

# *A Week in Provence*

*Marseilles, Avignon, St Remy de Provence, Gordes, Arles, Aix en Provence*



*Immerse yourself in history on the streets of Avignon and the heart of rural Provence. Enjoy walks through fields of lavender, storybook perched villages and craggy gorges. Set off through vineyards and forest groves and rolling countryside. Stroll under the warm Provencal sun, taste some delectable local cuisine and explore landscape out of a fairytale. This is a wonderful opportunity to actively experience a magical and enchanting corner of France*

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ *A true experience of "A Year in Provence"*
- ❖ *Enjoy wine tasting and walk through the beautiful Châteauneuf-du-Pape*
- ❖ *Visit St. Remy-de-Provence, Les Baux-de-Provence, Gordes, Roussillon, Sault, Arles, Avignon & Aix en Provence – all the highlights of the region*
- ❖ *Visit iconic medieval villages like Gordes and the famously photographed Senanque Abbey*
- ❖ *Follow in the footsteps of Van Gogh and visit the sites which inspired some of his most famous paintings*
- ❖ *An opportunity to see some beautiful lavender fields in bloom*

## Day 1: 22-Jun-2020 - Arrival Marseille



Arrival at Marseille airport, meet and greet with your driver and transfer to your hotel.

*(The transfer will be arranged for all flights arriving at approx 1300 hours at Marseille airport. For any other time, an extra cost will be applicable)*

The rest of the afternoon will be at leisure for you to explore Marseille on your own

*Dinner tonight is not included.*

You will be booked for a stay of 1 night at **La Residence du Vieux Port** or similar.  
Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 2: 23-Jun-2020 - Marseille to Avignon



After breakfast this morning, check out and we will depart for Avignon.

Our first stop this morning will be the celebrated **Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine estate**. The château dominates this beautiful medieval village and is best explored on foot as you discover this reputed vineyard which is home to exceptional wines. Discover the vast world of wine at Châteauneuf-du-Pape and the process of wine making! During the 2-hour walking tour in the vineyard, you will learn about the terroir that influences the taste and colour of Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines. You will relish the different stages of wine and get the chance to taste 3 different wines.

From here, we will head to the **Verger des Papes restaurant** for Lunch (included)

*Built on the historic site of the Avignon Popes' summer residence, Le Verger des Papes, stands at the top of the Village under the Château des Papes. The panoramic terrace, lulled by the song of the cicadas, in the shade of the pines, olive trees and almond trees, dominates the village and its vineyard. It offers an exceptional view of the Comtat Venaissin and Mont Ventoux to the east, Avignon, the Palais des Papes and the Luberon mountain range to the south, the Rhône and the first foothills of the Gard to the west. (Lunch includes starter, main & dessert)*

Post lunch, we will head closer to Avignon. You will enjoy a guided visit of the **Pont du Gard**, 3rd floor. The Pont du Gard aqueduct is one of the most striking examples of Roman construction. Located in the Occitanie region, this UNESCO World Heritage monument was built to supply water to the city of Nimes. Discover this historical site and its 3 levels. Ensnconced in a remarkable natural setting, the Pont du Gard is also known as a site of remarkable natural beauty.



From here, we head to the hotel to check in. You will be booked at the **Hotel Cloitre Saint Louis or similar** for 2 nights.

We will then walk to the restaurant for dinner.

Overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 3: 24-Jun-2020 - Saint-Rémy-de-Provence- Les Baux-de-Provence- Saint-Rémy-de-Provence**



This morning, after breakfast, we will check out.

We will drive to the lovely village of **Saint-Rémy-de-Provence**. *Nestled in the Alpilles between Avignon and Arles, Saint-Remy-de-Provence was where Vincent Van Gogh painted his famous Starry Nights. This charming destination personifies the authentic Provencal way of life. Renaissance mansions, beautifully restored home, squares bedecked with fountains and cafe terraces and bars paint a pretty picture of this town. An inspiration for many artists, the town is home to many art galleries and museums and is also famous for its gastronomy. Did you know, the famous astrologer and physician Nostradamus was also born here?*

You will have time to explore St Remy de Provence and the local market.

Post lunch, we will hike from **Saint-Rémy-de-Provence to Baux-de-Provence** :

Starting from Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, a beautiful walk along large, clearly-marked, shady trails. Beautiful viewpoints over the Alpilles, the village and the château des Baux-de-Provence. After the Roman remains of the Antiques and Glanum, the path crosses rocky escarpments to Peiroo Lake. The path climbs the valleys for the ridges. Balcony walk on the Alpilles and the Crau plain. Descend into the mineral maze of the old quarries of the Val d'Enfer and arrival at Les Baux de Provence. (Duration: 3.5 hours ; approx. 15+ kms)

Classified as one of the most beautiful villages of France, the quaint village of **Baux de Provence** offers panoramic views of Provencal landscapes and surrounding towns and villages. Best discovered on foot, marvel at it's carefully restored ancient facades, art galleries and museums. Go right up to the Citadelle des Baux where you can discover more of the village's illustrious history.

