



Italy, Monaco & France!

An Exclusive Garden Journey with Earthbound Expeditions

September 17 – 26, 2024

“Some spots are the cradle of genius. Provence is one.”

Lawrence Durrell

Join fellow garden, wine and food lovers on an exciting tailor-made garden adventure. Discover gorgeous Stresa, on Italy’s Lake Maggiore, stunning Provence and the magnificent French Riviera! Savor the beauty these dazzling regions offer: lush gardens, delicious food and wine, colorful villages and romantic Roman ruins.

We hope to see you in Bella Italia and stunning Provence in 2024!



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.724.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.248.8480

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

2 Nights Stresa, Italy, Lake Maggiore

3 Nights Menton, French Riviera

4 Nights Arles, Heart of Provence



JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Stunning villas and gardens of Lake Maggiore with a local guide ♦ Giardini di Villa della Pergola ♦ Hanbury Botanical Gardens ♦ Jardin Serre de la Madone and Close du Peyronnet, Menton ♦ Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, St Jean Cap Ferrat ♦ Visits and tours of the stunning gardens of Italy and France ♦ Colorful Provençal markets ♦ Wine tasting ♦ The Roman arena of Arles ♦ Traditional dining ♦ Historic walks in Bellagio, Aix-en-Provence and Arles, with local experts ♦ A fun group of like-minded, fun travelers

IT'S INCLUDED

- Guided by an Earthbound Expeditions expert guide
- Entrance fees and guided visits of multiple gardens
- Accommodations in charming, centrally-located 4 and superior 3-star hotels
- Transport by private air-conditioned coach
- All breakfasts plus nine additional meals featuring regional specialties
- Wine and hors d'oeuvres happy hour with your garden host
- Outings to a village market, Roman ruins of Arles, St Paul Mausole
- Wine tasting in Provence
- Gratuities for your drivers and Earthbound guide

TRIP FACTS

10 Days/9 Nights (not including air travel)

\$5,395 per person based on double occupancy

\$1,595 single supplement (waived if you are willing to share and a roommate is found)

September 17, 2024: Journey begins in Stresa on Lake Maggiore at 6:00pm

September 26: Journey ends in Arles after breakfast

WAYS TO SAVE

Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 per person ♦ Earthbound Expeditions travel alumni always save \$100 per person



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Explore the gardens of Isola Bella in Italy's Lake District

Your Garden Adventure Begins!

DAY 0: Depart the USA for Bella Italia

Today say “arrivederci” to the USA and make your way to Italy’s majestic Lake District.

DAY 1: September 17 - *Buongiorno!* Meet in Bella Italia

The Lago Maggiore area is arguably Italy's garden capital, with more fine gardens open to the public than any other area. With its incredibly diverse microclimates ranging from subtropical islands to Europe’s second highest mountain, gardens inevitably come in all shapes and sizes, including English-style cottage gardens, subtropical island oases, citrus parks and an Alpine garden, all concentrated in a fairly small area.

Take some time to enjoy the rich atmosphere of this northern Italian gem. Upon arrival, you may wish to tour the nearby gardens. Join your guide this evening for a welcome orientation and multi-course dinner. *Sleep in Stresa (D)*

Note: Earthbound Expeditions will be offering a complimentary group transfer at *11AM from Malpensa airport in Milan to the hotel in Stresa on Lake Maggiore. If you decide to arrive a few days early, you would transfer independently to the hotel.



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“You may have the universe if I may have Italy.”

-Giuseppe Verdi

DAY 2: September 18 – Sunny Islands and Stunning Gardens

Located on ‘the beautiful island’ or Isola Bella, the gardens of the stunning Borromeo Palace offer sweeping views of Lake Maggiore. These gardens are part of the Palazzo Borromeo (now a museum) and can be defined as an Italian-style baroque garden. You’ll find plenty of statues and pompous water fountains. The triangle-shaped terraces lead you to an amazing view of Stresa and Lake Maggiore

Another of the Borromeo Islands, Isola Madre, is home to a magnificent English-style garden. The park-like setting is filled with rare and exotic plants, ancient trees, and vibrant flowers, creating a serene and romantic atmosphere. Here you’ll find white peacocks, ancient trees, and a mansion.

