

# France – Champagne to Burgundy



## Trip Summary

Explore two of the world's most famous wine regions, Champagne and Burgundy in this epic journey to the heart of France. Pop a cork on a hot air balloon ride and enjoy a real Champagne sunset over the heart of the famed vineyards. See the storied houses on the Rue de Champagne while taking a stroll in Epernay. Visit the historic Cathedral of Notre Dame de Reims where over 25 kings were crowned within its stone walls. Discover Dijon's palaces and plaza's, before embarking on a Burgundian gastronomic experience. Sample cheeses and pastries at the sensational farmers market in Beaune. Cycling and hiking through vineyards we'll stop for tastings at some of our favorites from the region.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Epernay

After meeting in Paris, we'll transfer to the Champagne region to explore the historic Reims Cathedral of Notre Dame, the traditional coronation location for French Kings • After lunch, kayak through the cool Champagne waterways near Epernay, past weeping willow trees and war memorials that fill the region • Find out what makes the people of Champagne so cheerful as you toast (with Champagne of course) to the start of a fantastic voyage at tonight's dinner • *Overnight at Villa Eugene (L, D)*

### Day 2: Epernay

Ride past meticulously cared for vineyards and learn about what it takes to make a great Champagne on today's loop bicycle ride • Traverse through gentle rolling hills of chalky soil Champagne is famous for that gives the beverage it's crisp clean taste • Take a stroll along the Rue de Champagne, the most famous street in the region with dozens of elegant Champagne houses, and a grand city hall garden • Enjoy a tasting with a local wine maker before tonight's dinner in town • *Overnight at Villa Eugene (B, L, D)*

### Day 3: Epernay

Float above endless vineyards on a Hot Air Balloon journey (in the country where Ballooning was invented) taking in breathtaking views of a classic French landscape • We'll hike from village to village with area wine makers sampling a plethora of local paté with a delectable regional pastry, le Gateau Rose • This afternoon we'll go off road as we tour the countryside and vineyard by 4 wheels on an unforgettable buggy ride • Although tonight's dinner is technically not included, you might be enjoying it above ground if the weather permits • *Overnight at Villa Eugene (B, L)*

### Day 4: Gevrey-Chambertin

Arrive early in the town of Dijon, the ancient capital of the Dukes of Burgundy, with time to explore the Musée des Beaux-Arts and the gargoyle-studded church of Notre Dame • Ride from Gevrey-Chambertin to Château de Marsannay for a tour of the impressive 35-hectares estate and wine tasting • Later, enjoy an extraordinary dinner before retiring to your room for the night • *Overnight at Hotel les Grand Crus (B, L, D)*

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## **Day 5: Beaune**

Today's bike ride will take you along the gently rolling "Route du Grand Cru" to villages like Chambolle-Musigny and Nuits-St.-Georges on the way to Beaune • Take a break from your ride for a tour of Chateau du Clos de Vougeot • Continue riding through beautiful vineyards until you reach the prestigious wine town of Beaune • Once there, enjoy a tour of the spectacular Hotel Dieu, founded as a hospital for the poor in 1443 • *Overnight at Hotel le Cep and Spa (B, L)*

## **Day 6: Beaune**

Wake up to a great breakfast before heading out on another adventure • Hop on your bike and pedal to the Chateau de Rochepot • Learn the history behind this reconstructed castle before heading out to explore more quaint and beautiful villages • The serene landscapes of this area will have your head turning the entire ride • Once back in Beaune, treat yourself to a wine tasting before an amazing meal at tonight's farewell dinner at the hotel • *Overnight at Hotel le Cep and Spa (B, D)*

## **Day 7: Paris**

Enjoy a hot breakfast before being transferred to Paris for your departure home • *No overnight (B)*

