



**AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING TOUR OPERATORS,
IN 2020, OFF THE BEATEN PATH CELEBRATES 26 YEARS LEADING SMALL GROUP TOURS EXCLUSIVELY IN FRANCE**

Website - <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

Join Off the Beaten Path for a journey along the back roads of Bordeaux, Arcachon and Saint Emilion during this 6 day/5 night wine tasting, cooking, cultural, and gourmet Bordeaux tour for unparalleled fun, great food, and exceptional wines in an unpretentious, small group. As wine industry insiders, we secure winery tours and VIP wine tasting that are unavailable to the public, and open the doors for our guests to experience Bordeaux wine during the best periods of the year – including the harvest. Designed for the discerning and active traveler, our Bordeaux, Arcachon and Saint Emilion Tour offers wine, foodie and culture lovers a very different perspective and unique experience of the region!

Each morning we lace up our walking shoes after a hearty breakfast to discover this privileged world as the Bordelais themselves do — hands-on and along the slow road in historical Bordeaux and its underground, Saint Emilion village, and the coastal town of Arcachon. We explore local vineyard trails, taste some ripened varietals, check soil composition, and pause for photo ops of spectacular landscapes, and grape harvest in action. We spend a day cooking at home with our family friend, a famous cookbook author, preparing and indulging in Bordelaise cuisine. Bordeaux exudes a certain magic that we pair with cultural and gourmet foodie experiences to grow your appreciation for this spectacular southwestern region of France long after your return home!

EXPERIENCE: INSPIRING ITINERARIES - EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY - EXCELLENT VALUE!

Off the Beaten Path France Tours are Recommended by Best Selling Author PJ Adams as her Tour of Choice to Discover the Provence Region!! Traveling on an Off the Beaten Path small group, cultural walking and foodie tour provides exceptional and privileged insider experiences at unparalleled value that multi-destination and other France tour companies cannot match!

  - FRANCE OFF THE BEATEN PATH HAS RECENTLY PARTNERED WITH TRUSTPILOT, an independent review website to collect “independent” traveler reviews about our tours of Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, and Champagne!

Read candid “independent” tour reviews! [TRUSTPILOT TOUR REVIEWS](#)

- Our sole focus and specialty is and always has been dedicated to small group travel in France – **WE KNOW FRANCE BEST!**
- In 2020, we celebrate 26 YEARS EXPERIENCE leading tours exclusively in France.
- Our exclusive relationships with every one of our vendors in France makes these tours truly the trip of a lifetime!
- The most popular small group tours in France, we include “insider” experiences that other tour companies cannot offer.
- Our tours sell out year after year thanks to our exclusive benefits, exceptional quality, and excellent value.
- We are proud to be named travelers #1 choice for group travel for two decades!

Book one of our small group tours today to discover for yourself why our exclusive France tours have been named **TRAVELERS #1 CHOICE FOR GROUP TRAVEL FOR TWO DECADES!**

WEBSITE - <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

Bordeaux - Arcachon - Saint Emilion Tour



BY OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

** THE ITNERARY SHORT VERSION **
6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS

5-STAR HOTEL LES SOURCES DE CAUDALIE

Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: DAY #1 - D

TOUR – DAY 1 – WELCOME DAY - TOUR BEGINS
GROUP MEETS - HOTEL CHECK-IN, WELCOME DINNER TOGETHER – D

ARRIVAL IN BORDEAUX. Meet and greet by your tour guides at 3 pm at Bordeaux St. Jean Rail Station. From here we will transfer to our boutique Bordeaux hotel that will serve as our home base for the entire tour (NO Hotel Hopping - Unpack once for the entire tour).

DINNER: Welcome cocktail and dinner, a first taste of local “Bordelaise” gourmet cuisine together at one of the best kept secrets in Bordeaux.

Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day #2 - B, L

DAY #2 - B, L - SAINT EMILION WALKING, 12TH CENTURY MONOLITHIC CHURCH, CULTURE & WINE

TOUR – DAY 2 – WALKING, CULTURE & WINE IN SAINT EMILION

SAINT EMILION: Walking the Saint Emilion Wine Jurisdiction, Guided Tour of the village & underground Monolithic Church, Winery Tour and VIP Wine Tasting at a Classified Growth estate Followed by a Hosted Gourmet Picker's Lunch at the Estate, Afternoon : Leisure Time to Explore Saint Emilion Village, Dinner Independently – B, L

BREAKFAST. MORNING: After breakfast – Full day in Saint Emilion village – Departure to Saint Emilion village – rated one of the most beautiful historical and wine growing villages in France. Viticulture was introduced to this fertile region of Aquitaine by the Romans, and intensified in the Middle Ages. The Saint Emilion area benefited from its location on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela and many churches, monasteries and hospices were built there from the 11th century onwards. It was granted the special status of a “jurisdiction” during the period of English rule in the 12th century. It is an exceptional landscape devoted entirely to wine-growing, with many fine historic monuments, artisan, craft and wine shops and a photogenic pedestrian village to discover.

ENJOY A GUIDED TOUR OF SAINT EMILION & THE UNDERGROUND MONOLITHIC CHURCH.

CHOOSE YOUR OPTION —

(OPTION #1) WALKERS – Walk #1: Saint Emilion Jurisdiction: Embark on a guided walk through the classified growth vineyards of the Saint Emilion wine jurisdiction, the most renowned “Merlot” producing region of Bordeaux. There will be two exclusive “Grand Cru” winery tours and VIP tastings today during our walk.

(OPTION #2) NON-WALKERS – Shuttle from to/from Saint Emilion Village to winery tour and wine tasting. and lunch.

LATE-MORNING -WINERY TOUR & TASTING at a Classified GROWTH PRODUCER.

LUNCH – Hosted Picker's lunch Together for both Walkers and NON-Walkers – Welcome to a “gourmet picker's lunch” amidst the Saint Emilion vineyards at the wine estate.

AFTERNOON: Enjoy leisure time to explore and discover Saint Emilion's history, as well as visit local artisan and wine boutiques.

DINNER: Independently in Bordeaux this evening.

Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day #3 - B, L

DAY #3 - B, L - FRENCH BREAD MAKING, COOKING CLASS, AND SAUTERNES WINE SCHOOL

TOUR – DAY 3 – CULINARY DELIGHTS (FRENCH BREAD BAKING & COOKING CLASS) IN SAUTERNES

FRENCH BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP USING AN 18TH CENTURY, HISTORICAL BREAD OVEN & COOKING CLASS FOLLOWED BY BORDELAISE LUNCH AT OUR CHEF'S FAMILY HOME, VISIT AT A WINE SCHOOL WITH WINERY TOUR AND WINE TASTING – B, L

BREAKFAST.

MORNING – FRENCH BREAD BAKING & COOKING AT HOME COOKING CLASS

We head to the Sauternes area south of Bordeaux for a full day of foodie experiences! Learn to make French baguette and other bread specialties and pastries using an 18th century, historical wood-fired bread oven. Under the guidance of our dear family friend, Master Chef Antoine, we'll follow the traditional steps of making and baking a variety of French breads and other pastry goodies. Once the bread is ready, we'll venture on to the next stage of our foodie day -- FUN, HANDS-ON COOKING CLASS AT HOME WITH OUR FRENCH CHEF – Cooking class with our friend, Celebrity Master Chef and Cookbook Author Antoine at his family home in the Sauterne. We will prepare a multi-course meal of “Bordelaise” recipes. Afterwards, enjoy the mid-day “aperitif” also known as pre-lunch cocktails with our chef Antoine and his family followed by a sumptuous gourmet lunch of the recipes prepared together during class accompanied by our very own home-made bread. We will prepare our recipes using many different cooking mediums including Antoine's custom-designed outdoor wood-fired baking oven.

LUNCH: A traditional Bordelais lunch with our Chef and his family. Lunch is accompanied by Antoine's professional selection of classified wines from his cellar and the vineyards of his local friends — including classified wines from Chateau Margaux.

