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Private Group Package in Bordeaux - by Cécile

Oct 21, 2023 - Oct 27, 2023

Trip Summary

October 21 - Saturday

ARRIVAL TRANSFER

October 22 - Sunday

10:00 PRIVATE BORDEAUX UNESCO WALKING TOUR WITH A LICENSED GUIDE

LUNCH AT LEISURE

15:00 VISIT OF THE WINE MUSEUM - LA CITE DU VIN - La Cité du Vin - Bordeaux

TRANSFER BACK TO YOUR HOTEL

October 23 - Monday

10:00 BORDEAUX CHEESE & WINE TASTING - MORNING

12:00 DEJEUNER CROISIERE SUR LA GARONNE

15:30 BASSINS DE LUMIERES VISIT - Les Bassins de Lumières

TRANSFER BACK TO YOUR HOTEL

October 24 - Tuesday

FULL DAY AROUND SAINT EMILION VINEYARDS

October 25 - Wednesday

A PRIVATE DAY TRIP TO ARCACHON BAY & PILAT SAND DUNE FROM BORDEAUX

October 26 - Thursday

FULL DAY AROUND MEDOC VINEYARDS

October 27 - Friday

DEPARTURE TRANSFER

October 21 - Saturday



ARRIVAL TRANSFER

Upon arrival, enjoy a private transfer from Bordeaux airport or Bordeaux train station to your hotel in Bordeaux.

French speaking driver & Spanish speaking assistance included - *the assistant will be waiting for you right after baggage claim at the airport.*





10:00 - Central European Summer Time - 2 hr

PRIVATE BORDEAUX UNESCO WALKING TOUR WITH A LICENSED GUIDE

Your private Spanish speaking guide meets you at your hotel.

Visit the Essential Sites of Unesco Bordeaux on this Bordeaux Walks with a licensed guide.

Discover Bordeaux, the Sleeping Beauty. Inscribed as a Unesco World Heritage Site since 2007, it is one of the most fascinating French towns classified a "City of Art and History" and home to one of Europe's largest collection of 18th Century architecture.

Discover an impressive architectural ensemble that includes the neoclassical Grand Theater, the Golden Triangle district and the Rohan Palace that is today's Bordeaux Town Hall. On this walking tour of Bordeaux, admire 'Place de la Bourse' architecture, sculptured décor and water mirror that bring out a sense of unity that celebrates the tight union between the city and the Garonne River.

Your accredited/licensed tour guide can be flexible on the itinerary but will definitely include the most famous landmarks:

The Rohan Palace

The Palace was built between 1171 and 1784 by architect Bonfin under the patronage of Ferdinand Maximilien Mériadec de Rohan. The Rohan Palace, after being the siege of the Archbishop of the revolutionary court and an imperial Palace, is today the Town Hall of Bordeaux since 1835. Inside, behind its Louis XVI style facade, is one of the most beautiful staircases of France a masterpiece of stereotomy. The Rohan Palace faces the Saint Andrew Cathedral and Pey Berland tower.

The Golden Triangle

Under the name of Golden Triangle lies a district of Bordeaux that englobes Cours Georges-Clemenceau, Cours de l'Intendance and the Allées de Tourny. These three very large streets form a Triangle of which each tip ends with a square: Gambetta, Comedie and Tourny. Historically, this is where all the most luxurious shops and financial institutions were located. In the 18th century, the wealthiest persons of Bordeaux started building Private Mansions, vaste and luxurious city houses, built for a single family and its servants.

Place de la Comédie

This impressive square is located between the Grand Theater of Bordeaux and the houses that face it to the west. The impressive portico composed of 12 Corinthian columns of the Grand Theater, designed by architect Victor Louis, dominate the whole composition of the square. The Theatre was inaugurated in 1780 and originally the ground sloped up so that carriages could drive inside the colonnade. In 1899 the building is classified as a Historical Monument. Today, the Theater is home to the National Opera of Bordeaux.

The Grand Theatre

The inauguration of the Grand Theatre of Bordeaux took place on April 7, 1780. It took Victor Louis more than 7 years to achieve the construction commissioned by the Governor of Guyenne, Louis Armand du Plessis, Duke of Richelieu. Built in a Neoclassical style, the Grand Theatre impresses with its main façade composed of a portico of 12 Corinthian columns above which stand 12 statues - nine muses and 3 goddesses of Classical Mythology.

