

# Great Explorations



## Trip Dates 2012

June 11-18  
September 17-24

## 2013

June 10-17  
September 16-23

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

## Trip Size

8-12 participants

## Total Days:

8 days/ 7 nights

## Arrive/Depart:

Vaison-la-Romaine

## Activity Level:

15 km daily average (10 miles)

## Terrain:

Some days may be longer and require walking on hilly and rocky paths. Surefootness is important

## Provence Classic, Walking Vaison-La-Romaine, Gigondas and Le Barroux

Discover the perfection of hiking in Provence. This tour provides a microcosm of all the famous characteristics of Provence: Roman ruins, perched or hanging villages painted pastel hues, artists' colonies in the scenery which inspired them, and a vibrant culture best expressed in the colourful and busy markets.

## Itinerary



### Getting there :

**Vaison-La-Romaine:** Vaison lies about 650 km southeast of Paris, due east of Orange. Access is via either Orange or Avignon. Both can be reached via the TGV (high-speed rail network of France), and are only a three- to four-hour journey from Paris.

These towns can also be reached by air or from other gateway cities such as Lyon or Nice. Transfer to Vaison is via public or private transportation.

### DAY 1:

**Vaison-La -Romaine** - Arrive in Vaison-la-Romaine. Stroll along streets lined with plane trees, taking a coffee in one of the many squares. Visit the famous Roman ruins,

then explore the medieval quarter perched high on the opposite bank. At the top of the hill dominated by a ruined castle, admire the Roman bridge far below.

### DAY 2:



**Gigondas** - Today begins the circumnavigation of the Dentelles following the Randonnées du Pays: Tour des Dentelles de Montmirail. Your destination for the next two nights is the famous wine village of Gigondas, on the western side of the hills. The route takes you through Séguret, known as an artists' colony, including makers of santons, delicate and detailed figurines in regional costumes.

### DAY 3:

**Gigondas** - There are several choices for a day walk. We suggest exploring Les Dentelles des Sarrasins, the spiky line of limestone that forms the heart of the Dentelles. We have both an easy and a more challenging but spectacular option.

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## Cost

### Land Cost (current year):

US \$2250

Includes 7B/2L/6D

### Single Supplement:

US \$520

### Bike Rental:

US \$160



### DAY 4:

*Le Barroux* - From Gigondas head to Le Barroux, via Beaumes-de-Venise a delightful town famous for its sweet, white dessert wine. Le Barroux is dominated by a huge feudal castle, restored first in the Renaissance, then again in the 1900's only to be destroyed in World War II.

### DAY 5:

Malaucène - Wind your way through vineyards and apricot orchards, heading for Malaucène. Stop to visit a recently constructed Benedictine monastery, where the monks tend lavender fields and bake olive bread. Malaucène is in the shadow of Mont Ventoux, with long winding streets lined with mottle-barked plane trees.

### DAY 6:

Malaucène - Relax in Malaucène for the day, exploring the narrow winding streets of the village, or enjoy a day walk along the edge of Mont Ventoux. Look for linden trees, cultivated for their fragrant blossoms.

### DAY 7:

*Vaison-la-Romaine* - Today enjoy a remote walk among craggy limestone rocks and wild mountain streams. Visit the village of Crestet, with a 14th-century church, Renaissance homes and a 12th-century château offering superb views of Mont Ventoux, the Ouvèze valley, and the mountains of the Barronies. Return to Vaison-la-Romaine

**DAY 8:** Linger as long as you want in Vaison before heading home or to other destinations.

## What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 6 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](mailto:info@great-explorations.com) or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

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## Accommodations



### **Claire de la Plume**, Grignan

Le Clair de Plume is a charming hotel with a fascinating history. Originally built in the 17th century to house monks, it became a truffle house and was eventually owned by Madame Sourdivie, one time girlfriend of Picasso. Later it was the country residence of Lord Southam, the Canadian ambassador, and his wife. Relax in this romantic Provencal hotel.



### **Hotel Beffroi**, Vaison Le Romaine

Boasting a cliff-side location and nestled at the foot of the Counts of Toulouse castle, this delightful inn features lovely courtyards, a garden pool and wonderful panoramic views. Hotel Beffroi offers modern accommodations with Provencal flair in one of the most beautiful 16th century mansions in the Old City of Vaison.



### **Le Geraniums**, Le Barroux

This peaceful and welcoming family-run Logis is set amidst olive groves, vineyards and fruit orchards, and offers a fantastic view of the entire plain of Le Comtat. Situated on a rocky piton in a magnificent medieval village, this is a lovely, relaxing setting. Les Geraniums' highly reputed restaurant boasts a large terrace that overlooks the valley.



### **Hôtel Les Romarins**, Gordes

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.