

Italy, Monaco & France

with Bellevue Botanical Garden Foundation

June 8 – 18, 2027

Join friends of **Bellevue Botanical Garden Foundation** for an unforgettable journey through some of Europe's most stunning and botanically rich landscapes.

From the lush air of Italy's Lake District to the fragrant warmth of Provence and the subtropical beauty of the French Riviera, we'll explore gardens that have inspired generations—living tapestries of color, texture, and design.

We'll visit private estates, historic villas, and hidden gems rarely open to the public. Along the way, enjoy locally inspired meals, regional wines, and the charm of villages where nature and culture thrive together.

Guided by passionate local experts and shared with fellow garden lovers, this experience is designed to delight your senses and deepen your love for the world of gardens.
We can't wait to explore these extraordinary places with you!

See you in Bella Italia!

TRIP AT A GLANCE
3 Nights Stresa, on Lake Maggiore, Italy's Lake District
3 Nights Menton, French Riviera
4 Nights Arles, Heart of Provence



EARTHBOUND EXPEDITIONS

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.
P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA
Tel: 206.842.9775
www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Stunning villas and gardens of Italy's famed Lake District ◆ Giardini di Villa della Pergola ◆ Hanbury Botanical Gardens ◆ Jardin Serre de la Madone and Clos 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 travelers

IT'S INCLUDED

- Travel with Bellevue Botanical Garden Foundation
- Entrance fees and guided visits of multiple gardens
- Guided by an Earthbound Expeditions expert guide
- Hand selected 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 hosts
- Outings to a village market, Roman ruins of Arles, St-Paul-de-Mausole
- Wine tasting in Provence
- Gratuities for your drivers and Earthbound guide

TRIP FACTS

11 Days/10 Nights (not including air travel)
$7,995 per person based on double occupancy
$1,995 single supplement (waived if you are willing to share and a roommate is found)
Trip begins: June 8, in Stresa, Italy at 6:00pm
Trip ends: June 18, in Arles, France after breakfast

SAVE $200! Pay your final balance by check and save $100 per person ◆ Earthbound Expeditions and Bellevue Botanical Garden Foundation travel alumni always save $100 per person





Italy's Lake District: A Garden Paradise

Your Garden Adventure Begins!

DAY 0: Depart the USA for Bella Italia
Today, say *arrivederci* to the USA and begin your journey to Italy's stunning Lake District no later than June 7, 2027. If time allows, consider arriving a day or two early - Lake Maggiore is unforgettable, and you may never want to leave!

DAY 1: Tuesday, June 8 – *Buongiorno!* Welcome to Lake Maggiore
Welcome to Lake Maggiore — where nature meets UNESCO beauty! This stunning lake and its lush surroundings are a haven of biodiversity, sustainability, and breathtaking landscapes. While in Stresa, we will explore gardens, parks, and protected nature— all part of a living model for conservation. This evening meet your Earthbound guide Aurélien Clavero and fellow travelers for a festive welcome orientation and multi-course dinner. *Sleep in the lovely lakeside town of Stresa at the Hotel Palma (D)*

Complimentary airport transfers on Day 1: A complimentary group transfer from Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP) to Stresa will be provided at 11:00 AM and 3:00pm.

Arriving early or traveling on your own? Malpensa Airport is well connected to the town of Stresa by train, taxi, and other transfer services. For detailed travel options and routes, visit: www.rome2rio.com

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"You may have the universe if I may have Italy."
-Giuseppe Verdi

DAY 2: Wednesday, June 9 – The Garden Islands of Lake Maggiore
Today we set out by private boat to explore the famed gardens of Lake Maggiore, considered among the most exquisite in Europe. Our day begins with a visit to the spectacular Isola Bella, home to the Baroque Palazzo Borromeo and its dramatic Italianate garden. Terraced like a grand ship floating on the water, the garden overflows with citrus trees, rare blooms, fountains, statues, and proud white peacocks that roam the grounds. We'll enjoy a guided tour of both the palace and gardens with time to linger on your own.

Next, we ferry to Isola Madre, the largest of the Borromean Islands, known for its serene English-style botanical garden, where rare subtropical plants thrive in harmony with ancient camphor trees and collections of azaleas, rhododendrons, and magnolias. After a relaxed lunch together, you may wish to explore further or return early to Stresa to relax along the lakefront promenade. *Sleep in Stresa at the Hotel Palma (B, L)*

DAY 3: Thursday, June 10 – Villa Pallavicino and Free Time in Stresa
This morning, we visit the beautiful Villa Pallavicino, a tranquil 19th-century estate just outside of town, set in a sweeping park with century-old trees, lush flowerbeds, and a small wildlife sanctuary. With stunning views across Lake Maggiore and a peaceful atmosphere, it's a fitting final garden visit before we depart for Provence.

