

FRANCE for art lovers



Following Artistic Footsteps in Paris & the South of France
May 23 to 31, 2020

ONWARD TRAVEL 
EST 2014

France for Art Lovers May 23–31, 2020

MONT SAINTE-VICTOIRE, painted over 60 times by Paul Cézanne



Join us in May 2020 for an all-new Onward Travel itinerary and a real dream trip for art lovers! We're headed to France to visit the ateliers, villas, gardens and stomping grounds of some of the world's most beloved artistic creators.

Our tour begins in Paris, where we'll enjoy the legendary energy of this artist mecca and explore the best of old meets new in artistic terms. From the Louvre to Montparnasse, we will trace the history of art in Paris and Europe, aware that in our limited time we can only scratch the surface! From Paris we'll spend a special day visiting Monet's Gardens in Giverny where, in late May, the water lilies will be in full bloom.

After a few days in Paris it's off to the South: Provence and the Cote d'Azur, where many of the great painters of the last centuries were inspired by the brilliant light and lovely scenery. Let's visit the hometown of the master himself, Paul Cézanne, and the places where the troubled Vincent Van Gogh painted some of the most famous paintings in the world. Of course, the artists chose well when it came to a place to get away, and our days in Aix and Nice will be further enhanced by our splendid surroundings.

This new tour sprang from our desire to dig deeper into the artistic legacy in France, and we can't wait to dive in with a fun group of likeminded travelers!



IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Standing in Monet's garden and gazing at his water lilies

Exploring an ancient seaside villa where Picasso lived & worked

Sipping rosé in the shadow of Cézanne's mountain muse

Bienvenue à Paris!

DAY 1: SATURDAY MAY 23

- Experience the world's most iconic art museum
- Toast your travel group over dinner at a charming Parisian bistro

Our tour officially begins in Paris today! Of course the city is full of legendary museums and sights, so you may wish to arrive early to experience those places we will not have time to visit together. In the early afternoon we will convene at our stylish and comfortable Parisian boutique hotel in the Left Bank's 14th Arrondissement to begin exploring the city's vibrant art and culture together.

Our local guide, an artist herself, will meet our group to show us around our neighborhood for the next few days - the famous artistic hotspot of Montparnasse. When you hear "Paris in the 20's," and think of writers, artists and other creative spirits participating in an exchange of ideas and energy, at cafe tables, wild parties, and squalid studios, Montparnasse was the center of that universe. After our stroll through the neighborhood we are off to the Louvre, and even if you've been before, this visit with our guide will rejuvenate and redefine for you this most famous of art museums.

This evening the group will get to know one another over a delicious French dinner at an artsy local bistro. *Santé!*

Meals Dinner

Pilgrimage to Giverny

DAY 2: SUNDAY MAY 24

- Cruise along the banks of the Seine river on a bicycle
- Stroll through the gardens that inspired Monet for 43 years

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning, it is included today as it is each day of our time together. Then we're off to Giverny, a quaint village in Normandy, to enjoy a place that all lovers of Impressionism must try to visit at least once: Monet's Garden. We're adding a fun twist to our bucolic experience today: a leisurely cycle ride along the Seine River from the nearby town of Vernon to Monet's home and gardens in Giverny, with a stop for a picnic lunch by the river before we reach the gardens (if you don't wish to cycle other arrangements can be made). The afternoon will be spent in the gardens, where you can expect the water lilies to be in full bloom. When we return to Paris, this evening is yours to explore the city as you wish.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

A Day in the City of Light

DAY 3: MONDAY MAY 25

- Enjoy a morning exploring Paris on your own
- Channel the artistic energy of Montparnasse in a drawing session

Spend this morning in Paris as you like... maybe you want to visit the famous Musee D'Orsay to see the Impressionist masterworks, bask in the glory of the amazing Modern collection at Centre Pompidou or compare Monet's wonderful waterlily series at L'Orangerie with those you've seen in real life.

After lunch time we will reconvene in Montparnasse with our artist guide who we met on our arrival day. Today we are invited to her studio for coffee and a lesson on drawing and portraiture. Then she will take us to the nearby Academie de la Grande Chaumière. Established in 1904, this is a place that has been frequented by many influential artists over the years including Amedeo Modigliani, Hans Hoffman, Louise Bourgeois and Chaim Soutine. So we'll be in famous previous company, and taking part in a longstanding artistic tradition, when we sit down with pencils and paper to participate in a figure drawing session with a live model this afternoon. You'll feel inspired by all of the fantastic art you've already seen and we'll have a lot of fun being creative together, even making mistakes, and making great drawings, too.

