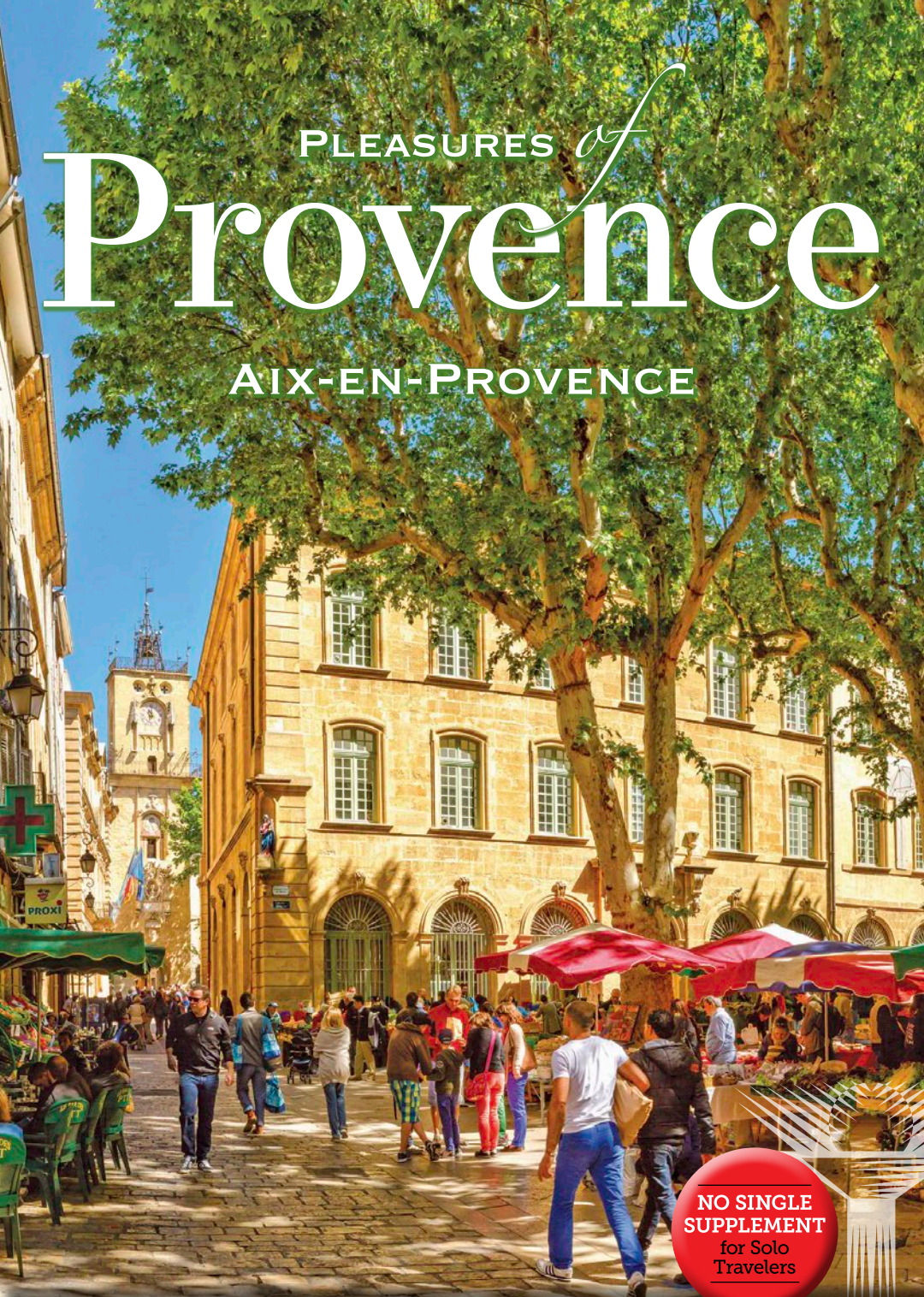


PLEASURES *of* Provence

AIX-EN-PROVENCE



SPONSORED BY



Michigan State University Alumni Office

May 27 – June 4, 2025

Other dates available upon request



Dear Spartan Alumni and Friends,

Join us for this magical seven-night sojourn through the 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 explore its picturesque villages and vibrant cities.

