



# PROVENCE

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**P**rovence. The very name conjures images of idyllic days of dazzling light illuminating the countryside's sloping vineyards and lush olive groves. It was the colorful scenery and light of Provence that enraptured artists such as Cézanne, Chagall and van Gogh. You may not be able to spend *A Year in Provence* as author Peter Mayle did, but you can journey with us to experience this magical place.

"IT IS ENOUGH. FOR ME, UPON THE SEA OF HISTORY, / THOU WAST, PROVENCE, A PURE SYMBOL / A MIRAGE OF GLORY AND VICTORY / THAT IN THE DUSKY FLIGHT OF CENTURIES / GRANTS US A GLEAM OF THE / BEAUTIFUL..."

—FRÉDÉRIC MISTRAL,  
FRENCH POET

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover life in **Aix-en-Provence**, a quintessential Provençal town.
- Enjoy a private tour of **Château d'Arnajon** and be a guest at a special French country dinner.
- Journey through the scenic, forested region of **Le Lubéron**.
- See Roman France during a visit to the historic monuments of **Arles** and the **Pont du Gard**.
- Explore the medieval streets of **Avignon**, center of the Roman Catholic world from 1309 to 1377.
- Get to know a personal side of the artist by stepping inside **Cézanne's studio**.

## Alumni Campus Abroad® Advantages

*This program offers unique, value-added features that promise you an outstanding educational experience in a very special environment:*

- **Settle into Aix-en-Provence** with a stay of seven nights and the opportunity to fully immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyles of the locales.
- **A first-class hotel** provides comfortable accommodations and the perfect base from which to explore the region's renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures.
- **An extensive meal plan** is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- **Meet the People** during excursions and events that allow you to mingle with area residents and gain insight into everyday life in their community.
- **Informative educational lectures** are presented by local experts and excursions led by knowledgeable guides.
- **An experienced Campus Director** ensures attentive services for the duration of your stay.



Romantic Provence



*We went, we saw, we  
fell in love. It was  
the experience of a  
lifetime.*

*Richard '62 & Marvel Love*

*We've always known  
Ags are the best.  
Traveling Ags know  
how to travel in style.  
We all felt as though we  
were pampered the  
entire trip.*

*David '80 & Dawn Henderson*

*Travel the World and  
spread the Spirit of  
Texas A&M. Join the  
fun and travel with the  
Association of Former  
Students Travel  
Program.*

*Roger '52 & Helen Jenswold*

*After many trips, we  
have loved every one of  
them and have never  
been disappointed.*

*Robert '62 & Pat Harris*

*The Traveling Aggie  
trips have been a great  
way to visit new desti-  
nations and reunite or  
meet new Aggies.*

*Larry '68 & Susan Zatopek*

## Howdy Ags!

***Bienvenue!*** Welcome to ***Provence***, where you'll discover the secret of the French *art de vivre* amidst bustling market stalls, fragrant hidden gardens and the mouthwatering cuisine of the region. Our carefully planned itinerary brings you the best of the south of France, combining the **no-worry convenience and unbeatable value** of group travel with innumerable opportunities to experience the pleasure of the unplanned as you go where you want to go and do what you want to do. You'll find that sharing your experiences with a group of like-minded travelers enhances your enjoyment of exploring Provence.

In this land of lavender and laughter, with its sparkling sun and cool shady courtyards, you'll stay in charming **Aix-en-Provence** and visit elegant Avignon, the Roman monuments of Arles and the Luberon region described by Peter Mayle in *A Year in Provence*. Through it all, you'll enjoy **preferred access to popular attractions, an exclusive educational program** and the **flexibility** to direct your own experience. A dedicated team of travel experts is on hand to help you customize your trip with independent add-ons and extensions.

This journey to ***Provence*** is an unforgettable program at an unbeatable value. Space is limited for your comfort, so make your reservations today!