This evening we'll say goodbye to Paris and our bohemian neighborhood with a special dinner at a cafe that was a favorite of some of the greatest artists in modern history during the artistic heyday of Montparnasse in the 1920's.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner



CAFE DE LA ROTONDE, an important meeting place for the artists of Montparnasse

In the Footsteps of Van Gogh

DAY 4: TUESDAY MAY 26

- Eat a baguette on the train as the French countryside streams by
- Walk the streets of the towns where Van Gogh's legacy lives on

This morning we will take the fast train three hours from Paris to Avignon in the South of France to explore the region where Vincent Van Gogh spent two and a half of the most important years of his artistic career. Here we will trace the great artist's footsteps with an expert local guide. First we visit Saint-Rémy-de-Provence where the legendary, troubled painter spent a year at the Saint-Paul Asylum and made many of his most famous works of art, including *Starry Night*. Then we travel on to Arles, where he painted his famous sunflowers, olive trees and wheat fields and his artistic style became more fully realized than ever before. The ultimate "tortured artist," Van Gogh's story is quite sad, but he changed painting forever and continues to inspire young artists today.

From Arles it's an hour's drive to charming Aix-en-Provence, where we'll spend the next two nights at a centrally located boutique hotel with a fitting name, Hotel Cézanne. After our arrival in the early evening we'll sit down for a delicious dinner together nearby.

Meals Breakfast, Packed Lunch, Dinner

Cézanne and His Mountain

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY MAY 27

- Enjoy lunch with a view of the legendary Mont. Saint-Victoire
- Explore the sidestreets, shops and cafes of lovely Aix

We will spend today exploring delightful Aix-en-Provence and its surrounds, where the incomparable painter Paul Cézanne was born and died and spent most of his life. Our knowledgeable local guide will join us for the day, and this morning we'll explore the picturesque streets of Aix, including Cézanne's studio there and his burial place. Then our minibus will come for us and we head out of town to see Mont Saint-Victoire, the mountain that beguiled and inspired the painter for decades - he painted it more than 60 times!

We will have lunch together in the shadow of the mountain, basking in the famous light and gorgeous Provençal scenery. After lunch we will visit a local winery to taste some rosé - we can't come to Provence and forget about the rosé! This evening back in Aix is yours to enjoy as you wish.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

A Riviera Roadtrip

DAY 6: THURSDAY MAY 28

- Observe the "violent light" in the often painted port of St. Tropez
- Tour the house where Renoir lived and worked for 12 years

This morning we bid Aix adieu and continue on our way to our final destination, the lively French Riviera city of Nice. But we have a few stops to make en route... First is the legendary holiday town of St. Tropez. Yet another muse en plein air for the Impressionists, and a place they liked to spend time, St Tropez was immortalized by many famous painters such as Paul Signac, Henri Matisse, Francis Picabia, and Pierre Bonnard. Artists working in the Neo-Impressionist style of pointilism were particularly drawn to St. Tropez and what Maximilien Luce called it's "violent light." Experience the violent light for yourself today with some free time here to enjoy lunch and have a stroll through the harbor and the charming lanes of this seaside resort.

From St. Tropez our journey continues on, the next stop is Musée Renoir in Cagnes-sur-Mer. The great painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir spent the last 12 years of his life at this olive and citrus tree planted estate, and we'll enjoy visiting the rooms where he lived and created while taking in the excellent collection of his work displayed here.

When we reach Nice as the day ends we'll settle in at our fun and well located Bell Epoque-era boutique hotel before heading out for a simple and delicious dinner together at a nearby creperie.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner



LEAVING THE PORT OF ST TROPEZ Paul Signac, 1901

Splendid City by the Sea

DAY 7: FRIDAY MAY 29

- Visit a wonderful, small museum full of Chagall's vibrant canvases
- Taste Nicoise street food with a local food expert

We'll begin our first day in Nice at Musée National Marc Chagall. This elegant museum constitutes the world's largest public collection of the Russian-Jewish artist. Chagall moved to Montparnasse at the age of 23 and spent most of the rest of his life in France, though colorfully and singularly executed dreamlike motifs inspired by his Jewish faith and his childhood in a Belorusian village would figure largely in his work throughout his career. The museum in Nice was established as a gift to the French state at the direction of the artist to display his sweeping, fantastical Biblical Message series, and the grounds and works were all arranged by his design.

