Provincial French Countryside

August 26-September 9, 2024

15 days from $6,197 total price from Boston, New York

($5,595 air & land inclusive plus $602 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, seven-time honoree Travel + Leisure's World's Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni and Friends of Boston College

Featuring Anne Bernard Kearney, Lecturer in French at Boston College

BOSTON COLLEGE

BC BEYOND EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

Dear BC Alumni and Friends,

Please join fellow alumni and friends on an exclusive journey through France. Traversing the country from south to north, our small group will enjoy breathtaking scenery, stay in charming hotels and inns, and visit unspoiled villages. This special tour will highlight BC Beyond Educational Travel's threefold mission to provide lifelong learning through educational travel, to showcase BC faculty, and to expand the global reach of Boston College.

Begin in Toulouse and see the longest city walls in Europe at medieval Carcassonne. Travel to the Dordogne region to tour the famous Caves at Lascaux IV and take a leisurely river cruise. In the fabled Loire Valley, visit the beautiful Château de Chenonceau. Further north in Normandy, tour the Gothic abbey at Mont-St-Michel and discover medieval Bayeux. Spend a poignant day exploring the famous D-Day Landing Beaches and the American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach in Colleville. Walk amid Monet's glorious gardens in Giverny before concluding our journey in iconic Paris. An optional 3-day/2-night post-tour extension in Paris is also available for those wishing to savor more time in the "City of Light."

With space for only 24 guests, we expect this exclusive Boston College tour to fill quickly. Please call today to reserve your place on this memorable tour of France!

Explore the world through BC,

Patricia Tyler

Patricia Tyler, Director
BC Beyond Educational Travel
Boston College

BOSTON COLLEGE RESERVATION FORM: PROVINCIAL FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE

To reserve your place on tour, **please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at (888) 370-6765.** Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to the Odysseys Unlimited office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.,**
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

PROVINCIAL FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE • AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____)_____ Cell Phone (_____)_____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request an air upgrade to _____

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability) ❑

Post-Tour "Paris – On Your Own" Extension: Please sign me/us up ❑

Tour membership limited to 24 alumni and friends of Boston College

Provincial French Countryside

15 days from $6,197 total price from Boston, New York

($5,595 air & land inclusive plus $602 airline taxes and fees)

Experience the beauty, allure, and hospitality of provincial France, at an easy pace and in a unique style. Anchored by stays in vibrant Toulouse and enchanting Paris, the journey features diverse Languedoc, the remote Dordogne, the lovely Loire Valley, and historic Normandy as we stay in charming rural inns and small country hotels. It's a small group tour de force!

Avg. High (°F)	Aug	Sep
Toulouse	82	74
Paris	77	71

Small Group Tour Highlights

Medieval Carcassonne • Market town of Albi, including Toulouse-Lautrec Museum • Cliffside village of Rocamadour • Caves at Lascaux IV • Dordogne River cruise • Château de Chenonceau • Medieval Mont-St-Michel • Bayeux Tapestry • Tours of Normandy's Landing Beaches and D-Day sights • American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach • Memorial Museum, Caen • Monet's gardens at Giverny • Paris city tour

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Toulouse		
2-3	Toulouse	Plaza Hotel Capitole Toulouse	First Class
4-6	Sarlat-en-Périgord (Dordogne)	Grand Hotel de Sarlat	Sup. First Class
7-9	Saumur (Loire Valley)	Hotel Anne d'Anjou	Not Rated
10-12	Crépon (Normandy)	Manoir de Mathan	Not rated
13-14	Paris	Paralympics	Not Rated
15	Depart Paris for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Toulouse, France

Day 2: Arrive Toulouse After arriving in Toulouse in the Midi-Pyrénées today, our time is at leisure until we meet our tour director this evening for a welcome dinner and a briefing about the journey ahead. *D*

Day 3: Toulouse/Carcassonne Today we tour nearby Carcassonne, the quintessential medieval town with the longest city walls in Europe. Sitting atop a hill overlooking vast green plains that stretch all the way to the Pyrénées, Carcassonne boasts battlements and ramparts dating to the 1st-century Romans. We return to Toulouse mid-afternoon for time at leisure. *B*

Day 4: Toulouse/Albi/Sarlat We travel today to the historic market town of Albi in the Midi-Pyrénées. Hometown of Belle Époque artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Albi was built with rose-colored bricks that cast a warm glow over the medieval streets and ramparts. Our city tour here includes the medieval Cathedral and Palais de la Berbie, an ancient fortress now a musuem of works by Toulouse-Lautrec. Leaving Albi, we travel to the rugged, unspoiled countryside of the Périgord region and the Dordogne Valley. We continue on to Sarlat-la-Canéda, one of France's prettiest villages and one of Europe's best preserved medieval gems, with more registered historic sites than anywhere else on the continent. We're in the land of the truffle and *foie gras*, so *bon appétit! B,D*

Day 5: Sarlat/Lascaux IV This morning we tour the International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux IV, showcasing reproductions of the original pre-historic cave paintings found nearby. After lunch at a charming local inn, we spend the afternoon on a leisurely cruise along the Dordogne River, life-blood of this fertile region and redolent with history. As we pass cliff-top castles and fortified medieval towns, the historical region of Aquitaine comes to life – this is where beloved Eleanor of Aquitaine reigned in the 12th century. We return to Sarlat, where dinner tonight is on our own. *B,L*

Day 6: Sarlat/Rocamadour This morning we take a brief walking tour then have time at leisure to visit

Cover Photo: We're sure to see many picturesque sights as we travel through the French countryside.

