

DOWN
ANCIENT
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FRANCE

Seen Through Ancient/Medieval Christian Windows

October 1-14, 2026



TOUR HOST

**Charles
Nienkirchen, PhD**
Professor Emeritus,
Ambrose University



TUTKU
— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —



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Tour Host: **Charles Nienkirchen, PhD**



Tour Itinerary:

Oct 1 Thu Arrival in Paris

- Airport arrival, check-in, orientation session.
- Evening: Welcome dinner & overview lecture: *"The Christian Roots of France"* made by the Group Leader. Meeting room for 1 hour.
- Overnight in Paris.

Oct 2 Fri Paris: Foundations of Christian France

- After breakfast a guided tour:
- **The Pantheon** – panoramic view of Paris; frescoes of: Clovis (1st Christian king of the Franks), Charlemagne (Holy Roman Emperor), Joan of Arc (Christian martyr and saint)
 - **Latin Quarter Walking Tour** – explore Gallo-Roman sites
 - **Archaeological Crypt of Notre Dame** – Roman ruins and early Christian Paris.
 - Overnight in Paris.

Oct 3 Sat Paris: Sacred Symbols & Medieval Heritage

- After breakfast a guided tour:
- **Notre Dame Cathedral** (exterior only post-fire, Crown of Thorns display if available)
 - **Sainte-Chapelle** – stained-glass tour focusing on **Revelation Window**
 - **Early Christian/Medieval highlights of the Louvre** – curated thematic tour
 - Evening: **Seine River Cruise** – viewing Paris' Christian architectural gems.
 - Overnight in **Paris**.

Oct 4 Sun Chartres

- After breakfast a guided tour:
- Travel by bus (up to 1 ½ hrs) to **Chartres**.
 - **Chartres Cathedral Guided Tour** – walk the labyrinth, view stained glass and sculptures.
 - Overnight in Normandie (Fougères or similar)

Oct 5 Mon Mont Saint-Michel

- After breakfast a guided tour:
- Departure via bus (up to 1 hour).
 - Afternoon: **Guided tour of Mont Saint-Michel Abbey** – a marvel of Christian monasticism
 - Drive (up to 4 hours) to Tours for overnight.

Oct 6 Tue Travel to Lyon

- Transfer (up to 6 hrs) by bus to **Lyon**.
- Overview walk with the guide: Roman forum, early Christian martyr sites.
- Overnight in **Lyon**.

Oct 7 Wed Lyon

- After breakfast guided tour:
- **Lyon's Roman Amphitheatre** – site of Christian martyrdom (e.g., St. Blandina).
 - **Hourvière Hill** – Basilica & view over Lyon.
 - **Museum of Gallo-Roman Civilization**.
 - **Primatiale Saint-Jean Cathedral** – Romanesque-Gothic blend.
 - Overnight in Lyon.

Oct 8 Thur Lyon => Vienne (up to 1 hour) => Orange (up to 2½ hours)

- After breakfast a guided tour:
- Transfer by bus to **Vienne**.
 - **Guided visit** – temple of Augustus & early Christian mosaics.
 - Afternoon, continue to **Orange**.
 - Guided visit – Roman theatre & triumphal arch.
 - Drive (40 min) to Avignon.
 - Overnight in **Avignon**.

Oct 9 Fri Avignon

- After breakfast guided tour:
- **Palace of the Popes**
 - **Pont du Gard** (Roman aqueduct)
 - Avignon's medieval quarter.
 - Overnight in Avignon



Arles

Oct 10 Sat Avignon => Carcassonne (up to 3 hours)

After breakfast a guided tour:

- Travel to **Carcassonne**
- Guided Tour the **Cité de Carcassonne** – double-walled fortress city
- Visit the **Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus**
- Drive to Nîmes (up to 3 hours) for overnight.

