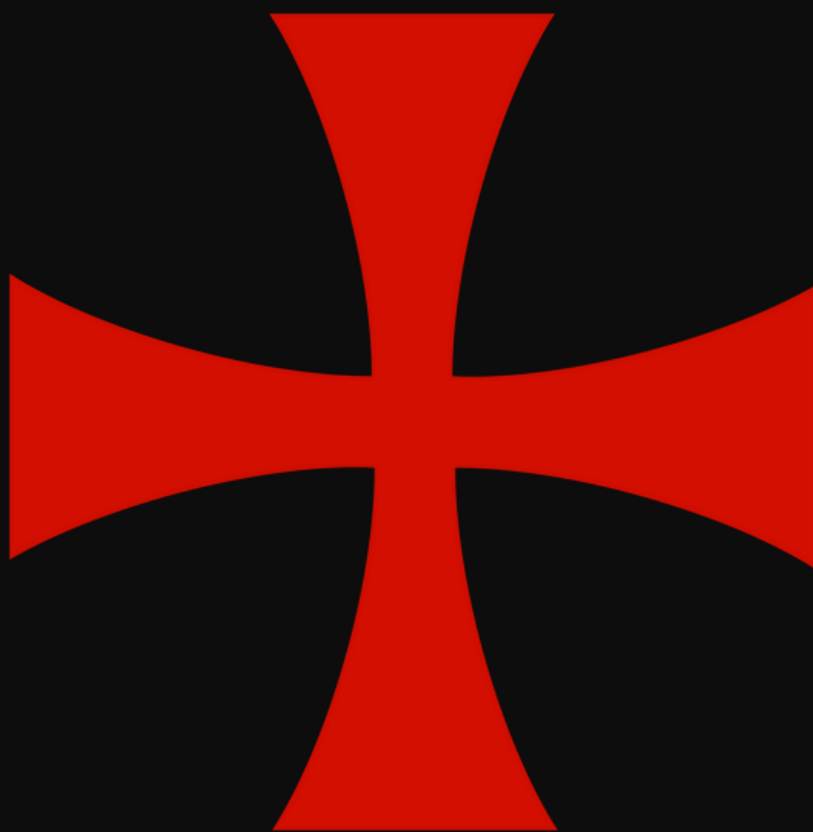


THE TEMPLAR TOUR

ITINERARY



E A S T E R 2 6 - F R A N C E

Web: www.newrennies.org
Email: thenewrennies@gmail.com



France 2026



THE TOUR

This very special private tour has been organised due to the eternal demand for more knowledge on the impact that the Knights Templar had in the mysterious Aude valley. In the tour we will explore the origins of the order, their relationship with the local Cathars and crucially visit the key sites that sired those who led to their demise.

We have lots of activities, special presentations and explorations planned, while trying not to overbook our days so that we, as Gloria Amendola would say, "Leave room for the magic."

We will explore key sites from our base at the foot of Rennes-le-Chateau, with talks and guides to help tease knowledge from the stones themselves, revealing a rich tapestry of sacred knowledge and wisdom found in and around the Aude.

As Tim Wallace-Murphy would say, 'Knowledge is the key'

René Barnett



France 2026

YOUR TEAM

Your Guides:

René Barnett is a veteran reality television producer specializing in entertainment specials, series, documentaries, and reality-based programming. René has produced hundreds of television hours, her credits including programming for most U.S. networks and many cable channels in America and the U.K. Her directing credits include some of the premier specials and series of the reality television genre, including Ripley's Believe It or Not!, Unmasked: Exposing the Secrets of Deception, Strange Universe, Places of Mystery, Guinness Book of Records Primetime, Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura and many others.

James Martin is a British Historian, Author and Lecturer. As an historian, James believes that 'understanding the past is crucial to understanding our future', noting that evidence should guide us but our minds should be open to ideas. He has described himself as a 'history geek' and a 'space nerd' and has dedicated a large portion of his more recent life into research into the Knights Templar, The Roman Empire and the Western Traditions of Spirituality. He is the author of 'Uncharted - A Rediscovered History of Voyages to the Americas Before Columbus' and 'Order of Magnitude - The Rise of the Knights Templar.'



France 2026



YOUR TEAM

Your Presenters:

Chef Maximus Martin-Fox:

The head chef at the *Matador* in Limoux and former head chef at the *Jardin de Marie* at Rennes-le-Château, Max has experience in the culinary world from Japanese, Italian, Korean, Chinese and French cuisine, amongst many others. He brings his creativity to fruition in each dish, his unique culinary skills ensure the palate craves more.

Gill Bladen:

Gill had a traditional, disciplined Art College training. She brings that background and five further decades of creative adventures in the art and design field to her current work. She has an open home studio showcasing her art and hand painted and upcycled pieces. Her second gallery at beautiful Lastours, soon to be a UNESCO site, will open soon. Her style is very much based on Realism, with a clean, fine detail, and a subtle nod to "Narrative Symbolism". History, architecture, the natural world and the psychology of human nature, symbols and myth are her main influences; for many years, she was the official artist of a history and heritage society, based in Worcestershire, England.

Since moving to the Aude region of southern France in 2017, Gill has become greatly influenced by the local landscape, history, culture and by the insects, birds and animals of this beautiful area. Gill is currently painting local views and landscapes and iconic old buildings, including some images of her own quirky village house in Campagne sur Aude, a village with ancient bones and a Knight's Templar fort in the centre of it.

