



TORAH *in* MOTION TRAVEL

2025 Tour to The South of France
June 30 to July 8, 2025

Provence Itinerary, June 30- July 8, 2025

Subject to Change

Monday

Arrival in Marseille

Welcome dinner with the group

Overnight: intercontinental Marseille

Tuesday, July 1: Marseille

The tour begins at 9am with a visit to the famed medieval city Montpellier. On the way there we will pass Lunel and Posquières, now called Vauvert, both of which played important roles in medieval Jewish life in Southern France. We will have a walking tour in Montpellier, visit the medieval mikveh, and see one of the synagogues serving the current Jewish community. We then travel to St. Remy in the heart of Provence. On the way we will see Pont du Gard, the famous Roman aqueduct from the first century CE.

Overnight: DOMAINE DE VALMOURIANE, St. Remy

Wed., July 2: St. Remy

In the morning we visit Arles, an ancient city on the Rhone River which was also the inspiration for many of Van Gogh's paintings. We will visit the magnificent Roman amphitheatre and other Roman sites. While so many important Jewish figures of the past lived in Arles, today almost nothing Jewish remains. In the afternoon we head to Avignon, famous as the seat of the papacy for almost seventy years in the fourteenth century as well as the home of Rabbi Levi ben Gershom (Gersonides). We will visit the palace of the popes and the nineteenth century synagogue which stands where the medieval Jewish quarter was.

Overnight: DOMAINE DE VALMOURIANE, St. Remy

Thursday, July 3 St Remy

In the morning we visit Carpentras, one of the four communities in Southern France under the authority of the Pope ("the Pope's Jews"), and thus spared the various expulsions Jews in the rest of France were subjected to. Carpentras has the oldest synagogue in France still in use (over 650 years old), as well as a medieval mikveh, and was the center of Jewish life in papal-controlled France. Largely cut off from other Jewish communities, we will learn about how Carpentras preserved a variety of interesting customs. In the afternoon we will

see the famous lavender fields of Provence and also visit Cavaillon, another of the communities of the “Pope’s Jews” whose synagogue still survives.

Overnight: DOMAINE DE VALMOURIANE, St. Remy

Friday, July 4 Monte Carlo

In the morning we visit the lovely city of Aix-En-Provence, known as the City of a Thousand Fountains. It is here where Cezanne, Picasso, and other important painters were inspired. Following lunch we travel to the city-state of Monaco where we will have free time before Shabbat.

Fairmont Monte Carlo

Shabbat, July 5, Monte Carlo

Shabbat will be spent with the Jewish community of Monaco. After Israel, Monaco’s Jewish community has the highest percent of population of any country in the world. In the afternoon Dr. Shapiro will deliver a class on a Torah theme related to Provence, following which there will be a walking tour of Monte Carlo.

Fairmont Monte Carlo

Sunday, July 6, Nice

In the morning we will have a tour of the Monte Carlo Casino, made famous by James Bond. Following lunch at one of Nice’s kosher restaurants, we will have a tour of Jewish Nice.

Boscolo Nice

Monday, July 7, Nice

In the morning we will visit Nice’s impressive Marc Chagall Museum, where close to a thousand of Chagall’s works are found. After lunch we will visit Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, a magnificent early-twentieth century home and collection of gardens built by a French-Jewish architect, Aaron Messiah, for Baroness Béatrice de Rothschild.

Boscolo Nice

Tuesday, July 8, Nice

Breakfast and departure to home

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