Oct 11 Sun Nîmes & Arles

After breakfast a guided tour:

- **Nîmes** Amphitheatre, Maison Carrée – well-preserved Roman temple
- Early Christian relics, if accessible.
- **Afternoon drive to Arles (up to 1 hour).**
- **Guided tour:**
- Amphitheatre and Roman Forum
- Church of St. Trophime – famed Romanesque portal
- Tour locations tied to early Christian burial practices.
- Travel (up to 1 hour) to **Camargue region.**
- Overnight in **Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer.**

Oct 12 Mon Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer & St. Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume

After breakfast a guided tour:

- Visit **Church of the Saintes-Maries**; Explore unique Mediterranean Christian traditions.
- Afternoon: Drive (up to 2½ hours) to **St. Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume**
- Guided Visit: **Basilica of Saint Mary Magdalene** – relics of Mary Magdalene.
- Drive (up to 1½ hour) to **Marseille** for overnight.

Oct 13 Tue Marseille

After breakfast a guided tour:

- Visit: **Marseille Cathedral** – relics of St. Lazarus, **Church of St. Laurent** – **Abbaye of St. Victor.**
- **Lunch** break near Vieux Port.
- **afternoon Guided visit:**
- **Marseille History Museum** ,
- **Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilization**
- Walk through **Le Panier** – Marseille's oldest district with historic Christian sites.
- Overnight in **Marseille.**

Oct 14 Wed Departure

- Transfer to Nice airport for departure.

LAND ONLY (in Euro)

- **€6,995** person for min 15 paying in double
- **€6,075** person for min 20 paying in double
- **€5,250** person for min 25 paying in double
- **€1,255** Single Room Supplement

INCLUDING

- One group transfer from airport to hotel and one group departure transfer- all other transfer are extra cost.
- 13 nights on BB basis in 3* or 4* hotels
- 3 nights in Paris
- 1 night in Normandie (Fougères, Mont Saint Michel or similar)
- 1 night in Tours
- 2 nights in Lyon
- 2 nights in Avignon
- 1 night in Nîmes
- 1 night in Sainte-Marie-de-la-Mer
- 2 nights in Marseille
- Daily Breakfast
- City taxes
- Meeting room for 1 hour on day of arrival in Paris and for 1 hour in Marseille or Avignon
- 1 welcome dinner in Paris and 1 farewell dinner in Marseille
- Private deluxe coach for transfers between cities.
- Minivans in Paris for one-way transfers according to the program.
- Licensed guide for min 1.5 hour – max 4 hours per day according to the program.
- Whispers for 12 days
- Full assistance by Tour manager for 14 days.
- Entrances and reservations to:

PARIS:

- Panthéon
- Archaeological Crypt of Notre Dame
- Notre Dame Cathedral
- Sainte Chapelle
- Louvre
- Boat cruise on the Seine river

CHARTRES:

- Chartres Cathedral

MONT SAINT MICHEL:

- Mont Saint-Michel Abbey

LYON:

- Lyon's Roman Amphitheatre
- Fouvière Cathedral
- Saint Jean Baptiste Cathedral

ORANGE:

- Roman theatre

AVIGNON:

- Palace of the Popes

CARCASSONNE:

- Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus

NÎMES:

- Arènes de Nîmes
- Maison Carrée
- Tour Magne

ARLES:

- Amphithéâtre
- Forum Romain
- Church of St Trophime

LES SAINTES-MARIES-DE-LA-MER:

- Church of the Saintes-Maries

ST. MAXIMIN-LA-SAINTE-BAUME:

- Basilica of Saint Mary Magdalene

MARSEILLE:

- Cathédrale la Major de Marseille
- Church Saint Laurent
- Abbaye St Victor
- Marseille History Museum
- Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilization

EXCLUDING

- **All International airfare arriving Paris Oct 1 and Departing Nice Oct 14.**
- Lunches
- Dinners not listed in the included section
- Drinks at dinners, except ½ L water
- Tips to guides, drivers, waiters
- Medical or travel insurances
- Any item not specified under "Included items", or extra of any personal nature

PAYMENT PROCEDURE

- **€1,000 EURO per person Deposit NON REFUNDABLE: March 28, 2026**
- **Full Balance Payment: May 15, 2026**

Cancellation Policy

- Cancellation From June 1st until August 14th: **50% cancellation fee**
- Cancellation From August 15th until arrival: **100% cancellation fee.**

