

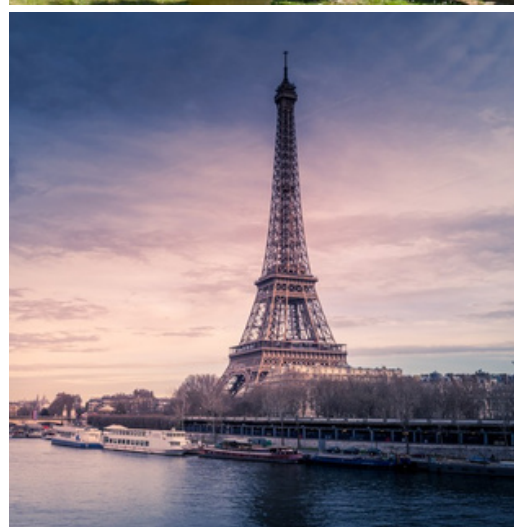
The French Book Club Tour

July 7-16, 2027



France

Full Itinerary & Trip Details



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Some places claim you slowly. France claimed me at nine years old. I still remember that first trip, the light, the language, the feeling that I had stumbled into a world that was somehow both entirely foreign and deeply familiar. I've been going back ever since, and every time I return, France gives me something new: a cobblestone street I hadn't noticed, a meal I didn't know I needed, a story that changes the way I see everything.

I am a passionate reader who believes that the greatest books are not meant to be read in armchairs alone; they are meant to be lived. Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* has moved me more than almost any other novel I've encountered. Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* set my imagination on fire. Both men wrote about France not just as a setting, but as a force, and I have spent years feeling exactly that. France as a force. France as a feeling.

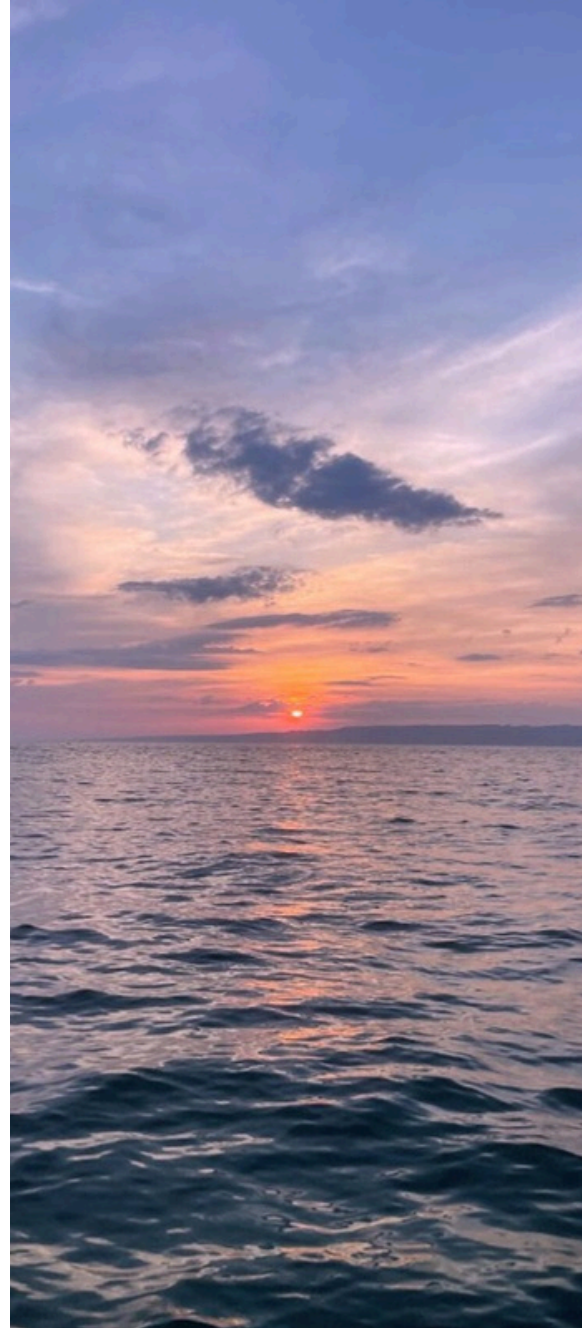
The French Book Club Tour was born from a simple conviction: that standing in the places where great stories unfolded changes the way you understand them. I designed every day of this journey with that in mind and I cannot wait to share it with you.

