



# PRE- AND POST-PROGRAM OPTIONS

## *Town & Country Life® Languedoc*

*October 6 to 14, 2018*

We are pleased to offer you these Pre- and Post-Program Options to further enhance your journey.

To book your Pre- and/or Post-Program Options, please complete the enclosed reservation form. Reservations and payment in full are due in the offices of Gohagan & Company no later than **July 3, 2018**. The Pre- and/or Post-Program Options may not be available for purchase after this date.



*A masterpiece of Gothic architecture, the apse of Les Jacobins features a soaring, 22-branched stylized palm vaulted ceiling.*

### **GOLDEN AGE OF TOULOUSE PRE-PROGRAM OPTION**

October 4 to 7, 2018

A medieval university town and, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Europe's second largest city, Toulouse—*la ville rose* (the pink city)—lies along the sun-kissed banks of the Garonne River in the idyllic south of France. Explore extraordinary Gothic-style Les Jacobins, the first Dominican monastery in the world, established in France in 1216. The monastery became the founding institution of Toulouse University in 1229, its bell tower, completed in 1294, rang to mark the time for classes. Walk through Toulouse's centuries-old cobblestone streets and discover its most impressive Romanesque and Gothic churches built between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, including the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Saint-Sernin Basilica—a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest Romanesque basilica in Europe, built to accommodate religious pilgrims en route to Santiago de Compostela. Visit the Musée des Augustins, Toulouse's captivating fine art museum and one of the oldest museums in France, just after the Louvre in Paris. Its collection is comprised of French sculpture and painting from the Middle Ages to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Enjoy ample time at leisure to explore the charms of Toulouse at your own pace, strolling along the Garonne River, window-shopping on the Rue Alsace Lorraine and watching the French go by in Place St-Georges. Accommodations for two nights are in the ideally located GRAND HOTEL DE L'OPERA in Toulouse.



*Toulouse's impressive UNESCO World Heritage-designated Saint-Sernin Basilica is the largest Romanesque structure in Europe.*

*Day 1* Depart the U.S. or Canada

*Day 2* Arrive Toulouse, France

*Day 3* Toulouse

*Day 4* Toulouse/Albi

#### **Included Features:**

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Accommodations for two nights in the deluxe GRAND HOTEL DE L'OPERA, inclusive of taxes and service.
- ◆ Breakfast each morning.
- ◆ Walking tour of Toulouse featuring a visit to the French-Gothic Les Jacobins, the first Dominican monastery, founded by Saint Dominic in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and the Musée des Augustins, the second oldest museum in France.
- ◆ Time at leisure to experience the delights of Toulouse at your own pace.
- ◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water provided on motorcoaches during excursions.
- ◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Program Director to accompany you throughout the Pre-Program.
- ◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.

\$740 USD per person, double occupancy.

\$1040 USD per person, single occupancy.

## **MEDIEVAL CATHAR MYSTIQUE POST-PROGRAM OPTION**

October 14 to 17, 2018

Deep in the heart of *Pays Cathare* stand the storied castles and fortified towns—rich with beguiling mystery and religious intrigue—built on the foothills of the Pyrénées Mountains and in the Corbières and the Ariège mountains. On the outskirts of Limoux, by the bend of the River Aude, sits the Notre-Dame de Marceille, a 14<sup>th</sup>-century Gothic basilica enhanced by its lovely setting and local mystique; the sanctuary's Black Madonna statue, theorized to date back to 1011, was believed by some to possess miraculous healing properties. Visit scenic Alet-les-Bains, a medieval market town built on a natural hot spring and known for its mineral water. Continue to the enigmatic hilltop village of Rennes-le-Château, with its centuries-old legends of the Holy Grail, Mary Magdalene and the Knights Templar, and tour the fascinating Bérenger Saunière Museum, displaying artifacts uncovered in the area from prehistoric times to the Roman occupation. Walk through the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene, its gardens and vicarage, where churches dedicated to the Virgin Mary were built and rebuilt upon this same site beginning in the eighth century.

