



Best French Touring Company - Greater New York

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH



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Off the Beaten Path, LLC is an American owned and operated tour company specializing in small group active tour travel in France. We invited Founder and President Christy Destremau to tell us more about the firm and the unique experiences it offers.

Founded and helmed by Christy Destremau, an American Francophile who holds French citizenship and has been living in France, totally immersed in French culture for over 2 decades, France Off the Beaten Path Tours by Off the Beaten Path, LLC celebrates 23 years in 2017. As such the firm draws upon its vast experience to design and deliver engaging small group, walking, gourmet foodie, wine, culinary, and cultural tours in France.

Services offering include regularly scheduled six day/ five night tours to Provence, Loire Valley, and Bordeaux, France, and four day/ three night tours to Champagne, France. The company also specializes in organizing custom designed tours for private groups to discover France. Christy, travel expert and contributor to PJ Adams' recent Loire Valley travel guide, outlines how the firm aims to ensure that clients receive the very best possible experience when they work with her firm.

"At Off the Beaten Path we ensure that our tour guests feel welcomed and at home with our French friends on every tour. Offering more than just a holiday, Off the Beaten Path transforms the entire guest experience into a personalized and exclusive unparalleled active and cultural affair that far exceeds guest expectations every time. We connect guests with our lifelong, local French friends who rank among France's top rated chefs, specialty artisans, artists, wine producers, entertainers, and hotel and even castle owners.

"Every tour offers daily options with varying levels of activeness and options to choose from. Designed to appeal to both walkers and non-walkers, there is something for everyone, and guests always have the flexibility of deciding how each day unfolds. With so many options available during each tour, the company ensures guests the flexibility to be as active as one chooses (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."

Within the travel tour industry, the firm is seeing a growing interest from travelers for more authentic, personalized experiences that are unique to truly understanding or getting a genuine feel for France and its exceptional foodie, wine, and artisan culture.

Travelers are in search of experiences that open doors to French culture through activities that take them beyond typical touristic outlets. For example, some favorite experiences featured in our tours include cooking at home cooking classes, private wine touring and tasting, and tours of cultural artisan workshops (olive oil, chocolate, art).

As such, Off the Beaten Path tours now include a cooking at home culinary class with award winning chefs who are more than just famous faces, but rather are our personal friends who welcome travelers into their homes and kitchens for an opportunity to spend time in a French home, and offer travelers a close-up look inside what it means to be French, share a meal in a French home environment, and enjoy moments traditional tourists couldn't on their own. Our tours 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 truly inspiring.

Overall, in order to meet clients' ever evolving expectations, Off the Beaten Path is committed to constantly innovating and adapting, as Christy concludes.

"At Off the Beaten Path we are continually striving to create exciting itineraries to additional destinations within France. We have plans to offer several exciting theme based tours beginning in 2018, including a Van Gogh tour from Paris to Provence, a meditation and aromatherapy tour of Provence, a French foodie tour that begins with unique culinary experiences in Paris and from there takes guests on a premier gourmet tasting journey through the Loire Valley concluding in Provence. These tours will offer all-inclusive, authentic French experiences with our personal friends who are some of France's highest rated professionals in their respective trades.

"Alongside this, we also plan to add a few highly exclusive small group tour experiences outside of France beginning in 2018. Partnering with professional friends who are considered historical and cultural authorities in their respective countries, Off the Beaten Path will offer these one-of-a-kind tours to a few select destinations each year, while ensuring the same superior quality customer service, and exceptional value for price that we have become renowned for."

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