

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

*Presents*

# *The French Riviera*

**October 20 – 29, 2023**

**\$3,900 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago**



*This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC*



# Day by Day Itinerary

## **Friday, October 20 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)**

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this afternoon by scheduled service of Iberia Airlines of Spain to begin the transatlantic journey to Madrid, Spain.

## **Saturday, October 21 – MADRID / NICE (I,D)**

This morning we arrive in Madrid and continue by connecting flight to Nice, France. On arrival, we'll meet our Tour Guide who will introduce us to the French Riviera, also called the Côte d'Azur, which runs from the glamorous enclave of St. Tropez, through Cannes, Nice, and to the Principality of Monaco. Leaving the airport, a short drive will take us to the resort of Nice, the largest city on this fabled stretch of coast where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

## **Sunday, October 22 – NICE (B)**

This morning we'll receive an introduction to Nice that will start along the 19th century gracious seaside Promenade des Anglais, lined with the stately mansions and elegant Belle Époque hotels. Then we'll explore the pedestrian maze of narrow streets and lanes in Vieux Ville, beginning near the Albert I Gardens at Place Massena, to the colorful Cours Saleya open-air market stalls that are at their busiest and full of color in the morning. We'll also see the unassuming facade of the Palais Lascaris and the sudden surprise of the Cathédrale de Sainte Réparate, opening up among the pastel-colored buildings of rue Droite, it is one of the most beautiful sights on the Riviera. Afterward, free time will be set aside to enjoy lunch at one of the many sidewalk cafes, before we visit the Marc Chagall Museum of Biblical Themes. The museum contains superbly displayed canvases depicting biblical scenes and themes from the Old Testament in bright, joyous colors.

## **Monday, October 23 – NICE (Cannes) (B)**

Today we travel to the city of Cannes. Although Cannes reputation is one of chic, sassy, and incredibly sexy, it can also be surprising in the simple authenticity of its neighborhoods, bustling markets and carefree café culture. Cannes' most famous street is the promenade de la Croisette which curves along the coast and is lined with grand hotels, casinos, exclusive beach clubs, and the Palais des Festivals, home to the Cannes Film Festival. Tucked behind La Croisette is Cannes' small town center that is best explored on foot. Initially a Roman camp, Le Suquet is home to the Tour du Masque, a 12th century tower which takes its name from the famed Man in the Iron Mask. We'll also see the 12th century medieval castle and Chapel of St. Anne as we wind our way up Susquet Hill to Notre Dame d'Esperance. Built in the 16th century by the monks of Lérins, Notre Dame de l'Espérance and its recognizable clock tower have become the symbol of Old Cannes; appearing more like a gothic fortress than a church. This afternoon we'll hop aboard a ferry bound for Ile Sainte-Marguerite to the largest of the Lérins Islands, where the fragrance of pine and eucalyptus will captivate us as we step ashore. We'll stroll along the island to Fort Royal, built by Spanish troops in 1637 and used as a military barracks and parade ground until World War II. The fort later became a

state prison where the notorious Man in the Iron Mask is said to have been imprisoned before escaping. While here we'll visit the Musée de la Mer, tracing the history of the island and featuring items recovered from ancient Roman and Saracen shipwrecks.

## **Tuesday, October 24 – NICE (Monte Carlo) (B)**

Today we travel to the independent Principality of Monaco, the home of millionaires, opulent villas, flower-covered terraces and pleasure yachts anchored in the sparkling bay. Monte Carlo's main sights are clustered around the pedestrian Place du Casino Square where we'll see both the stunning Opera House and Casino. Then, we'll take in a spectacular view of the luxury yachts anchored in the sparkling bay as we make our way to Monaco-Ville located on the promontory known as the Rock. From here we'll begin a walking tour of the Old Town and view the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Built with the stark white stones from La Turbie in 1875, this Roman-Byzantine-style building is where Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace Kelly married. Next, we're headed to Palace Square, dominated by the magnificent residence of Prince Albert II, to witness the traditional Changing of the Guard. Following our tour, free time will be set aside to explore the twisting lanes and vaulted passageways that make up Monaco-Ville which dates back to the 14th century.

