



GVH
Great Village Holidays

The Beautiful Villages of Eastern France Tour

12th August to 4th September 2019. 24 days

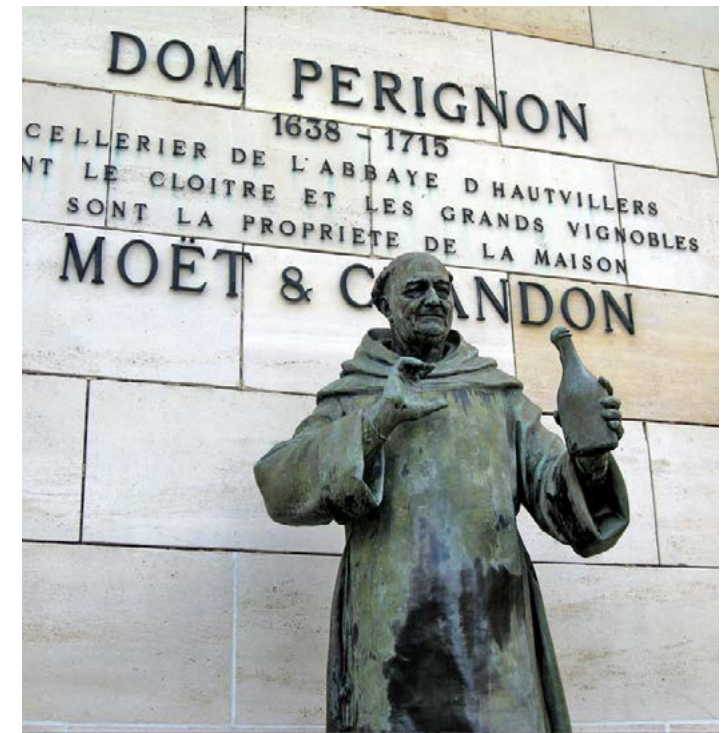
Visit sites where the country's heritage have been miraculously preserved, havens of culture harbouring architectural treasures to rouse the senses, and bastions of French art de vivre and traditions that are not merely alive but thriving.

Our tour to this part of France reveals villages spread out like a fan, built against a cliff or encased in a small valley. Others are nestled in the loop of a river, at the foot of a grand châteaux or at the bottom of natural gorges. Romantic villages, in

the shade of cypress groves, are bedecked with lavender, garrigue and vines, while others glisten with colour, lie between land and sea, or rise from the waters.

Together we will explore and enjoy these 'beautiful villages' in places off the beaten track, safeguarded from urban development and communication highways. We travel in smaller self drive luxury vehicles so we can arrive without interference in the daily flow of these intriguing places.

The cities we visit are also unique and historic, waiting to be explored as they enjoy a spectacular renaissance offering fine art galleries, excellent food and drink, historic architectural treasures and great shopping.



Day 1 – Reims

Throughout France, the Champagne region is held in the highest esteem. Reims, capital of the second Gaul, was the city of the coronation of French kings from Clovis in 496 until Charles the Tenth in 1825. The cathedral of Reims, the most mythical one in France, is so elegant and lightweight in its appearance that its architecture is often described as stone lace. It has a truly magical history, and with only a few exceptions, all the kings of France chose to be crowned there.

The Champagne region is also the oldest region of French wines. With a limestone earth, good exposure to the sun and winegrowers devoted to their craft since the beginning of time; one would expect the finest wines of all.

Today you can just relax, we'll show you around and tonight we will share a welcome dinner together.

Day 2

This morning after a leisurely breakfast we take an included visit to a Champagne House touring the underground caves, learning the art of champagne making, we also visit the tasting cellar. The rest of your day is at leisure to enjoy the many sights.

Day 3 – Strasbourg

Travelling to Strasbourg we stop in historic Verdun. Here our guide escorts us through the renowned World War I battlefields giving a synopsis of one of the bloodiest wars of all time.

The Alsace Lorraine area of France, has been ruled by both the French and Germans over many



centuries. This leads to an interesting mix of both cultural styles. From our Hotel located on the canal, explore the network of streets, bordered by medieval half-timbered homes built tightly together, all with uniquely pointed roofs pierced by dormer windows. Housed among the old timbered buildings are shops and craftsmen reflecting images of medieval and post-medieval Christian society. The city centre, particularly picturesque with its 15th and 16th century residences, is a small island encircled by the river Ill. This area is probably the best way to experience the true atmosphere of Strasbourg. Notre-Dame Cathedral, a magnificent monument, stands on a square in the middle of these old streets.

Day 4

Breakfast at leisure in the hotel before we depart on a short guided walking tour of the old city mid morning. Today is for relaxation, explore at your leisure.

Day 5

Today is at leisure in Strasbourg OR for those keen for an added adventure (limited numbers only available) the Daimler Mercedes Benz plant is just a two-hour drive away in Germany.

