



BLUE 360°
professional meeting advisors



AQUITAINE & MIDI-PYRENEES

A BLUE 360° project for 20 persons

DAY I

Leaving Biarritz toward Lourdes: see the Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Lourdes, among other attractions not to be missed, like the castle (Chateau) and the Pic du Jer funicular, which offer you the most beautiful panoramic views from Lourdes, as the city of Lourdes is not only a pilgrims place...



The thousand-year-old Chateau fortress, which has never been conquered, is a listed historical monument and since 1921, it has housed the Pyrenean Museum, which presents the most important collections on the history of the French and Spanish Pyrenees.



This site offers exceptional views of the city, the Sanctuaries and the Pyrenees. Within its walls there is also a botanical garden at the foot of the 14th-century keep.



Visit of the fortress, followed by the ascent with funicular

Lunch at Des Petits Pois Sont Rouges, that offers Pyrenean culinary heritage with welcome innovations.

DAY I

After lunch you'll discover the most important Sanctuaries.

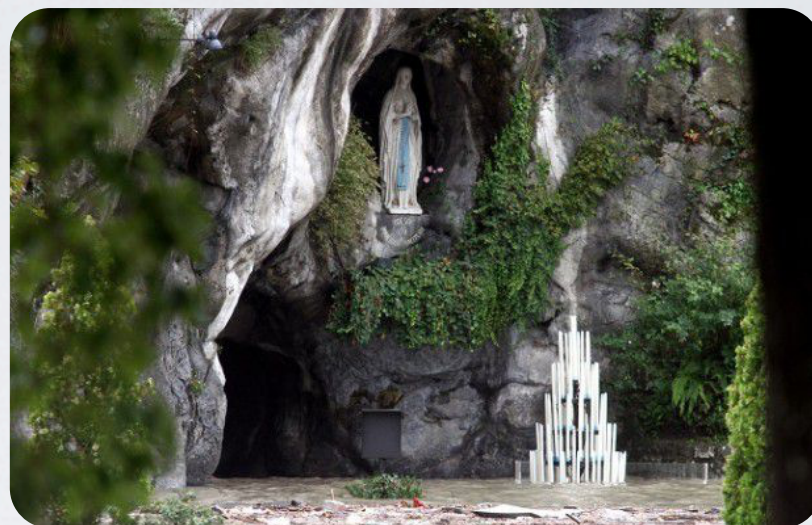
- The Grotto of Massabielle is the place where the Virgin appeared in 1858 to Bernadette a 14-year-old girl from Lourdes.
- The Basilica of the Rosary, in the Romano-Byzantine style, with its ornamentation of Venetian mosaics spread over a surface area of 2 000m².
- The Basilica of St. Pius X, which has capacity for 25000 people, decorated with 39 paintings depicting various saints and blessed people, and also by 52 gemmaux.
- The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Its stained glass windows tell the story of the Virgin Mary up until the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception by Pope Pius IX in 1854

Check in

Time to refresh

Dinner will be at Le Viscos
A fine establishment that looks a little like a doll's house. Located onto a pleasant square in the village of Saint-Savin, 15 min from Lourdes, with superb cuisine.

Overnight



DAY I

or at Michel Sarran



DAY 2

Today you'll admire the Cirque de Gavarnie, part of the Pyrenees - Mont Perdu area that became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty that is also part of the Pyrenees National Park. It is extremely unusual in being listed on the basis of both natural and cultural criteria. Only a handful of sites around the world have been given this double distinction, such as Mount Taishan in China and the Sanctuary of Machu Picchu in Peru. The surroundings provide a striking insight into how the Pyrenees were formed. In places you see the thrust faults that occurred in the early Tertiary period, rising to an altitude of 3,000 metres, and in others, the sheer walls of the cirques eroded in the Quaternary by glaciers of unimaginable size.

Lunch at L'Abri du Benques
This restaurant has a magical setting on the Pont d'Espagne mountain road surrounded by rushing streams. It serves modern cuisine to a backdrop of contemporary decor.



DAY 2

Continuing to the Pic du Midi de Bigorre, one of the most majestic summits in the Hautes-Pyrénées, renowned for the beauty of its landscape and also for its astronomy observatory.

To reach the summit of the Pic du Midi, you will be carried away on a magnificent ascent: you will climb 1,000 metres in 15 minutes in a cable car, just time to give you a foretaste before reaching the peak at 2,877 metres, where you can gaze upon 300 km of Pyrenees summits between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and on the plains of the great South West. The splendor of the landscapes warranted the Pic du Midi being listed as a national natural site in 2003.

Dinner there on the heights before returning to Lourdes

Overnight



DAY 3

Check out and transfer to Aquensis, where water is the ultimate luxury.

The little thermal spa town of Bagnères de Bigorre, once known as the 'Athens of the Pyrenees', is home to a recreational & treatment spa that lives up to its historical pedigree. Aquensis, which has its home in the 19th century wing of Bagnères Casino, in an area of 3,000 m²., is indeed a magnificent place of thermal water recreation, that links between the mountains and forests of the Pyrenees. When you pass through the doors of Aquensis you cannot fail to be struck by the amazing larch heartwood roof structure that spans the area above the central pool, like a cathedral singing the praises of spa pleasures! Time to relax.

Lunch will be at Le Chateau de la Mandre. In this imposing town house the chef concocts fine traditional dishes. The result is both fully flavoured and colourful. For example, the scallops served with a mango mille-feuille. A lovely spot!



DAY 3

After lunch, continuing to Toulouse, France's fourth-largest metropolis.

