MUSEUM TRAVEL ALLIANCE®
BY ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD

Provence & the Côte d'Azur

From Impressionism through Contemporary Art

April 11 – 20, 2027



With Jennifer Dasal, *Lecturer*

Trip *Highlights*

Enter **Musée Matisse** before public hours *(pending confirmation)* to view one of the world's major Matisse collections in a 17th-century villa in Cimiez, then view his colorful **Chapelle du Rosairede Vence**.

Explore Paul Cézanne's life in **Aix-en-Provence**, enjoying a private tour of the **Atelier Cézanne**, his last studio, where he painted from 1902 until his death in 1906.

Experience the historic settings where artists created legendary masterpieces, including **Saint-Paul-de-Mausole**, the monastery where Van Gogh produced works such as *The Starry Night*.

Visit **FAMM** in Mougins on a curator-led tour of Europe's first private museum devoted to women artists, featuring works by Frida Kahlo, Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, Helen Frankenthaler, and others.

Tour **Château La Coste** with a director, viewing contemporary art and architecture across a 495-acre vineyard estate featured in Sotheby's "8 Unmissable Art Destinations."

Walk through **Fondation Vasarely** with a director, seeing the Hungarian Op Art pioneer's large geometric works inside his 1970s hexagonal building.

Enjoy a full-day excursion at **La Ribaute**, Anselm Kiefer's highly restricted 99-acre studio complex in Barjac, comparable to Donald Judd's Marfa for contemporary art on a grand scale.



Terasse Picasso, Antibes, photo OTC Antibes (bottom).



Traveling With *You*

Jennifer Dasal is an art historian, lecturer, and tour director. She is the author of the book *ArtCurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History* (Penguin). She is also beloved as the creator/host of the worldwide hit podcast *ArtCurious* (2016-23). Her second book, *The Club: Where American Women Artists Found Refuge in Belle Époque Paris*, was released by Bloomsbury in July 2025. She previously served as Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the North Carolina Museum of Art for 13 years. She earned a B.A. from the University of California, Davis, and an M.A. from the University of Notre Dame, both in art history. She also completed Ph.D. coursework in art history at Pennsylvania State University.

For more than 150 years, artists have been drawn to the South of France for its light, landscape, studios, chapels, museums, and space to make ambitious, deeply personal work, from **Cézanne** and **Van Gogh** to **Matisse**, **Picasso**, **Léger**, **Vasarely**, and **Kiefer**.

From **April 11 to 20, 2027**, as **Provence**'s spring wildflowers bloom, travel with longtime curator and *ArtCurious* creator **Jennifer Dasal** for an inside look at southern France through the eyes of the artists. **To reserve your place**, contact the Museum Travel Alliance at Arrangements Abroad by calling 212-324-1893 or emailing trips@museumtravelalliance.com. We chatted with Jennifer about what you can expect on this journey.

What makes Provence and the Côte d'Azur such rewarding places to study modern art?

Jennifer Dasal: The region lets us look at art through the physical settings where artists worked, which changes how you understand the paintings. We'll explore Paul Cézanne's life in **Aix-en-Provence**, including his studio, completed in 1902, where we'll see his easel, palette, and still-life objects arranged as he left them.

At **Saint-Paul de Mausole** in **Saint-Rémy-de-Provence**, we will stand in the 11th-century Romanesque monastery where Vincent van Gogh spent a productive year in voluntary confinement. We'll see his vantage point on the asylum garden, olive trees, and fields outside his barred window, which he captured in such famed works as *The Starry Night* and *Irises*.

Some of these settings also function as museums. In **Antibes**, we'll view works that Picasso made on plywood and asbestos cement during his 1946 residency at the 14th-century **Château Grimaldi**, now the **Musée Picasso**. A before-hours tour of the **Musée Matisse** *(pending confirmation)* showcases one of the world's largest collections of Matisse's work inside a 1695 hilltop villa. Afterwards, we'll visit the **Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence**, the colorful integrated sanctuary Matisse designed himself.

What other highlights will we see?

