

## MONTESSORI TOURS AND TRAVEL

*... your window to the world of Montessori*

### **Montessori Méditerranée & Montessori's Milano Experiences**

**Sunday 15 June 2025 – Thursday 26 June 2025 (11 nights)**

**See, explore, discover...**

Our **small group** experience will explore Montessori's philosophy and approach whilst living as a community in the beautiful Côte d'Azur in France followed by a guided exploration of Montessori's Milano designed to delve deep into Dr Montessori's life and times in Italy.

There will be opportunities to experience some of the culture of both the south of France and the north of Italy.

**Part One - Sunday 15 June 2025 to Friday 20 June 2024**

#### **Montessori Méditerranée Experience - France**

You will experience a powerful week with like-minded Montessorians enjoying breathtaking surrounds in Provence. The 'Montessori Maison', a villa with a private pool and a big terrace, will be waiting for you.

This specially prepared environment (the Montessori Maison) will provide Montessorians from around the globe the chance to connect, bond and meditate in an enriching and fulfilling environment. The *Montessori Méditerranée Experience* is all inclusive (shared accommodation, all breakfasts, most lunches, all dinners, beverages).

A chance for change.

Each morning after breakfast we will focus on one key 'Montessori' word and discuss its meaning. All words, suggested readings and preparation for yourself will be sent to you before the experience starts. Throughout the morning there will be moments of mindfulness and silence. There will be readings, music, creativity, philosophical discussions, reflection, and time for yourself.

A delightful typical French lunch will be shared on the terrace overlooking the mountains followed by the afternoon's program. There will be cultural experiences and free time. We will visit St Tropez (purchase own lunch), a Montessori school, small villages and wineries. There will be time to swim, relax, and reflect.

Dinner will be a delight to the tastebuds, sitting on the terrace watching the day close. Our last night will be dinner at a local French restaurant, run by French people who delight in taste, creativity and intimate dining.

As we live and work together, we will have many opportunities to share our wisdom, experiences, and thoughts.

**Included:** Twin share accommodation (5 nights) with breakfast each morning, most lunches, all dinners, ground transport during Experience, site visits, school visit, activities

#### ***What we ask of you***

Please bring an open mind to new experiences and adventures, a positive mindset, and a willingness to contribute and receive. We welcome you to present something about yourself, your experiences, your work, your background

#### ***Before the Montessori Méditerranée Experience***

A few months before we meet in France, there will be an opportunity to meet each other via an online session and share what we hope to achieve during our time of living and working together. We hope this adds to your excitement in joining this experience. A Dropbox account will be set up so that all the information and our experiences can be shared.

#### ***Your Guide***

Jacqueline Hendriksen from The Netherlands will guide us on our *Montessori Méditerranée* in France. She has vast experiences in training and education with more than 35 years working in Montessori. Jacqueline combines the original words of Maria Montessori with the latest research insights. And she translates that to real life. She guides international groups, and she is a master to connect and enrich Montessori communities.

#### ***How to get to the South of France***

Plane – fly into Nice or Toulon

Train – to Les Arcs d’Argens

*We can organise a car to collect you from the airport or the local train station (at own cost).*

*We can assist you with your booking.*

***This journey requires participants to be able to walk approximately 3+ miles / 5+ kms in any given day.***



Montessori Maison, La Motte, Provence, France

## **Part Two - Friday 20 June 2025 to Thursday 26 June 2025**

### **Montessori's Milano Experience - Italy**

After our time in France, we meet in Milan for the uniquely Italian experience of exploring aspects of Maria Montessori's life story of her time in Italy.

Milan, known for its rich culture of fashion, food, art, history and architecture will offer you an abundance of opportunities to ignite your senses and deepen your knowledge.

While in Milan, we will immerse in an historic perspective of Maria Montessori's work and legacy through listening to presentations, unstructured time and ample opportunity to reflect, share and explore.

