



# Lyon, the French Alps, Northern Italy, and the Slow Food Cheese Festival with Scott & Joe

11 days | 13 days with Paris extension | Sep 13 2025—Sep 23 2025

Travel with Scott and Joe, cheese and travel personalities and owners of Scott & Joe Cheese Shop in Nyack, NY. Taste your way through France and Northern Italy as you uncover their rich and delicious history of food and wine. Travel from the culinary capital of Lyon through the charming medieval villages of the French Alps, to the vineyards of Piedmont, visiting local shops, wine cellars, and bustling markets along the way. Top it all off by attending the Bra Cheese Festival, where you'll meet vendors, attend workshops, and sample cheeses from around the world.



## Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 6 food tastings
- 1 liqueur tasting
- 1 wine tasting
- 6 guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière
- Les Halles de Lyon
- French cooking class
- Chartreuse region cheese & liqueur tasting
- Lake Annecy
- Menthon-Saint-Bernard castle
- Barolo wine tasting
- Bra Cheese Festival

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 3 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads, cobblestone streets, and sandy paths, with some hills.

For more information, contact

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/Scott-And-Joe-Food-And-Wine-Tour> | 1-800-438-7672

# Lyon, the French Alps, Northern Italy, and the Slow Food Cheese Festival with Scott & Joe

11 days | 13 days with Paris extension

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Lyon today.

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## Lyon → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Lyon

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to France! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner this evening.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lyon

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

A local guide introduces you to France's culinary capital on a tour through Lyon's UNESCO-recognized city center.

- Set out on a walking tour of Lyon's UNESCO-recognized city center, taking in its Gothic and Renaissance architecture as you go. Along the way, you'll pass the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière. You may have already seen it as you coasted into town, but this hilltop cathedral—built on the site of an old Roman forum—staggers up close.
- Drive over Saint-Exupéry Hill—named for Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the Lyon-born author of the world-famous novella, *The Little Prince*—stopping in several districts en route. Highlights include the riverside Quais de Saône area and the landmark-lined Place des Terreaux, but there's plenty more to see beyond this popular pair.
- Continue through Vieux Lyon, the Old Town and largest Renaissance district in the city, and step inside the Cathédrale Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Lyon. Simply known as "Lyon Cathedral" in English, this Gothic church took 300 years to complete and houses a 14th-century astronomical clock. You might just catch it tolling!
- Explore some of Lyon's many traboules—secret covered passageways that once helped workers and merchants shuttle between streets. Word has it that it takes a true Lyonnais to locate these hidden paths; luckily, your local guide's one of them.

- Wrap up with a walk through the city's famous indoor market, Halles de Lyon, and a sampling of the city's cuisine. Join your guide for a tasting of cheese, charcuterie, and wine, before finishing your sightseeing tour with a sweet treat from a boulangerie. (That's the French word for bakery, and with more than 30,000 of them in the country, it's a word you'll use often.)

After a day of touring and tasting, enjoy an evening to yourself. If you're craving another bite to eat, seek out a bouchon. Unique to Lyon, these eateries serve hearty local dishes and regional wines in a cozy atmosphere. Not just any restaurant can claim the title, though: Only a few dozen meet the traditional qualifications needed, so do a little digging and find your favorite, or ask your Tour Director for a recommendation

### Day 4: French cooking class

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Enjoy a free morning in historic Lyon. Later, take part in a culinary workshop alongside a professional chef. You'll be welcomed with a delicious breakfast before heading into the kitchen for a hands-on lesson where you'll learn to craft some beloved recipes. Afterwards, sit down to savor your masterpieces during an included dinner paired with local wines.

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## French Alps → 2 nights

### Day 5: French Alps via the Chartreuse Region

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch, liqueur tasting*

Travel through scenic landscapes to the French Alps today, making stops along the way in the Chartreuse region.

- Visit a fromagerie in the Chartreuse region for a tasting of the region's unique cheeses
- Enjoy an included lunch of French Alpine specialties
- This afternoon, travel to Voiron to tour the original distillery of Chartreuse. Learn about this enigmatic liquor whose recipe is only known by the Carthusian monks of the Grande Chartreuse monastery, and taste two types of this unique liqueur.

Continue to the French Alps and enjoy a free evening to explore at your leisure.

### Day 6: Annecy

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get to know the lakeside town of Annecy today.