EARLY AFTERNOON – A WINERY TOUR & TASTING OUR SELECT GRAND CRU PRODUCER. Private Winery Tour and wine tasting at the famous French Oenology school (Wine School) in Sauternes; an 1855 classified growth wine producer and teaching school. There is a sunny magic in these bottles, and the more the wine ages, the more golden its appearance and sweeter its flavors. It is wondrous that such prized wine comes from grapes that in any other appellation would be considered only fit for discarding.

LATE AFTERNOON – Enjoy some leisure time on return to the hotel.

DINNER: Independently in Bordeaux this evening.

Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day #4 - B, L

DAY #4 - B, L - ARCACHON BASIN ABOARD A FRENCH PINASSE, FOODIE TASTINGS, CULTURE & PILAT DUNE

TOUR – DAY 4 – ARCACHON BASIN & PILAT DUNE

ARCACHON: A FULL DAY AT ARCACHON BAY/BASIN (BASSIN D'ARCACHON) & PILAT DUNE – VISIT THE DUNE DE PILAT - EXPLORE THE COAST ON A GUIDED LEISURE EXCURSION ON A PINASSE ALONG THE ARCACHON BASIN, FOODIE TASTINGS, SEASIDE LUNCH, AFTERNOON LEISURE TIME – B, L

BREAKFAST. FULL DAY IN ARCACHON – Arcachon is a seaside town in south of Bordeaux known for oyster harvesting. Its 4 districts are named after the seasons of the year — The Ville d'Été (summer quarter) is home to shopping streets, the town's sandy main beach and a casino in the 19th-century Château Deganne. Ville d'Hiver (winter quarter) has extravagant 19th-century villas of spectacular architecture.

PILAT DUNE - At its southern entrance from the Atlantic Ocean, Arcachon Bay is crowned by Europe's largest sand dune that is nearly 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) long, 500 meters (1,600 feet) wide, stands 110 meters (360 feet) in height, and is moving inland at a rate of about 5 meters (16 feet) a year.

MORNING: We'll enjoy a leisure excursion on a French Pinasse along the Arcachon Basin exploring the coast on a guided nature excursion along the Arcachon Basin featuring oyster, charcuterie and cheese tasting with Champagne, followed by a cultural walk of Arcachon and a visit at the Dune de Pilat. The Arcachon Basin vistas and Pilat Dune will leave you speechless!

At the beginning of the 19th century Arcachon was still just a small fishing village. The ville d'été started growing up principally as a place of healing where sick people could take in the sea air as part of their recovery process. From 1860 the Ville d'hiver with improved transport developed train links to Bordeaux and Paris. The sea air and the pine forests were found to be as beneficial as the mountain air and as Arcachon is in a bay it is protected from the strong winds of the rest of the Atlantic coast. A group of business men, and in particular the Pereire brothers, and the owners of the railway line between Bordeaux and La Teste came up with the idea of extending the line to Arcachon and developing Arcachon as a winter resort. When Napoleon III came to visit, Arcachon's success was assured. Alexandre Dumas lived in Arcachon for a while and Toulouse-Lautrec had a house on the sea-front.

LUNCH: A gourmet lunch overlooking the coast!

LATE AFTERNOON – Leisure Time to explore at leisure in Arcachon before our RETURN TO THE HOTEL.

DINNER: Independently in Bordeaux this evening.

Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour Itinerary: Day #5 - B, D

DAY #5 - B, L - BORDEAUX: SENSATIONAL HISTORY, 15TH CENTURY CHEESE CAVES, FOODIE TASTINGS

TOUR – DAY 5 – HISTORICAL BORDEAUX CITY CENTER

BORDEAUX: FULL DAY IN BORDEAUX – CITY WALKING TOUR, VISIT & TASTE AT OUR FAVORITE ARTISAN FOODIE BOUTIQUES, LEISURE TIME ALONG THE WATERFRONT, EVENING FAREWELL COCKTAILS & DINNER – B, D

BREAKFAST. MORNING – Enjoy a city walking tour of the history, historical monuments, and our favorite artisan food boutiques of Bordeaux. Our walk features savory and sweet foodie tastings throughout this unique and personalized experience. Considered one of the most beautiful cities in France, you'll learn what makes Bordeaux so magical! We will visit one of the oldest and most famous cheese shops in Bordeaux. Fifteen meters below street level, we'll explore the caves used for maturing cheeses inside the stone-vaulted mystical cellars of an XVth century convent! Here we will find a treasure trove of cheeses being gently aged to their optimal maturity, with the aging process explained by one of their expert staff. We will also **ENJOY A TASTING OF FIVE KINDS OF CHEESE AND TWO WINES** while enjoying the atmosphere of the ancient underground caves.

We will learn about the history of the **CANELES**, a traditional signature dessert of the region, and how its creation in Bordeaux is related to wine! Finally we get to taste the famous **“LA DUNE BLANCHE”** which has a surprise story that will be revealed during our walk. Following our walking tour and tasting experiences, set off on your own to enjoy lunch at the waterfront or one of the city's traditional bistros.

LUNCH: INDEPENDENTLY IN BORDEAUX.

AFTERNOON – RETURN TO THE HOTEL.

DINNER: Hosted cocktail hour and Farewell gourmet Dinner in Bordeaux this evening to celebrate a wonderful week together.

 **TRUSTPILOT**

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pendent review website to collect “independent” traveler reviews about our tours of Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, and Champagne!

Read candid “independent” tour reviews! Trustpilot Says Guests Love Our Tours! [TRUSTPILOT TOUR REVIEWS](#)

Bordeaux Itinerary: DAY #6 - B

BREAKFAST.

10:15 AM - Please have all bags downstairs for loading.

11:00 AM DEPARTURE - 11 am transfer to St. Jean Rail Station in downtown Bordeaux, followed by transfer to Merignac airport. If you have made your own departure arrangements and are not departing with the group, please be sure to inform your guides in advance.

(B) = BREAKFAST INCLUDED, (L) = LUNCH INCLUDED, (D) = DINNER INCLUDED

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

- Off the Beaten Path, LLC is an American owned and operated company licensed and bonded to protect your vacation investment.
- Off the Beaten Path, LLC holds a website identity assurance warranty of \$100,000. Travelers are insured for up to \$100,000 per tour reservation booking when relying on the information provided by GeoTrust IdAuthority (Equifax Secure Certificate Authority) on our website.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH, LLC

EMAIL: franceotbp@gmail.com

Telephone: 1.717.683.2827

Reservation Office & Mailing Address: 749 Grandview Rd., York, PA 17403, USA

Branch Offices in Bordeaux & Saint Remy-de-Provence

Bordeaux, Arcachon, Saint Emilion Tour PRICE INCLUDES:

- Fully Guided sightseeing, walks, excursions, and cultural visits throughout the tour by professional Off the Beaten Path, LLC (OTBP) Company Tour Guides. OTBP Guides are UNESCO award winners, contributors to Bordeaux Travel Guidebooks, and are accomplished authors. OTBP Tour guides are professional France history and Bordeaux-specific history specialists who make learning the tidbits, gossip, anecdotes and stories of France fun and memorable throughout the tour.
- 5 nights — **NO HOTEL HOPPING!** — at CONDE NAST recommended boutique luxury Hotel de Seze.
- 2019 - 10 Meals Included – 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners.
- 2020 - 10 Meals Included – 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners.
- All “Grand Cru” wines and non-alcoholic beverages at group meals!
- All entry/participation fees for all activities and excursions detailed in the itinerary.
- Roundtrip transfers on Day 1 and Day 6 of the tour : Day 1 – Transfer provided from Bordeaux St. Jean rail station and Merignac airport at 3 pm. Day 6 – Transfer provided to Bordeaux St. Jean Rail station and Merignac airport for 11:30 am arrival.
- Bottled water provided daily.
- All ground transportation throughout the tour.
- –COMFORT ZONE– Designed for the interests of and to appeal to BOTH WALKERS & NON-WALKERS alike — the Active and Occasional Walker, and travelers of all ability levels. If you’re not a walker at all, enjoy shuttling to all activities, excursions and meals on our comfortable air-conditioned Mercedes Sprinters.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE – International airfare to/from France, airfare/train fare to/from the starting/ending point for the tour in Bordeaux, one lunch, three dinners, personal purchases.

