



# THE CHÂTEAU DE CAMON

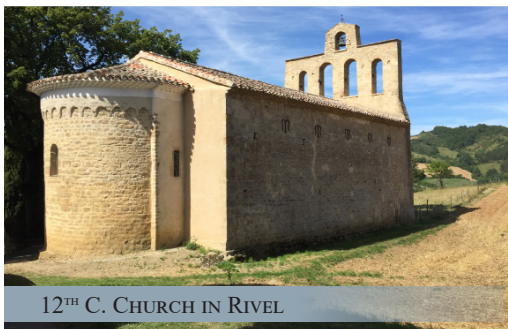
## EXPLORING THE LANGUEDOC

OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2022

One of the strongest motivations to travel is the deep yearning we have to connect with the past. We understand ourselves and the world around us a bit better by exploring the past, whether it be the thrill of entering an ancient building or the silence of standing in a timeless landscape. If this is the experience you are seeking, there could be no better place to spend a week than in the mysterious and spellbinding Ariège. Set in the south-west of France, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, we have found the perfect setting for a week of time travel, the Château de Camon.

Charlemagne, on his return from conquering the Moors in Spain, put the village of Camon under the authority of Notre-Dame. By the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup> century a Benedictine Abbey was in place. Troubadours, crusaders, itinerant knights, Spanish princesses and persecuted Cathars passed through the region. The Abbey of Camon was an important sanctuary along the way and, by the 16<sup>th</sup> century, a fortified manor (Château) had been built to secure the Abbey. The Château has now been offering comfort and tranquility to travelers for five hundred years! Vaulted ceilings, four-poster beds and beautiful fabrics make the Château both spine-tinglingly authentic and sumptuously cozy.

With the Château de Camon as our base for seven nights, we will set off to explore the antiquities of the Aude and Ariège regions. From the ruins of Cathar castles to the medieval grandeur of Carcassonne, it would be impossible to head home without feeling moved by the shadows of the past!



12<sup>TH</sup> C. CHURCH IN RIVEL



CHÂTEAU DE CAMON

### THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$3999**  
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 990**

*Airfares are available from many US cities. Please call for details.*

### THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

**HOTELS:** 7 nights' accommodation at the Château de Camon including all taxes and service charges  
**COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary  
**MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 5 dinners  
**GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout  
**EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person  
**ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary  
**LECTURES:** Lectures by Swarthmore faculty

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.  
Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.*

DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.  
122 Island Street  
Keene, NH 03431  
USA



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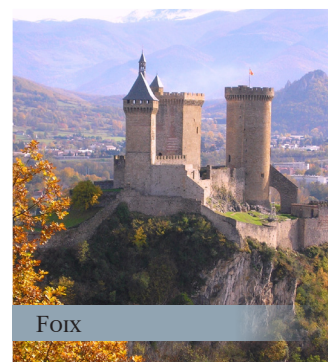


**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>** - Departure from your US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup>** - Your arrival in Toulouse will be met by Discover Europe's representative for the 1.5 hour drive to the Château. The rest of the day is free to unpack, relax and begin exploring the village. This evening the group will gather on the terrace for drinks before a welcome dinner party at the Château. **(D) Overnight: CAMON**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup>** - To shake off the effects of the long flights, we will enjoy a leisurely start this morning. We'll take a stroll around the village and visit the abbey church, before we set off on our excursion. Our first stop will be the local prehistory museum in Tarascon, where we will have lunch. Then, for the more adventurous and sure footed, we will drive up the mountain for a one and a half-mile walk along an uneven subterranean riverbed which will take us back to the Magdalenian period (circa 11,000 BC) and to the vast chamber of the Grotte de Niaux. Leaping from the walls of the cave are the most beautiful images of horses, ibex, stags and bison, some still as fresh as the day they were painted. These are among the best prehistoric paintings you will see anywhere in Europe. Alternatively, you can opt to stay in the prehistory park and see the replicas in safety and comfort. On our way back to Camon, we'll stop at Montsegur. The ruined castle, set high on a rocky crag, was one of the final refuges of the persecuted Cathars. In 1244 the Catholic Church carried out one of its worst ever atrocities; 225 Cathars, who refused to recant, were burnt on a communal pyre. There will be time to make the ascent to the castle (30 minutes), for those who enjoy a hike, and for those with nothing to prove, a wonderful respite to take in the views and reflect on the horrors of the past! Before heading home, there will be a stop at the village museum. We dine at the Château again this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup>** - After a leisurely breakfast on the terrace, overlooking the lovely gardens set against the distant Pyrenean peaks, a three mile journey will bring us to Mirepoix on market day. There will be time to explore one of France's most exquisite medieval squares, and enjoy a coffee at one of the many cafes. Weather permitting, we will have a picnic lunch at the nearby village of Roquefixade where we can take a walk to view the medieval castle. Then we will head for the regional capital of Foix and visit the chateau, seat of the powerful counts of Foix. On returning to the hotel there will be time to relax and enjoy a cocktail on the terrace, before we go to a local restaurant for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**



