

France – Provence Hiking



Trip Summary

Welcome to Provence: a vibrant tapestry of fertile vineyards, ancient Roman ruins, colorful markets and the ubiquitous fragrance of honey, thyme and mint. Indulge in the earthy pleasures of this magnificent region, rich in history, rustic elegance and world-renowned cuisine. It offers an ideal mix of dry climate, picturesque hill towns, and landscapes blanketed in lavender, sunflowers, vineyards and olive groves.

Itinerary

Day 1: Avignon / St-Rémy-de-Provence

We meet in Avignon in the morning • Short transfer to nearby St-Rémy-de-Provence, the birthplace of astrologer Nostradamus (1503) and our home for two nights • We start walking from St-Rémy and climb the Alpilles hill range up to the rock formation Les Deux Trou, where a picnic is organized offering the most beautiful views • Before and after our hike, we will visit the Roman monuments and excavations, as well as the former hospital where Van Gogh was admitted in 1889 after cutting off his ear lobe and attacking a fellow artist, and spent an important period of his artistic life • *Overnight at Hotel de L'Image (L, D)*

Day 2: St-Rémy-de-Provence

A relaxed walk across the valley leads to Le-Baux-de-Provence, with one of the grandest views in Provence • Visit the ancient town's hilltop remains and stop for a delicious lunch in the bustling lower town • We'll return to St-Remy with time to explore its narrow streets before dinner • *Overnight at Hotel de L'Image (D)*

Day 3: Ménerbes

A short transfer from St-Rémy brings us across the Durance River to Robion in the Lubéron region, where we start our walk, passing through ancient stone villages like Maubec and Oppède-le-Vieux • In the afternoon, ramble in the picturesque hills, as we explore the impressive cedar forests near Bonnieux, or simply relax in the comfort of your next hotel • Home for the next two nights will be Ménerbes, once the home of famed author Peter Mayle • *Overnight Hostellerie du Roy Soleil (B, L)*

Day 4: Ménerbes

Today we hike through the scenic hills of Lubéron • We'll take time to stop at Lacoste and its castle ruins, the former home of the infamous Marquis de Sade • Visit the fortified village of Bonnieux, which dates back to the 12th century • Tonight's dinner is at the hotel restaurant which is known for its culinary mastery using only the freshest local ingredients • *Overnight Hostellerie du Roy Soleil (B, D)*

Day 5: Gordes

Today's walk follows the ochre-colored hills of the Carriere d'Ocre, to the warm and richly textured town of Roussillon, famous for its beauty and golden glow • After lunch, we'll continue to Gordes, another stunning medieval town dramatically perched on a steep hillside • We're rewarded with grand views of the Luberon from our luxury hotel • *Overnight La Bastide de Gordes (B, L)*



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Day 6: Gordes

The scent of lavender draws us on ancient footpaths to the Cistercian Abbey of Senanque, where monks still work the land • After a visit, we'll return to Gordes via the Senacole River Gorge, exploring ancient artifacts along the way, including igloo-shaped limestone bories • Tonight we'll enjoy delectable local delicacies at our gourmet farewell dinner • *Overnight La Bastide de Gordes (B, D)*

Day 7: Avignon (departure)

After our last breakfast together, your guides will offer a shuttle to Avignon at the time of your preference • (B)

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Activities

Hiking:

Day 1 mileage options: 6 / 9

Day 2 mileage option: 5 / 10

Day 3 mileage options: 5 / 7

Day 4 mileage options: 6 / 8

Day 5 mileage option: 7 / 11

Day 6 mileage options: 5 / 8

Discovery:

Escape the real world and nourish your soul with a taste of Provence. Warm and welcoming, Provence opens its arms with rugged natural beauty, bountiful farms, bustling market towns, and larger than life treasures from its Roman past. Exceptional cuisine, fine lodgings, and marvelous shopping possibilities highlight this trip. Lose yourself cycling in the fertile valleys where cool leafy villages invite closer inspection, or amid arid plateaus with their dusty high-perched hamlets. Chocolate lover or not, make time to taste a bit of heaven in St-Rémy, at the exclusive Joël Durand chocolatier. Spend time walking in the footsteps of Vincent van Gogh at the asylum. Savor the subtle lavender landscape, stop in for a wine tasting or try some farm-pressed olive oil as we gently cycle quiet roads in the very heart of sun-drenched Provence.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to fit you to your bikes, explain the details of each ride, and answer any questions. Each day your guides will help you choose the distance and route that is right for you.

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Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 & 2: Hotel les Ateliers de l'Image

A contemporary, refined hotel in the center of St. Rémy, famous for its private collection of photographs, dedicated gallery, projection hall and fully equipped photo lab. The outdoor pool is surrounded by a spacious private park.

Nights 3 & 4: Hostellerie du Roy Soleil

Located in the most prestigious area of Le Lubéron, at the foot of the restored village of Mènerbes, Hostellerie Le Roy Soleil presents an impeccable Provencal-style décor and colors with sweeping views overlooking the village. Consisting of a 17th century farmhouse, it has been lovingly restored. Modern cuisine is served under vaulted ceilings in the dining room and on a flower-decked terrace.

Nights 5 & 6: La Bastide de Gordes

Set atop a rocky outcrop at the heart of the Luberon in Provence, the village of Gordes offers exceptional views over the Luberon mountain range. And at the center of that village, La Bastide de Gordes offers all the splendor of a former stately home. Carved into the very rock face of the hill, and built on 12th-century ramparts, the chateau is integrated into fortifications of the village. Combining charm, elegance, comfort and luxury, the hotel features intimate, welcoming and restful interiors.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Arrival & Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Avignon.

On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby of Hotel Mercure Pont d'Avignon at 8:30 a.m. After, a short transfer to St-Rémy-de-Provence, where the hiking begins.

After breakfast on Day 7, we take you to the train station, airport, or the hotel of your choice in Avignon (45-minute transfer).

Trip Price

\$3,898 (\$680 single supplement)

Trip Length

7 days/6 nights

2019 Dates

June 2 – 8

June 9 – 16

September 15 – 21

September 29 – October 4

Host City

Avignon, France (AVN)

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

Rambling vineyards, rich history, and world-renowned cuisine

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800.575.1540

Phone: 406.655.4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- All activities, ferry crossings, etc.
- All breakfasts. Lunches and dinners as listed by day. Snacks along the route.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local guide and expert gratuities.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Meals not designated.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit ours. Perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination. Brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want and just how you like to relax and unwind. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.