

Champagne Remembrance

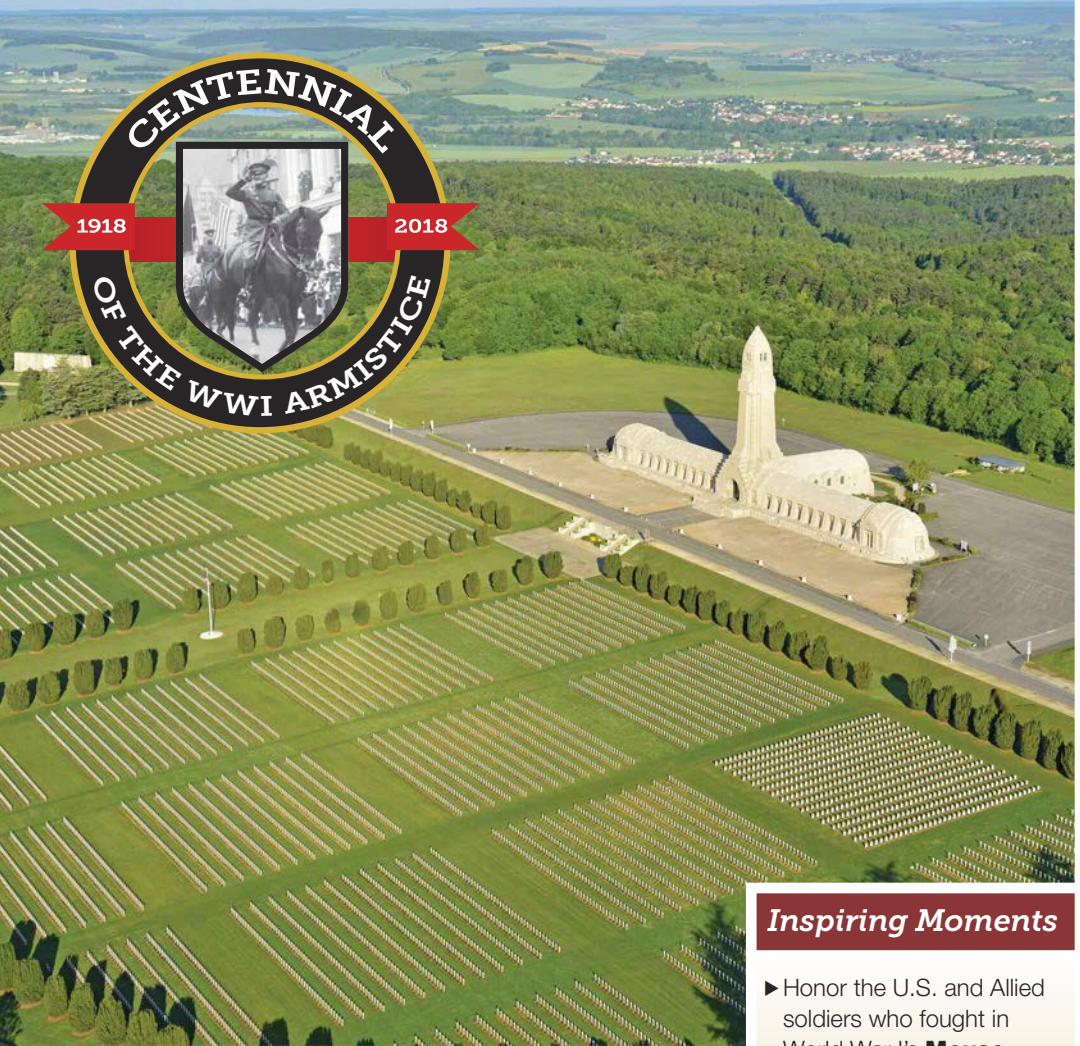


FRANCE

SPONSORED BY



May 29 – June 6, 2018



A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

Immerse yourself in the epic history of the historic provinces of Champagne and Picardy, today known as the Grand Est and Hauts-de-France, and discover the story of Champagne, the world's most famous sparkling wine.

Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Honor the U.S. and Allied soldiers who fought in World War I's **Meuse-Argonne Offensive** during visits to memorials and the largest American cemetery in Europe.
- ▶ Spend a solemn moment walking at the **Verdun Memorial**.
- ▶ Pay your respects to fallen U.S. soldiers at the **Somme American Cemetery**.
- ▶ Visit three **Champagne houses** for a behind-the-scenes look at the world of Champagne making.
- ▶ Step back in time in **Troyes**, one of the great cities of medieval Europe.
- ▶ Stroll along the **Avenue de Champagne**, one of most elegant streets in France.
- ▶ Discover **Reims**, a town steeped in French royal history and the ideal base for exploring Champagne country.



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



Howdy, Ags!

We invite you to join us on a fascinating journey through one of the most historically and culturally important regions of France.

Based in the charming city of Reims, we'll explore the significant World War I battlefields and visit the memorials, as well as delve into the cultural history of Champagne, the world's favorite celebratory drink and a true French icon. We'll visit acclaimed Champagne houses, descend into the chalk caves that have been turned into wine cellars and learn about the finer points of Champagne during three tastings.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration. Enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group and, during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries! Space on this exclusive journey is limited, and the trip is sure to sell out quickly, so make your reservations today!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director, Travel Programs
The Association of Former Students

800-633-7514

AggieNetwork.com/Travel





Epernay

Day One

In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Paris, France. †

Day Two

D

Paris, France | Reims

Upon arrival, transfer † to Reims and check in to the Mercure Reims Centre Cathedrale Hotel.

This evening, get to know your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day Three

B | L

Reims

Discovery: Taittinger Champagne. Tour the estate of this vaunted Champagne house before a tasting of its famous wines. Founded shortly after World War I, Taittinger now is one of the best-known names in Champagne. Discover the history of Reims as you explore Taittinger's facilities, which incorporate the ruins of a 13th-century abbey into its design. Fourth-century chalk quarries have been repurposed as its Champagne cellars.

Discovery: Reims. Discover the highlights of Reims. Visit the Notre-Dame Cathedral, which hosted 1,000 years of French coronations. During the 17th century, Champagne became the celebratory drink of coronations after local winemakers perfected the process of creating the sought-after sparkle in the local wine. See the Abbey of Saint-Remi and the Palace of Tau.

Day Four

B | L

World War I Battle Sites

Discovery: Meuse-Argonne and Verdun.

Explore the region where 1.2 million U.S.

soldiers fought in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, one of the 1918 operations that led to the end of the war. Visit a memorial for the fallen soldiers from Pennsylvania. Stop at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, the largest U.S. cemetery in Europe. After lunch at a restaurant in the French countryside, travel to the site of the World War I's longest battle, Verdun, which spanned 10 months in 1916. Explore sites associated with the battle: Fort Douaumont and the Verdun Memorial and Museum, built next to the former village of Fleury-devant-Douaumont, which the fighting completely destroyed.

Day Five

B | L

Troyes

Enrichment: A Champagne Primer.

Only bubbly made in this region can claim the Champagne name. Made elsewhere, it is called sparkling wine. Learn why this special region and its eponymous wine have become famous around the world.

Discovery: Troyes. Visit this charming city, former capital of the Champagne region. During the Middle Ages, Troyes prospered as one of the four towns that hosted the great Champagne Fairs. Twice a year, vendors and shoppers from all over Western Europe descended upon Troyes to buy and sell fine wool and silk, leather, spices, silver and gold, as well as herbs, medicine, food and other items. Explore the historic quarter and admire the colorful half-timbered homes and stone mansions built in the 16th century after a fire destroyed the city.



