

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

June 20-28

2013

June 19-27

Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any day. Call or email for details.

Trip Size

8-16 participants

Total Days:

9 days/ 8 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Vaison-la-Romaine/St-Rémy-de-Provence

Activity Level:

Rides: 10 to 50 km (6 to 31 miles)

Walks: 10 to 16 km (6 to 10 miles), 3 to 4 hours

Terrain:

Some hills every day of minor to moderate difficulty. Shorter or longer rides possible.

Provence Classic, Multisport Cycling and Walking along Provence

Cycling and walking in Provence is a sensual experience. As you move slowly through the landscape smell the wild thyme and rosemary. Stop to admire the texture of olive trees against old stone walls. Taste fresh chèvre mingled with piquant tapenade. Listen to the splash of fountains in village squares lined with rustling plane trees.

Itinerary



Getting there :

Vaison-la-Romaine, Gordes, and St-Rémy-de-Provence are all about 650 km southeast of Paris. Access is via either Orange or Avignon, which can be reached via the TGV (high speed train), and are only a three to four hour journey from Paris. Transfer to Vaison, Gordes, or St-Rémy via public transportation. We will provide you with detailed instructions.

The region can also be reached by air or from other gateway cities such as Lyon or Nice.

DAY 1:

Vaison-la-Romaine - Arrival in Vaison-la-Romaine, where you stay for three nights. Visit the famous Roman ruins, then explore the medieval quarter perched high over the town. Your bicycle is waiting for you, so you can go for a warm-up ride.

DAY 2:

Vaison-la-Romaine - Today's activities are up to you. You have the full dossier of rides and walks to choose from. You could cycle through apricot and cherry orchards to Malaucène, a quintessentially Provençal town. There's a pleasant walk from Malaucène part-way up Mont Ventoux to a chapel. Or explore the Dentelles with a walk to the remote, perched village of Crestet, now home to an art centre.

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Cost

Land Cost (current year):

US \$2950

Includes 8B/2L/7D

Single Supplement:

US \$595

Bike Rental:

US \$180



DAY 3:

Gigondas - Today ride to Entrechaux, set against Mont Ventoux and with a ruined castle looming high over the village. Add loops to Mollans-sur-Ouvèze, or Buis-les-Barronies. From Mollans there's a walk to Pierrelongue, where a church perches high on a rocky spire. Or wind your way among wine villages, past Cairanne and then Rasteau, known for a sweet desert wine. Add a loop to Sablet and Séguret hugging the Dentelles mountains. Extend your Route du Vin

tour to Gigondas and beyond. Consider a walk into the heart of the Dentelles de Montmirail, among vineyards and lacy, rocky peaks.

DAY 4:

Gordes - Today you're transferred to Gordes, your base for two days. Take time to explore Gordes, then walk to Sénanque Abbey, enjoy the peace and tranquility of its valley setting, and explore the Bories Village, made up of round stone huts some of which are hundreds of years old.

DAY 5:

L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue - Today bike to Roussillon, a village of red ochre. Add a ride to the perched village of Lacoste, home of the Marquis de Sade. Or explore L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, called the "Venice of the Comtat", then Fontaine de Vaucluse, on your way to Ménerbes, on its rocky promontory.



DAY 6:

St-Rémy-de-Provence - Begin with a transfer to St-Rémy-de-Provence, where you'll stay for three nights. Stroll through this pretty town, then walk to Glanum and Les Antiques, ancient sites with magnificent Roman ruins, then continue to Les Deux Trous, a scene painted by van Gogh.

DAY 7:

St-Rémy-de-Provence - Enjoy a ride to Eygalières, an artists' village on a mostly flat ride, with fine views of the Alpilles range from nearby St-Sixte Chapel. Extend to the ruined "eagles' nest" village of Les Baux. Take a more direct route to Les Baux through the Val d'Enfer, the "Valley of Hell". or head there on foot.

DAY 8:

St-Rémy-de-Provence - Cycle to Mas Blanc-des-Alpilles. Follow tiny canals through the garden of Provence on this flat ride. Extend your easy ride to the castles of Beaucaire and Tarascon.

What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 8 nights lodging
- all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

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Accommodations



Hotel Le Burrhus, Vaison-La-Romaine

This hotel overlooks a pretty square right in the heart of Vaison. The hotel has been recently renovated, and often hosts art exhibits in the hotel's lounges. The 38 rooms are all different and have either been redesigned with the collaboration of architect Jean Luc Bras, restyled with the help of local artists, or stopped in time to capture their rustic Provencal character.



Hôtel Gounod, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

This charming 19th century boutique hotel is situated on a terraced property in the heart of the Luberon with secret gardens, an inviting pool and a lovely view of the valley. Relax in the simple, warm environment of one of the 12 personalized rooms finished in Provencal style. Gordes town center is only a five minute walk away.



Hôtel Les Romarins, Gordes

Though it started life as a post house in the 1600s, the Hotel Gounod was converted into lodgings and is the original and oldest hotel in Saint Rémy. Offering accommodations with personality and charm, the stylish hotel has been renovated using classic furnishings with bold colours and rich fabrics. There is a beautiful pool in the courtyard surrounded by gardens.