Once we've left the Chagall Museum we will make our way to Old Town to meet Viktorija, a good friend of Onward Travel, cookbook author and sommelier, and Nice resident. The city is famous for its unique cuisine, much of which is available as "street food." Think crispy chickpea flour pancakes called *socca*, small stuffed vegetables or *les petits farcis*, rice tarts known as *tian*, and so much more. Viktorija will lead us on a fun roaming lunch tour and we'll taste an array of delicious local specialties as the rosé flows.

After lunch the rest of the afternoon and evening is yours to enjoy Nice as you please - maybe you want to relax on the beach, visit another great museum or do some shopping. No matter where your whims take you, you will surely love exploring this wonderful city.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch



MUSÉE NATIONAL MARC CHAGALL in Nice

Enchanting Antibes

DAY 8: SATURDAY MAY 30

- Stare at the blue sea from a villa where Picasso lived and worked
- Dine on a gorgeously prepared meal with your new travel friends

This morning you are on your own to relax and enjoy Nice. After lunch time the group will gather for a short ride on the scenic coastal railway to the exquisite seaside town of Antibes, risen from an Ancient Greek settlement. There is an imposing stone villa here, perched above the sea and originally built in the 12th century, where Picasso lived and worked for six months in 1946. Today it boasts an impressive collection of nearly 250 of his works, many of which were gifted to the museum by the artist himself and his wife Jacqueline. After we have enjoyed the works of the master himself, in such stunning environs, you are on your own for a few hours to wander the narrow alleyways of this ancient town turned haute seaside getaway. Wine bars, boutiques, and art galleries are around every corner here.

As night begins to fall we will reconvene for one last *aperitif* before sitting down to an absolutely lovely and festive farewell dinner together in ancient Antibes before returning to Nice for a good sleep.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Au Revoir!

DAY 9: SUNDAY MAY 31

It's time to say goodbye this morning, and our hotel is only a few miles from Nice International Airport. Or maybe you'll be taking the train back to Paris or down the coast to Italy. Whatever your plans, Onward is happy to help you make arrangements for your continued travel. Head home with new memories and friends and lots of creative inspiration!

Meals Breakfast

Trip Essentials

BEGINS	Paris, France on Saturday, May 23, 2020 Meet at 1:00 PM at Hôtel Aiglon. Onward Travel will provide directions from the airport.
ENDS	Nice, France on Sunday, May 31, 2020 The tour ends at Hôtel Le Grimaldi. No activities scheduled on this date.
SUITABILITY & MOBILITY	This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
TRIP LENGTH	9 days, 8 nights
LODGING	Hôtel Aiglon 3 Nights Lovely, storied lodging in an Art Deco building in the heart of Paris's trendy Montparnasse district Boutique Hôtel Cézanne 2 Nights A charming, historic and well-located hotel in Aix with a wonderful garden Hôtel Le Grimaldi 3 Nights An elegant boutique hotel in Nice near Old Town, the urban center, and beaches
TOUR DATES & PRICE	May 23–31, 2020 Double Occupancy \$3350 per traveler Single Supplement \$725 <i>Note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to France. You are welcome to pay by credit card, please add a 3% surcharge.</i>

“Art is a revelation of an exquisite sensitivity.”

Paul Cézanne

Trip price includes the following:

- Transportation throughout the tour by luxury minibus, train and public transportation.
- Eight nights accommodations at charming boutique 4-star properties, each with a unique French sense of place.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, four lunches, and five dinners. We've planned fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- A dedicated Onward Travel guide at your service plus excellent local tour guides.
- Activities, museums admission fees, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.
- Taxes and gratuities.

Register now!

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form and submit payment.

Space is limited to only 14 travelers.

\$1,250 deposit due upon booking, balance due by February 23, 2020.

