

Rail holidays to France

Expressions



Follow in the footsteps
of Toulouse-Lautrec



www.expressionsholidays.co.uk
01392 441250

Follow in the footsteps of Toulouse-Lautrec

6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS

Paris

Albi

Bordeaux



Albi

This 6-night rail holiday with a hire-car is focused on the life and works of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and centres around Paris, Albi and Bordeaux, all three places being key to his life and featuring in his work, often those works that we associate most with him. This rail holiday starts with a Eurostar journey from London to Paris, where you stay for two nights, giving you time to soak in the frenetic atmosphere that Toulouse-Lautrec would have experienced over 100 years ago in Montmartre and where he made the acquaintance of Van Gogh. Then you take a train to the Tarn region of France and collect a hire-car, enabling you to visit to visit Albi, where Toulouse-Lautrec was born in 1864 and home to an excellent museum of his works. There is time to explore the Gaillac vineyards nearby too before taking another train to Bordeaux (or if you want to drive, we can extend the use of the hire-car for the remainder of the days in France). Bordeaux is the third place to visit, allowing you to visit Chateau Malrome, a chateau and vineyard dating from the 16th century which belonged to the Toulouse-Lautrec family, where Henri died in 1901. You return to London by train from Bordeaux via Paris.

PRICES

From £1,510 per person

Based on two people sharing a double or twin room and including standard class rail travel. Supplement for standard premier/first class about £300 per person.

DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings and the route can vary depending on the month and day of the week. The Toulouse-Lautrec museum is closed on Tuesdays in the winter and usually closes every day at lunch-time.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Standard class Eurostar and second-class TGV from London to Montauban via Paris, Montauban to Bordeaux, Bordeaux to London (standard premier can be booked at a supplement)
- Hire of a group B car for 3 days in Albi and 2 days in Bordeaux
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in a Standard Room at Hotel Bougogne et Montana, Paris
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in a Standard Room at La Reserve, Albi
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in a Standard Room at Les Sources de Caudalie, near Bordeaux
- Concierge service and Expressions Holidays regional helpful hints

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Early check-in or late check-out at any hotels (although we can arrange this on request at additional cost)
- Any other services not mentioned above, such as transfers and meals except breakfast at hotels
- Personal holiday insurance. This is essential and cover should be in place from when you book the holiday.
- Local tourist tax, usually between Euros 1 and 3 per person per night, and payable locally to the hotel
- Transfers in Paris

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

All train times are approximate and may vary depending on travel dates.

Expressions

Day one London to Paris by Eurostar

You travel first by Eurostar from London St Pancras to Paris, leaving late morning and arriving before 3pm. Stay two nights in Paris.

Day two in Paris

You have one day at leisure to explore Paris. We suggest spending some time taking in the atmosphere of Montmartre – the area the Henri spent much of his time and where he met and was influenced by other artists. This district was historically separate from central Paris – geographically, demographically, historically and architecturally – and provided the backdrop for the decadent fringe culture that was Henri's home for most of his career. Today, visitors flock up the famous hill to take a picture in front of the imposing Sacre Coeur, but for a more genuine experience we recommend taking the time to explore the steep and cobbled streets that still maintain the bohemian atmosphere of village.

Day three Paris to Montauban by train

Depart Paris by train for Montauban, leaving at 12.30pm and arriving about five hours later. In Montauban, collect a hire car and drive the remaining 50 miles to Albi. Alternatively, you can stay on the train to Toulouse and change for Albi, collecting your car there – this takes a little longer but lessens the driving. You stay near Albi for two nights.

Day four explore Albi

Enjoy one day at leisure to explore Albi and visit the Toulouse-Lautrec museum. Albi is an attractive city built with iconic pink bricks, whose historical centre is a UNESCO world heritage site. Albi's cathedral is a remarkable monument since it is both fortified and built out of brick, whilst next door you will find the fortress of the Palais de la Berbie, home to the Toulouse-Lautrec museum. This former bishop's palace houses some of his most famous pieces and in total there are over 1000 of his works displayed here.

Day five Albi to Bordeaux by car and train

Return your hire car to Montauban and take a lunchtime train to Bordeaux. From Montauban this is a direct route taking less than two hours. On arrival in Bordeaux, collect another car and drive to Martillac, 10 miles from Bordeaux. You spend two nights here.



Bordeaux vineyards

Day six in Bordeaux

At leisure to explore the surroundings. We suggest a visit to Chateau Malrome which was the home of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's mother and somewhere he often visited, and it was here where he died in 1901 and was buried in the nearby cemetery of Verdelsais. The chateau is surrounded by a 40-hectare vineyard which produces seven varieties of grapes, both red and white. In the summer, the chateau offers visitors an hour's museum tour followed by a wine tasting every day, though reservations are required in the winter months.

Day seven Bordeaux to London by train

Return your car to Bordeaux and leave on a late morning train back to London, changing in Paris en route and arriving back in the UK at about 6pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION

this rail holiday is one of several suggested rail holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.



OUR TOURS

Our rail tours are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group and you are not escorted.

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of trains and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

EUROSTAR

A rail holiday to France starts with a journey by Eurostar from London St Pancras, Ebbsfleet or Ashford stations in the UK to either Paris Gare du Nord or Lille Europe. In summer months there are direct trains on Saturdays from London St Pancras to Avignon with no change required.

Eurostar offers almost hourly departures every day, allowing you to travel from the centre of London to the centre of Paris on the same train in three hours. Not all trains stop at the Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations in Kent, but parking is plentiful at both stations and it allows you to avoid London.

Check-in is 30 minutes prior to departure, customs formalities are completed before boarding and there is no limit to the amount of baggage that can be taken on board. The Eurostar trains themselves have 8 coaches which are split into Standard Class, Standard Premier and Business Premier as well as 2 cafeterias. Standard Premier customers are served a light cold meal and enjoy a more spacious environment than Standard Class, while Business Premier customers receive a hot meal and unlimited beverages as well as lounge access.

TRAIN TIMES

We have planned our itineraries based on train times that work day by day at the time of planning which can be up to a year before you travel. Usually train times stay more or less the same every day, season by season. The times we have planned will be discussed with you at the time you enquire about the holiday and they are detailed to you in your written holiday quotation. It may be that the timetable changes between the planning of the itinerary and when you come to book but we can always adjust the itinerary to suit the actual train times and any requirements you have for particular times of travel.

FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

We will automatically include travel in second class but lots of our clients do upgrade to first class service. On Eurostar this is called Premier Standard for leisure travellers as it gives you an upgraded on-board service and more spacious seating but without paying for the fully-flexible business tickets. On the TGV trains within France, upgrading to first class gives you more spacious seating with increased legroom. The price of upgrading varies from route to route but is something that is not always proportionately a lot more on the price of the overall holiday, so well-worth considering.

TRANSFERS

Transfers in Paris between stations and from the station to each hotel are not automatically included in the price of the holiday. In Paris most clients choose to take a taxi between the stations rather than go on the Metro but we can arrange a private car with driver to take you in between. This is quite useful if you are a family group that can't fit into one Paris taxi.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

TOUR CODE

FRBR06

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators).

Expressions Holidays

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HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441250

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process.