



MEDITERRANEAN SHORES

SEPTEMBER 27TH - OCTOBER 6TH 2019

Few things in the world conjure up more romantic and beautiful images than the Mediterranean. Azure waters, white sands, mountain villages, and year-round sunshine combine to create a mood of tranquility and contentment that is truly irresistible. Discover Europe's Gavin Miller has designed a tour that explores the areas in Spain and France that he particularly loves and has come to call home.

We begin in elegant Nice, jewel of the Cote d'Azur, a city whose greatest charm is itself: the avenues, squares, markets, shops, and cafes that create an unforgettable buzz of sophistication and excitement.

Then on to Provence, an intoxicating region of light and landscape. From our base in Arles, we explore the grandeur of the Roman Empire. Ancient hilltop villages beckon and a day in Avignon allows us to dance sur le pont! From Arles, we stop in the ancient walled city of Carcassonne, before crossing the Spanish/French border.

Our final stay is in Barcelona, which, as Rose Macaulay wrote four decades ago, "gives an impression of tempestuous, surging, irrepressible life and brio." We'll spend our days in the Barri Gotic located in the heart of Barcelona.

This itinerary has been lovingly designed by Gavin as an in-depth exploration focused on the highlights of the Mediterranean. But beware...rather than closing a travel chapter, it will leave you aching for more, for there is nowhere so enchanting as these *Mediterranean Shores!*



NICE - THE PROMENADE DES ANGLAIS



CARCASSONNE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$3980
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 890

Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 4 dinners
GUIDES:	Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local guides in Barcelona and Avignon
EXPENSES:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - Your arrival at Nice Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After checking in, there will be time to relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. Dinner is included this evening at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: NICE**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH - Brilliant Mediterranean sun strikes the sparkling city of Nice, its palm-lined Promenade des Anglais, and the lovely old Belle Epoque architecture, superbly set on the Bay of Angels. Memorialized by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the lively Old City is suffused in rich tones of ochre and sienna, its pedestrian zone a tantalizing mix of local shops, glorious foods, and designer clothing. Our morning driving tour takes us past the fabulous, green-domed Negresco; the Excelsior Régina; the exotic garden of Cimiez; and the Franciscan monastery. Choose a local café for lunch, and wander at leisure for the rest of the day through the city’s winding thoroughfares. **(B) OVERNIGHT: NICE**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH - We depart for the enchanting, unspoiled medieval village of Èze, perched over the Mediterranean and crowned with the ruins of a 12th-century fortified castle. Continuing on to Monte-Carlo, we’ll take a walking tour of Monaco, including a visit to the Prince’s palace (subject to opening times). The afternoon is free to explore the heart of Monte Carlo; you can visit Jaques Cousteau’s aquarium, the 1863 Casino, and the Hotel de Paris. We’ll return to Nice late in the afternoon for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: NICE**



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST - We leave the Cote d’Azur this morning, driving west to Provence; en route we’ll pause at Aix en Provence, the “city of a thousand fountains” where we’ll visit the Atelier Paul Cezanne – the studio kept just as it was when he died in 1906. Later this afternoon we arrive in the ancient Roman city of Arles, once the capital of Gaul, Britain, and Spain. Today it is home to one of the best-preserved Roman arenas in Europe. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ARLES**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND - This morning begins with a gentle walking orientation tour of the city and includes a visit to the Cathedral where St. Augustine was consecrated bishop of the English in 597, and the Roman amphitheatre. The rest of the day is free for individual exploration of this historic city. Perhaps you will want to take the Van Gogh walking tour. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ARLES**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD - A morning excursion to the Pont du Gard, the vast Roman aqueduct built without an ounce of mortar and still standing intact after two thousand years! We continue to Avignon, the papal city during the 14th century, for a walking tour of its highlights with a local guide, including a visit to the Palais des Papes. We return to Arles for a free evening and a chance to sample a traditional French meal in a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ARLES**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH - This morning, we make a stop in the ancient walled city of Carcassonne before crossing the border into Spain and continuing to our hotel in Barcelona. We’ll have dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BARCELONA**



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH - This morning, we board our bus for a panoramic sightseeing tour of this vibrant and cosmopolitan city. From the Old City to the ancient harbor, and from the chic commercial center - the “Eixample”- to the city’s world-famous museums, you’ll be endlessly fascinated. We’ll visit one of Gaudi’s greatest architectural expressions, the Sagrada Família. The afternoon is free to explore the Barri Gotic (its cathedral, medieval streets, and churches) or make your own discoveries. Perhaps a visit to the Picasso Museum or the Museu de Arte de Catalunya, one of the most important collections of Romanesque art in the world. The evening we’ll enjoy a farewell dinner at a traditional Catalan restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BARCELONA**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH - Morning transport to Barcelona Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, D - dinner