We have been able to secure access for a limited number of places allowing us a privileged visit to the world's largest car manufacturing plant. Watch as cars are built and tested. A morning visit to the Mercedes Classic Car Museum in Stuttgart is also included - this special optional booking, will need to be confirmed with us before you depart New Zealand.

Days 6 to 13 - Canal Boating – one whole week

Travel mid morning along the Wine route through the many beautiful local villages to our departure port on the Rhone river. Here we board our luxury canal boats, (all cabins have full facilities)

Cruising together, we explore the canals and villages of this area of central Burgundy, such a picturesque part of France.

To travel by canal boat means we live like 'family', helping with the locks, shopping at local markets for food and putting together meals. Ali is a professional chef who will organise and prepare the meals when we are on board. If you wish to help her in our family way, then you would be welcome. Sharing in all the daily routines brings the experience more to life as we 'live like locals'.

Our vehicles move with us allowing us to visit more distant sights from our port stops. Bikes are on board for those who want to explore the tow

paths, there is also time for those who choose to walk along these paths. Travelling on the canals is at such a leisurely pace.

BUT... bring a book and your camera and relax on the decks as we glide through the French countryside.

Day 13 - Rhône Alps - Annecy

This morning we farewell our canal boats and travel to the vibrant Saturday morning market in Beaune—an experience not to be missed, this extensive market is renowned as the best in Burgundy. Early afternoon we head east, on our way to Annecy and our Alpine Lakeside stay. Lake Annecy with its mountain setting is spectacular and Annecy itself sits on the edge of the Lake. Combine the pleasures of the town, boating, and the lakeside parks. Tonight we dine together, a chance to enjoy the special fare and style this Hotel offers.





Day 14

Be sure to rise early and enjoy a long breakfast on the terrace overlooking the lake, then take a short walk through the park to the old town and its vibrant flea Market.

The rest of the day is yours to relax.

Day 15 – St Rémy

After breakfast we drive through the mountains to St Rémy in Provence. We will stop to picnic as we travel, arriving in St Rémy late afternoon. Explore the village atmosphere, the cobble streets and follow in Van Gogh's footsteps.

Day 16

St Remy at Leisure - Or - visiting Avignon from our base in St Remy (just 20 minutes away) is easy and today our vehicles will take you there and back for a half day visit.

Day 17

St Rémy at leisure.

