry, in a spectacular setting of grape vines, olive groves, and forests. Following a lunch of specialties à la Provence, continue to Aix-en-Provence. The first Roman city built in Gaul and the historic capital of the Provence region, Aix is also one of the most elegant and wonderfully preserved French cities. Check into the four-star Hôtel Aquabella & Spa, ideally situated in the city center. Attend a concert hosted by the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, an annual Aix-en-Provence international music festival devoted mainly to opera but that also includes orchestral, chamber, vocal and solo instrumental concerts.

Hôtel Aquabella & Spa (Breakfast, Lunch)



Tuesday, July 18, 2023

MARSEILLE

Venture to the nearby port city of Marseille, a crossroads of immigration and trade since its founding by the Greeks circa 600 BC. Start with an architectural bus tour of Marseille's seafront area to see numerous contemporary cultural facilities, many which were constructed or renovated to showcase Marseille when it was designated the 2013 European Capital of Culture. Stroll through Marseille's Old Port surrounding a lively yacht marina known for its stylish waterfront cafes and restaurants serving seafood from the quayside fish market. Pause for lunch in a classy bistro and try the local specialty *bouillabaisse*. Continue to the lively Vauban neighborhood with its winding alleyways that lead up to the grassy perch of the neo-Byzantine Notre-Dame de la Garde Basilica. The steep streets surrounding the basilica offer sea views and are lined with charming, red-roofed townhouses housing boutiques and hip wine bars. Enjoy free time in Marseille before returning to Aix for a final concert. *Hôtel Aquabella & Spa (Breakfast, Lunch)*

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Set out on a walking tour through Aix's narrow, winding streets and discover charming squares adorned by trickling fountains, such as Place d'Albertas, and the town's remarkable heritage with more than 140 aristocratic mansions dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. Pop into Aix's Cathedral, famous for its triptych of the Burning Bush painted by Nicolas Froment and its 6th-century baptistery, believed to be the oldest in France. Paul Cézanne found inspiration for many paintings in and around Aix-en-Provence. View Cézanne's studio and Mt. Ste-Victoire, his favorite landscape subject. During free time for lunch and an afternoon at leisure, explore Aix's main street, the Cours Mirabeau, one of the most beautiful in Europe. Large plane trees provide shade for the avenue and its terrace cafés, bookshops, and fashionable shops are alive with activity. This evening gather for an unforgettable farewell dinner.

Hôtel Aquabella & Spa (Breakfast, Dinner)

Thursday, July 20, 2023

AU REVOIR

After breakfast take a morning group airport transfer to the Marseille Provence Airport to catch independent flights to the United States.



TRIP INFORMATION

ARTS FESTIVALS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

DATES: July 11–20, 2023

TOUR COST:

Land Package	\$5,795
Single Supplement	\$1,195

Tour Price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants. Land prices are calculated as of September 2022 and are subject to change.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Moderate, good walking ability

FESTIVAL TICKETS: Nonrefundable tickets will be purchased when they become available. Tickets may become unavailable for participants booking late.

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on March 30, 2023 and must be paid by check to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

FLIGHTS: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements. Please **do not purchase airline tickets** until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS: 5 nights at the Hotel Cambis in Avignon and 3 nights at the Hotel Aquabella in Aix; entrance fees to sites; transportation by private motor coach per itinerary; breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 2 dinners, 1 wine tasting; 2 glasses of wine or beer at welcome dinner and 1 glass of wine or beer at lunches, when available; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; handling of 2 pieces of luggage per person upon arrival and departure at the hotel; 1 group airport transfer upon arrival (7/12/23) and 1 group airport transfer upon departure (7/20/23) between the hotel and Marseille Airport (MRS); \$300 per person budget for tickets to performances; gratuities for guides and motor coach drivers; bottled water on private motor coach; taxes, services, and portage fees.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS: Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport portage; individual transfers to and from the airports for those not using group transfers; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler's free time; personal items; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before March 30, 2023: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or between March 31, 2023 and May 25, 2023: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less \$3,000 per person cancellation charge (includes registration and planning fee). Cancellations received on or after May 26, 2023: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, performance tickets, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not accepted. The tour cost is non-transferable, and no substitutions are allowed. If ISDI or Meany Center cancels the tour due to low registrations, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: ISDI requires that all tour participants be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 to participate on the tour. Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: ISDI and Meany Center strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. ISDI will send you travel insurance information upon tour registration. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: International Seminar Design, Inc.
Tel: 202-244-1448
Email: info@isditravel.com

Arts Festivals in Southern France

Enclosed is my credit card information or deposit by check made payable to
International Seminar Design, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000 per person.

Full Name Participant 1

Full Name Participant 2

Address (billing, if using credit card for payment)

City

State

Zip

Daytime Telephone

Email Address Participant 1

Email Address Participant 2

_____ # of persons _____ Amount Enclosed

PAYMENT METHOD (\$1,000 PER PERSON):

Visa MasterCard American Express Check *Make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.*

Card Number

Exp. (mm/yyyy)

Name as it appears on credit card

ROOMING OPTIONS: *(please select)*

- Double Occupancy; I will share a room with _____
- Single Supplement (\$1,195)
- I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

NOTE: The Meany Center requires all participants to sign a Release of Liability, Assumption of All Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement form as a condition of your participation on this trip. This form is sent to all participants upon placing a tour deposit and needs to be returned within 30 days after receipt or at least 60 days before the beginning of the trip, whichever is sooner.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN: *(registration invalid without signature)*

By registering and paying the deposit for this tour program, the undersigned acknowledges that he/she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions outlined above.

Each Participant Must Sign: *(registration invalid without signature)*

Signature Participant 1 / Date

Signature Participant 2 / Date

COMPLETE AND RETURN REGISTRATION FORM BY MAIL, EMAIL, OR FAX TO:

International Seminar Design, Inc., 5614 Connecticut Avenue NW, #295, Washington, DC 20015-2604

Email: info@isditravel.com | Fax: (202) 244-1808

For Questions: Call (202) 244-1448