



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 region's the 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.

Day 2: Oppede le Vieux to Bonnieux: 16 km

Embedded halfway up the north face of the Luberon, Oppede-le-Vieux where your transfer leaves you this morning is beautiful to look at with its old village walls, cobble paths, and homes hewn into the mountain rock, all overlooked by the spectacular castle and church of Notre-Dame-d'Alydon above the village - a 10-minute walk up a stone path. Your walk takes you from Oppede, skirting the Luberon hills, and overlooking the village of 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 Gordes via Roussillon 18 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! Dinner tonight is in one of our favourite local restaurants in the village

Day 4: Fontaine de Vaucluse to Gordes 15 km

Today's walk is one of your most challenging, but it is truly beautiful. 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, giving out on average 22 cubic metres per second, and set at the base of a cliff. From there you climb along forest paths, which eventually bring you past the Abbey of Senanque, a huge and beautiful 12th century Cistercian abbey, surrounded by lavender fields. Upon your return into Gordes, take the time perhaps to explore the *bories* village, on the outskirts of town. These traditional stone buildings dot the countryside of the Luberon.

Day 5: Le Roc Alric to Gigondas 17 km

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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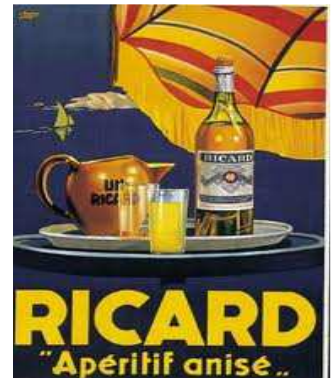


Day 6: Vaison la Romaine 8 km

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