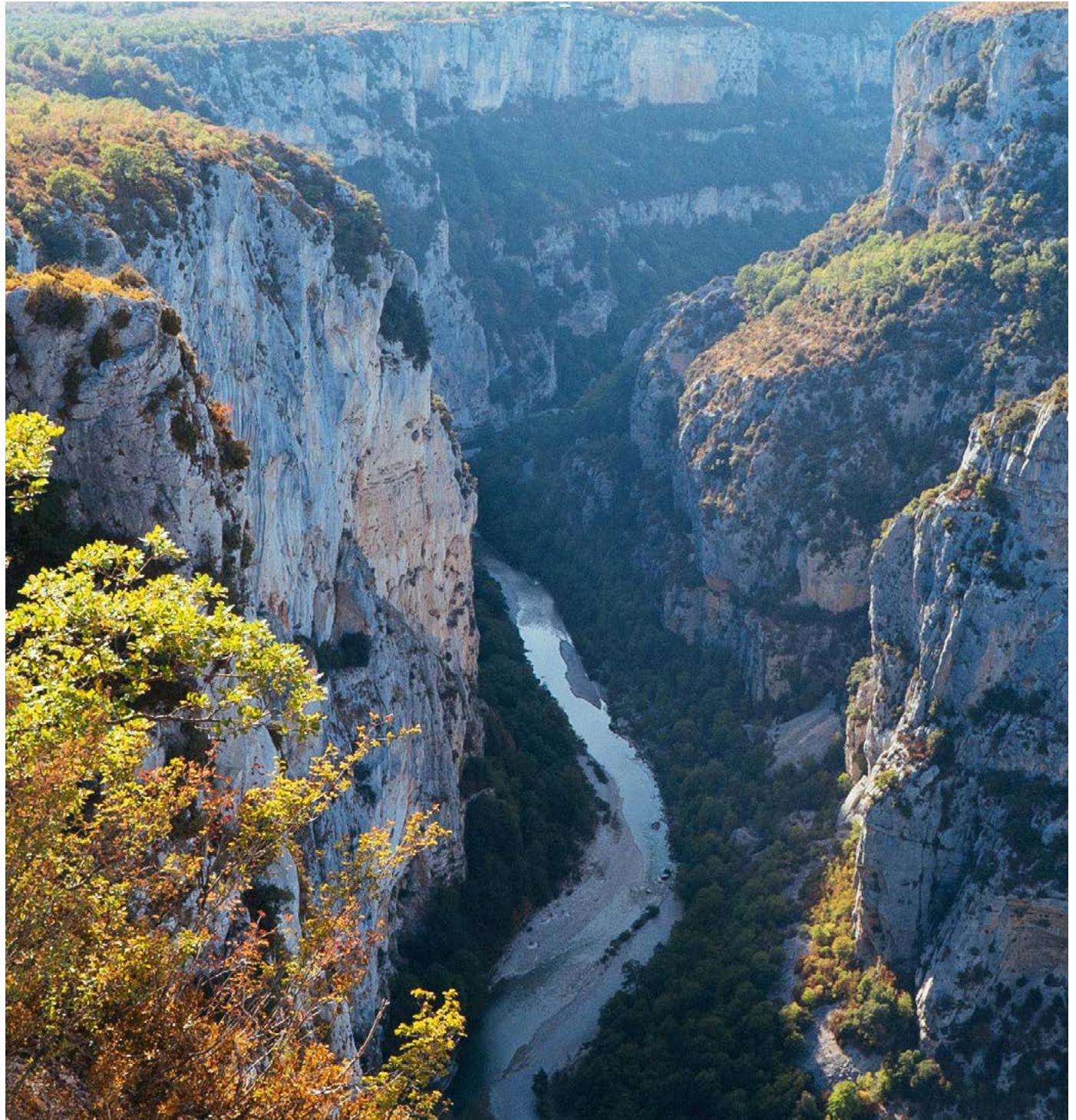
Day 18 – The Luberon

A leisurely pace exploring some of the most beautiful villages, as we drive toward the hill top village of Roussillon in the heart of the Luberon. Tonight, we share together an included dinner, the hotel chef will have shopped in the local markets this morning and created a menu to celebrate the abundant harvest.

The many villages in this area were often built around châteaux nestled into hillsides or around churches perched on top of rocky outcrops. The time-worn stone, cool narrow streets, shady squares, fountains flowing with clear water, and seemingly eternal sunshine, come together in these lovely hilltop villages. Discover the talents at work here, sensing the history and activity that have shaped both the architecture and the people. Enter the workshops of the tradesmen and artisans - give in to the charm!

Day 19

After a leisurely breakfast explore together the villages of Gordes and Roussillon. This area of France has so many of our favourite 'beautiful villages' to explore, we spend the day wandering through them.



DAY 20 – Le Grand Canyon du Verdon, Provence Alps.

Arguably the most irresistible region in France, Provence ranges from the snow capped mountains of the southern Alps to the delta plains of the Camargue, and boasts Europe's greatest Canyon; the Gorges du Verdon.

We share this morning a leisurely breakfast, before driving through the Alps to the Grand Canyon du Verdon. The breathtaking beauty and Majesty of this special gorge almost matches its American counterpart, albeit on a much smaller scale. Peppered with spectacular view points, plunging crevices up to 700m deep, and glorious azure-blue lakes, the area is absolutely irresistible.

Here we stay overnight beside one of the many small villages perched high among the hilltops.

Day 21 – Mountains of the Massif des Maures.

We wind our way through the forests of Oak, Cork and Walnut today. Much of the cork used in



the local wine industry is grown on these steep slopes out toward the coast. We will find a spot beside a stream among the cork trees and picnic together along this spectacular road with its huge views to the Mediterranean and the Riviera.

Day 22 – Riviera Coast

This coast is still the rendezvous of the rich and famous and no better place to see this than the town of St Tropez. We visit here this morning to stroll its cobbled streets and take in the sights, a place more peaceful than you would imagine.

After lunch travel on to our hotel in the beautiful medieval village of Tourrettes sur Loup “the village of the violets” allowing you the experience of a typical French Village lifestyle. The area affords stunning views to the Mediterranean Coast, great walks and some excellent cafés and restaurants in the village and nearby Vence.

Regular reliable public transport allows easy access to Nice, Cannes, and St Paul de Vence.

Day 23

Today is at leisure. Tonight we gather for an aperitif before we share together our final meal at a very special restaurant.

Day 24

Depart Nice Airport for the journey home or elsewhere.

We are happy to help you plan your onward journey– just ask us.

Cost

\$14,990.00 pp share twin.

To Book

Contact Ian and Ali at
Great Village Holidays
info@greatvillageholidays.com
+64 3 540 2422

[Click here to enquire about booking](#)



BOOKING CONDITIONS

Booking with Great Village Holidays (2000) Ltd is very clear and easy to follow...

Booking forms are available on request from our office or online at our web site and can be printed off.

On receipt of this registration form and a deposit of \$3,000.00 your place on the tour will be confirmed. Please read the Booking Conditions carefully before completing the Booking Form.