Vanessa Hunt

Host of The Book Club Tour

Trip *Overview*

Our journey begins and ends in Paris, the city that has inspired more great literature than perhaps any other place on earth. Over ten extraordinary days, we travel through France by first-class train and private minibus, following the stories that have shaped our imaginations: visiting author homes, standing in the places where the greatest scenes were written, and immersing ourselves in the landscapes, flavors, and history that made French literature the treasure it is. This is not sightseeing. This is reading, made real.



PRICE STARTING FROM

\$7,800

DURATION

10 days

TOUR DATES

July 7-16, 2027

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

\$1,500

TOUR SIZE

12 guests

DESTINATIONS

**Paris, Normandy,
Loire Valley,
Provence, Marseille**

DAY 1

Meet in Paris and travel to Rouen & Normandy

Start Point

Le Petit Beaumarchais Hotel

🕒 09:00



We begin our journey in Paris, then head north to medieval Rouen, a city that wears its literary history on every stone. We'll visit the Joan of Arc sites that trace her final, defiant days, and step inside the Musée Flaubert, birthplace of Gustave Flaubert, one of France's greatest novelists. We will dine at France's oldest restaurant, where Julia Child ate her very famous first French meal! After lunch, we make our way to the breathtaking chalk cliffs of Étretat, where the Normandy coast meets the sea in one of the most dramatic landscapes in all of Europe. As evening falls, we arrive at our château — where a gourmet French dinner awaits.

Normandy Hotel

Château Saint-Gilles



2 nights



DAY 2

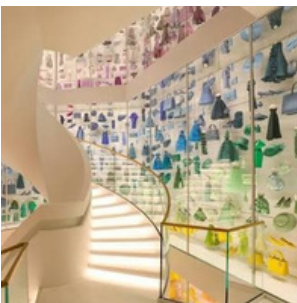
WWII Normandy Tour



There are days on a trip that change you. This is one of them. We spend the day on the Normandy coast with Pierre, our expert WWII guide, tracing the story of D-Day across the very beaches and battlefields where it unfolded. From the Airborne Museum to the sweeping rows of the American Cemetery, Pierre brings the courage and sacrifice of these men into vivid, unforgettable focus — including the remarkable journey made famous by our book, *Band of Brothers*. It is a profound and moving day, and one of the most meaningful experiences this tour has to offer.

DAY 3

Return to Paris, Château de Monte-Cristo, Galerie Dior



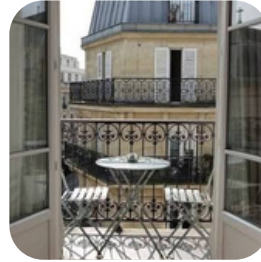
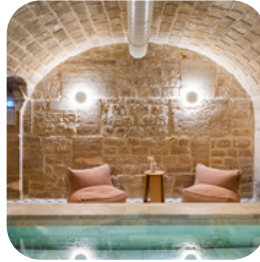
We make our way back to Paris with a stop that will delight every Dumas devotee — the Château de Monte-Cristo, the extraordinary home Alexandre Dumas built for himself at the height of his fame, and the place where the magic of *The Count of Monte Cristo* truly comes to life. Back in Paris, we step into the world of high fashion at the Galerie Dior, the stunning museum dedicated to the house that made Paris the fashion capital of the world — a perfect complement to our reading of *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris*, the charming novel about a woman whose dream of owning a Dior gown changes her life entirely. The day ends as all good Paris days should: with a beautiful dinner and even better conversation.