AUTHENTIC BORDEAUX EXPERIENCES! Spend 6 days experiencing Bordeaux, Arcachon, and Saint Emilion like family friends going beyond tourist hotspots to meet and spend time with some of France’s best loved and highly recognized artisans, chefs, and winery owners who are our family friends, and welcome you to their workshops, kitchens, and family homes for authentic and fun French experiences unlike any other!

Qui... WHAT WE DO-WHAT WE GUARANTEE OUR GUESTS...

WE GUARANTEE SOME VERY SPECIFIC SERVICES THAT WE BELIEVE YOU, AS OUR GUEST, DESERVE.

• **WE ALSO OFFER VALUE-ADDED SERVICES AND OTHER CHARMING SURPRISES** on our tours including complimentary use of (1) Ipad minis (with both 4G and wifi access) and (2) digital point and shoot cameras PLUS enjoy a surprise regional gift on our Provence Tours, complimentary champagne & chocolates and a surprise gift in your room on our Loire Valley and Bordeaux Tours, and a surprise gift on Champagne Tours.

• **WE ENSURE A “SMALL GROUP” REMAINS JUST THAT - A “SMALL GROUP” !**

The group size on each of our tours is a maximum 12-16 guests. Many of our trips sell out completely meaning group size is 16 guests (and 12 guests for tours limited to 12 guests maximum per departure), and some trips average 12-14 guests. Our experience has been that limiting our group size to 16 guests per tour creates the ideal ambiance for guests to easily mingle and get to know each other, yet still maintain their independence. We also limit our group size in order to preserve each guest’s personalized experience, and ensure our famous quality customer service.

• **WE INCLUDE ALL BEVERAGES (BOTH ALCOHOLIC & NON-ALCOHOLIC) IN OUR PROVENCE TOUR PRICES!**

We always include a welcome cocktail on day 1 of each tour, plus some additional group meals may include a pre-dinner cocktail in addition to the premium, classified and “Grand Cru” wines included at all groups meals during each of our tours. Of course, guests are always free to opt out of any included group meal to try a restaurant, cafe or other dining option on their own or simply to enjoy a private dining experience.

• **WE ALWAYS PROVIDE GUESTS THE BEST ROOMS AT EVERY HOTEL !**

We always reserve the VERY BEST for our guests ! Plus there is NEVER any hotel hopping on our tours. We select one exclusive, luxurious, historical establishment for the entire 5 nights of each tour (3 nights on Champagne Tours, 4 nights on Dordogne Tours).

• **OUR SCHEDULED WALKS ARE ALWAYS GUIDED !**

We always guide our walks !! Our guides are experienced, and have walked our trails repeatedly each season - even in the off season. They are knowledgeable about what each trail has to offer. Our guides accompany every walk on every tour where optional and scheduled walks are included. And our guides remain with the group during the entirety of each walk. We believe your walks with us should always be fun, interesting and a time to sit back and enjoy the views along the trail while someone else takes charge and shows you the way! We have specially designed all of our trails exclusively to share with our guests.

• **WE WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE VAN SUPPORT FOR OUR WALKS !**

In addition to providing guides who accompany each walk on our tours, we always provide a support van whose driver’s sole responsibility is to meet the group at designated points throughout each walk to provide more refreshments and snacks, collect any purchases made during visits along our trails, and provide a ride to any guest who needs a break.