Enjoy an included multi course lunch.

Depending upon the garden conditions and weather, we may visit the Giardini Botanici di Villa Taranto, instead of Isola Madre. The Giardini Botanici di Villa Taranto boasts one of the most renowned botanical gardens in Italy. Created in the 1930s, the garden showcases a vast collection of plant species from around the world, including stunning water lilies, camellias, and rhododendrons. *Sleep in Stresa (B, L)*





DAY 3: September 19 ~ South to the Italian Riviera!

After an early breakfast, we say “arrivederci” to Lake Maggiore and head to the coastal town of Alassio. Here we find one of the most stunning gardens of the Italian Riviera, the Giardini di Villa della Pergola! The colors and scents will light up your senses giving you an experience that you will hardly forget. Situated on the green slopes of the Alassian hills, the villa enjoys an enviable view of the sea and is surrounded by twenty-two thousand square meters of park in perfect harmony with the surrounding vegetation. It is one of the botanical wonders of the Riviera and the Mediterranean! After our visit and lunch, we set off for the garden paradise of Menton.



Located in Europe’s mildest climate and sheltered by the high Maritime Alps, orange and lemon trees bloom here even in winter. (It is said that Menton’s first lemons were planted by Eve.) Picture-postcard pretty and with year-round seaside sunshine, Menton is where the British inadvertently invented the French Riviera. When the widowed monarch Queen Victoria arrived in 1882, the city already boasted 5,000 British residents busy building mansions and planting tropical gardens. Enjoy a stroll on the promenade and relax in your beautiful surroundings. *Sleep in Menton (B, L)*

About Menton, France

“My city is a garden” - The slogan for the city was not chosen at random. With an exceptionally mild climate and 316 days of sunshine a year, Menton is a paradise for botanists who have acclimatized exotic plants from far away destinations. The sub-tropical species flourish and grow at ease in sun-soaked Menton.



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DAY 4: September 20 - Hanbury Gardens and the Gardens of Menton

This morning we depart for the nearby Clos du Peyronnet, a garden privately owned by the Waterfield Family. Next, we'll make a short drive to the Jardin Serre de la Madone (Hill of the Madonna). Started as a winter garden by Lawrence Johnston, (Hidcote Manor in England), the Serre de la Madone was purchased after his death by several passionate groups who have joined forces to restore and revitalize it as an international center for rare plant enthusiasts.

After lunch together in Menton, we'll briefly cross back over the border to Italy in order to visit the Hanbury Botanical Gardens, an UNESCO heritage site which was created in 1867 by a young Englishman, Thomas Hanbury, primarily for a place to do botanical experimentation. It is now operated by the University of Genoa. After our visit, we'll be back to our seaside hotel in France in time for an independent dinner.

Sleep in Menton (B, L)

DAY 5: September 21 - An Outing to Monaco

This morning we are off to the regal principality of Monaco. With an area of just 0.78 sq miles and a population of 36,371, Monaco is the second smallest and the most densely populated country in the world. Prince Albert of Monaco resides in the 12th century Palace of Monaco along with his family as the Grimaldis have done for the last seven centuries.

Delighting all of the senses, the spectacular gardens of Monaco offer everything from lush, flowering rose bushes and exotic cacti to serene Japanese landscapes. Unique plants of native and foreign origin dot the Principality - from the casino terraces to the median strips along the esplanades - in a panorama of carefully tended and stunning displays. From the hill where the palace is perched, you can soak up the fantastic views of the bay and the high-rises of Monte Carlo. We'll stroll through the Exotic Gardens and the Observation Cave. We'll pay our respects to Princess Grace before returning to Menton.