Gill works in oils, acrylic and metallic paints, watercolour inks, chalk paint, metal leaf and mixed media, using her vast collection of antique and vintage textiles.

She also runs art workshops in 'back to basics' painting and drawing skills.



René Barnett



James Martin



Max Fox



Gill Bladen

France Travel

ITINERARY

Sunday

05 April - Arrival

Meet at Toulouse Airport. Drive to Couiza, drop bags at accomodation, Sunday Market, visit to the 'La Confluence' centre in Couiza, Dinner and meet and greet.

Monday



Aude

06 April - 10:00am

Campagne-sur-Aude: Templar preceptory and church.

12:30pm - 15:30pm

Lunch at Jardin - RLC village walkabout

16:30pm - 20:00pm

Open questions with James Martin on Templars in the Aude. Live templar map demonstration and discussions on Cathar/Templar relations. Update on books.

20:00pm

Dinner

Tuesday



Alaric's Castle

07 April - 09:30am - 18:00pm

Visit to Alaric's castle (Weather permitting)

Drive through Templar preceptory of Douzens

Visit to Stone Circle and Dolmen

Carcassonne walk around.

18:00pm - 20:30pm

Dinner in Carcassonne at restaurant of your own choice.

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ITINERARY

Wednesday



Saissac

08 April

Art class with Gill Bladen and the creation by the group of Templar Crosses to take home. **OR** Free day to explore the area.

20:00pm

Dinner

Thursday

09 April - 09:00am

Chateau de Saissac - Cathar castle. Packed lunch provided

14:00pm - 15:30pm

Abandoned village of Les Casses/Cathar monument.

15:30pm - 17:30pm

Saint Felix Lauragais - birthplace of Guillaume de Nogaret, the key player in the destruction of the Templars.

20:00pm

Dinner

Friday



Elné

10 April - 09:00am

Symbology at the Cathedral of Elné

13:30pm - 14:30pm

Packed lunch

Afternoon

Preceptory of Mas Deu (subject to availability)

20:00pm

Dinner



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ITINERARY



Saturday



Pieusse

11 April - 10:00am - 14:00pm

Alet-les-bains (Packed lunch)

Templar and Cathar village of Pieusse

14:00pm

Transfers to Airport



April 2026

A I D E M E M O I R E



REMEMBER

To check rules for EU Visa for travel. Contact René prior to the trip to establish travel requirements.

To bring Sun lotion and insect repellent.

Sites are subject to local weather conditions and availability. Some terrain may be slippery.

Please remember to communicate any dietary requirements.

Food will ordinarily be provided, except for some visits such as Carcassonne. This will be indicated closer to the tour date.

Delectable meals and bespoke lunchboxes by Chef Maximus Martin-Fox and the very talented James Martin, alongside certified professional taster, Mme René-le-Chateau (aka René-le-chat-show).

Accommodation welcome pack to include fresh coffee/tea, water, soft drinks.

Breakfast to include Croissants, bread, cheese, boiled eggs, pastries, fresh fruit and charcuterie (subject to availability).

Many more optional sites and activities . We've tried to leave space to follow our intuitions!



April 2026



TRIP REGISTRATION

ARRIVAL

We will be picking up at the Toulouse-Blagnac Airport at 8:30AM on Sunday morning, 05 April 2026. If you have an early morning arrival, just make your way to baggage claim (if you've checked a bag) and then outside to the curb.

OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

If you arrive in Toulouse the day before, there are both a Holiday Inn and a Holiday Inn Express nearby. They both have free shuttle service to and from the airport. The Holiday Inn has a couple of restaurants and a bar—The Express which is slightly more economical has only a bar with typical bar food (pizza, etc.) Rooms are comparable, clean and both will have English speakers at the reception desk. You may also choose to pre-book your room for the journey back. Advise them of your need for a late check-in as we have a full day Saturday before we head back to Toulouse for the drop-off.) We do recommend, particularly if you have a long flight, arriving on the 12th, getting a good night's sleep, shuttle back to the airport and meet up with the group where we will scoop you up.

BAGGAGE

Luggage space in the vehicles for the drives to and from the airport will be limited, so please pack as efficiently as possible. Keep in mind, laundry facilities will be available.

MEDICAL

The French medical system is amazing--and free!! However, we recommend an inexpensive travel insurance policy that would cover evacuation costs in an accident or emergency as well as the costs of repatriating you to the United States. (If memory serves me, I think I paid about \$30 for a policy last spring which covered everything. – RB)

DIETARY

We will have a wonderful chef on staff (who, by the way, is the undisputed best chef in the region!), so please advise of any special dietary needs in advance so that we may accommodate.



April 2026



P A Y M E N T

PAYMENT

Cost of Tour: \$4900 All-inclusive (Ground transport, breakfast, most lunches and dinners), admissions to sites, accommodation, special memory items - cross and more)

To secure your place (we are limiting the number on this special trip), please send:

\$4900 - Payable to:

Account Holder: Kathy Rene Barnett,

Routing number: 026073150

Account number: 822000513548

Or you may send:

A non-refundable **Deposit** of \$1500 due by **07 February 2026**

Balance due by: **27 February 2026**

All payments are final and non-refundable. Payment options considered on request.