Jennifer Dasal: We will take a curator-led tour of the recently opened **Femmes Artistes du Musée de Mougins**, Europe's first private museum dedicated entirely to women artists, some famous, like Frida Kahlo, and others unsung, like Cuban-American sculptor Ana Mendieta. At **Château La Coste**, the director will lead us through one of the world's most fascinating art landscapes, a 495-acre vineyard, where installations by a "Who's Who?" of major contemporary artists stand alongside pavilions by Tadao Ando and Renzo Piano. In **Avignon**, we will view contemporary art inside the 18th-century mansions of the **Collection Lambert** and tour the richly frescoed, 14th-century **Palais des Papes**, Europe's largest Gothic palace. The trip concludes with a full day at **La Ribaute** in **Barjac**, Anselm Kiefer's 99-acre studio complex of concrete towers and subterranean crypts, a rare chance to encounter contemporary art through a grand-scale environment that an artist built for his own work.

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Activity Level: Intermediate

Pace Level: Moderato

Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

Provence & the Côte d'Azur

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Map of the region

Sunday, April 11:

Departure

Depart on an overnight flight to Nice.

Monday, April 12:

Nice, France **(R)**

Arrive at Nice Côte d'Azur airport by midday and transfer to **Le Negresco,** your hotel on the Promenade des Anglais. An optional afternoon tour of the **Villa Masséna**, a 1901 Belle Époque mansion built for the grandson of Napoleonic Marshal André Masséna, will introduce you to the Côte d'Azur's aristocratic past. This evening, gather for **a welcome reception**.

Tuesday, April 13:

Nice / Mougins / Vence / Saint-Paul-de-Vence / Nice **(B,L,D)**

Gain exclusive entry to **a private art collection** closed to the public, followed by a curator-led tour of **FAMM (Femmes Artistes du Musée de Mougins)**, Europe's first private museum dedicated entirely to women artists. Opened in 2024, it houses works by female visionaries such as Morisot, Kahlo, Krasner, and Abramović.

After lunch, visit the **Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence**, the colorful church Matisse called his masterpiece, designed in its entirety between 1947 and 1951. Stained glass in yellow, green, and blue casts moving pools of color across white ceramic tile murals.

Then, enjoy a special visit to the **Fondation Maeght**, France's first independent private art foundation. Stroll its pine-shaded grounds, which hold site-specific sculptures and mosaics by Miró, Giacometti, and Braque. Return to Nice for a late group dinner.



Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence, Vence



Sacha Sosno, *Tête Carrée*, 2002, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice

Wednesday, April 14:

Nice **(B,L)**

During a before-hours visit to **Musée Matisse** *(pending confirmation)*, see one of the world's largest Matisse collections inside a 17th-century Genoese villa in Cimiez, near the Hôtel Régina, where he spent his final decades.

Continue to the **Musée National Marc Chagall**, created during the artist's lifetime to house his Biblical Message cycle. A guided tour focuses on *Genesis*, *Exodus*, and the five-canvas *Song of Songs*, where sacred text becomes color, music, and human feeling.

After lunch, experience the **Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain's "outside the walls" programming** while the museum's main building undergoes renovation. This off-site initiative places postwar works from MAMAC in partner venues. You may enjoy dinner at leisure nearby.

Thursday, April 15:

Nice / Antibes / Biot / Flassans-sur-Issole / Aix-en-Provence **(B,L,D)**

Today, depart Nice for Aix-en-Provence, stopping first in **Antibes**. Here, Picasso worked inside a medieval castle above the sea. During a guided tour of **Musée Picasso**, housed in the Château Grimaldi, see works he made during his 1946 studio residency, then donated to the city, forming the world's first museum devoted to him.

Continue to **Musée National Fernand Léger** in **Biot**. A Cubist painter and Picasso's friend, Léger developed a machine-age language of cylindrical forms, workers, and primary color. His widow, Nadia, and collaborator Georges Bauquier founded the museum after his death.

