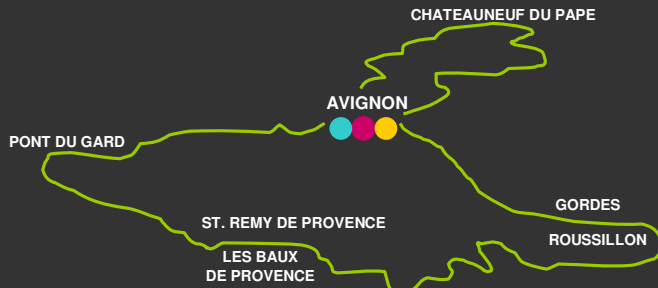




MAP OF FRANCE

PROVENCE REGION



DISCOVER THE PROVENCE REGION

WINE & CULTURE

SHORT ESCAPE IN PROVENCE

This semi-private guided tour is a great way to get a real taste of the best that Provence has to offer in a short time. The groups are small (maximum 8 participants) and you will be accompanied by an expert, animated English speaking guide with a comfortable mini-van for the duration of the guided touring. Avignon is a great base for the trip, at the heart of Provence.

Day 1 : Arrival in Avignon

Upon your arrival in Avignon, we will transfer you by taxi from the TGV train station to your first hotel in the heart of the historic city. Depending on your arrival, you can wander the cobblestoned streets and squares, relax on the shaded terrace of a café, or visit one of the many art galleries and museums. Dinner tonight is included at one of our favourite restaurants.

Day 2 : The BEST of Provence

Your guide will pick you up at your hotel after breakfast. Today starts with a taste of Roman history, as you head to the world renowned Pont du Gard a beautiful and elegant Roman Aqueduct dating from the first century, built with the prowess of the Roman Engineers to carry water in for the city of Nimes. Today it is a UNESCO classified site, and has a great Museum next to the natural site. From there head further south to Les Baux de Provence. This Medieval village, perched on a rock 245 metres high, is worth some wandering. You'll enjoy the tiny twisting streets and many shops, the santon Museum, beautiful Medieval and Renaissance buildings, and the ruins of the castle. A short drive through bauxite mines and olive groves brings you to the "Antiques" of St Remy de Provence, a Roman triumphal arch and mausoleum, in the centre of a landscape painted often by Vincent Van Gogh. You'll have some free time in the Provencal town of St Remy for lunch, before continuing onwards into the Luberon to visit Roussillon, famous for its striking red and yellow ochre cliffs, and Gordes, with its beautiful dry-stone architecture and traditional bories. Depending on the day of the week or season, photo stops at the lavender fields of Senanque, or Provencal markets in Gordes, St Remy, Roussillon, or Isle sur la Sorgue.

Day 3 : Sample the Rhone Valley Wines

After breakfast, your guide picks you up to head into the vineyards of The Rhone Valley. You'll get an excellent, clear introduction to the Wines of the Rhône Valley sightseeing in the vineyards along the way. Stop at two wineries in the famous Châteauneuf du Pape wine region for visits. During the tour, explanations about "terroir", grape varieties, vinification and aging. The visits are of course followed by tastings in the wineries, to taste a variety of the wines produced. Throughout the morning you will have stops at picturesque spots and charming villages. We return you to your hotel in Avignon in time for a late lunch, and to allow you the end of the afternoon to explore Avignon; we provide you with tickets and an audio-guide for both the incredible Popes Palace and the famous Avignon bridge.

Day 4 : Departure - Bon Voyage!

After a final breakfast, we transfer you back to the TGV train station for further travels.

CLASSIC TOUR

** Hotel Garlande

<http://www.hoteldegarlande.com>

Exact hotels depend on availability

CLASSIC + TOUR

*** Hotel de L'Horloge

<http://www.hotel-avignon-horloge.com>

Exact hotels depend on availability

DELUXE TOUR

**** Hotel de l'Europe

<http://www.heurope.com>

Exact hotels depend on availability

What's Included

- 3 nights' hotel accommodation in the hotel level of your choice (CLASSIC, CLASSIC+, or DELUXE)
- All breakfasts and one dinner (drinks not included with dinner)
- Transfer to and from the TGV train station
- 1 and a half fully guided days with a small group (max 8 participants) in a comfortable mini-van
- Tastings and visits as described, including the audio-guide and entries for the Pope's Palace and St Nazaret bridge in Avignon