Ochre rooftops and blushing brick churches earned Toulouse the nickname 'La Ville Rose' (the pink city). Its enchanting Vieux Quartier (Old Quarter) is a dreamy jumble of coral-colored shopfronts and churches. It's an animated, hectic place, but Toulouse – nestled between a bend in the Garonne River and the mighty Canal du Midi – is invigorated by its waterways.

At arrival, check in

Dinner will be at Michelin 2 stars awarded Michel Sarran restaurant.

Slightly out of the city centre, Michel Sarran's restaurant is the reference in Toulouse. It would be a sacrilege not to salute such well-executed cooking, which clearly bears the stamp of the chef's personality and showcases exceptional ingredients. The interior decor was redesigned in 2013 and also pays homage to the region.



DAY 4

After breakfast, ready to discover the city....At the foot of the mighty, snow-capped Pyrénées Mountains, Toulouse is a city committed to its graceful past centuries, boasting fine medieval architecture such as the 11th-century Basilica Saint Sernin and Pont-Neuf, a constructed beauty arcing in graceful stonework across the Garonne River. Toulouse, however, also has eyes for the future: It is home to the Toulouse Space Center (CST), Europe's largest, and dozens of other aerospace groups. While the modern city of Toulouse sprawls, the historic district remains small and pedestrian-friendly. Indeed, this is the best way to navigate the ancient, narrow streets, built long before the automobile, and visit most of the monuments and museums.

Possibility to visit the Airbus A380 assembly factory, where the world's fastest planes are displayed, or the City of Space, a theme park focused on space and the conquest of space.



DAY 4

Lunch at Le Bibent

An excellent location in the heart of the Pink City, and a superb Belle Epoque decor.

Visit of the historic fortified city of Carcassonne.

Perched on a rocky hilltop and bristling with zigzag battlements, stout walls and spiky turrets, Carcassonne looks like something out of a children's storybook when it's seen from afar. A Unesco World Heritage Site since 1997, it's most people's idea of the perfect medieval castle.

La Cité, as the old walled town is now known, attracts over four million visitors every year, that appreciate the old town's medieval charm.

Back to Toulouse,.

Dinner at Py-r, one Michelin star
This superb, contemporary restaurant in which white predominates is in a little street in Toulouse's old town. In the kitchens, young chef Pierre Clément creates inventive and skillfully composed market cuisine.



DAY 5

Check out

Visit of the Episcopal city of Albi, one of the most attractive of France's small cities, birth place of the French artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and listed as UNESCO World Heritage site. The old city of Albi reflects the culmination of a medieval architectural and urban ensemble.

Lunch en route to Bordeaux at Les Templiers, a 16C house has retained much of its original charm. The chef believes in 'tradition, which guarantees quality' and 'innovation, rather than routine', ensuring both authenticity and creativity.

At arrival, check in

Dinner at Le Chapon Fin
Local institution that wins you over thanks to both its Rococo interior, created in 1901, and the finesse of the food, which is moderately inventive and pleasantly tangy. Not to mention the selection of Bordeaux wines, which are superb!



DAY 6

In the morning, visit of Sant Emilion, a charming village located to the east of Bordeaux and classified on UNESCO's World Heritage List. A monk, called Emilion, who live in the 8th century, decided to settle there and to set up his own monastery. He gave his name to the town after becoming a Saint in the 11th century. Thanks to its proximity to the Dordogne River that flows past the foot of the town, and to the commercial trade that occurred on the river, the town became rapidly rich.

The undulating chalky landscape of the Saint Emilion area provides the perfect drainage to the vines

Lunch in an imposing turn-of-the-century chateau surrounded by the revered Saint-Emilion vineyards, that stands out against the skyline with its fairy-tale turrets and spires, Château Grand Barrail.

Back to Bordeaux



DAY 6

Discover the city from the Garonne River...

This hub of the famed wine-growing region is among France's most exciting, vibrant and dynamic cities.

Known for its Gothic Cathédrale Saint-André, 18th- to 19th-century mansions and notable art museums such as the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux. Public gardens line the curving river quays.

Enter into the shipping past and the history of the city built on the thriving wine trade: passing under the lifting bridge between Pont de Pierre and Pont d'Aquitaine. One hour cruise, then continuing by bus.

Dinner at L'Iguane, a gastronomic restaurant in Merignac.



DAY 7

Full immersion in the wine world!

Visit & tasting at Château Pape Clément, located in Pessac, near Bordeaux, which owes its name to its most famous owner—Pope Clement V.



The property is divided into three major plots with distinct characteristics and several smaller plots scattered around the village.

Vines are planted at high densities, between 7700 and 9000 plants per hectare. Red varieties (57 hectares) divided into 60 % Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. White varieties (3 hectares) 45% Sauvignon blanc, 45% Semillon and 10% Muscadelle.



Lunch at the property

Visit of Château Smith Haut Lafitte, nestled in a 78-hectare vineyard, with its 16th century tower, its underground cellar where 1000 barrels are resting, its cooperage and its unique reception rooms.



CREATE YOUR “OWN” WINE!

Become a winemaker, producing your own barrel of high-end Bordeaux wine.

That’s 288 bottles, personalized and custom-blended to fit your palette and reflect your personality.

The winemaking experience lasts from 6 months (if you choose to ‘adopt’ existing wine components) to 24 months (from vineyard to bottle).

Throughout the process, you are encouraged to be active participants and make the key decisions that go into producing a premium wine – from selecting the vineyards and varietals to finalizing your own blend and creating your own brand and label.

You get to choose your level of involvement and the professional staff, as well as the winemakers at Château Lynch-Bages and Eric Boissenot, renowned oenologist and advisor to four of Bordeaux’s five 1855 first-classified growths, are all on hand to guide you every step of the way.



DAY 8

Transfer to the airport
accordingly your flight schedule