REGISTRATION



OPTION 1

REGISTER NOW



<https://tutku.travel/tour/DAPFR1026>

OPTION 2



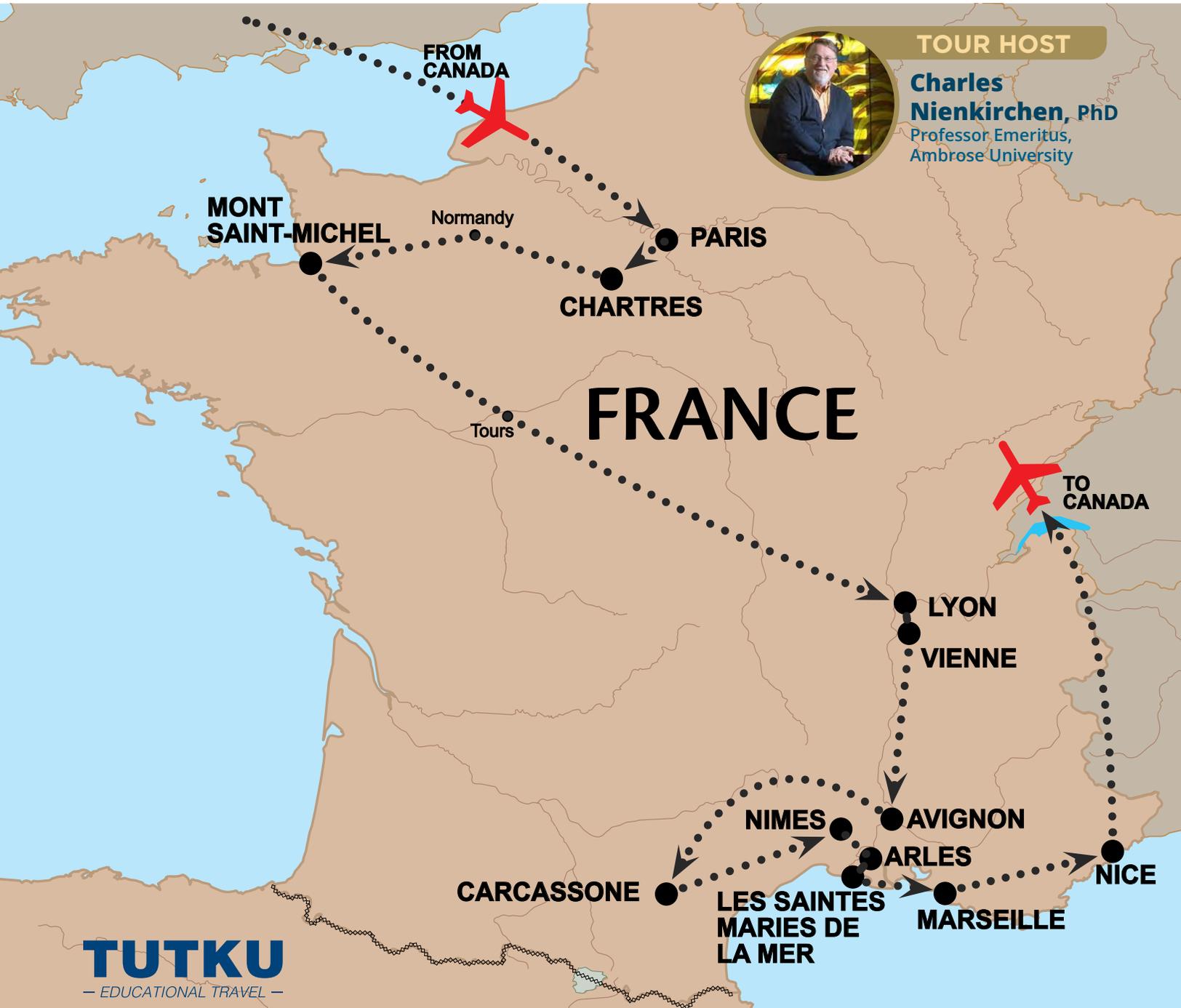
- 1- Open the Camera app on your device.
- 2- Move the QR code into the frame.



Carcassonne



Mont Saint-Michel



TOUR HOST

Charles Nienkirchen, PhD
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