



Randonnée Tours

Provence Cycling 8 Days

Summary

Length

8 days/7 nights, with 6 days cycling

Dates

Any start date between April 1 to October 31

We recommend you to start your trip on a Monday so that you can enjoy the provincial market in Vaison held every Tuesday

Level

45 km daily average (30 miles)

Some hills every day of minor to moderate difficulty. Extra km possible

Cycling in Northern 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. Cycle slowly and savour !

Itinerary



Day 1

Arrival in Vaison-la-Romaine. Visit the famous Roman ruins, then explore the medieval quarter perched high on the opposite bank.

streets, houses painted in a rainbow of blues, pinks, and greens, and fountains gently splashing in squares lined by plane trees. If you're staying in Crillon-le-Brave, explore Bédoin and the vineyards sheltering in the shadow of Mont Ventoux.

Day 5

On to the beautiful Luberon Valley. Pedal past Petrarch's Fontaine de Vaucluse, then through Ménerbes, the village of Peter Mayle. Your destination is Gordes, a stunning perched town with artists' studios, cozy cafés and arcaded medieval lanes.

Day 6

Enjoy a day ride from Gordes, discover the red shades of Roussillon and find the ruins of the castle of the Marquis de Sade at Lacoste. Pedal to the nearby Bories Village and Sénanque Abbey, set in a beautiful secluded valley.

Day 2

A delightful day ride from Vaison takes you to the east, under the flank of Mont Ventoux. Surrounded by almond trees, Entrechaux nestles around a hilltop castle in ruins. Molans-sur-Ouvèze clusters around a high-arched bridge marked on each side by a tower and a tiny chapel.

Day 3

Wind your way among the wine villages of the Dentelles de Montmirail, stopping to explore Sablet, Gigondas, and Vacqueyras. Séguret is an artists' colony, including makers of santons, delicate and detailed figurines in regional costumes. Spend the night outside Pernes-les-Fontaines or, if you have selected the luxe accommodations for this night, in the tiny town of Crillon-le-Brave.

Day 4

On a day ride from Pernes, search out the famous vineyards at Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Explore Pernes-les-Fontaines, with its twisting



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How to get there?

You start in Vaison-la-Romaine, a delightful town snuggled in green hills in the heart of Provence.

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 (the 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.

We'll provide you with detailed instructions.

The tour ends in Saint Remy de Provence.

Itinerary

Day 7

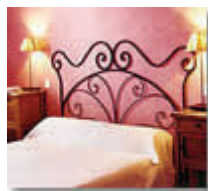
A final look at the orchards, vineyards, and villages of the Luberon before arriving at the waterways of L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue. Famous for its antique dealers and market, there's still time for final gift and souvenir shopping and a little relaxing in cafés.

Day 8

Linger before departing.

Accommodation

Classic



Hôtel 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.



L'Hermitage

Pernes-les-Fontaines

A charming hotel in a former family mansion, set in grounds with 100-year old trees. There are lovely gardens and a large swimming pool.



Hôtel Les Romarins

Gordes

A charming boutique hotel with views over Gordes, and an inviting pool and gardens. The town is only a five minute walk away.



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The Price includes:

- 7 nights hotels
- All breakfasts and 2 dinners
- Use of a top quality 21-speed hybrid bike complete with handlebar bag, pump, and all the necessary accessories for changing flats. We recommend that you bring your own helmet for safety and hygiene reasons
- Detailed route instructions and map
- Luggage transfers
- Area Manager available throughout the tour

Accommodation

Classic



Mas de Cure Bourse

L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue

This 18th Century property has been carefully renovated and is one of the most charming in Provence. The proprietors are helpful and friendly and the grounds and pool are very inviting.

B & B



L' Evêché

Vaison-La-Romaine

This is a huge house, but the proprietors only rent out five rooms to spend more time with their guests. There are great views of the old town and the castle, and each of the rooms is individually decorated.



Saint Barthelemy

Pernes-les-Fontaines

St Barthélémy is a delightfully restored 18th century farmhouse set in shaded parkland by a small stream and waterfall. The comfortable rooms are furnished in Provençal style. Large breakfasts include home-made pastries and jams.



Le Mas des Oliviers

Gordes

Situated on the hillside, there is a magnificent view on the massif of Luberon. Guests can enjoy the swimming-pool, a game of table tennis, or just relax in the garden.



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"We thought your service was really excellent. The Crillon Le Brave was excellent, beautiful room and a very good service. The tour could have been slightly longer rides but there was always extra loop options to keep you busy. It is a beautiful country for cycling and we did not find the hills too hard"

K Tracey

Accommodation

Luxe



Hotel Beffroi

Vaison-La-Romaine

Located in the medieval village, this chateau features lovely gardens and a pool. It is in one of the most beautiful 16th century mansions in the Old City of Vaison; you can enjoy a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.



Le Crillon le Brave

Crillon

Located in a tiny hillside village, it is surrounded by vineyards, olive trees and lavender fields. This hotel is listed by Travel and Leisure as one of the top 500 hotels in the world.



La Bastide de Gordes & Spa

Gordes

With incredible views, this 4-star hotel is an extraordinary property, built in levels with pool, dining terraces and lawns. Rooms are large and exquisitely appointed.