

# Undiscovered France

featuring Albi, Toulouse and Carcassonne



**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
UNIVERSITY

**May 26 – June 3, 2020**



# A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

From ancient villages to glorious vineyards to world-renowned art, become intimately engaged in the unique rhythms of this remarkable region of France, adding another memorable chapter to the rich story of your life.

Above: Carcassonne  
Cover photo: Cruising the Tarn River, Albi

## Inspiring Moments

- ▶ **Meet gracious locals** while tasting homemade products and touring countryside farms.
- ▶ Reflect on the life of a great artist at the **Musée Toulouse-Lautrec**.
- ▶ Gaze at Albi's architectural jewel, **the Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile**.
- ▶ Follow cobbled paths in **Toulouse**, reveling in the city's red-brick beauty.
- ▶ Cruise along the **Canal du Midi**, an engineering marvel connecting the Mediterranean and Atlantic oceans.
- ▶ Journey to **Cordes-sur-Ciel**, a delightful village floating in the clouds.
- ▶ Witness the picture-perfect fortress city of **Carcassonne**.

## Dear Johns Hopkins Alumni and Friends,

Join us to celebrate the soul of France's southwest region on a seven-night journey. A warren of half-timbered homes and cobbled lanes, Albi serves as your base for enriching, countryside excursions and visits to glorious towns.

A world of wonders awaits in this irresistible region, including masterpieces by Toulouse-Lautrec, spellbinding vistas and medieval fortresses, plus a revolutionary 17th-century waterway. We'll meet gracious locals on their family farms and visit Toulouse, discovering the allure of the city's pink stone landmarks. Witness the unique, cantilevered houses of Castres, venture to Carcassonne, Europe's largest fortress, and cruise through history along the Canal du Midi. From the palpable effervescence of hilltop Cordes-sur-Ciel to the delightful flavors of Gaillac wine and regional cuisine, this captivating journey will leave you with inimitable memories.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration. Enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group and, during free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries! Space on this exclusive journey is limited, and the trip is sure to sell out quickly, so make your reservations today!

Sincerely,



Marguerite I. Jones, A&S '74, Bus '88  
Travel Program Director,  
Office of Alumni Relations  
The Johns Hopkins University

**AHI: 800-323-7373**

**[www.alumni.jhu.edu](http://www.alumni.jhu.edu)**

Carcassonne





### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Toulouse, France. 🌐

### Day 2 | Toulouse, France | Albi

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to Albi and check in to the Mercure Albi Bastides.

Gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner with your fellow travelers this evening.

### Day 3 | Albi

#### **Enrichment: Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.**

Delve into the intriguing life of this brilliant 19th-century French artist whose art gave an insider's look into Paris' bohemian era.

#### **Discovery: Musée Toulouse-Lautrec.**

Step inside the Berbie Palace to visit the Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, home to the world's largest collection of art by Albi native Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. This intriguing collection features many of Toulouse-Lautrec's world-famous posters depicting Montmartre's working-class neighborhoods and lifestyles.

**Discovery: Walking Tour of Albi.** Albi is nestled along the Tarn River and boasts a remarkable collection of Gothic architecture. Revel in the vastness of Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile, which dominates the city center. Built between 1280 and 1492, the cathedral has many elaborate carvings, a unique brick façade and an exquisitely painted interior.

Enjoy an authentic lunch of regional cuisine.

#### **Discovery: Cruising the Tarn River.**

Board a *gabare*, a traditional flat-bottomed wooden boat, for a cruise along the Tarn River.

### Day 4 | Montauban

#### **🌐AHI Connects: Country Encounters.**

Meet the owners of a family-run dairy farm. Managed by two sisters who are passionate about animal welfare, the farm uses both



Above: Place Nationale, Montauban  
Inset: Dairy farm visit, Montauban

innovative and traditional milking methods and is home to chickens, sheep, cows and rabbits. Tour the farm and taste the delicious cheese made on the property. Next, journey through the hills to a winery that produces a variety of delectable red, rosé and white wines. Learn how the owners create bold, rich flavors through a combination of old and modern techniques. Then sample their wine varietals and tour the winery. Continue to the Degan family farm and settle in for a lunch made with seasonal, locally sourced ingredients.

**Discovery: Tour of Montauban.** Enjoy a visit to Montauban's historic center, a warren of medieval, cobbled lanes and neoclassical buildings. View the city's graceful architecture and the Place Nationale, an inviting central square bordered with pretty arcades and blush-hued buildings. Then step inside the newly renovated Musée Ingres to browse collections by Montauban native Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres and other artists.



