



FRANCE'S
BEST TRIPS
39 AMAZING
ROAD TRIPS

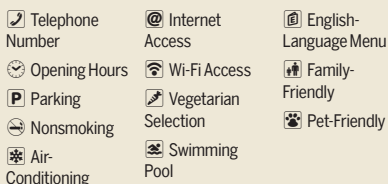
A large, blue shield-shaped graphic with a white border and a white outline. The text is centered within the shield. "FRANCE'S" and "BEST TRIPS" are in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. "39" is in a large, bold, yellow font. "AMAZING ROAD TRIPS" is in a smaller, white, uppercase, sans-serif font. Two horizontal dashed yellow lines separate "FRANCE'S" from "BEST TRIPS", and "39" from "AMAZING ROAD TRIPS".

This edition written and researched by

Oliver Berry

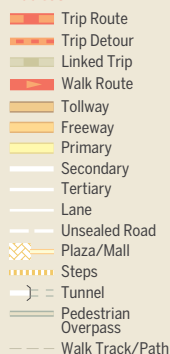
**Stuart Butler, Jean-Bernard Carillet, Gregor Clark,
Donna Wheeler, Nicola Williams**

SYMBOLS IN THIS BOOK



MAP LEGEND

Routes



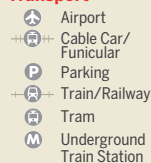
Boundaries



Population



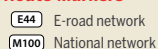
Transport



Trips



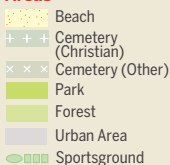
Route Markers



Hydrography



Areas



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OUR WRITERS

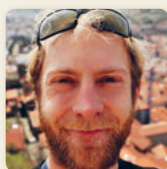


OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end –

broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.



Oliver Berry My first trip to France was a family holiday to Provence at the age of two, and I've been back many times since while working on Lonely Planet's bestselling *France* guide. I've covered nearly every corner of L'Hexagone on my travels, but I have an especially soft spot for Corsica and the Pyrenees. When not in France, I can usually be found wandering the beaches and clifftops of my home county, Cornwall. I'm also a regular contributor to many other websites, newspapers and magazines, including *Lonely Planet Traveller*. Check out my latest travels at www.oliverberry.com.

My Favourite Trip 32 **Pyrenees** I'm a sucker for wild places, and they don't get much wilder than the snow-dusted mountains and quiet valleys of the Pyrenees.

Read more about Oliver at: lonelyplanet.com/members/oliverberry



Stuart Butler My first encounters with southwest France came on family holidays. When I was older I spent every summer surfing off the beaches of the southwest until one day I found myself so hooked on the region that I was unable to leave – I've been here ever since. When not writing for Lonely Planet I hunt for uncharted surf on remote coastlines. The results of these trips appear frequently in the world's surf media. My website is www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com.

My Favourite Trip 33 **Basque Country** I'd never tire of driving this route; bumping between postcard-pretty villages, strolling Biarritz' waterfront and clambering around the Pyrenean foothills.

Read more about Stuart at: lonelyplanet.com/members/stuartbutler



MORE WRITERS

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Paper in this book is certified against the Forest Stewardship Council™ standards. FSC™ promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.



Jean-Bernard Carillet As a Paris-based (and Metz-born) journalist and photographer, I was delighted to rediscover my own turf. For this Lonely Planet title I couldn't resist the temptation of exploring Burgundy and Beaujolais, if only to sample some of the best wines in the world. I confess a penchant for the Meursault whites (in Burgundy) and the Fleurie reds (in Beaujolais).

My Favourite Trip **8** **Monet's Normandy**

As a Parisian, I regularly set off to coastal Normandy (favourite area: Côte d'Albâtre) to savour a seafood platter.



Gregor Clark My first epic French road trip came on Bastille Day at age 20. Nearly broke and hitchhiking towards my next fruit-picking job, I landed a 400km lift from a lost tourist and proceeded to spend the night winding through the fireworks-lit streets of every little village in Haute-Provence. To this day, I love nothing better than aimlessly wandering France's back roads in search of hidden villages and unexpected treasures. I contribute regularly to Lonely Planet's European and South American guidebooks.

My Favourite Trip **18** **Foothills of the Alps**

for the landscape's beautiful transition from the high-mountain greenery of the Vercors to the arid majesty of the Verdon.

Read more about Gregor at: lonelyplanet.com/members/gregorclark



Donna Wheeler I've been visiting France for many years, but I really got to know the south when living just over the border in Turin. I'm the author of several Lonely Planet guidebooks and have published elsewhere on art, architecture and design, history, and food. I'm also a creative consultant and travel experience planner. My Australian childhood was one epic coastal road trip, hunting down the best swimming spots and seafood dinners – something that stood me in good stead for this assignment.

My Favourite Trip **28** **The Camargue**

for the wonderful, wayward city of Arles and the wetlands' untamed viridian beauty.



Nicola Williams Originally from Britain, I've lived in France for over a decade. From my hillside house on the southern shore of Lake Geneva, it's a quick and easy motor to the Alps (call me a ski fiend...), Paris (art buff...), southern France (foodie...). For this Lonely Planet title I clocked up 2500km – all at a graceful average speed of 38km/h – on the island of Corsica. I blog at tripalong.wordpress.com and tweet @Tripalong.

My Favourite Trip **26** **Southern Seduction**

en Corse The dramatic contrasts in landscape, peaking with that cinematic hike down Bonifacio's Escalier du Roi d'Aragon to the sea's edge, get me every time.

Read more about Donna at: lonelyplanet.com/members/donnawheeler

Read more about Nicola at: lonelyplanet.com/members/nicolawilliams

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