



Join Fellow Quilters as we
Travel in **FRANCE...**

From **NANTES** to **PROVENCE!**

April 27 ~ May 08, 2011

Attend Europe's
Premier Quilt Show

Pour l'Amour du Fil
(For the Love of Thread)



Tour Itinerary:

Wed, Apr 27

Today you will board your flight for the overnight journey to **NANTES, FRANCE**. If you would like to arrive a day early, Traveling Together can help you arrange for an early hotel night. If you would like assistance with your air travel, please call Northwood Travel at 800-780-0571 or email them at info@NorthwoodTravel.com

For this particular tour, you may want to consider using a travel agent to get the best deal for flying into Nantes. You may need help in making connections if your International airline does not code share with one that flies into Nantes...especially when using Expedia, Orbitz, etc. There is also the option of taking the train directly from Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris.

Thu, Apr 28

You may arrange your flight to arrive in Nantes at any time today and you will receive information on getting from the airport to our hotel. Just be sure to arrive in time for our **WELCOME DINNER**, giving you the opportunity to meet everyone on the tour. Our home for the next three nights is the **NOVOTEL NANTES CENTRE CITÉ DES CONGRÉS**. Being located close to the historic centre and next to the convention center, makes it the ideal place to be for attending Pour l'Amour du Fil.

Your tour includes admission to the quilt show on Saturday. If you plan to arrive early and would like to attend the show prior to Saturday, we can make those arrangements for you.

In order to plan your free time wisely and learn more about specific places along the tour that interest you, we recommend that you purchase one of the following travel guides: Frommer's, Foder's, Rick Steves', or DK Eyewitness. You may want to be sure it has a food translation section for ordering when dining out on your own.

Fri, Apr 29

This morning we will visit **LES MACHINES DE L'ILE**, an extraordinary artistic project like you've never seen before. Born from the imaginations of François Delarozzière and Pierre Orefice, it is a blend of the invented worlds of Jules Verne, the mechanical universe of Leonardo da Vinci, and the industrial history of Nantes.

After a **PANORAMIC TOUR OF NANTES**, we'll visit the **CASTLE OF THE DUKES OF BRITT**any. Newly renovated and located in the heart of the city, this 15th century ducal residence is now home to the Nantes history museum. You will have all the time you want to explore the castle, as the remainder of the day is free to do as you please. There are lovely shops and cafes in the area and Carol Veillon will be giving us a list of her recommendations to make the most of your free time in Nantes.



CAROL VEILLON is the owner and editor-in-chief of the most prestigious quilt magazine in Europe, **QUILTMANIA** and the principal organizer of **POUR L'AMOUR DU FIL**. Carol published the magazine in the French language in 1997 and it was immediately a success in France and in Europe (also translated in Dutch); then in 2001 she began publishing an English version for America and the rest of the world and now there are thousands of "**Quiltmaniacs!!**"

Sat. April 30, 2011

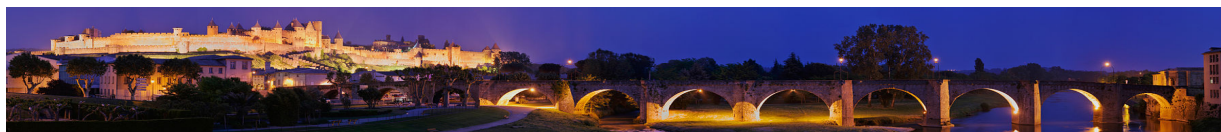
POUR L'AMOUR DU FIL translated, means *For the love of the thread*. In addition to approximately 90 vendors (which Carol promises are only "the Crème de la crème!"), there are six 'Little Houses'. Like a patchwork quilt of cultures and techniques, each house is of a very different style and will be filled with quilts, embroideries, knitting, clothes and other textile curiosities. For example, the first show in 2009 featured the Kaffe Fassett House, modeled after his studio with Kaffe and his partner Brandon Mably in attendance. There is a Traditional House, Japan House, etc. Quote from Carol: "Our goal is to give envy to the public to rush upstairs to the vendors booths to buy fabric, needles and threads to do something and not like in some other exhibits to show work that nobody else will be able or want to reproduce too far from the reality; it's not our purpose, we want people to have fun, to enjoy and say to themselves: "well, I saw a demo, it seems easy, I want to make it!"... They will also enjoy beautiful pieces exhibited and you will be able to photograph everything!!!"

Sun. May 01

We depart Nantes this morning and drive to the city of **BORDEAUX**. Most shops are closed on Sunday so we will have the afternoon to relax at the **PULLMAN BORDEAUX AQUITANIA HOTEL**. Located lakeside on the outskirts of the city, this will be the perfect spot to have a show and tell of everyone's purchases from our time in Nantes! Dinner tonight will be at the hotel's Aquitania restaurant.

Mon. May 02

Our destination today is **LA CITÉ DE CARCASSONE**. This medieval city is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and, with it's 52 towers, 3km of battlements and two rings of town wall, stands magnificently overlooking the left bank of the river Aude. **LE DONJON HOTEL** is located within the fortress and will be our home for two nights.



Time for lunch will give you the opportunity to visit a nearby café and try the local fare, classic peasant stew cassoulet. There will be plenty of time to stroll along the narrow cobbled streets and browse the many shops, some of which will be selling medieval wares. Then, to get an idea of just how magnificent this fortress is, we'll board "**LE PETIT TRAIN**" for a local tour, prior to our dinner at the hotel.