Cordes-sur-Ciel in the Midi-Pyrénées Countryside

## Day 5 | Castres | Carcassonne

**Discovery: Castres.** Visit Castres, viewing half-timbered craftsmen houses along the Agout River. Once home to tanners, paper makers and dyers, these colorful houses stand tribute to the town's storied success in the trade and textile industries.

**Discovery: Canal du Midi Cruise.** Glide on Europe's oldest canal on a leisurely cruise. Selected as a UNESCO World Heritage site because of its amazing mechanical and engineering advancements, the canal snakes its way through the land's natural contours and reveals epic views of the medieval city.

**Discovery: Welcome to Carcassonne!** Join your guide for an introduction to this walled, medieval citadel, which boasts over 1.5 miles of defensive ramparts as well as draw bridges, towers, spires and fountains.

**Free Time:** Enjoy time at leisure to enjoy the city's fairy-tale ambience. Perhaps visit the Château Comtal, a fortress with over 31 towers, or the Saint-Nazaire Basilica, home to vivid stained-glass windows.

## Day 6 | Toulouse

**Discovery: Walking Tour of Toulouse.** Explore "La Ville Rose." Located in the heart of France, many of the city's façades are constructed of red brick, creating a delightful, harmonious vision of rosy hues throughout the town. Begin at the Place du Capitole, a vast plaza anchored by classic 18th- and 19th-century buildings, including the Capitole, a grand structure with eight imposing columns. Visit the Basilica Saint-Sernin, Europe's largest surviving Romanesque church and a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is considered by many to be the most glorious of all churches along the Way of St. James. Stroll along the water-



front and through the city's old quarter, home to elegant restaurants, shady squares, trendy cafes and whimsical shops.

Relax over lunch at a local establishment.

**Enrichment: The Cathars and the Albigensian Crusade.** Join a local expert to learn about the turbulent relationship between the Catholic Church and the Cathars.

## Day 7 | Cordes-sur-Ciel

**Discovery: Cordes-sur-Ciel and Gaillac Wine.** Travel through the stunning Midi-Pyrénées countryside to Cordes-sur-Ciel, a village built high on a hill by the Cathars to protect themselves from papal crusaders. Meander along the cobbled streets, viewing Gothic buildings constructed between 1280 and 1350, and marvel at sweeping views of the Cérou valley below.

Indulge in lunch at a charming local restaurant.

Continue traveling through France's oldest wine-producing region. Visit a local winery for a tasting of Gaillac wines. Often characterized by delicate, dry whites and rich, fruity reds, Gaillac wines are sure to delight your palate.

## Day 8 | Albi

**Enrichment: Contemporary France.** Examine France's modern-day political, economic and social status.



### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Historic Fortified City of Carcassonne
2. Episcopal City of Albi
3. Canal du Midi
4. Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France (Saint Sernin Basilica)

**Free Time:** Craft your own adventure in Albi today. You may wish to search for treasures along the narrow pedestrian streets or find a special riverside viewpoint to revel in splendid panoramas of Albi’s architecture and bridges.

Toast to your French adventure tonight as you join a Farewell Reception, followed by a Farewell Dinner.

### Day 9 | In Transit

Transfer to Toulouse 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.

### Accommodations

(with baggage handling)

- **7 nights** in Albi, France, at the first-class Mercure Albi Bastides.

### Transfers

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program, plus baggage handling.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
  - Uncover the life and work of the famous French artist Toulouse-Lautrec.
  - Discover Albi on a walking tour, followed by a cruise on the Tarn River.
  - See Montauban’s treasures and sites.
  - Witness incredible architecture in Toulouse.
  - Journey to Cordes-sur-Ciel and visit a Gaillac winery.
  - Marvel at the colorful houses perched along the Agout River in Castres.
  - Enjoy a cruise on the Canal du Midi.
  - Delight in Carcassonne, a stunning medieval citadel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- 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.

Below: Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile, Albi



### A Note About Activity Levels

We want you to have a comfortable and enjoyable experience. That’s why we have rated all of our excursions with activity levels to help you assess this program’s physical expectations. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available. Please call or visit our website to review the itinerary for full details about our activity levels.

### Excursions on this program require:

- ▶ walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces
- ▶ getting on/off motor coaches and boats

## 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** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **Passenger Service Representative** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **Travel Information** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

### *Once you arrive:*

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ▶ **Travel Director** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



## MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES | ALBI



Our travel experts have carefully selected this first-class property for its prime location. The hotel is ideally located for exploring the region's highlights, villages and landmarks, while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in Albi's local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to fully enjoy your stay.

