

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

# Provence

## Vineyards & Villages of the Luberon

CLASSIC JOURNEYS  
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS





“

*Classic Journeys  
provides unbeatable  
access to experiences  
around the globe.”*

|

TRAVEL + LEISURE

## The South of France You've Dreamed Of

Vacationing in the south of France is even more wonderful than it sounds. Enjoy daily curated walks along countryside footpaths and through quaint villages. Sip and stroll your way through the most picturesque vineyards. Drizzle your warm bread with the award-winning olive oil that our local friends press themselves. You'll soak in the scenery of the very landscapes Cezanne and van Gogh painted while also getting the opportunity to cook alongside a Michelin-starred chef. The cultural landmarks are inspiring too – from the impressive Roman's Pont du Gard aqueduct to the serene Sénanque Abbey. This is Provence at its purest, and you'll never forget it.

# The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

## What's Included

- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners, and 1 cooking instruction
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

### → PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

### → WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

### → PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS

A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.

### → INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

## Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails, always with mini-van support.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

## Avignon

From the moment you set foot in Avignon, there's no question that you're in Provence. The Rhône churns past the city's ancient walls as you begin your walking explorations around this charming city. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes) is an impressive fortress-like palace that was once the residence of several popes in the 14th century, during a period known as the Avignon Papacy. Today, its sweeping forecourt is sprinkled with lovely cafes and it's a stage for street performers who vie for your attention. Explore its grand halls, chapels, and beautifully preserved frescoes for a fascinating glimpse into medieval history.

Continue on foot to the Pont d'Avignon, the bridge to nowhere. The curated walk is led by your Classic Journeys expert guide, the ultimate well-connected local friend, who shares their insight along the way. Make your way through this city's many twisting streets where the region's trademark geraniums overflow the numerous window boxes, making for picture-perfect photo opportunities around every corner.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: AVIGNON

DAY 2 »

## Pont-du-Gard / Uzès

Your breakfast table may include bowls of seasonal fruit, warm croissants with preserves, fresh orange juice, a café au lait and... well, you get the picture. You'll want to fuel up on these delicious delicacies, because today begins with a scenic countryside walk to the famed Pont-du-Gard, one of the surviving Roman wonders of the world. Remnant of an aqueduct system built over 2,000 years ago, the arched structure soars over the Gardon River. It's a classical treasure...and a monumental lesson in the vivid history of the region.

Nearby, enjoy a visit to the charming village of Uzès to soak in the scenery and stop for lunch at a café. You'll have the option of staying on a little longer to explore and shop, or you can choose a guided walk in the Alzon River valley to see the old watermill houses. Later afternoon, enjoy some downtime, and perhaps an aperitif, before your dinner of local specialties.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: SAUVETERRE

DAY 3 »

## Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Savor a classic Provençal breakfast, before setting out on a cinematic walk through the region's vineyards and reaching this morning's destination: the Roman theater of Orange. Built in the early 1st century, it is one of the best-preserved structures dating back to ancient times and is still used today for the Chorégies d'Orange, a summer opera festival held here each August.

After a morning spent among the vineyards, a visit to one of our favorite wineries is in order. Even if you're not a certified wine-lover, you'll recognize Châteauneuf-du-Pape as one of France's premiere wine regions. Because our groups are small, you're welcomed into the cellars for a tasting, while other larger groups are not permitted. Sip on the fine local wines as you marvel at the ruins of Château des Papes, the summer retreat of the Popes. From the remaining walls, you'll get a magnificent view across the Rhône Valley. À votre santé (that is how you say cheers in French, as it means drinking "to your health").