In Aix, stroll down the enchanting Cours Mirabeau, visit Paul Cézanne's atelier and meander through the "City of a Thousand Fountains." Take in Avignon's medieval streets and travel back in time at the 14th-century Pope's Palace. And, behold the awe-inspiring UNESCO World Heritage site of Pont du Gard, a feat of Roman engineering.

You'll also tour Arles, brimming with Roman ruins, to see the colossal amphitheater of Les Arènes d'Arles, and witness sites that inspired many of Van Gogh's paintings. See the wonders of dazzling Marseille, France's oldest city. And, visit some of the most beautiful villages in France, including breathtaking Les Baux, romantic St. Remy, and the lovely Luberon mountain villages of Cucuron and Lourmarin.

Along the way, savor a tour and Rhône tasting in the famed wine-making village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, sample freshly made olive oils at a local olive mill, search for and indulge in fresh truffles at an organic farm, and learn to play the fun 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!

Go Green!

Regina Cross BS '91
Director, Spartan Pathways Travel Program
Michigan State University Alumni Office
888-697-2863

The Michigan State University Alumni Office strongly recommends you purchase travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your email confirmation from the MSU Alumni Office.

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**



Saint Trophime Cathedral, Arles





A World of Discovery



On this extraordinary trip, experience the sensuous pleasures of quintessential Provence, where color and light magically combine to create captivating vistas. You'll savor renowned wine and cuisine, marvel at magnificent architecture and delight in exploring the picturesque villages and captivating cities of this special region of France. Plus, walk in the footsteps of Paul Cezanne and Vincent van Gogh as you discover the city scenes and lush landscapes that inspired their art.

Top: Palace of the Popes, Avignon

Cover: Market, Aix-en-Provence

Mail panel: Sunflowers | Olive mill visit

Inspiring Moments



- Stroll **Aix-en-Provence's** iconic, picturesque **Cours Mirabeau**.
- Immerse yourself in the artist's life with a tour of **Paul Cézanne's studio**.
- Gaze in wonder at the **Pont du Gard**, built by the Romans in 19 B.C.
- Bask in the tranquil beauty of historic **Saint-Rémy-de-Provence**.
- Visit lush Arles, famed for inspiring **Vincent Van Gogh**, and for **Les Arènes**, its Roman amphitheater.
- 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**.

ALUMNI CAMPUS
ABROAD®



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 Grand Hôtel Roi René Aix-en-Provence. Then, take a brief walking tour with your Travel Director to get acquainted with the area. Meet your fellow travelers at this evening's Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Aix-en-Provence | Cassis & its Calanques

Aix-en-Provence & Cézanne's Studio. Set out to explore this captivating capital of Provence, your home for the week. On a guided tour, stroll beneath a canopy of plane trees along the famed Cours Mirabeau, considered one of the most beautiful boulevards in Europe. Pass by the Cathedrale Saint-Sauveur d'Aix-en-Provence and Place de l'Hôtel de Ville. See the places Paul Cézanne frequented, such as Les Deux Garçons café, and where he found inspiration when he lived here. Then, find your muse during a visit to his *atelier*, imagining the artist at work.

Cassis & its Calanques. Next, drive to Cassis, a quaint, sun-drenched Provençal fishing village on the Mediterranean coast, to savor a fresh seafood lunch at a local restaurant. Continue on a boat cruise through the narrow inlets of the famous Calanques of Marseille to marvel at the unique geological formations of tall needle rocks rising from brilliant blue-green waters.

Day 4 | Avignon

Palais des Papes & Avignon. Revel in the history of this UNESCO-inscribed city with a guided, fascinating visit to the Gothic Pope's Palace, a medieval masterpiece that served as the papal seat during the 14th century. Gaze in awe at its centuries-old frescoes and grand chambers, including the Pope's private apartments.

Savor lunch in colorful, enchanting Avignon.