Paris Hotel

Le Petit Beaumarchais Hotel

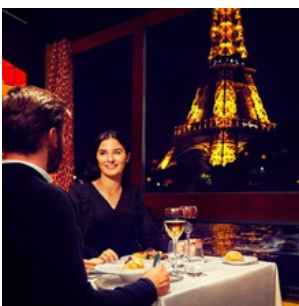


3 nights



DAY 4

Literary Paris & Belle Époque River Cruise



Today, Paris is entirely ours. We start the morning with a walk to Notre-Dame. It is impossible to stand before this famous landmark without thinking of Quasimodo and of all the stories these ancient stones have witnessed. A short stroll brings us to Shakespeare & Company, the most famous bookshop in the world and a pilgrimage site for every reader. Next, we visit Maison Victor Hugo at the Place des Vosges, stepping inside the apartment where he lived and imagining him at his desk. After lunch on your own in the irresistible Le Marais, we wander to the Panthéon, where France keeps its greatest literary heroes. The evening is the one we've all been waiting for: a Belle Époque dinner cruise on the Seine, complete with live piano music and the most glamorous backdrop imaginable. We do encourage you to dress for the occasion — this is Paris, after all, and some nights deserve to be celebrated in style.

DAY 5

Châteaux in the Loire Valley



Today we trade Paris for the French countryside, boarding the train to the Loire Valley — a landscape so beautiful that French kings abandoned the capital just to live within it. Our driver meets us at the station and takes us first to Château de Chambord, the most spectacular castle in France, and the setting Dumas immortalized in *The Vicomte de Bragelonne*. From there, we continue to Château de Cheverny, the elegant estate that inspired Hergé's iconic Château de Moulinsart in the beloved *Tintin* series. We return to Paris by train as the sun sets over the valley, arriving just in time for dinner.

DAY 6

Train to Marseille & Travel to Provence



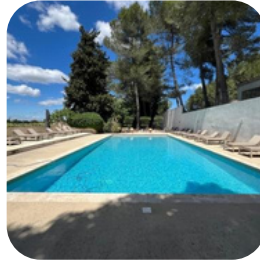
The morning is yours. A final café, a last wander through the streets of Paris, one more bookshop if you can manage it. Then we board the TGV, France's premier high-speed rail service, and settle into our first-class seats as we travel south and watch France unfold outside the window: vineyards, sun-bleached villages, the sky growing bluer by the mile. Three hours later, Marseille. Our driver meets us and whisks us to our Provençal villa, where the lavender is in bloom and the air smells exactly the way Peter Mayle promised it would in *A Year in Provence*.

Provence Hotel

Domaine Gao



3 nights



DAY 7

A Provençal Day from Field to Sea



This is the day you'll be telling people about for years. We start with a morning among the lavender fields: golden light, purple rows, the scent of Provence at its most intoxicating. The afternoon back at the villa is entirely yours: relax, enjoy a cold drink, or read a novel by the pool. Then, as the sun begins to lower, we board a beautiful historic sailboat and head out onto the Mediterranean. The sea is enchanting, the sky is extraordinary, and somewhere in the distance, a small island appears on the horizon. It is the Château d'If — the legendary prison fortress of Edmond Dantès, straight from the pages of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. We sail past as the sun sets behind it, dinner is served on board, and the only thing left to do is marvel at how perfectly life can imitate fiction.

DAY 8

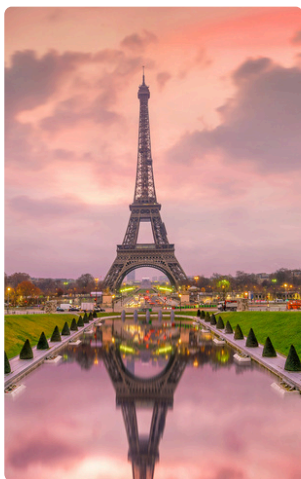
Markets, Cooking & Bastille Day Celebrations



Today we spend the day in Aix-en-Provence, Cézanne's city, a place of fountains and plane trees and charm. We start at the morning market, wandering the stalls with our private chef and filling our hands with the finest Provence has to offer. Then it's straight into our private cooking class, where our private chef teaches us the secrets of the South, the same secrets that once captivated Julia Child and sent her home to write the cookbook that changed American kitchens forever. These are the kinds of recipes you'll be making at home for the rest of your life. And if all of that weren't enough, today happens to be Bastille Day (France's Independence Day)! It is the one night of the year when the French throw open the doors and remind the rest of the world exactly why everyone wants to live here. The evening's festivities in Aix are ours to enjoy, and we intend to enjoy them fully.

