



SKETCHING
Provence
AND THE
Riviera

A CREATIVE ADVENTURE
IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

Hosted by The 92nd Street Y + Onward Travel

October 8 to 15, 2023

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️
EST 2014



MORNING ON THE PROMENADE DES ANGLAIS
Edvard Munch, 1891

Join The 92nd Street Y Art Center and Onward Travel for a dreamy week sketching in the sparkling South of France! Let's head to Provence and the Riviera to visit the ateliers, villas, gardens and stomping grounds of some of the world's most beloved artists.

Our tour begins in Provence, where we'll stay at a luxe-rustic lodge in Aix-en-Provence, the hometown of the master himself, Paul Cézanne. During our days in Provence we'll pay special attention to the dramatic landscape and the charming towns nestled therein, both of which served as muse to generations of creators before us.

Of course, the artists chose well when it came to a place to get away, and when we leave Provence for the Cote d'Azur city of Nice our time will only be further enhanced by our splendid surroundings. Many of the great European painters of the last centuries were drawn here to the brilliant light and gleaming blue sea. We'll follow in their footsteps as we explore the Riviera.

Traveling with you will be 92NY Art Center educator Melanie Baker, a working visual artist based in Brooklyn, who will lead the group in daily sketching, lending her expertise and insight each step of the way, and Allison Valchuis, artist, traveler, and director of the 92NY Art Center.



IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Exploring an ancient seaside villa where Picasso lived & worked

Sipping rosé in the shadow of Cézanne's mountain muse

Taking in the scenery of the French Riviera from a private boat

Welcome to Provence!

DAY 1: SUNDAY OCTOBER 8

- Check into an artistic retreat of calm amid vines and olive trees
- Get to know your fellow travelers at a lovely welcome reception

You'll arrive in the picturesque South of France today, welcome transfers will be arranged from Marseille Provence Airport and the Aix-en-Provence TGV Train Station.

In the afternoon, check in at our five-star accommodations for the next three nights, Les Lodges Sainte Victoire. An oasis of calm set in the shadow of Cézanne's beloved Mount-Saint-Victoire (which was painted by the legendary artist more than sixty times), this 12-acre former nobleman's estate is brimming with olive trees and grapevines, and boasts a luxe spa with an indoor pool, hamam and sauna as well as the option to book a massage during your stay.

For those who would like, you may gather this afternoon for a first informal drawing session. Melanie will select the perfect place on the hotel grounds to focus on the details of our inspiring Provençal setting. As the day draws to an end we'll all enjoy a welcome aperitif together at the hotel's bistro, L'Atelier des Lodges. Enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers over a glass or two of local wine along with canapes, salads and a delicious light dinner.

Meals Dinner

TRAVELING ARTIST

Melanie Baker

Melanie Baker lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She attended Pratt Institute, graduating in 1977 with a BFA, and received her MFA from Stony Brook University in 2001.



She has had solo exhibitions at Cristin Tierney and Roebling Hall, among others, and group exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum, the Jersey City Museum, White Box, NYU Gallatin, the Nerman Museum, Platformart, Albany University and Wesleyan University. She has received numerous awards and fellowships. She has twice been a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow, and in 2003 received the NYFA Prize, awarded across all

disciplines. She is a Sacatar Foundation Fellow, in 2004 and 2022. She has attended many residencies including Art Omi, Yaddo, Djerrassi, the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, and LMCC's Workspace Program. She is represented by Cristin Tierney Gallery.

The 92nd Street Y, New York is a world-class cultural and community center where people all over the world connect through culture, arts, entertainment and conversation. For nearly 150 years, 92NY has harnessed the power of arts and ideas to enrich, enlighten and change lives, and the power of community to repair the world. As a non-profit organization, 92NY relies on the support from generous donors to provide affordable classes for students of all ages, offer scholarships to those in need, and provide quality programming to its growing community.

Ochre Hills & the Luberon

DAY 2: MONDAY OCTOBER 9

- Gain an appreciation for the history of artists' pigments
- Sip wine with a view in the Luberon National Park

Enjoy a fabulous buffet breakfast at the hotel this morning. After breakfast our luxury minibus will pick us up and we are off to explore the beautiful Luberon region. The highlight of our day will be our time spent in Roussillon, famous for its ochre-colored hills. Not only have these hills inspired generations of artists for their stunning beauty, but for years ochre pigment was also mined here, to fuel the artist's brush. We'll begin our day with a visit to a small museum dedicated to the history of ochre mining and the resulting pigments. Learn how to mix the raw pigments into your own paints and buy some if you like in the wonderful art supply store on site.

Now it's time to take a walk through those gorgeous ochre hills surrounding just outside the village of Roussillon. It's a perfect place to stop and draw, and we'll bring along a picnic lunch. Once we are satisfied with our time in the hills we'll pop over to the village for a little free time to stroll, shop or have a coffee.

After we've left Roussillon it's time to experience one of the other highlights of the region: wine. Let's visit a winery in the heart of the Luberon National Park to taste a selection of the regional wines alongside some delicious afternoon snacks. If the creative spirit is still moving you the scenery is sure to be lovely fodder for some informal sketching.