Place de la Bourse

The Royal Square, today Place de la Bourse, is considered to be the most elegant façade located on the quays of Bordeaux. Initially, the architectural program completed the installation of a statue of Louis XV that was inaugurated on the 19th of August 1743. Construction of the square took more than 25 years and the hard work of two 'Intendants' (Civil Officers) and three architects. The architectural style is directly modeled on the works of Mansart for Versailles. Eventually, the statue of Louis XV was taken off its basement in 1792 and replaced by the fountain of the Three Graces.

If you are interested in other visits of Bordeaux, don't hesitate to browse our other walking tours that begin with Place des Quinconces and include a visit of the quartier des Chartrons district linked to the wine growing history of Bordeaux and that we mention on our wine tours.



LUNCH AT LEISURE

End of the walking tour in the heart of the historical center where your guide will suggest several restaurants for you to have lunch.



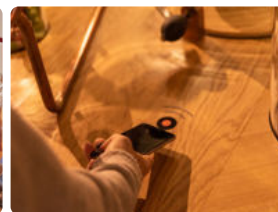
15:00 - Central European Summer Time

VISIT OF THE WINE MUSEUM - LA CITE DU VIN

La Cité du Vin is managed by the Foundation for wine culture and civilisations, named an accredited charitable foundation. Its missions: protect, celebrate and transmit the heritage of wine.

In the afternoon, your guide will take you to the Cité du Vin for a visit (on your own) of the most famous museum of Bordeaux.

Enjoy the visit and a glass of wine in the panoramic room, on the 7th floor of the museum ! You will see a stunning view of Bordeaux !



La Cité du Vin - Bordeaux

134 Quai de Bacalan, Bordeaux
+33 5 56 16 20 20

This gigantic cultural centre devoted to wine was opened in June 2016 and offers an experience close to that of an amusement park. The post-modern building itself is worth the detour, but the visits are almost impossible to exhaust with 19 thematic modules, tours given in 8 languages and over 120 audiovisual productions. The Cité is also to be experienced through performances, concerts, tastings, a multi-sensory space, a panoramic restaurant and more.



TRANSFER BACK TO YOUR HOTEL

Around 17h or 18h, transfer back to your hotel.

Rest of the evening at leisure.

October 23 - Monday



10:00 - Central European Summer Time - 1 hr 30 min

BORDEAUX CHEESE & WINE TASTING - MORNING

In the morning, transfer to this hidden restaurant in the heart of Bordeaux with your private Spanish speaking guide.

A Fun Guided Group Experience Fit for a Foodie

- Discover more about food & wine pairings
- Taste the region's most typical wines
- Savor French cheeses in an underground cheese cellar

Experience the Gastronomical Pleasures of Bordeaux

Enjoy the best of France while in Bordeaux on this 1.5-hour cheese and wine tasting session. Meet in one of Bordeaux's most unique locations and discover the underground vaulted "100 cheese cellar"! In a fun & informative atmosphere, come and savor 9 AOC cheeses from all over France that will be complemented by three regional wines of Bordeaux. Here, indulge in a wine and cheese session and experience a wide range of flavors, aromas and characteristics. Of course, your cheese tasting will also include delicious local bread! Bon appétit.



12:00 DEPARTURE - Central European Summer Time - 3 hr

DEJEUNER CROISIERE SUR LA GARONNE

Unique to Bordeaux, our boat-restaurant welcomes you to cruise with lunch served at table. During the trip, you will discover the city and its UNESCO listed World Heritage architecture. You will discover the bridges of Bordeaux: the 'Pont de Pierre', the 'Pont d'Aquitaine', the drawbridge, and right up to the Bassens port areas

- **12:00 PM** Boarding the boat-restaurant
- **12:30 PM** Departure for a 2 hours river cruise along the UNESCO river front
- **Lunch on board** with local products
- Navigation commented by an audio guide (fr/eng)
- Discovery of the Pierre Bridge, the Chaban Delmas Bridge, the Cité du Vin and the Aquitaine Bridge
- **02:30 PM** Returning to the pier
- **03:00 PM** End of the experience





15:30 - Central European Summer Time - 2 hr

BASSINS DE LUMIERES VISIT **THE BASSINS DES LUMIÈRES PROJECT**

Since 2018, Culturespaces has implemented a major project to enhance and develop the four basins in the submarine base, entrusted to it by the City of Bordeaux. In addition to restoration work and the restoration of the site (floors, tanks, foundations, electricity, soundproofing, etc.), and the creation of technical areas (offices, production room, servers, etc.), Culturespaces has decided to develop the site in order to improve the visitors' experience.

THE 6 AREAS

LE CUBE

In order to highlight artists who specialise in immersive art. This soundproofed and insulated area with a surface area of 220 m² and a height of 8 m will offer visitors an unforgettable experience, based on contemporary works.

THE "CITERNE"

In order to create a link between the museums and original works. In an area with a surface of 155 m² and a height of 7 m, the original works that were used as a basis for the creation of the digital exhibitions will be presented.

LARGE MOORING BUOYS

For the projection of exhibition images in the water.

A MUSEUM SPACE

For the presentation of the history of the submarine base.

AN EDUCATIONAL AREA

To complement the exhibition visits and provide visitors with all the necessary information to help them understand the immersive exhibition.

A MEZZANINE FLOOR, A STAGE, AND A SEATING AREA

To offer different viewpoints from a height.

« *Enjoy a unique experience, explore limitless worlds, and allow yourself to be transported into the heart of art* »



Les Bassins de Lumières

Impasse Brown de Colstoun, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, FR
+33 5 35 00 00 90



TRANSFER BACK TO YOUR HOTEL

Around 17h or 18h, transfer back to your hotel.

Rest of the evening at leisure.



FULL DAY AROUND SAINT EMILION VINEYARDS

9h00 - Pick-up at your accommodation by your French speaking driver & private Spanish speaking guided.

Experience the magic of St Emilion & taste delicious wines. Visit vineyards, top Grands Crus Wineries including wine tastings of sumptuous red wines, visit the Monolithic Church.

- Visit one or several Grand Cru Wineries of Saint Emilion
- Visit UNESCO village of St Emilion
- Tour of underground Saint-Emilion

Wine & History combo on a St Emilion full day tour

Depart from Bordeaux and reach the Right Bank wine region

From Bordeaux, a short 45-drive brings you out of the city to the picturesque countryside plains and rolling hills of the right bank wine producing area. This is the heart of Bordeaux's famous wine region, where many vineyards carry the Saint Emilion AOC designation.

Each of these local wineries produce vintages with distinct soil features backed by a long winemaking heritage. The wines produced here are a blend of Merlot grapes with deep, bold flavors, along with other local grape varieties, especially Cabernet Franc and, to a lesser degree, Cabernet Sauvignon.

Visit & Wine tasting in a Grand Cru Chateau and a private visit of the underground monuments of Saint Emilion

Visit a Grand Cru Winery:

Today, you will combine wine & heritage. In the morning, upon arrival in St Emilion, we will take you to one of our carefully selected partner wineries known for the quality of the wines they produce.

Whether you have questions about history, technique, flavors, aromas, food & wine pairings don't hesitate to ask them anything that relates to wine to make this full day a very special one. Visit classified Growth Chateau, technical installations and cellars and participate in a commented tasting of the Chateau wines.

Then, enjoy a second visit at another Chateau, followed by a private wine tasting lunch at the estate.

In the afternoon, enjoy a private visit of the Underground Monuments in the village:

Probably the highlight of Saint Emilion village, is the underground Monolithic Church. The foundation of the church is built directly into the limestone of the rocky site, a rare construction feat.

From the history of the founding monk of the village, to the digging of the surprising monolithic church, the visit will enable you to discover 4 monuments : the hermitage of Émilion, the Trinity Chapel and its medieval paintings, the catacombs as well as the underground church. Our certified licensed guides have the authorization to conduct private tours in this monument so just follow your guide and learn about the history and heritage of Saint Emilion.

Listen as your tour guide recounts local history, from the days of the 8th century hermit Emilion, to the 19th century mining galleries, which still lie beneath the village. It is no coincidence that Saint Emilion has been awarded the Unesco World Heritage status in 1999. After the underground monuments and the walk, enjoy some free time to explore on your own in the village.

The legend of Emilian

The first indications of human settlements in the area date back to the Roman Empire, but the story of Saint Emilion starts in the eighth century AD. At that time, a monk from Brittany, fleeing persecution in his hometown of Vannes sought refuge in one of the natural caves near the settlement of Ascum Bas.

Although he lived the simple and secluded life of a hermit, Saint Emilion allegedly performed several miracles from his Aquitaine hideaway. Soon, his renown spread far beyond the town and region, bringing pilgrims and disciples from far afield to visit him. The small settlement grew fast as it became a religious center.

After Saint Emilion died, his followers made sure he would be remembered by giving the town of Ascum Bas the new name of Saint Emilion. Much later, monks developed more intensive and widespread vineyards. This is when the reputation for Saint Emilion wines started building towards what it is today.

The rich Merlot-based blends of these fertile plains have given local wines a great appeal, and several wines produced in chateaux near Saint Emilion have been given the highest possible awards under the French appellation wine rating system.

Around 5.00pm Drop-off at your accommodation.



October 25 - Wednesday



A PRIVATE DAY TRIP TO ARCACHON BAY & PILAT SAND DUNE FROM BORDEAUX

9h00 - Pick-up at your accommodation by your French speaking driver & private Spanish speaking guided.

Discover a unique Sea Side Resort, climb Dune du Pilat, Europe's Largest Sand Dune, take a Pinasse du Bassin Boat ride, Taste Arcachon Oysters.

- A Pleasant Day-Trip to the Seaside Near Bordeaux
- Taste Fresh Oysters Directly From the Local Oyster Sheds
- Lunch At One of the Local High Quality Seafood Restaurants

Drive from Bordeaux to Arcachon

Arcachon is a popular bathing location on the Atlantic coast 55 kilometers (34 miles) southwest of Bordeaux. It has fine sandy beaches, a mild climate and the town itself is dotted with belle époque architecture making it a popular destination far from the bustle of Bordeaux.

The town of Arcachon is only 150 years old. Not long before May 2nd 1857, when Emperor Napoleon III signed its official "birth certificate", it was just a pine forest, oaks and strawberry trees (arbutus), with no road links, and home – mostly when the weather was expected to be warm, and more in wood huts than in real houses – to fewer than 400 people, mostly fishermen and peasants. In earlier years, when some hygienists began to recommend sea bathing, three sea establishments were laid out by some entrepreneurs especially for the Bordeaux bourgeoisie.

At its southern entrance from the Atlantic Ocean, Arcachon Bay is crowned by Europe's largest sand dune, the Dune de Pilat (or du Pyla), nearly 3 kilometres long, 500 metres wide, reaching 107 metres in height, and moving inland at a rate of 5 metres a year.

Reach the Bay of Arcachon - start by climbing the largest Sand Dune in Europe: the Dune du Pilat.

Reach the highest sand dune of Europe located in the small town of Pilat sur Mer. During the summer season, a staircase is put in place so that it is easier to climb the Dune without damaging the area. This means you will have to make some effort to reach the top as there are 170 stairs to climb. Once at the top, discover the natural beauty of the landscape and admire one of the most stunning views of the Bay and the pine forest in the back.

For lunch, enjoy a seafood lunch at a traditionnel restaurant with a view (drinks included)

In the afternoon, enjoy a 3-hour traditional Private Pinasse Boat Tour on the Bay

Book a unique boat ride on board a local "Pinasse", the traditional boats of the Bay of Arcachon. All built out of wood, mention of the boats date back to the 1500's at a time when they were used only for fishing. This pleasant ride will have you see the numerous oyster farms and admire 'Birds Island' with its "Tchanqués" huts built on wooden piles. An oyster tasting is included in the boat to complete the experience.

18h00 - Drop-off at your hotel in Bordeaux





FULL DAY AROUND MEDOC VINEYARDS

- In-depth visits of 3 wineries -- includes tasting sessions!
- Taste fabulous wines, guided by a knowledgeable hand

9h30 - Pick-up at your accommodation by your French speaking driver & private Spanish speaking guided.

Today, you'll discover one of France's most admired wine-growing regions. You'll visit two wineries in the local area, which are carefully selected Classified Growth Chateau or Cru Bourgeois estates. This gives you a chance to gain an excellent understanding of the wines produced here, whether as an introduction to wines or to expand on your existing knowledge. It also includes a scenic drive along the mythical 'Route des Chateaux' or castle road, which is a road lined with several renowned wineries.

11h00 am : Visit of a winery in the Pauillac region followed by a private wine tasting lunch at the Chateau

Medoc is a unique wine-growing region. Sitting on the Left Bank of the Gironde river estuary, it's close to the Atlantic coast and in proximity to sprawling forests. The geographic diversity of this fascinating wine region gives the final products a distinct character. Often blending cabernet sauvignon, malbec, and petit verdot grapes, the wines are full-bodied and a real treat for oenophiles. 'Bordeaux Supérieur' labeling is reserved for those wines which have undergone the strictest appellation processes. These bottles are renowned for their excellent aging potential and make for ideal investments.

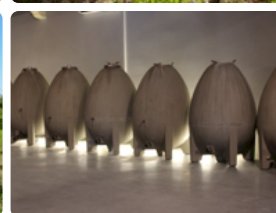
The Médoc region is located within the famed Bordeaux region, which is famous for its red wines. Indeed, Bordeaux wines feature proudly in the cellars of connoisseurs around the world, and whites including the popular Sauternes are also wonderful. There are 54 appellations of Bordeaux wines in total. The Bordeaux region is a popular visitor destination, boasting a rich cultural heritage and fascinating history. The city was the site of an ancient Celtic tribe over 2,500 years ago, before falling under Roman rule and evolving into one of France's most appealing cities. It can be reached from Paris by high-speed train in two hours, making it a convenient destination for visitors to France.

In terms of weather, Bordeaux's temperatures are mild even in winter, with warm and sunny summers. This is a popular destination for global travelers who enjoy combining wine tasting, history, classic French culture, and picturesque natural surroundings. The chateaus themselves are masterpieces, and a real highlight of any wine tour in the area. Visit the Musée d'Aquitaine in Bordeaux, which features ancient artifacts collected around the local area. The Art Gallery is another must-see, with a rotating series of exhibitions in a world-class venue. The Musée du Vin et du Negoce focuses on Bordeaux wines and is another excellent stopping point on any wine lover's trip in town.

15h00 : Visit of a winery in Margaux region

16h30 : Transfer back to your hotel

17h30 : Drop off at your hotel



October 27 - Friday



DEPARTURE TRANSFER

Check out after breakfast.

Private transfer from your hotel in Bordeaux to Bordeaux Airport or Bordeaux train station.

French speaking driver & Spanish speaking assistance included.

Information & Documents



INFORMATION ABOUT PRICING

All prices and services are subject to availability at the time of booking. Should a provider be unavailable, we will provide an alternative of same standard. Prices are subject to change without notice. Once Operator receives Guest's completed Credit Card booking form and Tour deposit payment, Guest's Tour price is guaranteed and the Tour price will not increase.



INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

INCLUSIONS

- Arrival and departure transfer in Bordeaux airport/train station with private French speaking driver and private Spanish assistant (2h wait maximum)
- Full day private transportation with driver & Spanish speaking guide at disposal for 5 days
- Walking tour of Bordeaux, Saint Emilion
- Entrance tickets to the Cité du Vin, Bassins de Lumières, Underground Monuments in St Emilion
- Private cheese & wine tasting
- Lunch cruise 3 course meal (drinks not included)
- 2 private wine tasting lunches (one in a St Emilion vineyards, one in the Medoc vineyards)
- 1 private visit and wine tasting in St Emilion
- 1 private visit and wine tasting in the Medoc
- Lunch at a local restaurant in Arcachon (3 course meal, drinks not included)
- 3h private Pinasse boat experience
- Oyster tasting on board of the boat

EXCLUSIONS

- Accommodation
- Other Meals
- Other visits and activities
- Extras
- Personnal expenses
- Gratuities



CANCELLATION POLICY FOR GROUPS

Operator strictly adheres to its cancellation policy and will make no exceptions to the policy. If Guest chooses to cancel his or her reservation, Operator must receive written notice of said cancellation in writing via certified mail, fax or e-mail sent to info@ophorus.com (with confirmation of receipt from Operator), and Guest shall be subject to the following cancellation fee schedule:

PAYMENT CONDITIONS AND CANCELLATION FEES FOR GROUPS (LARGER THAN 8 PEOPLE)

Ophorus requires a deposit of 30% on booking confirmation with balance to be made at least 30 days prior to arrival (in case of last minute registration payment is expected immediately). We accept payment by credit cards (Visa, Master card, American Express) or bank transfer (Wire transfer fees at the charge of the Guest). There is no charge or service fee for processing credit card payments except with American Express +3%.

A group is composed of more than 8 people and the rate is calculated according to a precise number of participants. The below cancellation policies apply to all the group.

In case one or several persons in the group have to cancel their tour, the price of the tour will be recalculated with the definite number of participants. The below cancellation policies also apply for the person(s) cancelling its/their participation.

- 60+ days: €20 fee per person
- 59 to 30 days prior to arrival: 30% of the overall price (deposit)
- 29 to 15 days prior to arrival: 75% of the overall price
- 14 days or less prior to arrival: no refund

No insurance for cancellation or assistance is included in the prices mentioned for all packages. Each customer has to check that he or she has the appropriate documents for their journey: a passport (with visa if necessary) or a valid ID card. No refund will be granted in case of lack or loss of ID documents. Eating, drinking and smoking on board the minivans are strictly forbidden (law of September 17th, 1977). All passengers are insured during the excursions while in the vans. The responsibility of Ophorus is limited to our insurance contract clauses.