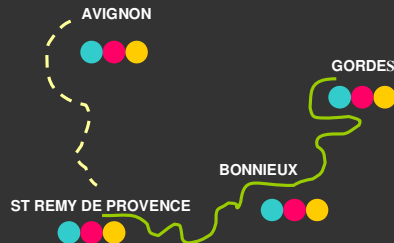




MAP OF FRANCE

## PROVENCE REGION



## PROVENCE 6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS

## The Luberon and St. Remy de Provence

## CLASSIC TOUR

- \*\* Hotel Garlande in Avignon  
<http://www.hoteldegarlande.com>
- \*\* Hotel Du Soleil in Saint Remy de Provence  
<http://www.hotelsoleil.com>
- \*\* Hotel Panoramique Cesar in Bonnieux  
<http://www.hotel-cesar.com>
- \*\*\* Mas des Romarins standard room in Gordes  
<http://www.masromarins.com>

## CLASSIC + TOUR

- \*\*\* Hotel De L'Horloge in Avignon  
<http://www.hotel-avignon-horloge.com>
- \*\*\* Mas des Carassins Saint Remy de Provence  
<http://www.masdescarassins.com>
- \*\*\* Hotel le Clos du Buis in Bonnieux  
<http://www.leclosdubuis.fr>
- \*\*\* Mas des Romarins superior room in Gordes  
<http://www.masromarins.com>

## DELUXE TOUR

- \*\*\*\* Hotel Europe in Avignon  
<http://www.heurope.com>
- \*\*\*\* Hostellerie Vallon de Valrugues in St Remy  
<http://www.vallondevallugues.com>
- \*\*\*\* Bastide de Capelongue in Bonnieux  
<http://www.capelongue.com>
- \*\*\*\* La Bastide de Gordes in Gordes  
<http://www.bastide-de-gordes.com>

## Day 1 : Avignon

Upon your arrival you will be transferred to your first hotel in the centre of Avignon. Once you have settled in, you'll have time to explore. Avignon was already important by the 12th century, but with the arrival of the Popes in the 14th century, the city became a second Rome. Going through any of the seven doors of the superbly preserved ramparts, you will discover the city of the Popes. The Palace of the Popes (a UNESCO Heritage site, as is the Avignon bridge), is the largest Gothic palace in Europe. Nearby is the Petit Palais Museum which houses an outstanding collection of Italian and Provençal paintings from the late 13th to the early 16th centuries.

## Day 2 : Eygalieres to St Remy 12 km

After a delicious breakfast, and a meeting with your Trip Manager, we transfer you to a 12th century chapel just outside of Eygalieres, a charming little town on the plains by the Alpilles mountains. Your walk takes you through olive groves and wonderful vineyards (of course there are opportunities to stop for tasting!) before arriving in St. Remy at the end of the day. St. Remy is where Vincent Van Gogh was incarcerated in the Saint Paul hospital for a year (and where he completed an astounding 150 paintings!). There are Roman archaeological sites that are worth seeing on the site of Glanum; but you may just decide to enjoy St. Remy as the locals do: sitting in one of the many cafes under the shade of a plane tree, and watching life go by...

## Day 3 : Les Baux de Provence 9 km

Today is your shortest day, to allow you time to explore both Les Baux and St Remy itself. You have a short transfer after breakfast to Les Baux, up in the Alpilles. Your walk is spectacular, with the impressive rock formations of these mini-mountains as your backdrop, and the Medieval village of Les Baux de Provence. This fortified village, with its spectacular panorama, is worth some time: visit the chateau, and the many winding streets and shops, and don't miss the nearby sound and light show presented in one of the old (and massive) bauxite mines of the area, before heading downhill back into St. Remy itself. Your final dinner tonight is included.

## Day 4 : Oppede le Vieux to Bonnieux 16 km

Our Trip Manager will meet you at your breakfast this morning, and go over your trip package with you. Afterwards, he will transfer you into the heart of the Luberon, to a small village called Oppede. From there you have a gorgeous walk, skirting along the Luberon hills, with views onto some of the villages made famous by Peter Mayle's book, A Year in Provence, like Menerbes (with its unusual corkscrew museum!) and Lacoste (with the ruined castle of the Marquis de Sade), and then into Bonnieux itself, where you will be staying the night. The terrain is a mix of forest and field, with beautiful views onto charming villages. Dinner is included tonight.

## Day 5 : Gargas to Gordes via Roussillon 15 km

Your walk today starts in the village of Gargas, just outside Apt, and wends its way through the Luberon Geological Reserve towards Roussillon. This Luberon hill village, charming in and of itself with its winding streets and cafes and shops, is more famous for its incredible ochre mines - these red and burnt orange cliffs were mined for ages for the pigments for dyes. From here you have a relatively easy walk on to Gordes - but save some energy for the end, as Gordes is another "hilltop village", and you'll have to climb up to your hotel at the end of the day. We're sure you'll agree the views are worth it!

## Day 6 : Fontaine de Vaucluse to Gordes 17 km

Your final day's walk is your most challenging. It starts in Fontaine de Vaucluse, a tiny village, sitting on a lively spring. The spring is the largest in France and the fifth largest in the world, with an average debit of 22 cubic metres per second. From there you climb along forest paths, which eventually bring you past Senanque Abbey, a huge and beautiful 12th century Cistercian abbey, surrounded by lavender fields. Upon your return into Gordes, your well-earned final dinner is included.

## Day 7 : Departure - Bon Voyage!

After breakfast, we transfer you back up to Avignon train station for further travels.