THE TRAVEL CLUB presents…

French Impressions
March 19 – 29, 2020

For more information contact
THE TRAVEL CLUB
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lobo@newventureboston.com

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Day 2: Friday, March 20, 2020 Paris, France - Tour Begins Your tour opens in Paris, the “City of Light.” Tonight, sample delicious French cuisine and witness breathtaking views during dinner at the Eiffel Tower. Following dinner, get a different perspective of the city during a Seine River cruise. As you glide along, admire Paris’ glittering skyline. (D)

Day 3: Saturday, March 21, 2020 Paris Come to know Paris your way. It’s your choice! Take a splendid panoramic coach tour featuring the breathtaking architecture of the Arc de Triomphe, Place de la Concorde, Place Vendome, the Champs-Elysees and the Notre Dame Cathedral -OR- enter the world of Impressionism with a visit to the Musée D’Orsay with its magnificent French Impressionist art collection. Live out your own Parisian adventure during a free afternoon. Perhaps you will join an optional excursion to the world-renowned Louvre, home to the iconic Mona Lisa. This evening, an optional dinner and show at Paris’ oldest cabaret, the Paradis Latin, is offered. (B)

Day 4: Sunday, March 22, 2020 Paris - Versailles - Giverny - Paris Explore the history, architecture and gardens of Versailles, one of the world’s most magnificent royal palaces and finest, most complete examples of 17th century architecture. Your local guide will recount the history of the palace and lead you through the various rooms of the State Apartments. Discover its immeasurable opulence and see its treasures including the Queen’s bedchamber and the famous Hall of Mirrors. You then have time to explore the incredible gardens, some of the most famous in the world, which took over 40 years to complete. This afternoon Claude Monet’s famous painting “Waterlilies” comes to life with a visit to the artist’s lovely home and enchanting gardens in the village of Giverny. The remainder of the evening is at leisure for you to explore Paris’ many hidden treasures on your own. (B)

Day 5: Monday, March 23, 2020 Paris - TGV Train - Avignon - Aix-en-Provence Climb aboard the high speed TGV Train and “fly” through the beautiful French countryside on your way to Provence. Arrive in Avignon for a delightful tour of this historic walled city. Avignon, often called the “City of Popes,” acted as a center of European religion for 70 years when the Popes moved there in 1309. A visit to the Palace of the Popes brings this history to life. Continue to Aix-en-Provence, a lovely town once frequented by Hemingway and the inspiration to many artists. This evening, enjoy fine French dining at your hotel’s elegant restaurant. (B, D)

Day 6: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 Aix-en-Provence This morning a local expert takes you on a tour of Aix-en-Provence. This charming city is full of lively streets, squares and fountains. Walk in the steps of Cézanne when you visit his atelier (workshop) and enter the artist’s most private space. Continue to Mont Sainte-Victoire and see the natural surroundings which are portrayed in the painter’s works. Explore the 18th century jewel of Aix-en-Provence with a visit to the Hôtel de Caumont Art Center. Delve into the intimate atmosphere of a private mansion as you view its works of art and exhibits. The evening is yours to continue to discover the city’s many secrets. (B)

Day 7: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 Aix-en-Provence - Luberon - Gordes - Aix-en-Provence Visit the Musée du Calisson, a confectionery factory where you will discover the unique taste of a calisson. This delicacy—a mix of almonds, candied melon, orange blossom fragrance and marzipan—is a local specialty. Delve into the Provençal landscape during a visit to the picturesque region of Luberon, known for its beautiful lavender fields.* Take time in the hilltop village of Gordes to explore its charms. Visit the Lavender Museum and learn about this precious plant, its unique distillation.
process and its uses throughout history. You are in for a treat this evening when you **stop at a local vineyard and tour their wine cellar and olive oil mill.** Complete your day with a cooking demonstration and a sumptuous Provençal meal paired with local wines. *(B, D)*

Day 8: Thursday, March 26, 2020 **Aix-en-Provence - Cannes - Nice**

Journey to Cannes to rub shoulders with Europe’s elite. A local expert joins you on a walking tour of Cannes where you will learn about the fascinating history of the city and the Lérins Islands located offshore. Walk in the footsteps of celebrities when you see the Film Festival Palace and the famous red carpet featured during the Cannes Film Festival. Then it’s off to Nice, the renowned playground of the rich and famous. *(B)*

Day 9: Friday, March 27, 2020 **Nice - Eze - Monaco - Monte Carlo - Nice**

Explore the charming hillside village of Eze. **Learn the secrets of perfume making,** from extraction to distillation, while visiting a famous parfumerie. **Your journey then takes you to witness the splendor of Monaco,** the dazzling gem of the Riviera. A panoramic tour highlights the famous and extravagant Casino of Monte Carlo and the spectacular 13th-century Prince’s Palace. Pause to see the Cathedral of Monaco, where Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace are buried. Complete your trip to Monaco with a visit to the fascinating Oceanographic Museum. *(B)*

Day 10: Saturday, March 28, 2020 **Nice - Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat - Nice**

This morning you’ll feel like a local as you **stroll through the colorful and fragrant flower market** in Nice. Continue to Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat and visit the luxurious apartments of the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Explore the lush gardens with magnificent views of the Mediterranean Sea. Your visit to the villa is complete with a light lunch served in the charming tea room. The remainder of your day is free to discover Nice’s Place Massena and the lively seafront Promenade des Anglais. Partake in world-class shopping, sample the many French delicacies found in the south of France, or simply relax and take in the laid-back atmosphere along the Riviera. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at a quaint restaurant. *(B, L, D)*

Day 11: Sunday, March 29, 2020 **Nice**

Your tour ends today, leaving you with many wonderful memories. *(B)*

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