



COLOURS OF FRANCE PROVENCE WALKING

6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS
PASSION TOUR



EXPLORE

PROVENCE AT YOUR OWN PACE!

Day 1: Arrival

Upon your arrival into Avignon, we will transfer you to your first hotel in the heart of the Luberon. Bonnieux is extremely typical of the region's hilltop villages, described in Peter Mayle's famous book, *A Year in Provence*. With its panoramic views out onto the Calavon plains, it is spectacularly set at 425m. As well as the twisting cobblestoned streets and lovely tiny squares, there are vestiges of its medieval history, including the original fortress, the ramparts, and the 12th century Romanesque chapel of the church. If you feel like warming up for your walks, you can climb the 86 steps of the old church at the top of the village – you'll be protected by the shade of the 100-year old cedars! Dinner tonight is included at your hotel. (please note the CLASSIC+ itinerary starts in Menerbes and walks to Bonnieux on the first day's walk)

Day 2: Menerbes to Bonnieux 14 km / 9 Miles

our first day's walk is truly beautiful, with a great mixture of tiny paths and small forest roads, vineyards and a few of the classic Luberon hilltop villages along the way. After a short transfer, we leave you in the centre of Menerbes. Definitely take a bit of time to explore there (we provide a small walking tour) as this village is quite charming. You can visit the boutique of a regional truffle organisation for a taste of the Provencal truffle before starting out as well if you wish! You'll love the scents and views, as you hike through forest, pretty fields and orchards, and vineyards. Pass right through the property of the lovely Abbey of Ste Hilaire, and then arrive (around lunchtime) in Lacoste, where the infamous Marquis de Sade lived (in the chateau, today in ruins) in the 18th century. At the end of the day, the hike brings you back into the village of Bonnieux for a second evening.



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Day 3: Gargas to Joucas via Roussillon 15 km / 10.2 Miles

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 - the surrounding red and burnt orange cliffs were mined for ages for the pigments for dyes. From here you have a relatively easy walk on to Joucas through lovely countryside - but save some energy for the end, to climb a little uphill to your hotel in Joucas at the end. Dinner tonight is in the hotel's excellent restaurant.

Day 4: Senanque Abbey and Gordes 14 km / 9 Miles

Today's walk is one of the most beautiful. It starts at the Abbey of Senanque, a huge and beautiful 12th century Cistercian abbey, surrounded by lavender fields, and still active. It is nestled in a tranquil valley, so after your explorations there, your walk will get you warmed up as you climb away. After, descend on a tiny and picturesque path, lined with ancient stone walls into Gordes. This village is one of France's rated "Prettiest Villages", and has one of the most spectacular views of the region. Take the time while there to explore the bories village, on the outskirts of town. These traditional stone buildings dot the countryside of the Luberon. Then an easygoing path brings you back to Joucas for a second evening.

Day 5: Le Roc Alric to Gigondas 17 km / 10.6 Miles

We transfer you this morning into the southern Rhone. Your walk starts in a tiny and picturesque village at the base of the Dentelles de Montmirail hills, before wending your way into vineyard territory, and into one of the AOC villages of the southern Rhone, Beaumes de Venise. Stop here for some lunch in one of the restaurants and cafés on the charming main square, or take the time to enjoy a wine tasting (the village is famous for a lovely sweet dessert wine), or a tasting of the regional olive oils at the local mill and boutique. The walk continues from there into Gigondas, one of the region's "Cru" wine villages. At the end of the afternoon you can choose to do another tasting if you like, before your gourmet dinner at your hotel. *(please note, the DELUXE itinerary lunches in Gigondas, and ends in Beaumes de Venise)*



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Day 6: Vaison la Romaine 8 km / 5 Miles

We transfer you this morning to the town of Vaison la Romaine, with its Roman theatre and shady squares. Your walk is meant only as a half day walk – a loop, returning you to this appealing town in time to find a late lunch. That way you will have time over the course of the afternoon to explore Vaison itself, with its Roman vestiges, and ruined chateau above the medieval centre. Or simply hang out in a small café, watching the locals and enjoying a drink in the true relaxed Provencal style, and deciding where you might like to enjoy your final dinner this evening. *(please note, the DELUXE itinerary has a second night in Beaumes de Venise – we transfer you back at the end of the afternoon).*

Day 7: Departure - Bon Voyage!

After breakfast, we transfer you back to Avignon train station in time for your further travels.



WHAT'S INCLUDED in your Provence Walking Tour

- 6 nights in charming hotels of the comfort level of your choice: CLASSIC, CLASSIC + or DELUXE
- All breakfasts, 3 dinners (drinks not included with dinners)
- Orientation by phone with our Trip Manager
- Pick up and drop off to Avignon
- Transfers to start of the walks each day
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- A set of detailed marked maps and step-by-step notes describing the route
- Regional advice and information
- Emergency phone assistance 7 days a week