



French Alps-Burgundy 2021

■ May 16-28 ■ Group limited to 16

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all with private bath
- Transportation in comfortable van or mini-bus • Outstanding cuisine
- Château visits • Picnic with local produce • Fabulous outdoor markets
- The wine villages of Burgundy • Numerous shopping opportunities
- Walled city of **Beaune** and its Hospice • **Annecey**, beauty by the lake
- The wines of Burgundy, considered by many to be France's best
- **Château of Chillon**, Switzerland • Pretty villages: **Pérouges**, **Vézelay**
- Old, walled town of **Yvoire** • Lunch with wine, **Domaine Olivier Leflaive**
- Boat ride on **Lake Annecey** • High mountain scenery, glaciers, canyons
- **Lyon**, France's cosmopolitan yet relaxed second city

Tour cost – \$4,295 per person • For a single room, add \$550 • To book, call (800) 676-1247

TOUR SUMMARY

Tour begins, ends at Lyon airport

FLY FROM U.S. – Leave May 14, arrive Lyon May 15 (overnight, NH Hotel Lyon Airport)
TOUR BEGINS – At 9 a.m. Sunday, May 16, NH Hotel Lyon Airport
TOUR ENDS – May 28, in the morning, in Lyon (you will fly home from Lyon today)
12 TOUR NIGHTS • TOUR MEALS – Breakfast daily, plus eight lunches and dinners

■ Day 1 (Sunday, May 16)

Our tour begins at 9 a.m. in the lobby of our pre-tour hotel, the NH, at Lyon's **St. Exupéry Airport**. Soon after boarding our *Intimate France* van we arrive at the ravishing village of **Pérouges**, inscribed on the list of the **Most Beautiful Villages of France**. After free time, we continue to our home for the next three nights – **Annecey**, bordering the Alpine lake of the same name. We check into our *centre-ville* hotel, then stroll the streets. **DINNER** tonight is at a restaurant specializing in authentic local cuisine, based on mountain cheeses, cured meats and lake fish. **OVERNIGHT – ANNECEY**

■ Day 2 (Monday, May 17)

In the morning, after an orientation to our tour, we make the short drive to **Geneva**, Switzerland, on the shores of **Lac Léman (Lake Geneva)**. We have a guided visit of the **United Nations Office** in **Geneva**, the second most important installation of this world organization. Later, after free time in the pretty old town of **Geneva**, we return to **Annecey** and enjoy **DINNER**. **OVERNIGHT – ANNECEY**

■ Day 3 (Tuesday, May 18)

This morning we take in the outdoor market of **Annecey** – a riot of color, sounds and smells, and a source of the freshest foods of the region. After shopping for a picnic lunch, we leave town for the impressive **Gorges du Fier**. Here, after our picnic, we explore the glacial canyon, walking along pathways hewn out of sheer rock, with a foaming stream below. Back in **Annecey**, come along on a cruise on pretty

Lake Annecey. **DINNER** tonight. **OVERNIGHT – ANNECEY**

■ Day 4 (Wednesday, May 19)

This morning we leave **Annecey** for the high **Alps** and the resort of **Chamonix**, at the foot of towering **Mont Blanc**, the highest Alp (15,771 feet). We ascend via a mountain railroad to a viewpoint over the **Mer de Glace**, France's largest glacier. Later, after lunch and free time in **Chamonix**, we push on to the walled medieval village of **Yvoire**. After settling into our hotel overlooking the ramparts, we walk through this pretty town – designated one of the most beautiful in France – and along the lakefront. **OVERNIGHT – YVOIRE**

■ Day 5 (Thursday, May 20)

We hug **Lake Geneva** on our way to Switzerland's **Château of Chillon**, an impressive lakeside fortress celebrated in the 1816 poem by **Lord Byron**. After our visit, we climb into the hills to the delightful cheese-making village of **Gruyère**, where you might want to lunch on tasty and authentic cheese-based cuisine (think fondue). Back in **Yvoire** at day's end, we have **DINNER** at our hotel. **OVERNIGHT – YVOIRE**

■ Day 6 (Friday, May 21)

We leave the Alps today and come to **Cluny**, site of the Middle Ages' most influential abbey. Though in ruins, this outstanding religious structure is spectacular. Later, we arrive in old **Beaune**, where we check into our close-in hotel, then gather

for a stroll through the old streets, followed by **DINNER. OVERNIGHT – BEAUNE**

■ Day 7 (Saturday, May 22)