After lunch, pause at **Commanderie de Peyrassol** for a wine tasting amid vineyards and contemporary sculpture before continuing to Aix-en-Provence to check into the hotel. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Friday, April 16:

Aix-En-Provence / Le Puy-Sainte-Réparade / Aix-En-Provence **(B,L)**

Explore Cézanne's Aix, the town where he changed modern painting. Visit **Atelier Cézanne**, the artist's private studio, where his easel, palette, furniture, and still-life props remain arranged near the north-facing light he preferred.



Atelier Cézanne, Aix-En-Provence



Paul Cezanne, *Baigneuses* (detail),1895, Musee Granet, Aix-En-Provence

Continue to **Bastide du Jas de Bouffan**, the 18th-century country house that Cézanne's father purchased in 1859. The artist lived and worked there for nearly 40 years, painting its gardens, chestnut avenue, and interiors in dozens of oils and watercolors.

At **Musée Granet**, set in a former Knights of Malta priory, view French painting, sculpture, and works by Cézanne alongside those of later artists who carried his lessons into modern art.

After lunch, visit **Château La Coste**, an acclaimed vineyard estate where art and architecture stretch across fields and wooded paths. A director-led tour introduces works by Louise Bourgeois, Richard Serra, and Alexander Calder, along with buildings and pavilions by Tadao Ando, Jean Nouvel, Frank Gehry, and Renzo Piano.

The remainder of the day is at leisure.

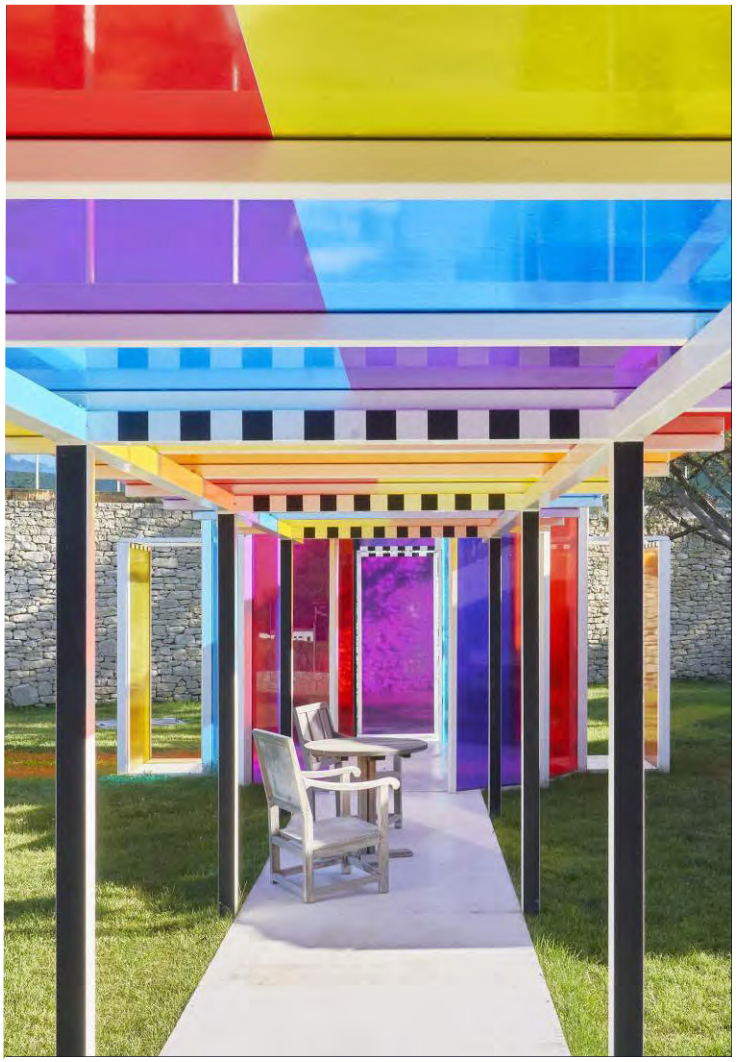
Saturday, April 17:

Aix-en-Provence / Saint-Rémy-de-Provence / Les Baux-de-Provence / Avignon **(B,L,D)**

Depart the hotel in Aix-en-Provence for Avignon. Stop first for a director-led tour of **Fondation Vasarely**, the hexagonal museum designed by Victor Vasarely, the Hungarian-born founder of Op Art. View his large-scale geometric "integrations," built from ceramic, aluminum, enamel, glass, and woven materials.