DAY 9

Travel back to Paris *



The morning belongs to Provence. There is no rushing today, just a slow breakfast, a quiet walk in the garden, and the kind of lingering that only happens when you know something beautiful is ending. Eventually we board the TGV north, settling into our first class seats as the South of France slips past the window one last time. Paris welcomes us back with open arms, and tonight we gather for a farewell dinner. The perfect ending to an extraordinary journey. Good food and the very best company.

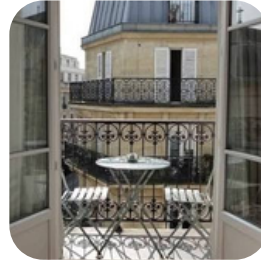
** Dreaming of a few more days in the South? You are not alone. Guests who wish to extend their stay in Provence or along the Côte d'Azur are welcome to do so, and will receive a discount on their tour price. Just let us know – we'll take care of the rest. Our travel agent can even arrange a continuation for you.*

Paris Hotel

Le Petit Beaumarchais Hotel



1 night



DAY 10

Slow Morning in Paris & Farewells



Our final morning in Paris is entirely your own. Sleep in, seek out a perfect croissant, sit at a café, and watch the city wake up, or enjoy the spa at the hotel — there is no agenda today and no place you need to be. For those heading home today, we are happy to arrange your transfer to the airport, and we will send you off with full hearts and a lifetime of memories tucked carefully into our luggage alongside your souvenirs. The stories we discovered together, the tables we shared, the moments that made us laugh, and the places that made us catch our breath: these are the things that don't fit in a suitcase, and they are ours to keep forever. The friendships made on a journey like this have a way of lasting long after the tan fades and the jet lag clears. It has been an honor to share this adventure with you.

Meet the Books

The French Book Club Tour begins the moment you apply. For the year leading up to our departure, you become part of an intimate book club – reading, discussing, and falling in love with France long before we board the plane. By the time we arrive, we will have already been there, in our imaginations. That is what makes this unlike any other tour you will ever take.

Paul Gallico

Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris

Irresistible novel about a London woman who falls desperately in love with a Dior gown and refuses to let anything stand in the way of owning one.

Victor Hugo

Les Misérables & The Hunchback of Notre-Dame

The towering genius of French literature, Hugo wrote two of the greatest novels ever set in Paris. Walk the streets of the city with his words in your heart and you will never see it the same way again.

Alexandre Dumas

The Three Musketeers & The Count of Monte Cristo

Adventure, intrigue, revenge, and romance. Dumas invented the page-turner, and these two masterpieces remain as thrilling today as the day they were written. We will visit the Château de Monte-Cristo and sail past Château d'If in his honor.

Stephen E. Ambrose

Band of Brothers

The remarkable true story of Easy Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. The men who parachuted into Normandy on D-Day and fought their way across Europe. Essential reading before our day on the beaches and battlefields of Normandy.

Gustave Flaubert

Madame Bovary

Born in Rouen, Flaubert is one of France's most celebrated and exacting novelists. *Madame Bovary* shocked the world when it was published in 1857 and has never stopped being relevant since.

Julia Child

My Life in France

The irresistible memoir of how a tall American woman arrived in Paris, took one bite of sole meunière, and had her life changed forever. Warm, funny, and completely infectious. The perfect pre-trip read.

Peter Mayle

A Year in Provence

The book that made the whole world want to move to the South of France. Mayle's warm, witty account of his first year in Provence is a book club favorite – and arriving at our Provençal villa having read and discussed it together makes the whole experience feel like stepping into a story we already love.

Ernest Hemingway

A Movable Feast

Hemingway's luminous memoir of his years as a young writer in 1920s Paris, the cafés, the conversations, the city that shaped him. We will discuss this one as a book club in the months before we leave, so that by the time we sit down at a Paris café on Day 1, we will feel like we are joining a conversation that began a century ago.

*Some books may change or we may add additional books to the list.
A final reading list will be sent to you after your application is accepted.



Contacts us

Have questions about this tour? Feel free to send us an email or give us a call to discuss.



Send an Email

Get in touch with
Vanessa or Tamara

thebookclubtour@gmail.com



Give us a Call

If you need more guidance, feel free to call
or text Vanessa

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