Tue. May 03

In addition to visiting several **FABRIC SHOPS in the VILLE BASSE** (the modern lower city of Carcassonne), we'll drive to **MIREPOIX**, a late thirteenth-century bastion built around one of the loveliest surviving arcaded market squares in the country. The square is bordered by houses dating from between the thirteenth and the fifteenth centuries and you will want to be sure to take a look at the medieval Maison des Consuls (council house), whose arcaded rafters are carved with hundreds of unique portrayals of animals, monsters, and caricatures of medieval social groups and professions, as well as ethnic groups from across the world. The gothic style cathedral is the second largest single-naved church in Europe and is classified as an historic monument.

After having suffered during the Hundred Years War, Mirepoix became an important textile centre in the 15th century. Surely there will still be a shop or two that carries fabric!

Wed, May 04

This morning we begin our journey to **PROVENCE**, a region of southeastern France located on the Mediterranean and adjacent to Italy. Our home for the next two nights will be the **ARLES HOTEL JULES CÉSAR**, a 4-star hotel and member of the Small Luxury Hotels chain. Previously a 17th century Carmelite convent, the hotel is located in the heart of Arles and its Provençal décor is accented with the fabrics that are so famous for their color and design.

The 15 months that Vincent Van Gogh spent in Arles was the most productive period of his life, where he created more than 200 paintings and drawings. Even though there are no original paintings by Van Gogh in the city, you can still visit the places that inspired him.

Arles has a large number of UNESCO world heritage monuments that bear witness to 2000 years of history, the most famous being the Roman Amphitheatre dating from 80 A.D. **LE PETIT TRAIN D'ARLES** will take us on a guided tour through the winding cobbled streets, providing an overview of the many museums and points of interest.

Thu, May 05

Today is all about Provence fabric! We start the day with a visit to the **SOULEÏADO MUSÉE DU TISSUS PROVENÇAL** in Tarascon. This former townhouse housed the famous cotton print factory beginning in 1806. The museum, devoted to these colorful fabrics, has nearly 40,000 wood print blocks with brass tips. The blocks were applied manually and then hammered by workers who printed up to 30m of cotton fabric per day. Several workshops from the period have been reconstructed, such as the color kitchen where dyes were made. You will have time to visit their shop and have lunch before we depart Tarascon.

Our next stop will be will St. Etienne du Grès for a factory tour of the textile manufacturer **LES OLIVADES**, featuring the only remaining traditional Provençal fabric still printed in Provence. There is also a charming Olivades factory outlet shop! There will be time late this afternoon to explore more of Arles, before our dinner at the Jules César.

Fri, May 06

This morning we depart Arles for the village of **LES BAUX DE PROVENCE**. Perched on a rocky spur, the citadel overlooks the beautiful countryside so be sure to have your camera ready for the panoramic views of Provence. Just inside the entrance to the village are narrow cobblestone streets, terrace cafés, and quaint shops.

Not far from Les Baux are the **CAVES DE SARRAGAN**, a vast underground cavern with a 60m thick solid rock ceiling that make the perfect natural wine cellar. We will make a short stop for those that would like to try some of the local wine. It's also the perfect stopping point to get a scenic view of the village of Les Baux and the neighboring valley.

L'ISLE-SUR-LA-SORGUE is a compact medieval town built on the islands of five branches of the Sorgue river, also known as the Venice of Provence. If you have any interest in antiques and antique quilts, this is the place to look! In addition to the many waterside cafes and charming shops, there are nearly 300 permanent antique dealers and second hand shops. There won't be time to visit them all, but you'll have several hours to enjoy lunch in the old town and soak in the atmosphere of Provence. We continue on to **AIX EN PROVENCE** and **HOTEL LE GALICE**, our home for the last two nights of the tour.

Sat, May 07

Aix is the capital of Provence and dates back to 122 B.C. The center of Aix (sounds like ex, as in "X marks the spot") is the old town, ringed by a circle of boulevards and squares. The most famous of the boulevards is the Cours Mirabeau, lined with large plane trees, wonderful terrace cafés, bookshops and fountains. Once you venture off the main boulevards, small streets with shops of every kind await you....and we will be sure to look for the ones that carry 'tissu', the word to look for when shopping for fabric in France. You may also choose to visit The Musée des Tapisseries that houses a collection of tapestries from the 17th and 18th centuries.



MARKET DAY

IN AIX!

We'll be looking for
Provence fabrics...
if there's any room left
in our suitcases!



Our Farewell Dinner tonight will be poolside at our hotel, weather permitting.

Sun, May 08

There will be one group transfer to Marseilles Airport this morning for flights that are scheduled to depart no earlier than 10:00am.

Your tour includes:

- ALL hotels
- ALL group tours & activities
- ALL land travel by private motor coach
- ALL breakfasts and 5 dinners
- Luggage handling at hotels
- Admission to "*Pour l'Amour du Fil*"
- "Le Petit Train" tours in Carcassone and Arles
- Visits to Souleñado Museum and Les Olivades
- Shop for Provence fabric, with plenty of free time
to explore and shop in each of the cities we visit!
- Escorted by a professional tour leader
- Transfer to Marseilles Airport on May 08

BOOK EARLY...SPACE IS LIMITED!

Tour Price (Does not include airfare):
\$ 2,797 per person, double occupancy
\$ 789 single supplement

Please note: In order to fully enjoy this trip you will need to be able to walk up to 5 city blocks at one time, and at a moderate pace. In addition to uphill climbs on some of the city streets (some being cobblestone) you may need to climb a flight or two of stairs. A few of the hotel rooms may be located in an area of the hotel that cannot be accessed by an elevator.