Gig 'Em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87 Ph.D.  
Traveling Aggies  
The Association of Former Students

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# PROVENCE

## GREAT LAND OF INSPIRATION

*Provence is a region of mountains, hills and beaches as well as handsome cities and romantic villages. Founded more than 2,000 years ago by Roman invaders on top of even older ruins, this ancient, alluring land holds many of the world's richest Roman monuments. Writers and artists have flocked to Provence for years to be inspired by the beauty of the region.*

### DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for France, aboard scheduled jet service. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

### DAY TWO

#### AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Upon your arrival, transfer by motorcoach to the **Grand Hôtel Roi René**. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

This evening, gather with fellow travelers for a *Welcome Reception and Dinner*.

### DAY THREE

#### AIX-EN-PROVENCE

**Educational Focus: *An Introduction to the Provence Region and Aix-en-Provence***. Focus on the history of

spectacular Provence and this *City of Fountains*, one of the most elegant and wonderfully preserved of all French cities. Founded by the Romans in 122 B.C., its thermal springs, narrow streets and colorful markets have lured artists, writers, nobles and commoners for centuries.

**Excursion: *Aix-en-Provence***. Explore this historic capital of the Provence region. The main street, Cours Mirabeau, is one of the most beautiful in Europe. Large plane trees provide shade for the avenue and its terrace cafés and bookshops. If you sit at only one French café outside of Paris, it should be here, where the light is sublime and the sidewalks are alive with activity.

**Independent Exploration:** Spend some time on your own in Aix.

**Local Flavor:** Try delicious French cuisine during lunch and dinner at restaurants in Aix.

### DAY FOUR

#### LE LUBÉRON

**Excursion: *Le Lubéron***. The Lubéron



### UNESCO

The **Roman and Romanesque Monuments of Arles** (1981), the **Pont du Gard** (1985) and the **Historic Center of Avignon** (1995) are UNESCO *World Heritage List* sites featured in this program. These sites are distinguished due to universal scenic, historic, artistic or scientific value.

*Above: Aix-en-Provence*

*Top Right: Artist inspired by Provençal Landscape*

*Above Right: Lubéron Valley*

*Right: Pont du Gard*

Valley is in a picturesque mountain region of forests and vineyards. Visit the market in Lourmarin before continuing to the red-ochre village of Roussillon and the hilltop village of Gordes. See the Abbaye de Sénanque.

**Excursion and Educational Focus: *Château d'Arnajon—Meet the People***.

Discover Provençal culture and way of life during a visit to the 17th-century Château d'Arnajon. The owner of the château will give a tour of the grounds and explain the history of the estate.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy a Provençal lunch at a restaurant in Roussillon and a traditional country dinner buffet at the château.

### DAY FIVE

#### ARLES & LES BAUX

**Educational Focus: *The Art of Provence***. The Provençal landscape and the

*Palais de Papes,  
Avignon*



## **DAY SIX AVIGNON**

### **Educational Focus: *The Religious and Political History of Avignon.***

Learn about Avignon and its elevation during the 14th century from a sleepy riverside community to the capital of Roman Catholicism as the residence of seven French popes.

### **Excursion: *Avignon and the Pont***

***du Gard.*** Explore the impressive Palais des Papes, a fortress-like medieval masterpiece that bristles with ramparts, towers and turrets. See the remarkable Pont du Gard, built by the Romans in 19 B.C. as part of a 30-mile canal to supply water to the town of Nîmes. This enormous three-tiered aqueduct rises as much as 160 feet above the valley and was used through the ninth century. Its first level carried a road and its third, a conduit; all three levels were built without mortar.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy lunch and free time at leisure in Avignon.

## **DAY SEVEN AIX-EN-PROVENCE**

**Excursion: *Cézanne's Studio.*** Cézanne found inspiration for many paintings in and around Aix-en-Provence. View his studio and view Mt. Ste-Victoire, Cézanne's favorite landscape subject, and the family home of Jas de Bouffan.

intensity of light have played a key role in the evolution of modern painting. Mt. Ste-Victoire fascinated Cézanne, while Arles and its countryside spoke to the tormented spirit of Vincent van Gogh. Discover the art and artists of Provence, their passions and their paintings.

**Excursion: *Arles.*** With its monuments and Roman ruins, Arles is extraordinary. Even after centuries of baking in the Provençal sun, the ancient amphitheater of Les Arènes testifies to Roman power and today is used to stage bullfights. The Cathedral of St. Trôphime's 12th-century portal is a masterpiece of Romanesque style.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Arles.

**Excursion: *Les Baux.*** Perched on a bare rock spur rising from the land, Les Baux's winding cobbled streets, tiny squares and ancient fortress offer a glimpse of medieval life. The town is replete with chapels, churches and museums.

**Local Flavor:** Lunch is served at a restaurant in the foothills of Mt. Ste-Victoire.

**Excursion: *Walk in the Footsteps of Cézanne.*** During a short walking tour of Aix, discover the numerous sites that this renowned artist frequented.

## DAY EIGHT AIX-EN-PROVENCE

**Educational Focus: *Contemporary France.*** Discuss the political makeup of the French government and France's membership in the European Union.

**Independent Exploration:** The rest of the day is at your leisure.

This evening, join your friends for a special *Farewell Reception* followed by your *Graduation Ceremony* and a *Farewell Dinner* at the hotel.

## DAY NINE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city. (*Provided for Air Program participants only.*)

*NOTE: Itinerary schedule may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are not closely accessible by motorcoach.*



*Cézanne*

Known as the **father of modern painting**, French painter Paul Cézanne is one of the great Post-Impressionists, though his work was largely unrecognized and misunderstood during his lifetime. Born in Aix-en-Provence in 1839, Cézanne briefly studied law, but soon made the decision to paint full time in spite of his family's objections. He moved to Paris, where he met artist Camille Pissarro. Through Pissarro, Cézanne began to work and exhibit with the other Impressionists, but was never fully accepted into their circle. Towards the end of his life, Cézanne returned to Aix, where he painted the Provencal landscape in near seclusion. At the time of his death in 1906, Cézanne had finally gained the recognition he deserved as an artist and his work went on to influence many artists.



## INCLUDED FEATURES

### **Accommodations**

- **Seven nights** in Aix-en-Provence at the deluxe **Grand Hôtel Roi René**.

### **Meals**

- **Enjoy an extensive meal program**, including seven breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners, in addition to in-flight dining service. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** at featured **local restaurants**.
- Attend a special **Welcome Reception**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner** at the hotel.

### **Your Exciting Travel Program**

*(For full details, please refer to the Day-by-Day Itinerary.)*

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions:**
  - Explore **Aix-en-Provence**.
  - Tour **Le Lubéron**, including a private tour of the **Château d'Arnajon**.
  - Visit **Cézanne's studio**, Mt. Ste-Victoire and the family home of Jas de Bouffan.
  - Marvel at **Arles** and **Les Baux**.
  - Discover the highlights of **Avignon**, including the Palais des Papes.
  - See the amazing **Pont du Gard**.

### **Many Included Extras**

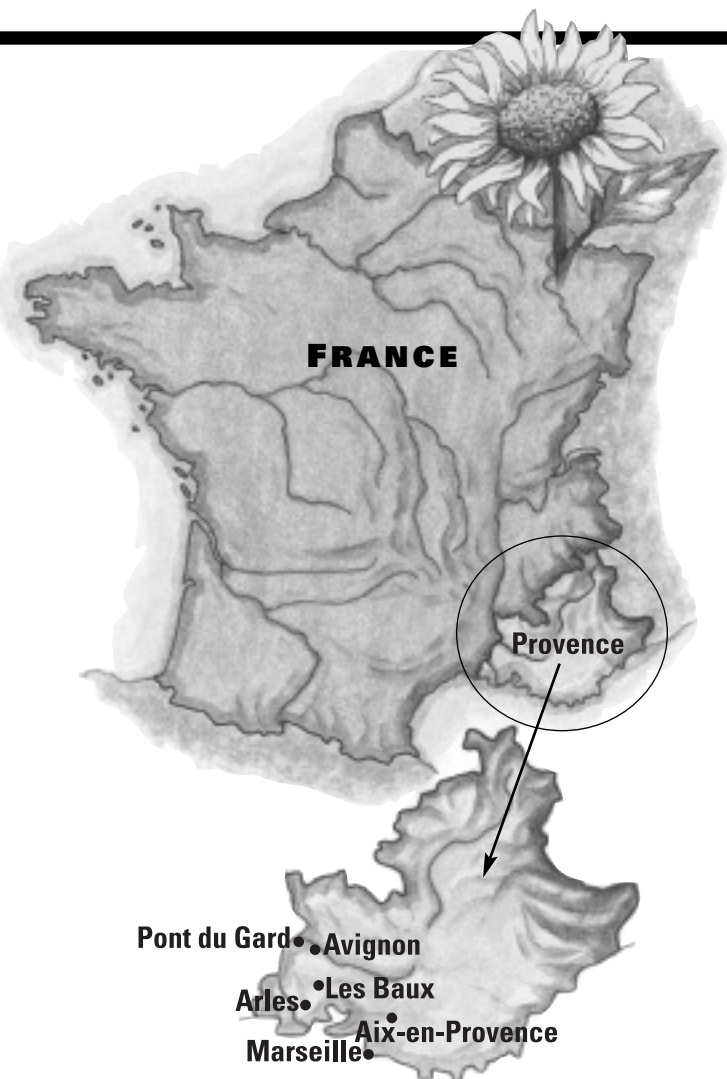
- Consultation services of a **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a professional **Campus Director** and **expert English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** for all excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- Deluxe travel wallet.