Discover the Dordogne River with a leisurely cruise.

some of Sarlat's museums or art galleries – or simply to wander the atmospheric cobblestone streets. After lunch on our own we visit nearby Rocamadour, a revered pilgrimage site and medieval village whose three tiers cling almost impossibly to a sheer limestone cliff. We take a guided walking tour then enjoy some free time before we return to Sarlat mid-afternoon and dine together tonight. *B,D*

Day 7: Sarlat/Le Dorat/Saumur This morning we depart for the Loire Valley, stopping in the small market town of Le Dorat for a typical country lunch at a local restaurant. From here we travel on to picturesque Saumur and our hotel, a converted 18th-century mansion on the banks of the Loire River. *B,L*

Day 8: Saumur We visit a local winery this morning then the day is free to enjoy this town of half-timbered houses and cobblestone streets as we wish. Options include exploring the town's old quarter; visiting the Cavalry Museum; or tasting the renowned locally made sparkling wine at Maison du Vin. *B,D*

Day 9: Saumur/Chenonceaux We're in châteaux country, where England battled for control of France; where Joan of Arc triumphed; and where a great opulence reigned during the 16th century. Originally built as fortresses to keep intruders out, the Loire Valley's grand châteaux now welcome visitors from around the world. We tour a most impressive one today: Chenonceau, the Renaissance masterpiece considered the most romantic château of all. Lunch today is at a local restaurant. *B,L*

Day 10: Saumur/Mont-St-Michel/Crépon Traveling north this morning, we stop at Mont-St-Michel, Normandy's famed Gothic abbey that sits atop a 264-foot-high rock formation at the edge of the sea and was constructed between 1017–1521 of granite hauled stone by stone from Brittany. After a guided tour and some free time for lunch and to explore on our own, we return to our hotel for time at leisure. Tonight, we dine together at our hotel. *B,D*

Day 11: Crépon/Bayeux/Caen Miraculously spared wartime bombing, medieval Bayeux is our first stop today. Here we visit the Tapestry Museum, home of the 1,000-year-old Bayeux Tapestry depicting the exploits of William the Conqueror. Later we visit Caen's Memorial Museum devoted to "history for peace." Time permitting, we may visit Arromanches late this afternoon. *B,D*

Day 12: D-Day Landing Beaches A poignant, inspiring day is ahead as we travel to the very places where Allied forces overcame overwhelming odds to alter the course of World War II. We visit Pointe du

Post-Tour Extension

September 9-11, 2024

Paris – On Your Own

3 days/2 nights for $495 total price

Single Supplement: $345

Savor the City of Light
on your own time, at your own pace.

Your Tour Price Includes

- 2 nights' accommodations at Paralympics (Superior First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport

Hoc, where American Rangers scaled towering cliffs to establish a beachhead; Utah Beach; and Ste-Mère-Église, where the 82nd Airborne Division successfully parachuted on June 5, 1944. We end the day at the American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach in Colleville. It's a particularly moving site; row upon endless row of white marble crosses and Stars of David honor the nearly 10,000 American troops who lie here. *B,L,D*

Day 13: Crépon/Giverny/Paris This morning we visit the village of Giverny and the home and gardens of Impressionist artist Claude Monet. Here we see the familiar lily pond and wisteria-covered Japanese footbridge of Monet's paintings, as well as his home, now restored to its original design. Then we travel to Paris, reaching our hotel late afternoon. We are free for dinner on our own in this culinary capital. *B*

Day 14: Paris Today we get acquainted with one of the world's greatest cities, seeing the highlights on this morning's city tour, including a guided tour of Musée Rodin, a museum dedicated to prolific French sculptor Auguste Rodin. This afternoon is free for independent exploration; tonight we gather for a farewell dinner to bid "*adieu*" to France. *B,D*

Mont St. Michel at Night

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 13 nights' accommodations in Superior First Class, First Class, and unrated hotels
- 25 meals: 13 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Meet your BC Faculty Host

Anne Bernard Kearney, born in France of a French father and an Irish mother, studied at the Beaux-Arts de Paris. With her husband, she moved from Paris to Ireland in 1980; then they moved with their two daughters to Boston in 1999, where they have lived since, both teaching at Boston College. In addition to teaching in Ireland and Boston, Anne has also practiced as an architect, an artist, and a translator. She has published five books: "Lovers, Queens & Strangers: Strong Women in Celtic Myth", translations into French of Irish Poets, and American poets in *Triages*. She worked on many of the translations in collaboration with French poet Nicole Laurent-Catrice. Anne has taught in French and in English in BC's department of Romance Languages and Literatures since 2002. As an artist, she does printmaking and has had exhibitions of her work in France, Ireland, and North America.

Day 15: Depart for U.S. This morning we depart for the airport and our connecting flights to the U.S. *B*

Tour Departs: August 26, 2024

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York	**$6,197**
Charlotte, Philadelphia, Washington, DC	**$6,397**
Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa	**$6,497**
Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	**$6,597**
Land Only (transfers not included)	**$5,395**

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $602, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add $1,195. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – $3,795 per person; Premium Economy – $1,595 per person in addition to the costs above (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking up hills or stairs, and on uneven or cobblestone streets. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at

888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions. Boston College is working with Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., which is responsible for all travel arrangements, payments, and bookings. Boston College is pleased to act as a liaison with Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during, or after your tour. Boston College encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with these terms and conditions and the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility: The liability of Boston College, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. Boston College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. Boston College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. requests that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. There is a significant amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc reserves the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Boston College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols: *The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priorities. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided to you prior to your departure.*

BOSTON COLLEGE

BC BEYOND EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

BC Beyond Educational Travel
Boston College
Office of the Provost
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

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JOIN ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BOSTON COLLEGE FOR AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR TO PROVINCIAL FRANCE!

Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests