

CONVERSE

ALUMNI TRIP: FRANCE 2022



Travel with Converse Alumni, Faculty, and Friends

Inspired by the 2022 Jan Term trip, now is your chance to experience the magic for yourself! Visit acclaimed museums, discover the secrets - and science - of cheese-making, savor the wines of Burgundy, and soak in local culture, from the chic streets of Paris to quaint villages.

Trip highlights:

- Guided exploration of diverse parts of France: iconic Paris, the rolling vineyards of Burgundy, the culinary capital of Lyon, and even a charming alpine village!
- Explore these beautiful areas at a relaxed pace that allows us to savor the sights and culture, and learn from local experts on location.
- Visit fabulous museums and cultural sites from the Impressionist masterpieces of the Musée d'Orsay, to the architecturally stunning Hospices de Beaune - and enjoy a stay in a former 12th century monastery!
- Discover ancient methods of cheese-making, the storied wine country of Burgundy, and sample local specialties with friendly locals in artisanal shops, wineries, and farms.



Converse Jan Term '22

**For trip registration, please visit:
www.exploreupclose.com/converse**



Trip Itinerary: September 30 - October 10, 2022

Day 1: Travel independently to Paris from the departure airport of your choice. *Bon voyage!*

Day 2: *Bonjour*, Paris! After arriving in Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, our group will meet at our hotel: nestled in the charming Latin Quarter, a short walk from the Seine. We'll refresh with a coffee, then meet a local guide for an invigorating walking tour that will introduce us to iconic Parisian neighborhoods: Saint-Germain-de-Pres, the Latin Quarter, and the islands in the middle of the River Seine. In the late afternoon, visit the Eiffel Tower for a quintessential, awe-inspiring Parisian experience - just in time to see it illuminate for the evening. Welcome to the City of Light! Enjoy a group dinner together this evening. Overnight, Paris.

Day 3: Enjoy a guided visit of collection highlights at the Musée d'Orsay – home to a wealth of French art, displayed in a fabulous turn-of-the-century former railway station. This afternoon, roll up your sleeves and discover the ancient process of cheese-making, with a private class at the celebrated Paroles de Fromagers: the Cheese School of Paris. We'll follow our efforts with a special introduction to French cheeses and wine, and a tasting, graciously hosted by our local expert. Overnight, Paris.

Day 4: Today, enjoy free time to wander Paris on your own, or join your trip leaders for small group exploration! You might enjoy walking around the Luxembourg Gardens, visiting the Louvre Museum or a delightful smaller museum like the Musée de l'Orangerie, venturing into the Paris catacombs, or wandering the cobblestone streets of Montmartre – a famous bohemian artists' community, with an excellent view of the city from the Sacré-Cœur Basilica. It's also a perfect day to browse the boutiques, then relax at a classic Parisian café and people-watch. This evening, those who wish may have the option to purchase tickets for a performance at the historic Opera Garnier. Overnight, Paris.

Day 5: Morning departure from Paris by private van or coach. Travel through the lovely rolling French countryside to our first stop of the day: the town of Meaux, renowned for its Brie cheese. Discover the interesting history of the town and its beloved cheese; this afternoon, we'll continue into the region of Burgundy - known for its acclaimed wine, gastronomy, and rich history. The term "Burgundian lifestyle" originated here, and describes the good life that we'll find during our stay! We'll begin in the lovely medieval town of Beaune, where we'll spend two nights. Visit the spectacular Hospices de Beaune, designed during Burgundy's Golden Age. Then, check into our own historic lodging - the Abbaye de Maizières, an 12th century Cistercian Abbey that offers luxurious modern comfort as a 4-star hotel and spa. Overnight, Beaune.



Day 6: Today, let's explore more of Burgundy! This morning, enjoy a scenic drive to the town of Arc-et-Senans, known for its impressive Royal Saltworks, built in the 18th century. Today, the Royal Saltworks (pictured above, right) are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we'll learn the science behind the Saltworks, and admire the beautifully designed, park-like complex that was developed by one of France's most avant-garde architects. In the afternoon, sample some specialties of the region, then return to Beaune. Overnight, Beaune.

Day 7: After a leisurely morning in Beaune, travel south today along the Saône river, and learn more about the wines of Burgundy at a family-owned winery in the Beaujolais region. Later in the afternoon, we'll make our way to the beautiful city of Lyon - the capital of France's Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. Originally founded by the Romans where the Saône and Rhône rivers meet, we'll find much to savor in Lyon – considered the gourmet capital of France. We'll settle into our lovely Art Deco style hotel, located in the charming Terreaux district, and relax. Overnight, Lyon.

Day 8: Discover Lyon today! Begin the morning with a guided walking tour to orient us to the history of this vibrant riverside city, from ancient Roman times to the historical silk-weaving industry that made Lyon famous. Enjoy a group lunch in a classic Lyonnais *bouchon* (traditional restaurant). In the afternoon, you can ride the funicular to Roman ruins that overlook the city, gain a fresh perspective from the stunning Basilica of Notre Dame de Fourviere, then enjoy free time to explore Old Town on your own. Overnight, Lyon.

Day 9: Venture into the countryside outside of Lyon, an area that borders two of France's most remote and mountainous regions near the Swiss border: the Jura and the Haute-Savoie region. We'll enjoy a private visit at a local farm, where we'll observe the traditional process of making cheese - from the milking of cows, until the cheese is formed in a local cooperative. Enjoy a local lunch on site, followed by a lovely walk into town to browse the cooperative's cheese shop. After soaking in the alpine views, return to Lyon for one last night.

Day 10: This morning, there's the option to visit the moving Museum of the Resistance and learn about Lyon's role as the de facto capital of the French Resistance during World War II. Enjoy free time for lunch in the late morning and early afternoon to browse the boutiques and galleries, visit a local market, and relax. In the late afternoon / early evening, we'll take the easy (two hour) train ride back to Paris for our last night at our airport hotel.

Day 11: Board our flights home from the Paris airport, and return home to the US. Cheers!

Trip Snapshots



Introduction to French cheeses & wine in Paris



^^ Cheese cooperative in the Alps



Traditional gourmet lunch in Lyon



<< Cheese-making class in Paris ^^ Discovering Burgundy

Hotel Photos



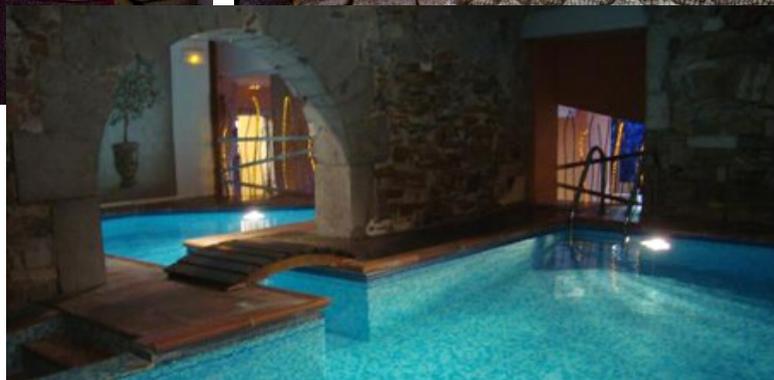
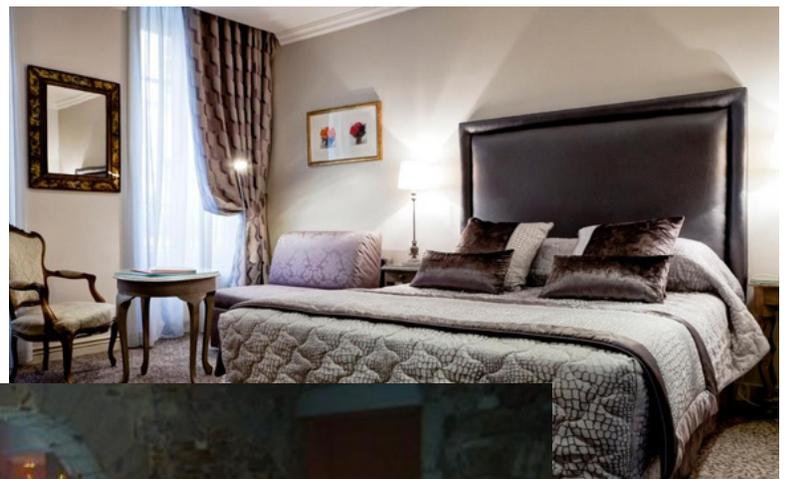
Paris Hotel in the Latin Quarter



12th Century Modern Monastery: Beaune Hotel



Art Deco Style Hotel in Lyon





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Trip price: \$4,328 / person
(based on double occupancy; single room supplement: \$565)

What's included?

Nine nights of high-standard (4-star) hotels in France with breakfast included; ground transportation and airport transfers in France; all group entrances, activities, and touring per the itinerary; five group meals; guide services.

Not included: Airfare, alcohol (excluding group wine tastings), other meals, trip insurance.

Trip registration

Trip Deposit: \$1,000 / person to secure your spot is due upon registration.
Remaining balance is due August 1, 2022

Your deposit is refundable until August 1, 2022, minus a \$100 service fee.

To register, please visit www.exploreupclose.com/converse

For questions about this trip, from lodging to activity levels,
please contact the Tour Leader, Caroline Cope Khoury:
(864) 384-6947 | caroline@exploreupclose.com