Spend a full day traversing the mountainous and fabled land of the Cathars, a Christian denomination that flourished during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries in this historic region of Languedoc. The Cathars took refuge in these monumental defensive castles, which became the center of Catharism in the Middle Ages. Ascend the path to the rocky spur where the well-preserved Quéribus, site of the Cathars' last stand, overlooks the sprawling Roussillon Plain. One of the "Five Sons of Carcassonne," this precariously perched promontory offers some of the most stunning elevated views in southern France. Walk the medieval lanes of *petite* Cucugnan, a village built around a vine-encircled hill, at the top of which you will see its iconic 17<sup>th</sup>-century windmill. Following lunch in a local restaurant, savor a specially arranged tasting of the region's famous Blanquette de Limoux, the world's first sparkling wine, at a historic, family-owned wine estate.



*The hilltop ruins of Château de Quéribus were listed as a monument historique by the French Ministry of Culture in 1907.*

In the 10<sup>th</sup>-century bastide town of Mirepoix, see the picturesque Place de Couverts, an arcaded main square of half-timbered houses dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and stop in the Cathedral of Saint Maurice, the second largest single-naved church in Europe. Visit the small village of Vals and walk through its mysterious, rock-hewn troglodyte Church of Sainte-Marie—an incredible, isolated church carved out of monolithic rock. Follow a staircase through a cleft in the rock to see impressive Romanesque frescos depicting the life of Christ painted across the vaulting of the cathedral. Nearby, visit medieval Château de Foix, an imposing fortress built in the year 1000. Set atop an outcrop overlooking an awe-inspiring medieval town with scenic views of the Pyrenees, the château was once home to Henry III of Navarre, who later became Henri IV, king of France.

Accommodations for three nights are in the charming CHÂTEAU DES DUCS DE JOYEUSE, an authentic 16<sup>th</sup>-century castle converted into a hotel in the scenic village of Couiza. *Please note: the CHÂTEAU DES DUCS DE JOYEUSE does not have an elevator and all guestrooms are on the second and third levels.*

*Day 1* Floure, France/Limoux/Alets-les-Bains/  
Rennes-le-Château/Couiza

*Day 2* Couiza/Quéribus/Cucugnan/Couiza

*Day 3* Couiza/Mirepoix/Vals/Foix/Couiza

*Day 4* Couiza/Toulouse/

Return to the U.S. or Canada

### Included Features:

- ◆ Accommodations for three nights in the charming CHÂTEAU DES DUCS DE JOYEUSE, inclusive of taxes and service.
- ◆ Breakfast each morning, three lunches and one dinner.
- ◆ Visit to the 14<sup>th</sup>-century, Gothic Basilique Notre-Dame de Marceille in Limoux.
- ◆ Visit to the medieval town of Alets-les-Bains, known for the secret symbols hidden in its streets and the healing properties of its mineral water, including lunch.
- ◆ Tour of the mysterious and sensational commune of Rennes-le-Château, including visits to the Bérenger Saunière Museum and the symbolic Church of Saint Mary Magdalene.
- ◆ Visit to the hilltop Château de Quéribus, the last of the Cathar strongholds, for breathtaking views over the Roussillon Plain, the Albères and Canigou Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea.
- ◆ Walking tour of the commune of Cucugnan, featuring its landmark 17<sup>th</sup>-century windmill—still in use today, with lunch.
- ◆ Blanquette de Limoux wine tasting at Domaine St. Jacques, operated by the same family for three generations.
- ◆ Visit to Mirepoix, known for the handcarved wooden animal figures that adorn its 13<sup>th</sup>-century La Maison des Consuls mansion and guesthouse.
- ◆ Excursion to the Sainte-Marie Rock Church, carved into the cliffside in Vals.
- ◆ Visit to Château de Foix, dating from the Middle Ages and offering magnificent views of the Pyrénées Mountains, with lunch.
- ◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water provided on motorcoaches during excursions.
- ◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Program Director to accompany you throughout the Post-Program.
- ◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).

\$1625 USD per person, double occupancy.

\$1925 USD per person, single occupancy.



***Please note:** Each Pre-Program Option and/or Post-Program Option is sold as a separate package; individual services and/or Included Features of the Pre-Program Option and/or Post-Program Option cannot be purchased individually.*

**PRE-PROGRAM OPTION AND POST-PROGRAM OPTION  
CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY**

In the event you have to cancel your reservation, cancellation policies as outlined in your travel program brochure apply. **These policies are strictly enforced.** Cancellations for all or any part of the trip will not be effective until they are received **in writing** in the offices of Gohagan & Company.

*A minimum of 18 participants per program is required for the Golden Age of Toulouse Pre-Program and the Medieval Cathar Mystique Post-Program Options to operate.*

