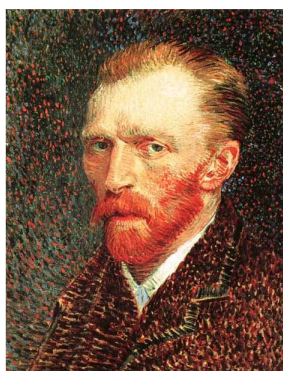
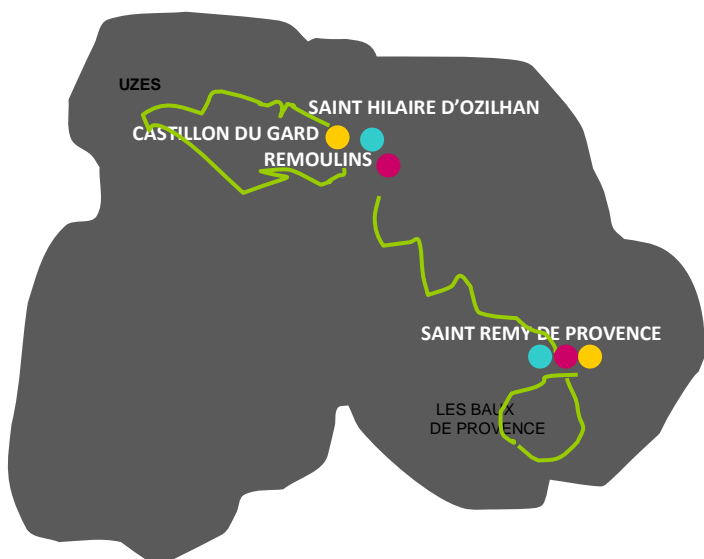


## COLOURS OF FRANCE PROVENCE

4 NIGHTS / 5 DAYS  
ON THE TRAIL OF VAN GOGH



# EXPLORE

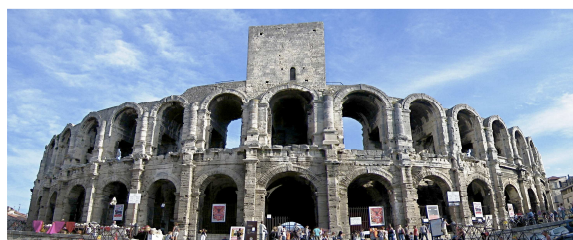
## PROVENCE AT YOUR OWN PACE

### Day 1 : Arrival

Upon your arrival at the train station in Avignon, we will transfer you to your first hotel, in the heart of Provence. You'll have time to settle in to your hotel, and perhaps wander the small village, enjoying the typical stone buildings, colourful shutters, and beautiful surrounding countryside. At the end of the afternoon, our Trip Manager will meet with you at the hotel to go over your trip packages, and to check the bike fitting. Have a provençal *pastis* perhaps, before your first dinner, included this evening.

### Day 2 : Loop ride to Uzes and the Pont du Gard 50 km

Today you have a beautiful loop ride through the garrigues and pine forests of the Cevennes region to the west. The route takes you through St Quentin la Poterie, a charming Provencal village, with a history of pottery making and that has become home to many artists today. Continue on to the town of Uzes, with its picturesque Place aux Herbes, its restored Renaissance facades, and perhaps climb up the steps to enjoy the view from the impressive Ducal Palace. Your return ride takes you past incredible Pont du Gard, an exceptionally well-preserved 2000-year old Roman aqueduct (and UNESCO Heritage site). The three arched tiers of this aqueduct-bridge, above the Gardon River, and nestled amongst olive trees and wild rosemary, are quite beautiful, and have become one of the most-photographed sites in Provence.





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### Day 3 : Saint Hilaire to St Remy de Provence 45 km

You leave Saint Hilaire, heading to the small Provencal town of Aramon, where at one time the powerful and beautiful Diane de Poitiers ruled as seigneur. The village had one of the most important ports of the Rhone in history, and its bridge is where you will cross over the Rhone River. Then detour slightly northwards to ride through the village of Barbentane, where you can take a moment to visit the beautiful Italian Renaissance-style chateau (still inhabited by the Marquess of Barbentane), and perhaps stop for some lunch. Your ride takes you around the Montagnette hill, but if you wish, take the option up into the "Montagnette", with its typical Provencal flora and fauna, to see the Abbey Saint Michel de Frigolet, and perhaps buy a gift in the shop, still run by the monks. Finish along orchard-dotted plains into St Remy de Provence. Your dinner is included.

### Day 4 : St Remy loop to Les Baux 20 or 50 km

Your final day riding is spectacular, bringing you through olive groves and vineyards to the fortified village of Les Baux de Provence. There is a big climb in the morning, but it will be worth it! And of course you get the glorious downhill back into St. Remy at the end. Take your time to visit the chateau, looking down on the gorgeous Alpilles mountain range as a backdrop, and also the sound and light show in one of the old bauxite mines, with a different artist as its theme each year. You may also wish to stop for an olive oil or wine tasting along the route... Decide if you want the long or short option, to leave more or less time to relax in St Remy for your final afternoon. St Remy is where Van Gogh was incarcerated in the Saint Paul de Mausole hospital for a year (and where he completed an astonishing 150 paintings!), but it is also worthwhile visiting the archeological site of Glanum.

### Day 5 : Departure - Bon Voyage!

After a final breakfast, we will transfer you from your hotel back up to Avignon for your further travels

### What's Included

- 4 nights' accommodation in charming hotels of the comfort level of your choice CLASSIC, CLASSIC+ or DELUXE
- All hotel taxes
- All breakfasts, 2 dinners (drinks not included with dinners)
- Orientation with our Trip Manager
- Fully equipped, quality hybrid bike
- Detailed maps and step-by-step route notes
- Regional information and advice
- Transfer to first hotel from Avignon centre or train station
- Transfer back to Avignon on departure day morning
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Emergency phone call support 7 days a week