- Walk through Annecy's Old Town with your Tour Director and take in sweeping views of the Alps.
- Peruse the stalls of the town's open-air market, featuring fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Enjoy ample free time to stroll through shopping streets, visit cafés, explore museums, or even go out onto Lake Annecy.

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## Piedmont Region → 4 nights

### Day 7: Transfer to the Piedmont Region

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

On your way out of Annecy, stop in the village of Vaulx for a self-guided tour of Menthon-Saint-Bernard Castle, the inspiration for the castle in Disney's *Sleeping Beauty*.

Then, set out across the Alps to the historically and gastronomically rich region of Piedmont, Italy, famous for its cheeses, truffles, and wines. Gather this evening for an included dinner.

### Day 8: Castle of Grinzane Cavour & Barolo Wine Tasting

*Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, wine tasting*

Travel through the hilly Piedmont region to enter the UNESCO-recognized Castle of Grinzane Cavour. Then, visit a village in the Langhe region to taste some of the best known names in Northern Italian Wine and sample classic Barolo vintages.

- Enjoy a light lunch of local specialties at a winery.
- Sample local Barolo vintages in the vineyard's wine cellar.

### Day 9: Bra Cheese Festival

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Travel to the town of Bra, which is located in heart of the Piedmont region, to take part in the Bra Cheese Festival.

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- Explore the vendors and sample cheeses, food, and wine from regional and international producers with a local guide.
- This afternoon, join in on a workshop—from food pairings, to responsible agriculture, and food production, you'll have a chance to explore a variety of topics and tastes.
- Enjoy free time for to explore and grab lunch in Bra at your leisure.

#### **Day 10: Bra Cheese Festival**

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, farewell dinner*

Spend another day exploring the Bra Cheese Festival and all its delicious offerings. You'll have the opportunity to join another workshop and continue discovering different cheeses and their producers.

Later this evening, gather with your fellow group members to celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner at the festival's *Dinner Date*, featuring a specially crafted menu paired with regional wines.

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## **Flight Home**

#### **Day 11: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to Milan airport for your flight home.

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### **+ Paris extension**

Paris is always a good idea, and so why not get ahead of the action? Take a couple of days pre-tour to museum-hop, stroll along the boulevards, brush up on your français, and let your expert Tour Director point you toward the crème de la crème.

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## **Overnight Flight → 1 night**

#### **Day 1: Travel day**

Board your overnight flight to Paris today.

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## **Paris → 2 nights**

#### **Day 2: Arrival in Paris**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Welcome to France! Meet your Tour Director and fellow early arrival travelers as you enjoy a welcome drink this evening.

#### **Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Paris**

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

A guided sightseeing tour introduces you to the architecture, scenery and cuisine of the City of Light's many neighborhoods, called arrondissements.

- Drive down the Champs-Élysées to view the Arc de Triomphe.
- See the Eiffel Tower, the Palais Garnier opera house and Place de la Concorde.
- Marvel at the eclectic and iconic architecture of the Louvre.
- Sample traditional French pastries, fruits, and cheeses on a culinary walk through Marché des Enfants Rouges and the Le Marais district.

Choose how to spend a free evening in the city. To see Paris' twinkling lights from a different perspective, add our optional Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise excursion. Alternatively, roam the streets by foot and see where the city's glittering lamps take you.

+ Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

#### **Day 4: Train to Lyon**

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner*

Journey south of Paris by transferring to Gare de Lyon and boarding the TGV. (That stands for Train à Grande Vitesse—literally “highspeed train.” With speeds capping out at 200 mph, they really mean it!) After a zippy ride through landscapes that inspired France's most virtuosic artists, arrive at your final destination: Lyon.

Then, meet up with the rest of your tour group and get to know them during tonight's welcome dinner. (To plot out the rest of your trip, begin on day two of the regular itinerary.)

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/Scott-And-Joe-Food-And-Wine-Tour> | 1-800-438-7672

## Extension excursion options

### Day 3: Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

From \$129.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Take in the nighttime allure of the City of Light on a special evening excursion. The event begins with dinner at a local restaurant. After you dine, board a boat cruise along the Seine. As you coast along the river and under Paris' bridges, you'll behold the illuminated monuments of the city glittering alongside the riverbanks. Please note: The dress code may vary depending on the restaurant for your dinner. Your Tour Director will advise you on what to wear, but shorts and sneakers are likely to be considered inappropriate attire.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.