

# TOUR DE FRANCE

**ITINERARY NIGHTS:** Paris (3), St. Malo (1), Tours (2), Rocamadour (1), Carcassonne (1), Avignon (2), Nice (2)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Paris City Tour • Notre Dame • The Louvre • Versailles • Mont St. Michel • Tours City Tour • Château Chenonceau • Limoges • Rocamadour City Tour • Nîmes • Pont du Gard • Aix-en-Provence • Eze • Monaco



Cathedral St. Gatiens, Rue des Halles, the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Place Plumereau and the Maison de Tristan, and

visit the **Chateau Royale**.

**DAY 1** Depart for France.

**DAY 2 PARIS** Bienvenue à Paris! Your TSA Tours guide waits to greet you at the airport and escort you on a guided **Paris City Tour**. See the majestic Eiffel Tower, the historic Latin Quarter, the world-famous Champs-Élysée, the Arc de Triomphe and other highlights. Also visit **Notre Dame Cathedral** and the **Louvre**, the world's largest museum.

**DAY 3 PARIS** Tour the palace of **Versailles**, home of the Sun King, Louis XIV. Stroll through the opulent galleries and gardens to see the splendor in which royalty once lived. Don't miss the magnificent Hall of Mirrors where the Treaty of Versailles was signed, and the exquisite formal gardens.

**DAY 4 ST. MALO** Journey to St. Malo, the "City of Corsairs," a walled city surrounded by medieval ramparts. Then visit **Mont St. Michel**, a former Benedictine abbey set up on huge mount surrounded by sand and sea.

**DAY 5 TOURS** Transfer to the Loire Valley and enjoy your **Tours City Tour**. See

**DAY 6 TOURS** Explore the 16<sup>th</sup> Century **Château Chenonceau** in the spectacular Loire Valley. Chenonceau is considered to be one of the most beautiful castles in the world. Continue to **Château d'Amboise**, where Leonardo da Vinci worked and is buried.

**DAY 7 ROCAMADOUR** On your way to the medieval town of Rocamadour, stop and see **Limoges**, famous for its beautiful porcelain. A **Rocamadour City Tour** introduces you to what was once one of the most popular places of Christian pilgrimage. This

remarkable village of unique churches and towers clings to the cliff-face above a dramatic gorge. See the Place St-Amadour, around which are grouped seven sanctuaries, including the Chapel of Notre Dame or the Miraculous Chapel that contains a Black Madonna renowned for the miracles it is said to perform.

**DAY 8 CARCASSONNE**

Travel over the *Gouffe de Padirac*, a limestone cave opened up by the famous speleologist Martel, on the way to Carcassonne. Visit the Cité, surrounded by a double circuit of walls and towers. Within are the strongly fortified castle, a museum and the houses of this medieval town. Think what it would be like to be a 14<sup>th</sup> century warrior riding up to this walled city and imagine how (or if) you would manage to get in!

**DAY 9 AVIGNON** Along the way to Avignon in Provence, pass through **Nîmes**, famous for its Roman ruins and site of Maison Carrée, one of the best



preserved Roman temples still in existence. Also see the **Pont du Gard**, the magnificent Roman aqueduct that supplied Nîmes with fresh water from 19 B.C. until the 9<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Avignon became the home of first French Popes in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and is famous for its Palais des Papes.

**DAY 10 NICE** Travel to Nice by way of **Aix-en-Provence**, birthplace of Paul Cézanne and an aristocratic old town since Roman times, renowned for its thermal springs, art treasures and almond cakes. Continue to Nice, the Côte d'Azur resort with a lively and utterly Mediterranean character.

**DAY 11 NICE** This morning travel to the perched village of **Eze** for shopping in its

boutiques, splendid views up and down the coast, and a visit to a **perfume factory**. Later drive to the elegant city state **Monaco** to see the casino of Monte Carlo, the Palais de Prince, and visit the **Musée Océanographique** and aquarium. Enjoy your last evening on the fabulous French Riviera.

**DAY 12 DEPART** Depart with new knowledge and fantastic memories of your Tour de France.

*For more information, please contact:*