After shopping in the Beaune market for a picnic, we explore the **Côte de Nuits**, source of the most celebrated red wines in France – 100 percent pinot noir, with a velvety texture other wine regions of the world have long envied. Our visits include a peek at perhaps the most celebrated vineyard in the world, **Domaine de la Romanée Conti**. In the afternoon, we come to **Dijon**, the ancient stronghold of the powerful **Dukes of Burgundy** and a stately city with a proud past. We walk through the **Old Town** to the fabulous **Palace of the Dukes**, where we visit its **Fine Arts Museum. OVERNIGHT – BEAUNE**

■ Day 8 (Sunday, May 23)

From **Beaune** we journey north to the pretty village of **Vézelay** and its **UNESCO-listed** basilica, one of the most influential churches in medieval France. Here, in 1146, **St. Bernard** exhorted France's powerful nobles to embark on the **Second Crusade**. The church, **Basilica of St. Mary Madeleine**, is today revered not only for its Romanesque-Gothic architecture but also as one of the traditional points from which to embark during the middle ages on a pilgrimage to **Santiago de Compostela**, in Spain. **OVERNIGHT – BEAUNE**

■ Day 9 (Monday, May 24)

First on our sightseeing list today: the **Château of Clos Veugeot**, producer of fine red Burgundies. Then it's off to the village of **Puligny-Montrachet** and the famous domaine of **Olivier Leflaive**, where we have **LUNCH** and a tasting of multiple wines. Back in Beaune in the afternoon, let's visit the world-renowned **Hospice of Beaune**, a 15th century hospital that was in use up until the 1970s. There are other wine-themed visits possible as well, including tasting in the candle-lit cellars of the **Maison du Vin. OVERNIGHT – BEAUNE**

■ Day 10 (Tuesday, May 25)

Leaving Burgundy today, we arrive in late morning in cosmopolitan **Lyon**, France's second city and, some say, a rival to **Paris** for the honor of possessing the country's finest dining. After checking into our centrally located hotel, we take a get-acquainted walk through the streets of Old Lyon, lying on the banks of the **Saône River**. In the afternoon, we learn about Lyon's history as France's number one center of silk production with a visit to the **Museum of Fabric and Decorative Arts**. Later, we have **DINNER** at a *bouchon* – a typical Lyon restaurant. **OVERNIGHT – LYON**

■ Day 11 (Wednesday, May 26)

Today we make a thorough exploration of old

Lyon, taking a walking tour of the city's historical heart. The twisting medieval streets west of the **Saône River** are connected by curious *traboules* – covered passageways that allowed workers to carry bolts of silk cloth without getting them wet. Then, climbing the hill to the **Fourvières** district, we visit the pilgrimage church of **Notre Dame de Fourvières**, followed by the **Museum of Gallo-Roman Civilization**, allowing us to understand the importance of the city (originally called **Lugdunum**) to the Romans. Late in the day join us for a boat ride on the **Saône River. OVERNIGHT – LYON**

■ Day 12 (Thursday, May 27)

In the morning, take some free time to savor Lyon, or join us as we discover the paintings and sculpture of the **Museum of Fine Arts**, considered one of the best provincial art museums in France. Among its collection are works by **Rodin, Veronese, Rubens, Gauguin, Picasso** and **Dürer**. Near mid-day we arrive at the **Confluences Museum**, a science and anthropology museum that features four major exhibitions in an amazing, riverside building. Here we also enjoy an exceptional **LUNCH**, celebrating our tour of Burgundy, Lyon and the Alps. **OVERNIGHT – LYON**

■ Getaway Day (Friday, May 28)

It's time to say *au revoir* to France with a flight home from **Lyon's St. Exupéry Airport** to the United States – or on to new destinations.

Notes

MEALS – Tour includes breakfast every day, as well as eight other meals (lunches and dinners), as indicated in **BOLD CAPS** on the itinerary.

OUR HOTELS

Hôtel Splendid, Annecy
Hôtel Pré de la Cure, Yvoire
Hôtel Henry II, Beaune
Hôtel La Résidence, Lyon

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS – Subject to availability.

ITINERARY – Details of this preliminary itinerary could change. A final itinerary will be issued closer to trip departure.

SIGHTSEEING – All sightseeing listed in itinerary is included as part of the tour.

TOUR PRICE of \$4,295 per person is an estimate as any significant decline in the value of the U.S. dollar vs. the euro may result in imposition of a currency surcharge. Ask us for details.

WHAT'S INCLUDED – Activities listed in the itinerary. Airfare to Europe and lodging for the pre-tour night are not included.