FOIX

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>** - Weather permitting, we'll head up into the high Pyrenees today. Our first stop will be the beautiful village of Montailou, overlooked by the ruins of the medieval castle. This was the village written about by Emmanuel LeRoy Ladurie in his fascinating book *Montailou*,

which gives a vivid picture of life in a mountain village during the time of the Cathar repression. This afternoon we wend our way down the mountains, through the spa town of Ax-les-Thermes, where we will stop for lunch, before we head back to Camon for another dinner at the Château. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup>** - This morning we'll cut across the heavenly Ariège countryside to the magical Romanesque Abbey of St. Hilaire. Then on to Limoux, famed for its Blanquette - a sparkling wine. There will be time to find lunch and then free time for shopping in La Place de la Rpublique in the beautiful heart of the old town before returning to Camon in mid-afternoon, the rest of your day is free - you can choose to eat at the hotel again or venture out to a local restaurant in nearby Mirepoix. **(B) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>** - Our first stop this morning will be the bio-dynamic vineyard of Chateau Maris. We have a tour of the cellars and taste the delightful product before we have lunch (included). This afternoon we visit Carcassonne. If you had to choose one medieval fortress town to visit, Carcassonne would be it. Restored to perfection, you only need imagine fellow travelers dressed in sackcloth, doublet and hose, and you're back in the medieval world! We will visit the beautiful St. Nazaire church with some of the loveliest stained glass in France. There will be time to tour the inner fortress, Château Comtal, and wander the narrow alleyways, before we return to Camon for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup>** - This morning we'll head to the mountain-top village of Rennes-le-Château. A visit to the parish church will either spark or rejuvenate your interest in Dan Brown's mysteries. The church is full of symbols and secret codes which may indicate that Abb Saunière, the priest from 1885 to 1910, had discovered the lost treasure of Solomon, brought to the region by the Visigoths in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. We'll have time here for lunch before a beautiful drive takes us back home, stopping in Puivert on the way. Relatively intact for a Cathar castle, Puivert is in a wonderful position overlooking the surrounding countryside. Tonight, a final dinner at the Château, always beautifully presented by master chef Tom. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**



CARCASSONNE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>** - Reluctantly we will bid farewell to the abbey this morning and head back to Toulouse Airport for flights back to the US. (Please do not book flights departing before 11.00 am) **(B)**

*Please note that there is no elevator, and there are no ground floor rooms, at the Château. Participants must be able to climb at least one flight of stairs. If you require a room on the lowest level possible, please let us know.*

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner

## Your Host: Professor Patricia Reilly

Patricia Reilly, Associate Professor of Art History, has been faculty lecturer for Swarthmore Alumni trips to Rome, Sicily, Holland, and Belgium. She specializes in Classical and Renaissance art and teaches courses on topics such as the Art of Ancient Greece and Rome, Western Tradition, Global Renaissance, Michelangelo to Mussolini, Cracking Visual Codes, and Exhibiting Women. She also co-teaches Art, Chemistry, and Conservation (with Chemistry Professor, Tom Stephenson) and The Classical Tradition in Art and Literature (with Classics Professor, Grace Ledbetter).