Sleep in Menton (B, L)



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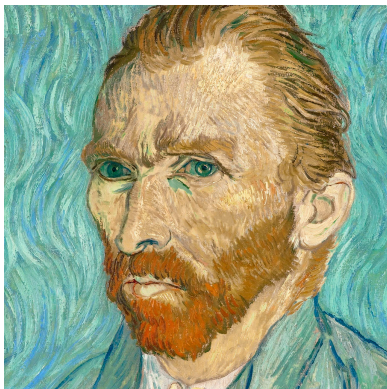
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DAY 6: September 22 - West to Arles via St Jean Cap Ferrat

This morning, we'll drive west along the magnificent coastline of the Côte d'Azur to Beatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild's dazzling villa and gardens. Laid out as a series of 'rooms': Spanish, Florentine, Japanese and Provençal, the garden is a delight to see. Set in front of the villa is a formal French water garden, which leads up to a temple surrounded by Aleppo pines. The villa interiors contain the original Ephrussi furnishings, paintings and collections, which can all be viewed. We'll have time to tour the gardens and have an audio tour of the interior before boarding our coach for Aix-en-Provence.

Charming Aix (pronounced like the letter "X"), was founded by the Romans in 124BC and has been a vibrant architectural and cultural jewel in Provence ever since. Your guide will take you on a walking tour to show you the highlights, and allow a wee bit of time to wander, then we're off to our home for the next four nights: Arles!

Sleep in Arles (B, D)



DAY 7: September 23 - A Day in Van Gogh's Arles

Sleep in, or take an early morning walk and join your guide and group in the late morning for an in-depth walking tour of Arles. A gem of Provençal history, ancient Arles, with its seven UNESCO World Heritage monuments and sites, has been an inspiration to artists such as Picasso and Van Gogh, and is now quickly becoming internationally known for its photography festival, along with its many photography galleries and exhibits. We'll have lunch together, then you have the afternoon free to relax or independently explore

this ancient Roman town. *Sleep in Arles (B, L)*

DAY 8: September 24 - St Paul Mausole and St Rémy: In Van Gogh's Footsteps

Today we head into the scenic countryside to the peaceful St Paul Mausole, a veritable masterpiece of Provençal Romanesque art, built in the neighborhood of the Gallo-Roman site of Glanum. The covered walk of the cloister frames a lovely little garden. This is the famous asylum where Vincent Van Gogh spent time resting and painting, and is still a psychiatric institution today, which encourages therapy through art. You may glimpse some irises and other frequent subjects of Van Gogh's paintings on the grounds here.

Nearby, in the village of Eygalières, we will visit the Jardin de l'Alchimiste, designed by Eric Ossart et Arnaud Maurières, who were asked to create a garden that would tie into the fascinating history of the house, the Mas de la Brune. The gardens boast a labyrinth, and the "magical gardens" have been planted in three colors representing the Alchemist steps to immortality: red, black and white.

An additional private garden visit is being arranged in the afternoon, after which we'll return to Arles in time for a free evening and independent dinner.

Sleep in Arles (B, L)



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DAY 9: September 25 - The Pont du Gard, an ancient Roman Masterpiece

The amazing Pont du Gard was built shortly before the Christian era to allow the aqueduct of Nîmes (which is almost 31 miles long) to cross the Gard River. The Roman architects and hydraulic engineers who designed this bridge, which stands almost 150 feet high and is on three levels – the longest measuring 900 feet long – created a technical and artistic masterpiece.

After our visit, we'll enjoy a wine tasting at a nearby estate followed by a delicious Provençal farewell feast. *Sleep in Arles (B, L)*

DAY 10: September 26 - Your Journey Culminates in Arles

Your garden journey concludes this morning. There is a train station in Arles that links to many major cities in France. You may want to consider booking a flight home from Marseilles, allowing enough time (1.5 hours) to reach the airport from Arles. Or, zoom north to Paris on the TGV train. You are just hours away from the City of Light.

Bon Voyage!



Reservations & Questions

Call 800-724-8454

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-Journey Details Subject to Change -



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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A \$500 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Once the deposit is processed, a deposit packet is emailed with pertinent journey details. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$150 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or until 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.



Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Terms & Conditions: Click [here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.



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