Luxury Hotel de Seze

Our luxury Bordeaux Tour hotel, Hotel de Seze, provides guests a perfect, central location in the heart of the historic district of Bordeaux. Located within steps of the famous Opera house, waterfront and its walking path along the Garonne, pedestrian shopping streets, museums, monuments, wine boutiques, and the finest restaurant options of the region, guests enjoy direct access to the most magical neighborhoods of the city. Enjoy leisure evenings upon return from our daily excursions into the surrounding countryside with a stroll along the waterfront offering a selection of cafes and restaurants overlooking the Garonne River. Featuring spacious rooms with large comfortable king size beds (or two twin beds on request) and fully-equipped, private, fully-equipped en-suite bathrooms, luxury bath products, and hair dryer, rooms are also equipped with flat screen television, telephone, mini-bar, corkscrew, personal safe, and air-conditioning. The hotel offers complimentary WIFI access and features a spa services, jacuzzi, sauna, wine bar and coffee lounge, and an outdoor terrace.

DAILY BREAKFAST : Enjoy a Bordelaise breakfast each morning before we head out for a day of fun excursions. The breakfast features all of the traditional French goodies-croissants, pain au chocolat (chocolate croissants), pain au raisins (raisin croissants), fresh baguette breads, an assortment of breakfast breads, fresh fruit salad, yoghurts, a variety of cereals to choose from.

There is **NEVER ANY HOTEL HOPPING** on any Off the Beaten Path Tours. All Tours are home-based, meaning we stay at 1 hotel for the entirety of the tour.

Accommodations on Off the Beaten Path, LLC small group luxury Bordeaux Tours offer a charming, luxurious and historical environment. Pamper yourself during this exclusive experience. Our hotel selection is also centrally located to the activities and excursions scheduled of each tour day.

ACTIVITY RATING: **Walkers** - 95% Easy, 5% Moderate. **Non-Walkers** -100% Easy.

TOUR BEGINS: Group pick-up on Day #1 at 3:00 pm at Saint Jean Rail Station & Merignac airport - Bordeaux, France

TOUR ENDS: Group drop-off on Day #6 at 11:30 am at Rail Station followed by drop-off at Merignac Airport, Bordeaux, France

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small



Group Travel in France

2020 & 2021 - BORDEAUX TOUR DATES AND PRICES

2020 TOUR DATES - PRICE - [CLICK HERE TO REVIEW THE ****2020**** TOUR SCHEDULE!](#)

2021 TOUR DATES - PRICE - [CLICK HERE TO REVIEW THE ****2021**** TOUR SCHEDULE!](#)

* ONCE YOU BOOK YOUR TOUR, YOUR PRICE IS GUARANTEED AND WILL NOT INCREASE.

Walking Ratings FOR BORDEAUX TOURS

Always enjoyable walking on Off the Beaten Path Tours - Nomatter which of our active, small group tours you join, you can expect to know, in advance, the level of difficulty of the walks scheduled during each tour. We also provide flexible options daily for non-walkers.

EVERY OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOUR VACATION IS DESIGNED TO MEET A WIDE VARIETY OF GUEST FITNESS LEVELS. EACH WALK IS CATEGORIZED USING THE SYSTEM BELOW.

EASY: Relatively flat terrain. Well-kept paths. Fine for even occasional walkers.

- Average walk distance: 2–5 miles
- Average walking time: Up to 3 hours

EASY TO MODERATE: Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Footing may be a variety of surfaces --mostly vineyard and country trails. No extended ascents or descents.

- Average walk distance: 4–6 miles
- Average walking time: Up to 4 hours

MODERATE: Suitable for experienced walkers who are comfortable with ascents and descents (but no scrambling!). Uneven terrain possible. Vineyard, country and gravel trails.