Continue to **Monastère Saint-Paul-de-Mausole**, the Romanesque monastery and former asylum where Vincent van Gogh lived from May 1889 to May 1890. On a curator-led visit, see the gardens, olive trees, wheat fields, and barred windows that inspired works such as *Irises, Wheat Field with Cypresses*, and *The Starry Night*.

At **Carrières des Lumières**, a former limestone quarry, see how light projections and music turn 45-foot stone walls into a cavernous art environment. Upon arrival in Avignon, check into the hotel and gather this evening for dinner.



Daniel Buren, *Une pause colorée, 2017*, Château La Coste, Le Puy-Sainte-Réparade



La Ribaute, Barjac

Sunday, April 18:

Avignon **(B,L)**

Join an expert-educator for a morning tour of **Collection Lambert**, housed in two restored 18th-century mansions. In 2012, dealer Yvon Lambert gave over 550 works to the French state, including pieces by Basquiat, Twombly, Kiefer, Nan Goldin, and Sol LeWitt.

After lunch, visit the UNESCO-listed **Palais des Papes**, Europe's largest Gothic palace. Built between 1335 and 1364, it housed seven popes during the Avignon Papacy, when church power moved from Rome to France.

Inside, frescoes by Simone Martini and Matteo Giovannetti still mark the private rooms, chapels, and ceremonial spaces of a court that drew diplomats, artists, and clerics across 14th-century Europe. Dinner is at leisure.

Monday, April 19:

Avignon / Barjac **(B,L,D)**

Enjoy a full-day, behind-the-scenes exploration of **La Ribaute**, German artist Anselm Kiefer's monumental 40-hectare studio complex in **Barjac**. This sprawling site, a former silk factory, has been transformed by Kiefer and his collaborators into a labyrinth of over 60 structures and subterranean tunnels.

Often described as France's answer to Donald Judd's Marfa, La Ribaute offers a profound dialogue with history, memory, and mythology. Return to Avignon, where you will attend **a festive farewell dinner**.

Tuesday, April 20:

Avignon / Marseille / Return **(B)**

After breakfast, transfer to the Marseille airport for your flight home.

Program Rate
$12,599 per person, double rate
$15,599 single rate

Rate Includes

- Eight nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for participants on arrival and departure days
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport /visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than those noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for participants on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Museum Travel Alliance. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/.

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Front cover: Musée Matisse, Nice.
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Accommodations



Le Negresco, Nice

Le Negresco, Nice

On the Promenade des Anglais, Le Negresco pairs Belle Époque architecture with beachfront comfort, individually designed rooms, fine dining, and an art collection spanning several centuries. Its pink dome, grand salons, and sea-facing setting make it one of the Côte d'Azur's best-known hotels.

Hôtel Le Pigonnet, Aix-en-Provence *(or similar)*

Set amid gardens with views toward Sainte-Victoire, this five-star retreat sits near Aix-en-Provence's center. Enjoy its elegant rooms, Provençal cuisine, and shaded outdoor spaces.

Hôtel Le Prieuré Baumanière, Villeneuve-lès-Avignon *(or similar)*

Housed in a former 14th-century priory, this hotel features gardens, refined rooms, and a Michelin-starred restaurant. Its quiet setting across the Rhône places guests near Avignon's papal monuments while preserving the calm of a Provençal village.



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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033; email: trips@museumtravelalliance.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $2,000 per person (of which $1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (mobile) (home)

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ❒ One bed ❒ Two beds

I wish to share a room with

FORM OF PAYMENT

❒ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad)*
❒ Debit card ❒ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/ to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date