Deposits and Final Payment

A deposit of NZ\$3,000.00 per person is required at the time of booking. A schedule of payments will be advised including an interim payment - final payment is due 75 days prior to the date of your tour departure. Your deposit cannot be refunded once departure is confirmed.

Group Numbers & Guaranteed Departure

Group departures are restricted to 16 clients and subject to a minimum of 12 people. Once 12 deposits have been received, you will be advised that the tour is a guaranteed departure and will proceed.

A guaranteed departure would only change on receiving a directive or recommendation not to travel by an advising authority.

Costing

All prices are based on rates & conditions as at 31st May 2018. Great Village Holidays (2000) Ltd will not alter the brochure price unless it is out of our control. Prices quoted are in NZD.

Responsibility

Great Village Holidays Ltd is responsible for making arrangements specified in our tours, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. We include the services of independent contractors such as airlines, hotels, shipping, rail and coach companies, plus other operators whose staff are not agents, employees or servants of Great Village Holidays Ltd. Although every effort is made to ensure

that your tour runs smoothly without changes, we can not take responsibility for the conduct, nor for the actions of people or agents that are not employees of Great Village Holidays Ltd.

If the services included in the tour cannot be supplied or there are changes in the itinerary for reasons beyond our control Great Village Holidays (2000) Ltd reserves the right to amend the tour to proceed as close as possible to the scheduled itinerary. Should there be a variation of cost this will be passed to the client.

By signing the booking form and paying the \$3,000.00pp deposit, clients agree to all booking conditions and accept arrangements as per the brochure.

Accommodation

When choosing accommodation, Great Village Holidays (2000) Ltd ensure the same superior quality throughout the tour. All rooms have an ensuite, quality bedding, and provide the best of facilities and comfort.

Hotels chosen are usually centrally located mostly in historical areas, retaining the best ambience for your stay.

Single Supplement

All hotel rooms (unless specified and usually smaller) are charged as double occupancy. Therefore a surcharge to cover this is made if you are travelling as a single client.

Participation

Great Village Holidays (2000) Ltd reserves the exclusive right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant and to remove any person from the tour whose conduct is deemed disruptive or incompatible with the interests of the other tour participants. No refund, nor cover of additional costs, nor expenses you incur, will be paid for by Great Village Holidays if we have to terminate your holiday, due to unacceptable behaviour.

Tipping

Great Village Holidays (2000) Ltd handle known tipping costs that are already priced in your tour.

Tipping internationally has become a point of issue for many NZ clients who feel unsure and uncertain about amounts to leave when GVH are not providing this payment. To help overcome this concern for those other unforeseen and special occasions, when we are together, GVH will have a group tipping fund, to take care of any extra tips not included in your tour cost. The tipping fund will not cover your personal tipping eg: dining out alone, activities you personally will choose etc.

The cost experienced on most tours is approx 140 euros per person, this will be advised and added to your final account.

Requests

It is essential that any specific requirements such as room type, dietary or health needs or illnesses be included on your booking form. Where possible, we will do our very best to assist with individual requests but there can be no absolute guarantee of this service, except in the case of a single room supplement where an additional charge is levied.

Baggage Allowance

Great Village Holidays (2000) Ltd baggage allowance is one medium size bag with strong wheels and a pull handle, plus one small carry on type piece of hand luggage.

The reasons for this restriction are that at times you need to handle your luggage by yourself. As we travel on canal boats and also in vehicles with limited space for baggage, it is vital we do not carry too much luggage. In some places we will walk a short distance over cobblestones to our hotel and having luggage that you feel comfortable handling will add to your overall pleasure in travelling. Please speak to us re the size bags we recommend.

Passports & Visas

A valid passport is required and must be fully valid for at least 6 months after your return home.

Should any visas be necessary, we will advise you. Visa fees are charged for where applicable.

Helpful resources

Prior to departure you will receive regular information on the areas you will visit, the highlights to watch out for, and reading suggestions that will allow you to prepare well for your holiday.

Travel Insurance & Cancellation Fees

On payment of your deposit it is important to take out appropriate Travel Insurance covering you for cancellation fees and loss of deposits should cancellation become necessary for circumstances beyond your control.

Please check with your insurance provider for full details.

Great Village Holidays carry \$1 million public liability, if you require more cover please speak with your own insurance company and make cover arrangements for yourself.

Should you wish to talk with us about travel insurance we can provide you with a competitive quote from our broker.

Participation in a Great Village Holiday without Insurance cover is not possible.

Great Village Holidays (2000) Ltd Cancellation Fees are:

70 days prior to departure a 50% cancellation fee applies.

45 days prior to departure a 100% cancellation fee applies.

After departure no refund is available on any unused portion of your holiday.

The deposit of \$3,000 is non refundable once departure is confirmed



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