Our Tour starts with a ½ day guided tour of Milan which will help you understand how this great city works, as well as see the magic and beauty of the artistic masters who lived centuries ago. You can't explore Milano without experiencing Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper* in the *Museo del Cenacolo Vincianor. (Last Supper Museum)*

Our Montessori trained local guide, Aika Watanuki, will share with us some of her own Montessori journey, as well as stories and experiences of the history of Montessori in this part of Italy. We will hear how the Montessori Method reached Milan and expanded into other areas of Italy. We will learn about the courses that Dr Montessori conducted in Milano. An art activity based on the style of Bruno Munari will help you deeper appreciate aspects of Montessori's work and thinking. We will see first-hand where many Montessorians did their training in Milano and Bergamo.

A trip to Gonzaga will provide us with a context of the origins of the Gonzagarredi Montessori Materials that are familiar worldwide. Get to know better the times and social conditions in which Montessori worked and hear stories about her collaborators and influencers. Time in this delightful country town, exploring and discovering, will add to your Italian experiences.

Nearby is the beautiful old city of Bergamo where we will stay for two nights. It is a short distance from Milan. The Città Alta (Upper City) is steeped in medieval history. Inside the 16<sup>th</sup> Century defensive walls and gates you will find buildings with stunning architecture in immaculate condition. Once inside the Upper City, there are many artisan boutiques, eateries, great views and interesting streets to walk on. The Upper City is car free, so once inside the old walls, walking will be your means of transport. The 12<sup>th</sup> Century Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore with its frescoes, tapestries, statues, and artistic flourishes everywhere will delight your senses.

There will be time to explore.  
Time to immerse yourself in the magnificence of Milan and Bergamo.  
Time to visit Montessori schools and centres.  
Time to experience Italian culture and way of living.

**Accommodation Milan (4 nights):** Hotel Dei Cavalieri Milano Duomo - Friday 20 June to Tuesday 24 June 2025

**Accommodation Bergamo (2 nights):** Hotel Excelsior San Marco – Tuesday 24 June and Wednesday 25 June 2025)

**Included:** Single room accommodation (6 nights) with breakfast each morning, 2 x lunch, 2 x dinner, ground transport, site visits, guided tours

The *Montessori's Milano Experience* - a special opportunity to learn about the people and the conditions that influenced Maria Montessori's life as well as Italian culture and history, whilst living in magical Milano, Italy.

***This journey requires participants to be able to walk approximately 3+ miles / 5+ kms in any given day.***



There will be local wines, local foods, local guides, local cultural experiences, local larrikins.  
 There will be surprises and activities,  
 time to chat  
 time to play  
 time to learn  
 time to wonder  
 time to wander

Led by Roelie Hartwig

*This itinerary will always be a work in progress and what we end up doing on some days may be different to what is stated here. All will be done to ensure the tour proceeds as per the itinerary whilst maintaining the integrity of the tour. Should this happen your understanding and cooperation will be appreciated. This tour will be conducted in English with local guides and a local driver.*

**To find out more or to secure a place, please email  
 Roelie Hartwig at: [montessoritoursandtravel@gmail.com](mailto:montessoritoursandtravel@gmail.com)**

## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions:	Exclusions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 11 night's accommodation with breakfast               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Twin Share in France</li> <li>2. Single room in Milano &amp; Bergamo</li> </ol> </li> <li>● Sightseeing and guided tours with local English-speaking guides</li> <li>● Meals as stated in the itinerary</li> <li>● Hotel taxes and service charges</li> <li>● Any fees</li> <li>● Some transport as per the Itinerary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meals, alcohol &amp; drinks not listed in the Itinerary</li> <li>● Early check in/Late check-out (unless required)</li> <li>● Overweight luggage</li> <li>● Personal expenses</li> <li>● Visas as required</li> <li>● Comprehensive Travel Insurance (<b>compulsory</b>)</li> <li>● Tips and gratuities</li> <li>● Other services not listed in 'Inclusions'</li> <li>● International flights</li> <li>● Transportation to and from Montessori Maison</li> <li>● Transportation to and from Milano accommodation</li> </ul>

**TOTAL COST per person:-**

**Shared Room in France & Single Room in Italy  
 €5612**

*Total cost subject to change*

**Final Payment due: 07 April 2025**