Your deposit is **FULLY REFUNDABLE** up to 1/1/2022

## REGISTRATION FORM

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please type or print.
2. Make checks payable to DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.
3. Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
4. Complete both sides of this form.
5. Detach the bottom section and return to Discover Europe with your deposit of \$500 per person, if this has not already been paid. Keep the top section for your records.

### DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

**NAME(S).** Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Include your "Known As" or preferred name.

**PASSPORT DETAILS.** Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.

**ADDRESS.** If you have a temporary address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.

**DIETARY REQUIREMENTS.** Please let us know if you require any special meals both for the hotels and the airlines.

**HEALTH INFORMATION.** It is very valuable for us to know ahead of time if you require any special assistance. Discover Europe tours are always paced for comfort, but inevitably there is also a certain amount of walking involved. **Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with the tour group and not cause delays.** Please consult with your physician if have any questions regarding your ability to participate fully.

### TRIP DETAILS

Please fill in the name of the trip you wish to register for, the departure date and your departure airport or city.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT

This information is essential.

### INDEPENDENT FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

1. If transatlantic flights are not already included as part of your tour package, Discover Europe will be very happy to book these for you. The fee for this service is \$40 per ticket.
2. If you are arranging your own flights, please provide your complete flight information, giving the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked. Transportation to and from the hotel for arrival and departure arrangements that are separate from the group can be made at an additional cost. It is essential that we receive your complete flight information at least 60 days prior to your trip departure.

### ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms. If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.

**Note:** A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.

### PASSENGER DETAILS FOR THE CHÂTEAU DE CAMON (1008/DSC)

PASSPORT NAME:

1. TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

2. TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

KNOWN AS: 1. 2.

PASSPORT 1#: EXP.DATE: DOB:

PASSPORT 2#: EXP.DATE: DOB:

ADDRESS:

CITY: STATE: ZIP:

E-MAIL:

PREFERRED TELEPHONE: ( ) work/cell/home  
circle one

SECONDARY TELEPHONE: ( ) work/cell/home  
circle one

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS:

HEALTH INFORMATION:

OTHER COMMENTS OR NOTES:

SWARTHMORE CLASS YEAR:

### TRIP DETAILS

DEPARTURE DATE: RETURN DATE:

DEPARTURE AIRPORT OR CITY:

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY TRIP TO:



**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:**

DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.

122 Island Street Keene, NH 03431

# TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
3. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
4. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., Swarthmore, Engaging Journeys, their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
5. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.
6. Conduct During the Tour: You are responsible for respecting the authority and following the directions of the tour guide and the laws of the countries in your itinerary. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the tour if, in our sole discretion, your condition or behavior renders you unfit for the tour or unfit for continuation once the tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the tour. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the tour or use certain goods included in the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the tour or goods.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. A deposit of \$500 must accompany this completed form (if it has not already been paid).
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to trip departure.

## TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However, we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the currency of the countries visited on your tour by more than 10% in the 6 months

prior to trip departure.

2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 15 - 20 participants. Should we end up with less than 15 people, Discover Europe will work with Swarthmore to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.
4. Late registrations (received within 60 days of departure) may also incur extra fees and charges as discounted rates for hotels and airfares may no longer be available so close to departure. Participants will be made aware of any such charges before their registration is accepted.

## REFUND POLICY

1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$200 cancellation penalty per person.
2. Participants who withdraw fewer than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
  - 90-61 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person
  - 60 days or less prior to departure: no refund
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the above schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe, Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Comprehensive travel insurance is not included in your tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Trip insurance information will be mailed to you upon the receipt of your reservation. Please contact Sarah Doody at Engaging Journeys at 904.432.3141 or sarah@engagingjourneys.com for insurance information.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing by Discover Europe.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.
8. Your place on this tour is not transferable.

## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

1. All inclusions are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant's home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

(Please check one)

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Flight details (if self-arranged), to be provided **at least 90 days** prior to departure: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

(Please check one)

☐ I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)

☐ I will be sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like a ☐ double ☐ twin-bedded room

## PERMISSIONS

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list. ☐ Yes ☐ No

## SIGNATURES

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Swarthmore College, Engaging Journeys and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_