*\*\*Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

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## Activities

### Cycling:

Day 2 bicycle mileage options: 14 / 24

Day 4 bicycle mileage options: 7

Day 5 bicycle mileage options: 31 / 34

Day 6 bicycle mileage options: 22 / 28

### Hiking:

Day 3 Hiking mileage options: 3 / 6

Day 4 Hiking mileage options: 2 / 4

### Kayaking:

Day 1 options: 6 / 8 mi

**Discovery:** Can there be a better place to slow down and catch one's breath than in Champagne and Burgundy? Not when the landscape is so inviting, and the scent of grapes is always in the air! We'll savor world class wines and richly textured cuisine as we explore the very heart of both Champagne and Burgundy. In Beaune, visit the old medieval hospital Hôtel-Dieu, a marvel of Burgundian-Flemish art. Our gentle route follows ancient roads through vineyards and farms, to quaint villages and tiny wine towns. Learn why the limestone soils play such an important role in allowing the particular characteristics of the vines to develop. Sample Pinot Noir (red) and Chardonnay (white) wines and let the product speak for itself. This is a perfect opportunity to relax and enjoy one of the world's most prized 'routes des vins'!

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They take the time to explain the local history and daily sightseeing and route options. Each route has been carefully planned to include options to please each traveler's interests. Austin Adventures guides are available to help you select the distance that's right for you and to offer advice and assistance as you desire.

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## Distinctive Accommodation

### Nights 1-3: Villa Eugene

Situated in a 19th-century mansion that once belonged to the Mercier family, this elegant boutique hotel just steps away from world renowned champagne producers. With refined rooms featuring Louis XVI-style decor with oversized windows and updated bathrooms. A breakfast buffet is served in an elegant glass-walled dining room. There's a stylish bar, plus a heated outdoor pool and terrace.

### Night 4: Hotel des Grand Crus

Surrounded by vineyards, this quaint hotel in the French countryside offers you a relaxing stay amidst beautiful views that combine for a truly unforgettable experience. Each of the beautiful, simple, and classic rooms offers a magnificent view of the hotel's surroundings and a calming environment to help you wind down at the end of the day.

### Nights 5 & 6: Hotel le Cep and Spa

Conveniently situated in the heart of Burgundy's wine country and close to Beaune's historic city center, Hotel le Cep has everything you could want. Each room is decorated with its own personality but each is done so beautifully and charmingly. Enjoy modern amenities and luxury disguised with historical and beautiful elegance. Not to mention a spa that includes cryotherapy!

### Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

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## Arrival and Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Paris. On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby of Grand Hotel Bedford (eighth arrondissement) in Paris at 8:30 a.m. After a transfer to Reims for a tour of the Cathedral and then lunch, we then transfer to the outskirts of Epernay for Kayaking. After breakfast on Day 7, we take you to the airport, train station, or the hotel of your choice in Paris (3.5-hour transfer).

## Trip Price

\$3,998 (\$880 single supplement)

## Trip Length

7 days/ 6 nights

## 2021 Dates

August 29-September 4, 2021

September 26-October 2, 2021

## Host City:

Begin and End: Paris, France  
(Airport Code: CDG or ORY)

## Reservations & Availability

1.800.575.1540

*Slow down and smell the grapes  
in beautiful Champagne & Burgundy*

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## Trip Reservations

### Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

**Toll free:** 800.575.1540

**Phone:** 406.655.4591

**Online:** [austinadventures.com](http://austinadventures.com)

**Email:** [reservations@austinadventures.com](mailto:reservations@austinadventures.com)

**Mail:** Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

\* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

\*\* We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

### Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners as listed by day. Snacks along the route.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Bikes, helmets and other necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local guide and expert gratuities.

### Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

### Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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## Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

## Solo Travelers

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement". If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. We at Austin Adventures will do our best to match you with a suitable roommate of the same gender before departure. If you book 90 days or more before the trip and we cannot find you a roommate, 50% of the private room cost will be due at final payment time. If you book within 90 days of departure and we cannot find you a roommate, the full private room charge will be applied. If we do find you a roommate between final payment and before the trip departs, we will refund the single supplement amount paid. Some exceptions apply.

## Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

## Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

\*\*\*As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

**Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure** – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

**Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure** – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

**Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure** – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure** – No refund is given

## Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.