This afternoon is the culinary pinnacle of the week as you join a Michelin-starred chef for an unforgettable and mouth-watering cooking instruction. Your chef will share the secrets of cuisine à la Provençale, giving you insight into the complex and savory flavors built on fresh herbs, peppery olive oil, garlic, and tomatoes. On this 'only with Classic Journeys' experience, join your chef in the kitchen that is bursting with fresh Mediterranean produce, then roll up your sleeves, fire up the stove, and get a memorable hands-on lesson from a true master. Appetites stoked by the kitchen aromas, you'll sit down to the spectacular dinner that you helped prepare.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: SAUVETERRE

DAY 4 »

## Alpilles / St. Rémy

Today you'll cross over to the Rhône's opposite banks into the scenic heart of Provence, beginning with the Alpilles, which are named for the enchanting chain of small limestone mountains dotted with villages, cypress trees, and sunflowers. Along the way, make an "only with Classic Journeys" stop at Moulin Barbentane, the traditional olive mill that's a labor of love for our friends Isabelle and Jean. Their pressings have won international awards, and they'll share the art of raising and selecting olives before treating you to a tasting of their oils.

Next, take in the sights, sounds and delicious smells during a visit to the weekly market in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, featuring fresh cheeses, fruits, wines, and other local products. Together with your local guide you'll fill a basket for the midday picnic that awaits. From Saint Rémy you'll walk to Les Baux, capturing this gorgeous medieval village perched on a rocky crest jutting up abruptly from the plains below. It's the perfect view to accompany our authentic French pique-nique.

Later, venture into a scenic rock quarry to take in the town's monumental sound and light show, Carrières de Lumières, where projected images of famous artwork are dramatically cast upon vast stretches of natural rock. When your eyes adjust back to the light of day, make your way to St. Paul de Mausole. Near St. Rémy lies this 12th-century cloister where Van Gogh spent the last year of his life. Using reproductions, the caretakers make it easy to see how much of the local landscape appeared in his paintings.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

DAY 5 »

## Luberon / Gordes

After a relaxing start to the day over croissants and café au lait, you'll enter the Luberon, which you may recognize from Peter Mayle's book "A Year in Provence". On foot and at eye level, you'll immerse yourself in the village of Roussillon, which was constructed from 17 different shades of red sandstone. Stroll through the ochre quarries, then depart for Sénanque Abbey, set in an isolated valley surrounded by a field of lavender and oaks. One of only three Cistercian monasteries in Provence, it is still occupied by the monks.

After lunch and a visit, take an easy stroll to Gordes on a trail that winds past one of the trademark structures of Provence, a borie. Bories are amazing corbelled vaults of flagstones, stacked high with no mortar to secure them. Similar to Neolithic examples found elsewhere in Europe, these are believed to be from the 18th or 19th century. They're remotely located and some experts speculate that they were built to escape the plague. Nowadays, they are a particularly cinematic addition to the landscape

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

DAY 6 »

## Aix-en-Provence

From farm country, you'll venture southeast to the elegant university town of Aix-en-Provence, home of Cézanne. A guided walk retraces many of the artist's footsteps including the beautiful Cours Mirabeau Boulevard with its outdoor cafes, sculpted plane trees, and vibrant flower and vegetable market. It's often referred to as the "City of a Thousand Fountains" due to its numerous ornate fountains scattered throughout its streets. See how many you can count as you stroll through this picturesque town. At the end of your leisurely visit, it's time to part company at the city's TGV rail station.

MEALS: B



## Tour Hotels



### Hotel D'Europe

Built as a marquis' private residence in 1580, this 5-star property has been a hotel since 1799. The rooms are quiet and lovely, and you are steps from the Palais des Papes and the lively street life of Avignon.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



### Chateau de Varenne

This 18th-century château has views of Mont Ventoux and the Luberon. Renovated to reflect its original splendor, it offers a garden where you can relax under a 400-year-old cedar tree, or cool off on a warm Provençal afternoon with a dip in the pool.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



### Le Saint-Rémy

At the foot of the Alpilles and in the heart of the historic village of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, this 5-star hotel is nestled in a 19th-century townhouse and features a spa, outdoor pool, and a restaurant with garden and terrace

NIGHTS: 2 nights

# Arrival & Departure

## → ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Hotel d'Europe lobby**  
START CITY: **Avignon**  
START TIME: **3:00 PM**

---

## → DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **TGV Station**  
END CITY: **Aix-en-Provence**  
END TIME: **3:00 PM**