- Average daily distance: 5-8 miles
- Average walking time: up to 4-5 hours

WALKING TOUR RATINGS FOR BORDEAUX TOURS – WALKS ARE RATED AS FOLLOWS:

- **WALK NO.1 – FOR WALKERS:** The Saint Emilion walk is rated easy to moderate. Ideal for those who walk for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Walking on vineyard and country trails. Walk distance is 3 miles – approximately 2 hrs. of walking with pauses for photo-ops.
- **WALK NO.2 – FOR WALKERS:** The Arcachon Basin walk is rated easy. Ideal for those who walk for on a regular basis. Walking on coastal path. The coastal walk distance is 2 miles – approximately 1 hour of walking with pauses for photo-ops.
- **WALK NO.3 – FOR WALKERS:** The Bordeaux city cultural and foodie experience walk is rated easy. Ideal for those who walk for on a regular basis. Walking through the city. The walk distance is 1 mile – approximately 1.5 hrs. of walking including history, gourmet foodie tastings and pauses for photo-ops.
- Bordeaux wine country is relatively flat with some small rolling hills in the Saint Emilion area and at Pilat Dune.
- **WALKERS** – Van support is provided for walks to offer maximum flexibility to all guests. You decide how much walking you'd like to do, if participating in our 2 walks.
- **NON-WALKERS** are shuttled to/from all activities, excursions, meals and visits. Non-walker rating = EASY.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ENSURING INSPIRING ITINERARIES, EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY, AND EXCELLENT VALUE!!

- **ITINERARIES ARE DESIGNED TO SHARE THE VERY BEST OF EACH REGION** –Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux wine country, Champagne, and Dordogne– including luxurious and boutique hotel accommodations that reflect the heart & soul of each region, and offer complete modern amenities, spectacular theme walks, both Michelin-star gourmet and bistro style dining at the best restaurants of each region, cooking classes at the homes and/or private workshops of Michelin-star and Master Chefs who are personal friends and who welcome OTBP guests to their homes and professional kitchens as a group of friends, visits to local artisan workshops, shopping at the finest craft markets, hot air ballooning and much more.
- **ALL TOURS ARE RUN BY OTBP.** The company does NOT subcontract any of its tours. Many OTBP tours are owner led and those that aren't owner led are led by guides who work exclusively for OTBP and who have been hand-picked by Christy based on her very strict criteria.
- **NO HIDDEN FEES** - Since all OTBP tour guides reside in France, we do NOT have to incorporate any international transportation and lodging costs for tour guides into our tour prices. This means we pass on even greater savings to you, and can guarantee our OTBP luxurious quality tour experiences at even more competitive prices and better value prices.
- **ALL WINES INCLUDED** - Classified regional wines and non-alcoholic beverages are included at all group meals.
- **MOST MEALS INCLUDED** - Group lunches and dinners are comprised of a combination of set menus exclusively elaborated for our groups that reflect the cuisine of the region, ordering off the menu and indulging in select gourmet menus that feature a Chef's local and/or seasonal specialties. We are constantly told that our restaurant selections are one of many highlights of our tours! We are also happy to accommodate vegetarians, vegans, gluten allergies and other special dietary requests and needs.
- **ESTABLISHED, PROPRIETARY RELATIONSHIPS...** with all wineries, chefs, restaurants, service providers and bistros on each tour based on both its exclusive and privileged network of contacts and French friends, and its outstanding reputation throughout France. All chefs, restaurants and bistros selected for OTBP tours are Michelin-star and/or have been featured/recommended by top "foodie" magazines and/or fellow Michelin-star Chefs. OTBP tours feature dining in both gourmet restaurants and favorite hide-a-ways.
- **NEGOTIATED THE BEST RATES WITH ITS FRENCH PARTNERS** to ensure the best active, luxury and authentic French experience again at the best value tour prices.
- **THE LOWEST SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS** in the France tour industry thanks to established relationships with partner hotels. Our single supplement fees cover exact hotel single occupancy fees charged. We do NOT charge a single supplement for profit, NEVER.
- **FEATURING TRUE SMALL GROUP TRAVEL.** The maximum group size on OTBP tours is 16 guests per tour date, and 12 guests on specialty tours. Limiting group sizes creates the ideal ambiance for guests to easily mingle and get to know other guests, yet still maintain their independence. OTBP also limits its groups to a maximum of 16 guests per tour date in order to preserve each guest's personalized experience, and ensure its famous quality customer service.
- *ALL Tour dates are guaranteed departures!*
- **Book your tour today to lock-in and guarantee your tour price. Once your tour is booked, your tour price is guaranteed and will NOT increase. Otherwise, prices are subject to change without notice.**