Pont Du Gard. Continue to visit the remarkably preserved, UNESCO-inscribed Pont du Gard, built by the Romans in 19 B.C. Contemplate the awe-inspiring architectural grandeur of Roman engineering and construction mastery of this massive, three-tiered aqueduct.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Cap off the day with a scenic drive to the famed, historic wine making village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Once there, relish a guided tour and savor a tasting of the famed, full-bodied Rhône wine.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape





Notre Dame de la Garde, Marseille

Day 5 | Arles, Les Baux & St. Remy

Arles. Embark on a walking tour of coastal Arles, brimming with UNESCO-inscribed monuments and Roman ruins, colorful pastel houses and artistic inspiration. Marvel at the colossal amphitheater of Les Arènes and the Cathedral of St. Trôphime, a masterpiece of Romanesque style. Wander the narrow, cobblestoned streets amid medieval buildings and pass by Café Van Gogh, which inspired Van Gogh's painting, "Café Terrace at Night."

Free Time: Explore more of Arles' artistic heritage during lunch and time at leisure.

Les Baux & St. Remy. Delight in visits to two quintessentially Provençal villages. Perched on a rocky outcrop, Les Baux offers a dramatic setting amid towering limestone cliffs with breathtaking views. Romantic St. Remy charms with the lush green, perfumed valleys that inspired Van Gogh to produce more than 150 paintings. Then, at Moulin de Calanquet, tour the local olive oil mill and savor a tasting.

Farmhouse in Provence by Vincent van Gogh, 1888



Join a festive group dinner in town tonight.

Day 6 | Marseille

Marseille. This dazzling, vibrant port city on the Mediterranean coast is the oldest city in France, founded around 600 BC. On a coach and walking tour, appreciate the tapestry of diverse cultures, eclectic neighborhoods and architectural wonders. Pass by the Palais Longchamp and drive along the harbor up to Notre Dame de la Garde to take in the panoramic views. Then, absorb the city's mystery as you walk through bohemian Le Panier, the oldest district of Marseille.

Enjoy lunch and time at leisure to explore more of Marseille, perhaps by visiting the Museum of Civilizations of Europe and the Mediterranean. Savor the city's culinary offerings at leisure.

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

Charming Lourmarin, Luberon





Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

– **7 nights** at the first-class Grand Hotel ROI Rene Aix-en-Provence Ctr-MGGallery, Aix-en-Provence, France.

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

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.
- 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.

Calanques of Cassis



Day 7 | The Luberon

AHI Connects | Les Pastras Provence.

Venture out once again into the countryside to Les Pastras. Tour the organic farm and black truffle plantation and join professional hunters in the search for France's elusive "black gold." Then, indulge in a delectable tasting of fresh truffle hors d'oeuvres with Champagne.

After a Provençal buffet lunch amid the idyllic setting, learn to play the game of *pétanque*, or boules, accompanied by rosé and pastis!


Luberon Mountain Villages. Take in the idyllic views on a panoramic tour of two of the most lovely villages in the Luberon massif, Cucuron and Lourmarin, once home to Nobel prize-winning author, Albert Camus.

Day 8 | Aix-en-Provence



Free Time: Make the most of your final day by exploring more of Aix, such as the notable art museums, open-air markets and fountains in this "City of a Thousand Fountains!"

This evening, bid *au revoir* to your fellow travelers at Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 9 | In Transit

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

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

 Flights and  transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Note About Activity Levels

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

Accommodations



Grand Hotel ROI Rene | Aix-en-Provence, France



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 by the heated swimming pool, a true treasure in the city center. The hotel also offers a fitness room with yoga and meditation sessions available.



Fontaine de la Rotonde, Aix-en-Provence



Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,
please call our AHI Travel Experts
at **833-303-1333** or
visit **michst.ahitravel.com**.

Program Dates

Travel dates †

May 27 – June 4, 2025

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

Tour dates*

May 28 – June 4, 2025

* 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	\$4,745
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Special Savings	\$750
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Early Booking Special Price*	\$3,995
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*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

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).

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://michst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1863A?schoolId=100>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

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

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



Les Baux



Fresh truffle hors d'oeuvres, Les Pastras



Dried lavender



Pottery

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 stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

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

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

Once you arrive:

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

Handpicked Expert Guides offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

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



Hunting for truffles, Truffle farm, Les Pastras



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Experience the sensuous delights of magical Provence!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural 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.

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