

Discovery of France Off the Beaten Path: Along the Humming Song of Southern Rivers



La Garonne, la Vézère, le Lot, les Gorges du Tarn..... Discover these beautiful rivers while staying in charming inns, a breathtaking castle and a manor. You'll be able to swim, canoe or relax amid their soothing presence... while living a French immersion experience!

Join me in my 8th trip devoted to Discovery of France off the beaten path!

My goal and my passion is for you to speak French, discover the history and culture of the regions we'll visit, see beautiful and inspiring sites, eat well, be active, and especially to share many laughs! This is an immersion experience, so you'll be encouraged to speak French the entire trip. But not to worry: I will facilitate communication with everyone we meet. I am a French native and a certified language professor; currently, I teach at George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University.

From Bordeaux to Albi: July 13 – July 27, 2015
10 participants maximum

- We'll meet in **Bordeaux**, a city of outstanding XVIIIth century urban planning and architecture. It is also very pedestrian-friendly, with its promenade along the Garonne river and its many no-automobiles sectors. This city is home to 362 historical monuments; only Paris has more in France!



- We'll stay for two nights in charming B and Bs in the center of town, where you'll receive a very friendly welcome.
- On July 14th, we'll enjoy the Bastille Day fireworks and join locals as they dance on the banks of the Garonne if you wish!
- **Sarlat** will be our next stop, for two nights. Because modern history has largely passed it by, Sarlat has remained preserved and is one of the towns most representative of XIVth century France.
 - We'll discover Sarlat on foot with a guide; you'll also be able to enjoy a canoeing experience on the nearby Vézère river if you wish. Dominated by sheer cliffs, this river area is riddled with prehistoric caves, shelters and troglodyte caves, which you'll be able to see from your canoe.
 - In Sarlat, we'll stay in a "hôtel de charme," offering historical character, a garden , and a pool for your enjoyment.
- We will then spend two days in a manor overlooking the river Lot, a fairytale setting where we'll be the only guests.
 - **Conques**, one of France's most celebrated villages, will be just a few kilometers away. This village, built on a hillside with classic Medieval streets, is remarkably intact. Its abbey-church was added to the UNESCO list World Heritage Sites in 1998, as part of the French portion of the celebrated Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage trail.
- Continuing our adventures, we will follow the river Lot to another village, **Estaing**, also considered one of the most beautiful in all France.
 - There, we will relax for 2 days in a very rural setting. Our two-star hotel is celebrated for its gastronomic cuisine, which we'll enjoy both nights.
 - Hikes in the surrounding countryside will be offered during the day.



- Our next stop will be a legendary château protected by a universe of gold-tinted cliffs and forests in the **Gorges du Tarn**. We'll stay in this XVth century château for two nights; you'll be able to take advantage of their spa, relax and swim on their private beach or in their pool, and/or canoe.
- Two more nights will be spent in another three-star hotel, with a private beach and a pool, along the **Gorges du Tarn**. Its restaurant, where we'll enjoy our two dinners, is well known for its refined and inventive cuisine.
 - Canoeing and hiking will be possible right from the hotel.
- Finally, we'll reach **Albi**, located on the river Tarn. Along with Toulouse and Montauban, Albi is one of the main cities built in Languedoc-style red brick.
 - Its cathedral is a masterpiece of the Southern Gothic style built between the 13th and 15th centuries. And the former Bishop's Palace of Albi (Palais de la Berbie) is one of the oldest and best preserved castles in France.



- We'll stay in charming B and Bs in the center of town, allowing you to discover the city easily on foot.
- - On July 27th, I'll drive you to Toulouse international airport (one hour away), so that you can fly back to your next destination.

What's Included

- 14 nights, divided among a castle, a manor, select B&Bs and one three-star hotel.
- 14 breakfasts and five gourmet French dinners.
- Transportation in a comfortable van (gas included).
- Services of a native French professor/experienced guide who will maximize your opportunities to speak French.

Excludes airfare and drinks with the meals.

\$ 2,400/person, double occupancy

\$ 3,200/person, single occupancy

(Subject to possible adjustment prior to departure, in the event of significant exchange-rate fluctuation)

Reservations must be made by March 1st, 2015 (\$500 deposit required).



If interested, contact Fabienne Spier:

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