Do you want more time to visit the Pompidou, the Orsay or other artistic institutions in Paris that aren't on our itinerary? Why not come early or return to Paris by train when the tour ends for an extra day or two? Onward Travel is happy to help you arrange for extended travels.

AIR TRAVEL:

The tour will begin in Paris and end in Nice. Travelers will need to search for a multi-city itinerary. Contact us if you'd like help finding a good travel itinerary. Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a "go" before booking non-refundable airfare.

TRIP INFORMATION

France for Art Lovers May 23–31, 2020

About Onward Travel

Onward Travel is a group tour operator owned and operated by sisters Molly Crist and Katerina Dhand. Onward Travel is focused on unique, thoughtful small group tours with itineraries that are researched and pieced together carefully to ensure authentic, engaging trips that foster genuine connection to places and people. A deep love of hospitality and adventure has been in Molly and Kat's blood for generations as Onward Travel is inspired by their family's cooking school on a farm in Bucks County, PA that offered culinary-focused travel to customers for over two decades.

France in Late May

What a gorgeous time of year to visit France. Monet's garden will be in bloom and the water lilies should be abundant. Crowds are moderate as the tourist season is not quite in full swing. Temperatures will be pleasant to warm with temperatures in the high 60's and 70's and lows in the 50's. Be prepared for sunshine and the possibility of a little rain. It may even be warm enough to take a dip in the sea on the Cote d'Azur when we get to Nice! Onward Travel will provide detailed packing notes in advance of the trip.

Miscellaneous Travel Information

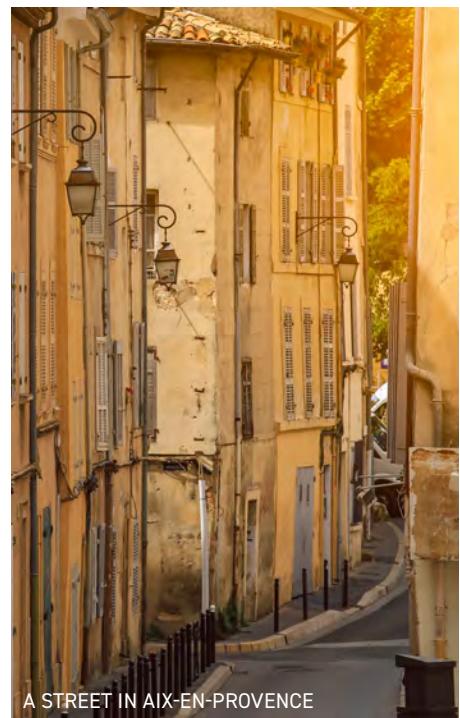
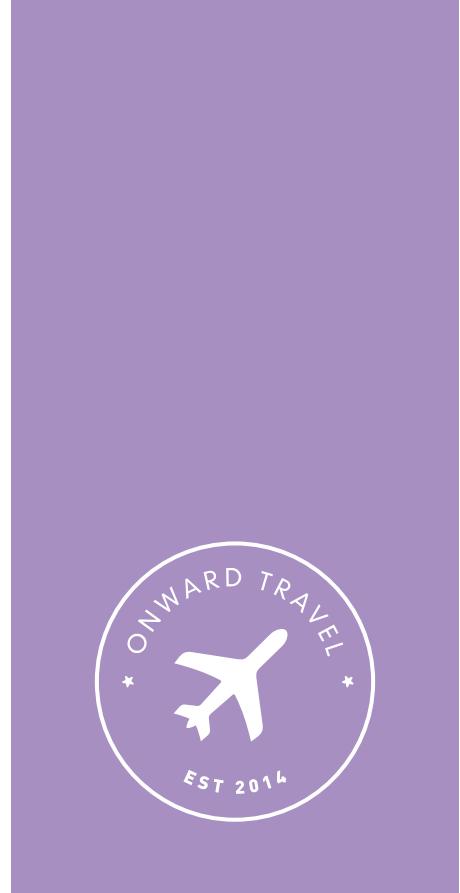
- Passports are required for American citizens travelling to Europe. Visas are not required. Note your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of travel.*
- To determine the current exchange rate, Google "USD to EUR."*
- Travel Protection: Onward Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 32-0704.*
- For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1308294*

Get in Touch!

Contact Molly with questions or special requests:

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A STREET IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE