

PLEASURES *of* Provence

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

PRESENTED TO:



ALUMNI

McMaster University
Alumni and Friends
April 7-15, 2026

Other dates available upon request



Dear Alumni & Friends of McMaster University,

Join us for this magical seven-night sojourn through this storied region of Provence, France. Unpack once and make Aix-en-Provence your home for the week as you embark on excursions throughout the Provençal countryside to discover its picturesque villages and historic cities and savour renowned wine and cuisine.

In Aix, stroll down the enchanting Cours Mirabeau and visit Paul Cézanne's atelier. Visit medieval Avignon to tour the 14th-century Pope's Palace and stand in awe before the Pont du Gard, a feat of Roman engineering. Enjoy a guided walk of Arles, the city that inspired Van Gogh, and visit its colossal Roman amphitheater. Spend a day in dazzling Marseille on the Mediterranean and stroll through Le Panier, its oldest district. You'll also witness some of the most beautiful villages in France, including breathtaking Les Baux, romantic St. Remy and the lovely mountain village of Lourmarin.

Plus, savour a tour and Rhône tasting in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, visit a truffle plantation and olive grove to search for fresh truffles and learn to play the game of pétanque!

This exceptional program has been thoughtfully designed with educational enrichment from expert guides and lecturers, and it is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. Guarantee your spot by making your reservation today! Please contact AHI Travel directly at 1-800-323-7373, if you have any trip specific questions or would like to make a reservation.

Warmest Regards,

Karen McQuigge '90
Director, Alumni Engagement

Please Note: The McMaster Alumni and Friend Travel Program welcome's McMaster Alumni their family and friends. Not all trips are exclusive to McMaster; some trips may include travellers from other alumni associations or educational organizations.

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UNESCO World Heritage

1. **Historic Centre of Avignon:**
Papal Palace, Avignon
2. **Pont du Gard (Roman Aqueduct),**
Occitanie region
3. **Arles, Roman and Romanesque**
Monuments, Arles

Detail, Saint Trôphime Cathedral, Arles



Papal Palace, Avignon





Discovery begins here



On this extraordinary sojourn, immerse yourself in the quintessential pleasures of Provence, where color and light magically transform into captivating vistas. You'll savor renowned wine and cuisine, marvel at ancient ruins and relish exploring picturesque Provençal villages and storied historic cities. Plus, discover your own muse inside Paul Cézanne's studio and among the breathtaking Provençal landscapes that inspired Vincent van Gogh.

*Top: Palace of the Popes, Avignon | Above: Truffle hors d'oeuvres | Cover: Aix-en-Provence
Mail panel: Roman amphitheater, Arles | Market, Aix*

Inspiring Moments



- Stroll the picturesque **Cours Mirabeau** boulevard in **Aix-en-Provence**.
- Immerse yourself in the artist's life with a tour of **Paul Cézanne's studio**.
- Visit Avignon's Gothic **Pope's Palace** and the **Pont du Gard** aqueduct, built by the Romans in 19 B.C.
- Witness the beautiful French villages of **St. Rémy, Les Baux** and **Lourmarin**.
- Savor a Rhône tasting in the wine-making village of **Châteauneuf-du-Pape**.
- Tour the **Roman amphitheater in Arles** and discover the city's artistic heritage.
- Cruise through the steep-walled inlets of the **Calanques of Marseille**.
- Join in the hunt for France's elusive "black gold" at **Les Pastras truffle plantation**.
- Experience three **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



Pont du Gard

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Marseille, France. 🌐

Day 2 | Marseille | Aix-en-Provence

Upon arrival, transfer ➡ and check in to the hotel in Aix, your home for the week.

Enjoy a brief walking tour with your Travel Director to get acquainted with the area.

This evening, meet and mingle with your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Aix-en-Provence | Cassis

Aix-en-Provence. Get to know this captivating capital of Provence, your home for the week. Take a guided stroll beneath the lovely canopy of plane trees along the wide Cours Mirabeau boulevard, flanked by elegant mansions with wrought iron balconies and sculpted facades from the 17th and 18th centuries. Pass by the Cathedrale Saint-Sauveur d’Aix-en-Provence, the Place de l’Hôtel de Ville and Paul Cézanne’s home. The artist was born here, returning later in life to live and establish his studio in magical Aix, where he found much inspiration.

Cassis & its Calanques. Take a scenic drive to Cassis, a cozy sun-drenched Provençal fishing village on the Mediterranean coast. Indulge in a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, then set out on a boat cruise through the narrow inlets of the Calanques of Marseille to marvel at the unique, dramatic limestone sea cliffs and the turquoise inlets that resemble fjords. Return to Cassis, stroll the town if time permits, and then enjoy a short train ride back to the coach.

Day 4 | Avignon

Palais des Papes & Avignon. Revel in ancient history and Gothic architecture on a guided visit to the massive, medieval Pope’s Palace. Tour the Old and New palaces, the papal residences for seven popes in the 14th century, when the papal court moved from Rome to Avignon. Gain insight into the palace’s storied, turbulent past, and marvel at the faded, centuries-old frescoes and the Pope’s Chamber, where the Pope’s private apartments were located. *(Active)*

Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Enjoy a scenic drive to the southern Rhône valley and the famed wine-making village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Visit a winery for a tour and lunch, and savor a tasting of the classic, full-bodied Rhône wines.

Pont Du Gard. Visit the remarkably preserved Pont du Gard, a massive three-tiered aqueduct built by the Romans in 19 B.C. to carry water to Nîmes. Contemplate the Roman engineering and construction mastery as you walk across the awe-inspiring bridge and stroll around the scenic, natural surroundings on the Gard River.

Vineyard, Châteauneuf-du-Pape





Notre-Dame de la Garde basilica perched above the port of Marseille

Day 5 | Arles | Les Baux | St. Remy

Arles. Set out on a walking tour of Arles' winding cobblestone streets, brimming with impressive monuments and ancient houses adorned with colorful shutters. Tour inside the colossal Roman Les Arènes amphitheatre, still used to stage bullfights. Stroll past the Romanesque Cathedral of St. Trôphime and Café Van Gogh, the inspiration for his iconic "Café Terrace at Night" and other paintings.

Free Time: Find a café for lunch and explore more of picturesque, medieval Arles to discover its rich artistic heritage at leisure.

Les Baux & St. Remy. Delight in visits to two quintessentially Provençal villages. Les Baux, perched atop towering limestone cliffs, boasts breathtaking views, a tiny medieval village and ancient fortress. In romantic St. Remy, gaze at the lush, perfumed valleys that inspired over 150 of Vincent Van Gogh's paintings during one of his most artistically fruitful periods.

Return to Aix for a festive group dinner tonight.

St. Remy



Day 6 | Marseille

Marseille. This dazzling, vibrant port city on the Mediterranean coast was founded around 600 B.C. and is France's oldest city. Set out on a coach and walking tour to discover the tapestry of eclectic neighborhoods, diverse cultures and architectural wonders. See Palais Longchamp and drive along the harbor up to Notre-Dame de la Garde basilica to witness spectacular panoramic views. Stroll along the labyrinthine alleys and charming squares in Le Panier, Marseille's oldest district, soaking up the bohemian vibe of this multicultural hub.

Free Time: Find a café for lunch on your own and spend the remainder of the day exploring at leisure. Consider a visit to the Museum of Civilizations of Europe and the Mediterranean.

Enrichment: *Splendors of Aix-en-Provence & the South of France.*

Truffle hunting





Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **7 nights** in Aix-en-Provence, France at the first-class Grand Hôtel ROI Rene Aix-en-Provence Ctr-MGALLERY

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **AHI Connects | Local immersion.**
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:**
We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Day 7 | Luberon Massif

AHI Connects | Les Pastras. Drive to the Luberon to tour Les Pastras, an organic truffle plantation and olive grove. Join professional hunters to search for France's elusive "black gold." Savor a taste of fresh truffle and olive oils, truffle hors d'oeuvres, Champagne, and enjoy a Provençal lunch in the idyllic setting.

The Game of Pétanque. After lunch, learn to play Provence's most popular pastime, the game of pétanque, with rosé and pastis!

Lourmarin. Take a scenic, panoramic drive passing endless vineyards, lavender fields and olive groves set against rugged limestone cliffs to see one of France's most beautiful villages.

Day 8 | Aix-en-Provence

Cézanne Studio Visit. Visit Cézanne's atelier to feel the artist's presence among his original painting tools, furniture and models for still-life paintings to imagine the famed artist at work.

Free Time: Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure! Bid au revoir at tonight's reception and dinner.

Day 9 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flights to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Activity Level

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Walking tour of Arles





Fontaine de la Rotonde, an historic fountain on Cours Mirabeau, Aix-en-Provence



Calanques of Marseille near Cassis



Lourmarin, The Luberon

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates ✈ **April 7-15, 2026**

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **April 8-15, 2026**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price **\$5,245**

Special Savings **\$750**

Special Savings Price* **\$4,495**

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

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

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

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

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://mcmast.ahitravel.com/destinations/1959A?schoollid=89>.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

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 group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

Accommodations



Grand Hôtel ROI Rene Aix-en-Provence Ctr-MGALLERY



Aix-en-Provence

Just a 5-minute walk from the famed Cours Mirabeau and downtown Aix-en-Provence, the Grand Hôtel Roi René is a boutique hotel featuring a serene, welcoming atmosphere with a unique design and luxury bedding. Relax on the terrace while sipping a signature cocktail, or lounge by the heated swimming pool, a true treasure in the city center. The hotel offers a fitness room, yoga and meditation sessions.



Les Baux

Book your journey today!

800-323-7373

mcmast.ahitravel.com



ALUMNI

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Immerse yourself in the sensorial delights of Provence!

Committed to connecting travelers
to the people, places and cultures
of the world for more than 62 years.



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