The Legacy of WWI

*“That the Yanks are coming,
The Yanks are coming,
The drums rum-tumming everywhere.
So prepare, say a prayer,
Send the word, send the word to beware,
We’ll be over, we’re coming over ...”*

In 1917, George M. Cohan penned “Over There” just days after the U.S. entered World War I, which was already in its third year. The Great War changed the way nations fought wars, introducing chemical warfare, armored tanks and aerial attacks. The war also changed the world, marking the end of the German, Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman and Russian empires, the rebirth of Poland and the formation of new nations, such as Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Finland and the Baltic countries. The war’s impact resonates today through the development of modern surgical techniques and blood banks. Our everyday language is peppered with slang like “trench coat,” “over the top” and “French fries,” all of which stem from the war. In 2018, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the World War I Armistice, which brought an end to the fighting on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

For lunch, savor the delicious flavors of French cuisine at a restaurant in Troyes.

Free Time: Enjoy some time to explore Troyes on your own.

Day Six B | L

Reims Wine Country

Enrichment: *The End of the Great War.*

Learn about the events leading up to the 1918 armistice and the eventual end of World War I, the War to End All Wars. The legacy of the armistice remains with us as we celebrate Veterans Day each November 11.

Discovery: *Montagne de Reims.* Visit the heart of Champagne country. The Montagne de Reims, a national park, is a plateau surrounded by hills covered with grapevines and towns famous for their Champagne production. Explore the village of Hautvillers. The village’s most famous resident was the 17th-century monk credited with developing the modern technique of making sparkling wine. Today, his name, Dom Pérignon, is synonymous with Champagne. Continue to Épernay for a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a stroll down the Avenue de Champagne, the address of many renowned Champagne houses. Visit two Champagne houses, one near Hautvillers and the other en route to Épernay, for tours and tastings.

Enrichment: *France Today.* Discover how historic and current events are shaping modern France.

Day Seven B | L

Somme River Valley

Discovery: *Battle of the Somme.*

Travel through the Somme River valley to the Museum of the Great War in Péronne to learn

about the 1916 World War I battle, Britain’s costliest in terms of casualties. Of the 600,000 Allied soldiers killed in that battle, Britain lost 420,000. The United States entered the war in April 1917. Visit the Somme American Cemetery, where 1,844 U.S. troops who fought in the Battle of Cantigny or who were attached to British units are buried. Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Péronne.

Day Eight B | D

Reims

Free Time: The day is at leisure to pursue your own interests. Spend it in Reims, where many Champagne houses are located, or perhaps venture further afield to explore the vineyards and villages in the countryside.

INCLUDED FEATURES

ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- Seven nights in Reims, France, at the first-class Mercure Reims Centre Cathedrale Hotel.

EXTENSIVE MEAL PROGRAM

- Seven breakfasts, five lunches and two dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND JOURNEY

- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
 - Sip Champagne and tour the Taittinger estate, one of the most vaunted Champagne houses.
 - Immerse yourself in the history and culture of Reims.
 - Pay your respects to the fallen soldiers of World War I's Meuse-Argonne Offensive at the largest U.S. cemetery in Europe and visit the Verdun Memorial.
 - See the highlights of medieval Troyes.
 - Explore the Montagne de Reims, the heart of Champagne country, and meet the winemakers at two Champagne houses for tours and tastings.
 - Delve into the history of the Battle of the Somme and visit the Somme American Cemetery.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Clearly hear your English-speaking guide with your own VOX headset.
- Tipping of guides and drivers
- Complimentary travel mementos



Dom Perignon monument, Épernay



UNESCO World Heritage

1. Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Former Abbey of Saint Remi and Palace of Tau, Reims
2. Saint-Nicaise Hill, the Avenue de Champagne in Épernay and Hautvillers, part of Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars

This evening, charge your glasses with Champagne and join your fellow travelers as you toast to your enriching journey at a Farewell Reception, followed by a Farewell Dinner.

Day Nine

B

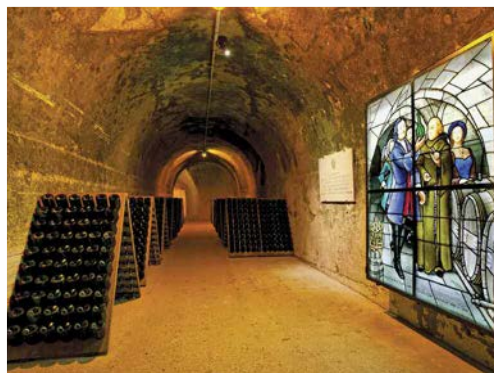
In Transit

Following breakfast, transfer✈ to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved.

✈ Transfers and flights included for AHI FlexAir participants

B|L|D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.



Above: Taittinger Champagne cellars, Reims

AHI TRAVEL EXPERTISE

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

- ▶ **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **Passenger Service Representative** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **Travel Information** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ▶ **Travel Director** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



MERCURE REIMS CENTRE CATHEDRALE HOTEL |



REIMS

Our travel experts have carefully selected this first-class property for its prime location. It is ideally located for exploring the region's renowned landmarks, while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.

Reserve your Reims trip today!

Trip #:8-23903W

Send to The Association of Former Students
Attn: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918
Phone: **979-845-7514** Fax: **979-845-9263**
Toll Free: **800-633-7514**



Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Guest 1: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Guest 2: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Sharing room with _____ (Form sent separately)

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

(1) _____ (2) _____
Class Year Class Year

Three-Night Pre-Trip Extension in Paris, France

Please make _____ reservations for me/us on the Elective Pre-Trip Extension in Paris. Single supplement applies.

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

Land Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Paris, France, to depart from:

Departure City

- Please contact me regarding air options.
- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Land Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Single Accommodations

I prefer single accommodations (supplement waived, limited availability).

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by **March 15, 2018** (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, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60631. 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 the tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600/person to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI Travel**.
- Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Card # _____

Expires _____ / _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

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

PROGRAM DATES

Air Program dates: May 29 – June 6, 2018

Land Program dates: May 30 – June 6, 2018

LAND PROGRAM

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
\$3,245	\$250	\$2,995

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

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Let us arrange your flights!

✈ **AHI FlexAir** | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- ▶ arrival and departure **transfers** on most flights
- ▶ **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays
- ▶ flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms

Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.



| **ELECTIVE | PRE-TRIP EXTENSION IN PARIS**

Spend three nights exploring Paris, the City of Light. This extension includes three nights' accommodation, three breakfasts, a guided tour with round-trip Métro tickets, a river cruise, an AHI Travel Director, hotel baggage handling, transfer to Reims, guide and driver gratuities, and all taxes and service charges.

Price: \$995 per person, double occupancy; \$1,390 single occupancy

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; 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 arrival and departure transfers, and any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

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.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS-On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

RESPONSIBILITY-AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible 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 whatsoever 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 canceled 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 set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. 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.

CANCELLATION-All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. You may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following. 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; 75-30 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 Travel. **CANCELLATION OF TRIP OPTIONS**-Purchases of optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights become fully non-refundable 45 days prior to departure. Air transportation and private transfer purchases are subject only to penalties assessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers.

All prices listed are in USD. Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined. CST Registration No. 2028271-20. Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST-33300 Iowa Seller of Travel No. 520 Ohio Seller of Travel Reg. No. 8889139. Washington State Seller of Travel Reg. No. 601-820-781. PARTICIPATING AIRLINES-all IATA and ARC Member Carriers ©2017 AHI Travel Printed in the USA.

800-633-7514

AggieNetwork.com/Travel



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918

FRAREIMS18.37

800-633-7514
AggieNetwork.com/Travel



Troyes



Montagne de Reims

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers

Join us for an exploration of epic history and the world of Champagne!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
Paid
AHI Travel