After our garden stroll, enjoy free time in Stresa—browse elegant shops, sip espresso at a lakeside café, or wander the historic old town. *Sleep in Stresa at Hotel Palma (B, D)*



Explore the stunning gardens of the Italian & French Riviera

DAY 4: Friday, June 11 – 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 at the Hôtel Napoléan (B, L)

About Menton, France: A Garden Paradise



"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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Soak in the beauty of the Côte d'Azur

DAY 5: Saturday, June 12 – Hanbury Gardens and the Gardens of Menton
We begin the day at Clos du Peyronnet, a hidden hillside haven lovingly tended by the Waterfield family. A short drive takes us to the Jardin Serre de la Madone, once the winter retreat of Lawrence Johnston (creator of Hidcote). Winding terraces and rare plants now flourish once more, thanks to the devotion of plant lovers from around the world.

After a leisurely lunch in Menton, we cross briefly into Italy to wander the Hanbury Botanical Gardens, a UNESCO-listed treasure overlooking the sea. Founded in 1867 by Thomas Hanbury as a sanctuary for botanical discovery, it is now nurtured by the University of Genoa. We return to our elegant seaside hotel in time for an evening at leisure. *Sleep in Menton at Hôtel Napoléon (B, L)*

DAY 6: Sunday, June 13 – A Garden Stroll Through Monaco
This morning we set off for Monaco, jewel of the Riviera. Though small in size, its history and splendor are immense home to the Grimaldi family for over 700 years. From the palace hilltop, sweeping views reveal the sparkling bay and terraced city below.

We meander through Monaco's exquisite gardens, where roses perfume the air, exotic succulents cling to cliffside paths, and Japanese maples cast delicate shadows. Even the esplanades bloom with artistry. Highlights include the famed **Exotic Garden** and its underground cave. We pause at Princess Grace's serene resting place before returning to Menton. *Sleep in Menton at Hôtel Napoléon (B, L)*

DAY 7: Monday, June 14 – From the Côte d'Azur to Arles via St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat
This morning, we journey west along the glittering Riviera to the exquisite Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, perched on St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. The gardens unfold like a living tapestry—Spanish, Florentine, Japanese, Provençal—each a scene unto itself. A formal French water garden stretches toward a temple ringed with Aleppo pines, while the villa's interiors hold Beatrice Ephrussi's opulent collections, explored via a self-guided audio tour.

We continue to Aix-en-Provence, a city born of Roman springs and known for its fountains, golden stone, and artistic spirit. After a brief walking tour and a bit of free time, we head to Arles, our home for the next four nights.
Sleep in Arles at Hôtel du Forum (B, D)

DAY 8: Tuesday, June 15 – A Day with Van Gogh in Arles
Sleep in or begin the day with a quiet stroll. Later this morning, join your guide for an evocative walk through Arles, a town where Roman columns, medieval chapels, and bold modern art coexist. Seven UNESCO World Heritage sites trace its ancient past, while its streets hum with artistic energy—Van Gogh's brushwork still echoing in the light, alongside cutting-edge photography galleries and installations.

After lunch together, the afternoon is yours—to wander Roman ruins, linger in cafés, or simply savor the atmosphere. *Sleep in Arles at Hôtel du Forum (B, L)*

DAY 9: Wednesday, June 16 – St-Paul-de-Mausole and St-Rémy
Today, we travel into the Provençal hills to St-Paul-de-Mausole, a tranquil Romanesque monastery beside the ancient ruins of Glanum. Within its quiet cloister garden, Van Gogh once found peace and painted some of his most beloved works. The grounds, still a working psychiatric clinic, honor his legacy with blooms that recall his canvas—irises, cypresses, and golden light.

Nearby, in the village of Eygalières, we visit the Jardin de l'Alchimiste, a symbolic garden inspired by the ancient art of transformation. Designed by Ossart & Maurières, its three "magical" gardens—black, white, and red—echo the alchemical journey toward immortality. A private garden visit is also planned before we return to Arles for a relaxed, independent evening. *Sleep in Arles at Hôtel du Forum (B, L)*





Enjoy the rich history and fragrances of Provence

DAY 10: Thursday, June 17 – 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 at the Hôtel du Forum (B, L)*

DAY 11: Friday, June 18 – 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!

QUESTIONS & RESERVATIONS

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Meet Your Host!



Originally from Fort Collins, Colorado, and now based in Seattle, Katherine Wankelman is excited for this adventure! A graduate of Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana, Katherine currently serves as the Development Director with the Bellevue Botanical Garden Foundation. Katherine's background is in nonprofit development and social work.

Katherine enjoys running, knitting (she's usually working on a new sweater), and discovering new hikes. She's thrilled to be one of your hosts on this journey and can't wait to share in the beauty, history, and inspiration these gardens have to offer.

About Earthbound Expeditions

Founded in 1997 by veteran world travelers and guides, Matthew and Danna Brumley, Earthbound Expeditions lovingly creates tailor-made journeys that inspire curiosity and discovery. Led by expert local guides, travelers explore history, art, food, gardens, and culture in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Each tailor-made trip encourages deep learning and engagement, turning every destination into a classroom of wonder. Guests return not just with memories, but with insights, appreciation, and a renewed sense of curiosity for the world.
More at: www.earthboundexpeditions.com/about



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Know Before You Go!



Reservations and Deposits: A $1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a $250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and is 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, gratuities for ship crew, 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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