## Reserve your Albi adventure today!

Trip #:6-25144W

Send to Undiscovered France  
The Johns Hopkins University  
c/o AHI Travel  
International Tower-Suite 600  
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60631

Please contact AHI Travel at **800-323-7373** with questions regarding this tour. For questions regarding Johns Hopkins, please call **800-JHU-JHU1(548-5481)** or Email: **travel@jhu.edu**.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_ (Form sent separately)

**I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:**

### Land Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Toulouse, France, to depart from:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Departure City

### Land Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

### Single Accommodations

I prefer single accommodations (supplement waived, limited availability).

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by **March 12, 2020** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

**Note:** A small portion of the cost of your trip supports the Johns Hopkins Alumni Travel Program.

**Eligibility:** At least one member of the traveling party is required to make a sustaining financial contribution of \$50 or more to the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association within the fiscal year. Please visit [alumni.jhu.edu/support](http://alumni.jhu.edu/support).

I understand the conditions stated in this brochure and submit my reservation as indicated.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 pp required) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

Accept my check made payable to **AHI Travel**.

Charge my:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  Amex

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature as it appears on credit card)

**Please note:** Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.



## PROGRAM DATES

**Air Program dates:** May 26 – June 3, 2020

**Land Program dates:** May 27 – June 3, 2020

## LAND PROGRAM

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
\$3,245	\$250	\$2,995

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

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).

**Single supplement waived for solo travelers!** This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

### Let us arrange your flights!

**AHI FlexAir** | 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 reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights.
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays.
- ▶ **flight insurance** worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms.

### Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.



**ULTIMATE FLEXIBILITY**-The AHI Travel Passenger Protection Plan offers an **Any Reason Cancellation** feature. Don't worry! Travel happy!

**NOT INCLUDED**-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas; entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; airport transfer costs for those not participating in AHI's FlexAir; all items of a strictly personal nature.

**MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL**-The right is retained to decline, to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION**-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare.

**VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for arrival and departure transfers, and any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

**BAGGAGE**-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

**AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS**-On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

**RESPONSIBILITY**-AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

**CANCELLATION**-All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. You may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following. The credit will be applied to the final billing and may not be used as part of the initial deposit. It is non-transferable and is not valid toward the purchase of an AHI Cruises independent cruise. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 15% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI Travel. **CANCELLATION OF TRIP OPTIONS**-Purchases of optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights become fully non-refundable 45 days prior to departure. Air transportation and private transfer purchases are subject only to penalties assessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers.

**AHI: 800-323-7373**

**www.alumni.jhu.edu**



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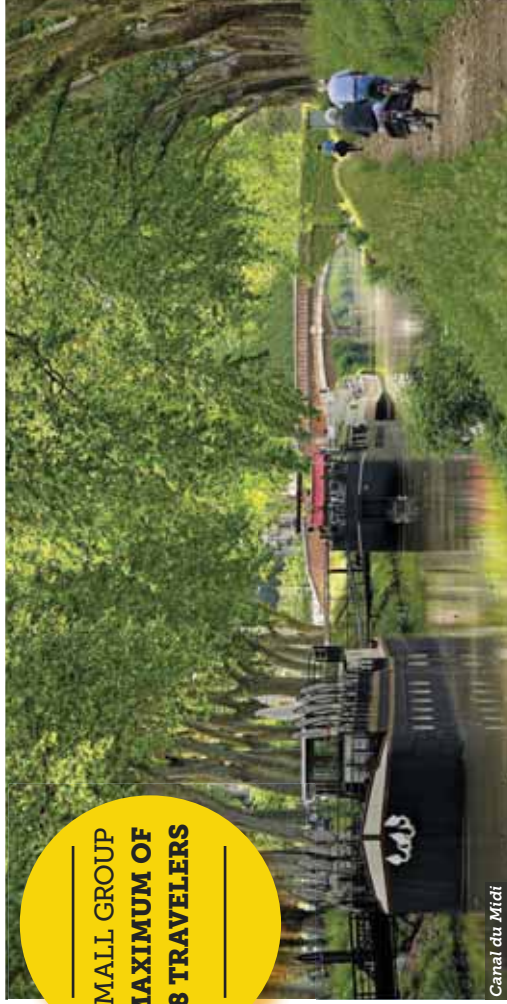
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Baltimore, MD 21218

**800-323-7373**  
**[www.alumni.jhu.edu](http://www.alumni.jhu.edu)**



**SMALL GROUP  
MAXIMUM OF  
28 TRAVELERS**



Canal dtr. Mfctd

## Celebrate the soul of France in the delightful southwest region!

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel 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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