When we return to Les Lodges at the end of the day, the evening is yours to enjoy as you like. You may like to visit the spa to unwind, enjoy another evening at the hotel's bistro or take a taxi 10 minutes into the center of Aix-en-Provence to dine out.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Afternoon wine and snacks

The Celebrated Son of Aix

DAY 3: TUESDAY OCTOBER 10

- Follow in the footsteps of one of history's greatest painters
- Explore the sidestreets, shops and cafes of lovely Aix-en-Provence

Relax at Les Lodges this morning, taking your time at the breakfast buffet and enjoying the grounds. We won't be going far today, as we explore delightful Aix-en-Provence and its surrounds, where the incomparable painter Paul Cézanne was born and died and spent most of his life. A knowledgeable local art historian guide will join us as we visit the picturesque streets of Aix, including Cézanne's studio there and his burial place.

It's market day in town and there will be time to have lunch and do some shopping and exploring on your own. As a group we'll decide what we want to do for our drawing session today. There are many wonderful opportunities around town as well as on the hotel grounds.

Tonight we have a very special dinner together at the Michelin-starred fine dining destination on site at our hotel, Saint Estève Restaurant. As we prepare to say goodbye to Provence and head to the Riviera we will enjoy a lovely and creative 4-course meal, toasting to the beautiful time we've already spent in the dreamy French countryside.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

French Riviera Roadtrip

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11

- Observe the "violent light" in the artists haunt of Saint-Tropez
- Tour the grand house where Renoir lived and worked for 12 years

This morning we bid Aix-en-Provence *adieu* and, after a quick bakery breakfast, start our luxury minibus roadtrip to the lively Riviera city of Nice. On our way we will visit the legendary holiday town of Saint-Tropez. A famous muse *en plein air* for the Impressionists, and a place they just loved to spend time, Saint-Tropez was immortalized by many important painters such as Paul Signac, Henri Matisse, Francis Picabia, and Pierre Bonnard. Artists working in the Neo-Impressionist style of pointillism were particularly drawn to Saint-Tropez and what Maximilien Luce called it's "violent light." Try to capture that violent light yourself this morning with a drawing session by the famously sparkling seascape. Then you'll have some free time here to enjoy lunch and have a stroll through the harbor and the charming lanes of this seaside resort.

From Saint-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 at the end of a long day we'll settle in at our well located boutique hotel before heading out for a fun and casual dinner at a restaurant just around the corner.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

L'immersion Niçoise

DAY 5: THURSDAY OCTOBER 12

- Feel the ocean breeze at a morning drawing session by the sea
- Choose your own adventure in charming Nice

After breakfast at the hotel we are off to the Nice seaside to draw at the famous Promenade des Anglais, or *La Prom*, as the locals call it. Surely we won't be the first artists to find inspiration on this grand pedestrian boulevard overlooking the blue water. Wonderful works depicting the Promenade des Anglais exist by Edvard Munch, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Cass Gilbert, Raoul Dufy, Max Beckmann and others.

There is much to see and do in Nice, among the city's fabulous collection of museums are the Chagall and Matisse Museums, and there are beautiful gardens and architectural jewels just waiting for you to discover them. Spend the rest of the afternoon and evening enjoying this dynamic city however you please.

Meals Breakfast



THE BEACH AT NICE Berthe Morisot, 1882

Enchanting Antibes

DAY 6: FRIDAY OCTOBER 13

- Dine on a gorgeously prepared lunch with your new travel friends
- Admire the blue water from a villa where Picasso lived and worked

The group will decide together where to go and draw in Nice after breakfast this morning - maybe the giant statue of Apollo at the center of a grand fountain at Place Massena or the Castle of Nice, perched amid gardens on an elevator-accessible hill overlooking the coast.

After a creative morning, we'll hop on the coastal train for a short ride to the exquisite resort town of Antibes, risen from an Ancient Greek Settlement. Let's have a beautiful lunch together at a fabulous husband-and-wife-run restaurant where flowers are a favorite ingredient and every plate is a work of art.

From lunch, we'll make our way to an imposing stone villa, 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 great master himself, in simply stunning environs, you are on your own to wander the narrow alleys of this ancient town turned haute seaside getaway. Wine bars, boutiques, shopping and art galleries are around every corner here.

The evening is yours, so linger on in Antibes and return by train on your own timing, or ride back to Nice with other group members as the day comes to an end.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch



ANTIBES, THE TOWERS Paul Signac, 1911

The Côte d'Azur by Sea

DAY 7: SATURDAY OCTOBER 14

- Take the chance to see the gorgeous coastline from the water
- Draw an atmospheric ancient monestary perched on a tiny island

Today we're off on a very special adventure. Our private boat will pick us up in Nice's port and take us on a tour of the coastline from Nice to Cannes. Then it's a short ride out to sea to the dreamy little island, Île Saint-Honorat, about a mile offshore. One of the Christian world's most ancient monasteries is here and we'll alight from our boat and take the opportunity to draw this striking monument. Enjoy a glass of crisp Provençal rosé on the return ride to the mainland.

You'll spend half the day by boat and island today and the other half of the day as you like in Nice - visit one last museum, wrap up your shopping goals, or relax somewhere lovely. In the early evening we'll meet for our farewell dinner at a quintessentially French brasserie. Nosh on classic local dishes and raise your glass to a creative and enriching week in a magical part of the world, made even more special by excellent company. *Santé* indeed!

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Bon Voyage

DAY 8: SUNDAY OCTOBER 15

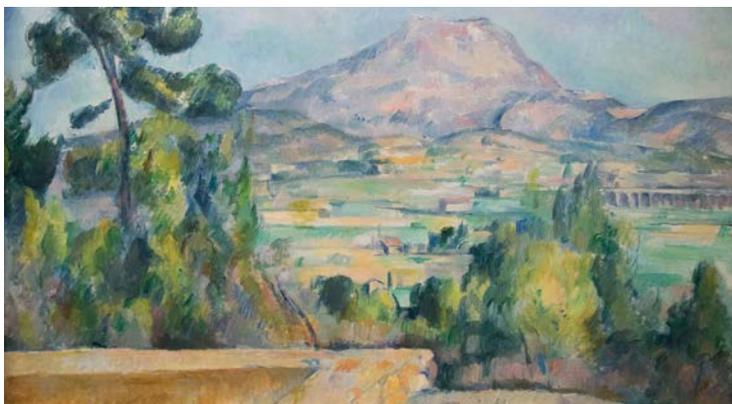
It's time to say goodbye this morning, and it's a short transfer to Nice's Airport. Or maybe you'll be taking the train back to Paris or down the coast to Italy. Whatever your plans, Onward is happy to help you make arrangements for your continued travel. Head home with new memories and friends and lots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

Meals Breakfast

TRIP INFORMATION *Sketching Provence and The Riviera*

Trip Essentials

BEGINS	Aix-en-Provence, France: <u>Sunday, October 8, 2023</u> Transfers provided from Aix TGV Train Station or Marseille Airport. Please arrive before 3pm.
ENDS	Nice, France: <u>Sunday, October 15, 2023</u> <i>No activities scheduled.</i> Transfers provided to Nice Cote d'Azur Airport or Nice-Ville train station.
SUITABILITY & MOBILITY	<u>This tour includes walking and/or standing for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones.</u> Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
TRIP LENGTH	8 days, 7 nights
LODGING	Boutique lodging with a sense of place has been selected for <i>Sketching Provence and The Riviera</i> : Les Lodges Saint Victoire 3 Nights Five-star retreat and spa just outside Aix-en-Provence with views of Mt. Saint-Victoire Boutique Nice Hotel 4 Nights A comfortable four-star property a short walk from Nice's Old Town and the seaside
TOUR DATES & PRICE	October 8–15, 2023 Double Occupancy \$7100 per traveler Single Supplement \$1100 <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>



Trip price includes the following:

- Arrival and departure transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- Three nights accommodations at Les Lodges Saint Victoire in Aix and four nights at a boutique property in Nice.
- Delicious meals: daily breakfasts, two lunches, and four dinners. Expect fantastic gourmet experiences, with wine included, of course!
- The accompaniment of traveling artist, Melanie Baker, and 92NY Art Center Director, Allison Valchuis, as well an Onward Travel tour coordinator at your service.
- Activities, admissions, tastings and tours as detailed in the itinerary.
- Gratuities.

Register now!

Visit onwardtravel.co/92Y to complete the registration form and submit payment.

Space is limited to only 12 travelers.

\$1,250 deposit due upon booking, balance due by June 1, 2023.

AIR TRAVEL:

The tour will start and end with transfers to/from the indicated airports or train stations. Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a “go” before booking non-refundable airfare. Contact Onward Travel if you would like complimentary assistance. Direct flights between NYC–Paris are an option for those who would like to connect to Southern France via train.

TRIP INFORMATION **Sketching Provence and The Riviera**

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 one-of-a-kind, 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.

About Traveling with The 92nd Street Y

Our journeys are an art aficionado's dream. Each tour is carefully curated by art insiders and travel experts to create unique experiences. Traveling in small groups—usually no more than 12-16 people and accompanied by our esteemed faculty of teaching artists and educators, our trips open doors to artists' studios, galleries and more, immersing you in the local artistic culture and give you an intense creative boost. Travel is part of every artist's journey. Our trips are designed to stimulate deeper interrogative thought, challenge your perspective, expose you to new ideas, build your confidence and enhance your artistic practice.

France in Autumn

Early October in Southern France is a lovely time to visit. The sun should be shining and skies blue, the grape harvest underway, the crowds thinning and days relatively long. Average day time temperatures should be in the low 70's, dipping into the 60's or maybe high 50's at night. Onward Travel will provide packing notes in advance of the trip.

Miscellaneous Travel Information

- *Passports are required for American citizens travelling to France. Visas are not required. Note your passport should be valid for at least three 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 Onward Travel with questions or special requests:

letsgo@onwardtravel.co

845-293-2729



NICE SOLEIL FLEURS Marc Chagall, 1962