## **Wednesday, October 25 – NICE (Eze & Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat) (B)**

This morning we travel to the hamlet of Eze, a picture-perfect hill village that clings to the mountains 1,400 feet above the sea. Eze's fortified medieval core overlooks the coast and was built during the Middle Ages to stave off raids from Saracen pirates. We'll visit the Jardin d'Eze where the earth goddesses by sculptor Jean-Philippe Richard live harmoniously among the exotic plants. We'll also have an opportunity to soak up the atmosphere while lingering at one of the peaceful viewpoints and allow time to explore the impossibly cute streets that are home to artisan shops, boutiques and galleries. Afterward, we'll be on our way to Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat to visit the historic seaside Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, a lavish Italian-style mansion surrounded by gorgeous gardens. The Villa was the romantic dream of Baroness Béatrice de Rothschild who fell in love with the fairy-tale site and built her rose-colored villa overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

## **Thursday, October 26 – NICE (St. Paul de Vence, Domaine Saint-Joseph & Grasse) (B)**

Today we travel inland to charming St. Paul de Vence. St. Paul gained notoriety in the 1940s and '50s when artists including Chagall, Matisse, and Picasso frequented the town. A walking tour will take us along the pedestrian rue Grande, which runs the length of town to the cemetery where Chagall is buried. Most of the stone houses along the street are from 16th and 17th centuries, and several still bear the coats of arms placed there by the original builders, allowing St. Paul to retain much of its medieval appearance. Afterward, free time will

allow an opportunity to explore the narrow, cobblestone lanes, discovering the many wonderful antique stores, boutiques, and arts-and-crafts galleries that can be found here. Before leaving St. Paul, we'll enjoy an afternoon wine tasting in the 14th century Petite Cave to learn about the fine wines from Provence. Then, we'll set our sights on Grasse, the perfume capital of the world. Grasse began as a tannery town, but in the 16th century Italian immigrant glove makers began to use local flower scents to perfume soft leather gloves. The tanneries have since vanished, but three major perfume houses are still in business, and we'll tour one of France's oldest, most esteemed perfumeries to discover the process of perfume creation.

**Friday, October 27 – NICE (St. Tropez) (B)**

Another leisurely day on tour will take us along the stunning coastal road known as the Golden Cornich on our way towards St. Tropez, the summer playground of Europe's youthful rich. At the town of Sainte Maxime, we'll embark on a 20-minute ferry ride to St. Tropez. On arrival, we'll enjoy a guided walking tour that will introduce us to the Old Harbor dominated by the figure of Pierre-André de Suffren, whose statue was erected by Napoleon III in 1866. We'll also see the Mole Jean Reveille jetty and seawall, which was destroyed during the Allied bombings of August 1944 and restored in 1950. Next, we'll make our way to the hilltop Citadel, a fortified castle complete with drawbridges and stunning views across the Bay of St. Tropez. From here we'll descend into the Old Town, part of which has been laid out as a pedestrian zone, where boutiques and restaurants abound, evoking medieval St. Tropez. Following our tour, free time will be set aside to gaze at the 100-year-old plane trees at the Place des Lices in the heart of St. Tropez, a delightful place to stroll even if our visit doesn't coincide with a market day.

**Saturday, October 28 – NICE (B,D)**

As we'll soon learn, Nice attractions range from world famous to more obscure, and are found all over the city. The



day is at leisure to soak up the sun and stroll the Promenade des Anglais, return to the Old Town for independent exploration, or head up to the beautiful residential neighborhood of Cimiez where you'll find some of the best museums in town, most notably the Matisse Museum. The museum is housed the 17th-century Arena Villa and its highlights include the two famous paintings "Still Life with Pomegranates" and Matisse's last completed work "Flowers and Fruits." Whatever you choose to do, Nice has something for everyone.

**Sunday, October 29 – NICE / CHICAGO (I)**

Early this morning we depart Nice and travel to Nice International Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *French Riviera* vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

**\*\*\* Welcome Home \*\*\***

**Visit [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) to make your reservation.**

**The Tour Price Includes:**

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Iberia Airlines of Spain.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- Accommodations in a first-class hotel.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotel.
- Airline taxes and fuel surcharge, and all taxes for included ground services.

**The Tour Price Does Not Include:** Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to Motorcoach Driver(s), Tour Guide and Step-on Guides; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC

### PROGRAM TOUR CONDITIONS

**Tour Deposit and Payment:** Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and in advance of your tour's departure

**Tour Pricing:** This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or [my.travelinsure.com/niu](http://my.travelinsure.com/niu). Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

**No Liability:** By participating in this Program, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Program.

### RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel.

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**Tour Operator.** The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "Tour Operator") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

**No Refunds.** No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

**No Travel Carrier Liability.** The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

**For more information, contact our office at 815-753-2586 or visit the Travel section at [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) to make your reservation.**

*\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.*

Alumni Association Travel Program LLC  
Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center  
231 N. Annie Glidden Road  
DeKalb, IL 60115