# ACCOMMODATIONS



## GRAND HÔTEL ROI RENÉ

The Grand Hôtel Roi René, just minutes from the celebrated Cours Mirabeau, is in the heart of Aix-en-Provence. This elegant hotel exudes classic European charm and features many modern conveniences. Pamper yourself in style! Enjoy the hotel's fragrant gardens, terrace and outdoor swimming pool. Each of the air-conditioned guestrooms features a private bathroom with hair dryer, minibar, direct-dial telephone, radio and satellite television.



**Reserve your trip to Provence today!**

For Office Use Only: B #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trip #:5-19167 PSR: \_\_\_\_\_

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Attn: Traveling Aggies  
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Title First Middle Last Class Year

(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Class Year

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

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Yes, please e-mail me information about special travel opportunities.

Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_ . (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

**I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:**

**Land Program**

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
- Please call me/us to discuss my/our air options.
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$745 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

**Land and Air Program**

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the Air Program round trip to France, to depart from:

\_\_\_\_\_ Departure City

Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

*Please note: Air prices will be sent to you with your Reservation Confirmation and air schedule sent at 90 days before departure. International flight arrangements can be canceled with no obligation up to 75 days before departure.*

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by February 18, 2010 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard or Visa. Make checks payable to AHI International.

AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 6400 Shafer Court, Rosemont, IL 60018. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by our tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person required) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.

Charge my deposit to:  MasterCard  Visa Expires \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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(Signature as it appears on credit card)

**Please note:** Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the Cancellation terms.

# LAND PROGRAM

May 5-12, 2010

Full Price

\$2,945

Alumni Savings

\$250

Special Price

\$2,695\*

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$95 per person.

\*All prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$745 (limited availability).

## AIR PROGRAM

May 4-12, 2010

For your convenience, AHI offers a flexible Air Program featuring special air fares available at an additional cost in conjunction with the Land Program.

AHI has designated specific Group Air Schedules for this departure utilizing round-trip scheduled jet service between North America and France. Those participating on these flights will enjoy motorcoach transfers between the airport and the hotel, including baggage handling. Prices are dependent upon dates, air routes and class of service chosen and will be reflected on your *Reservation Confirmation*, which will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation. Air schedules will be sent with your *Final Invoice* approximately 90 days before departure. Prices quoted to you will include all domestic and foreign governmental airport departure taxes and fees and any applicable fuel surcharges. AHI ticketed passengers will also receive **Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance**, subject to policy terms.

**NOT INCLUDED**-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

**MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL**-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION**-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

**CANCELLATION**-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75 days to 30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; Cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

**BAGGAGE**-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

**RESPONSIBILITY**- AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association act only as agents for the suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other service and have no responsibility for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is cancelled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.



**Top to bottom:**  
*Roman amphitheatre, Arles*  
*Street musician*  
*Provençal storefront*

**Cover photos (clockwise):**  
*Provençal market in Aix-en-Provence;*  
*Les Baux; Cézanne;*  
*Lavender field*



**A word about your Tour Operator**

**AHI Travel** is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962.**

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