NOT JUST A TOUR: IT'S AN **AUTHENTIC** OFF THE BEATEN PATH *French Experience...*

Unrivaled expertise within France sets Off the Beaten Path, LLC apart from non-France based and multi-destination tour companies. Off the Beaten Path, LLC (OTBP) is American owned and operated. In 2020, the company celebrates 26 years delivering small, engaging group, walking, gourmet foodie, wine and cultural tours exclusively in France. OTBP active, small group France tours offer travelers the very BEST, and most inspiring and exclusive itineraries filled with cultural “insider” experiences to discover Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, and French Riviera, France.

Enjoy exceptional quality and excellent value on an OTBP small group tour today! Travelers and publications rate Off the Beaten Path Tours the BEST active, small group tours in France thanks to the unparalleled “insider” experiences featured in each tour itinerary. The company’s renowned “insider” relationships with regional French chefs, artisans, and cultural industry professionals put Off the Beaten Path far ahead of the competition when it comes to creating one-of-a-kind itineraries to experience the very BEST of France! Whether you’re a seasoned small group tour traveler, or new to the small group tour scene, Off the Beaten Path tours offer fun, enriching, interactive, local, and authentic French experiences and activities for everyone.

More than just a tour, Off the Beaten Path, transforms the entire guest experience into a personalized and exclusive “unparalleled” active, cultural affair that far exceeds guest expectations! We connect guests with lifelong, French friends who rank among France’s top-rated chefs, specialty artisans, artists, wine producers, hotel & castle owners, and entertainers! Expert Professional English speaking guides who live in France, inspiring itineraries, deluxe historical hotel accommodations, sumptuous French meals, classified regional wines, and comfortable transportation in private, spacious, professionally driven vehicles are immutable standards on every Off the Beaten Path Tour. Each tour itinerary is comprised of a variety of engaging activities and enriching experiences for guests to authentically discover the heart and soul of each region. Participate in cooking classes with our friends who are celebrity Master, Meilleur Ouvrier de France, and Michelin-star chefs who look forward to your arrival, and make you feel welcome in their family homes, professional kitchens, and workshops as a group of friends.

Shop at weekly village markets where OTBP tour guides introduce you to our French friends who are olive oil and wine producers, artists, cheese-makers, herb and spice vendors, craftsmen, perfumery and linen artisans, and designers. Walk the same countryside and vineyard trails that regional French residents do with their families. Enjoy the slow road scenery that comes with walking local country trails through vineyards, flower fields of lavender, poppies, and sunflowers, olive and fruit orchards, and small historic villages. Tour castles, pre-historic caves, and other historical monuments and sites with our knowledgeable, professional UNESCO award-winning guides. Learn the juicy, fun untold stories of French history! Dine in the same gourmet restaurants and bistros, as local French do — where the chefs are our personal friends and set aside a table uniquely to welcome you as their exclusive guests. Built-in leisure time provides guests with opportunities to pursue independent interests and activities or to break away from the group for some quiet or personal time.

Every OTBP tour offers daily options with varying levels of activeness. You always have the flexibility of deciding how each day unfolds. OTBP tour guides sit down with the group every day to discuss the activities, excursions, walks, local events, and options of the day. With so many options available during each tour, we ensure you the flexibility to be as active as you choose (more walking, less walking, shopping time, cultural discovery, people watching, photography, etc.), and to also enjoy leisure time to pursue independent interests, all while enjoying the perks of traveling in a small group. Our tour guides take care and manage the daily logistics and details while you, our guest, spend your time on the critical stuff — having fun, relaxing and enjoying your vacation your way! The idea behind each OTBP tour is to appeal to the discerning traveler of all ages and backgrounds who seeks something new and different, and who wants to reach out and discover something inspiring.