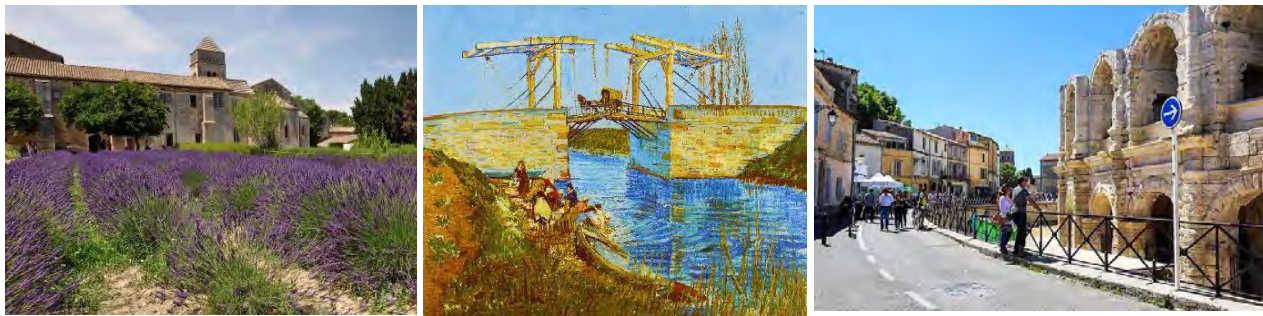
We will also visit the **Carrieres de Lumieres & Baux de Provence castle**. The monumental "Carrieres de Lumieres" host extraordinary multimedia shows which are unique in the world. Spectators are totally immersed in the paintings projected onto all the surfaces of the rock. After the visit, get enchanted by the majestic Les Baux de Provence Castle. Located on a rocky outcrop, it offers an exceptional panorama of the Alpilles Valley.

We will then head to the hotel and check in. You will be booked at the **Le Castelet des Alpilles or similar** for a stay of 2 nights.

We will then walk to the restaurant for dinner.

Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 4:25-Jun-2020, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence- Arles- Saint-Rémy-de-Provence



**This morning, we will enjoy a walking Van Gogh tour.** This walk, lasting about an hour, is to be discovered through the landscapes that inspired Vincent van Gogh. Marked by 21 reproductions of works painted in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, this one-and-a-half kilometre tour takes you into the artist's world.

We will then continue walking to the **Saint-Paul-de-Mausole Monastery**. A veritable masterpiece of Provençal Romanesque art, this monastery turned asylum is famous for one of its former residents – the ever-volatile Vincent Van Gogh. It has a beautiful square bell tower decorated with Lombard arches and a cloister endowed with elegant Roman sculptures. From the top of the stairs, you can see the wheat field that Vincent Van Gogh contemplated and painted during his year of confinement in the men's pavilion.

We will then make our way towards **Arles**. The gateway to the Camargue, Arles is well known for its Roman monuments such as the Amphitheatre, the Roman Arena, the roman baths etc. Each summer since 1970, the city is home to the world renowned "Les Rencontres d'Arles", that offers its visitors 40 photographic exhibitions at landmark sites all over the city.

**Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.**

Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 5:26-Jun-2020, Gordes- Roussillon



We will check out from St Remy de Provence and travel to **Gordes** this morning. One of the most famous and one of the most visited in Provence, the hilltop village of Gordes with its houses built of white or gray dry stones has inspired many artists such as Marc Chagall and Victor Vasarely. Include a visit to its fortified castle and the Abbey of Senanque in close proximity to Gordes which is home to Cisterian monks who still live here.

**Hiking from Gordes to Senanque Abbey:** From Gordes, a pretty village leaning against the foothills of the Monts du Vaucluse, follow the Gorges de la Sénancole via a long path framed by high dry stone walls, followed by the troglodytic habitats of the Moulin de la Baume and the Croix des Baux. This is followed by a route that winds its way through the Gorges to the Cistercian Abbey of Sénanque. (*Duration: 3.5 hours. Approx. 10 kms*)

**On arrival, you will visit the Senanque abbey.** Nestled in the narrow valley of the Sénancole, dominated by the steep hills covered in scrub, the Senanque Abbey offers a striking contrast with the harmonious design of the Abbey, an architectural jewel of Romanesque art, surrounded by beautiful lavender fields. An order of



monks still lives here, welcoming people on retreat. You will hopefully also get to see the beautiful lavender fields before the abbey.

We will then make our way to **Roussillon**. Classified as one of the most beautiful villages of France, Roussillon is known specially for its magnificent ochre cliffs and is also known as the Colorado Provençal.

We then head to our hotel, **Mas de la Tour or similar** – where we will stay for 2 nights

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

#### **Day 6:27-Jun-2020, Sault**

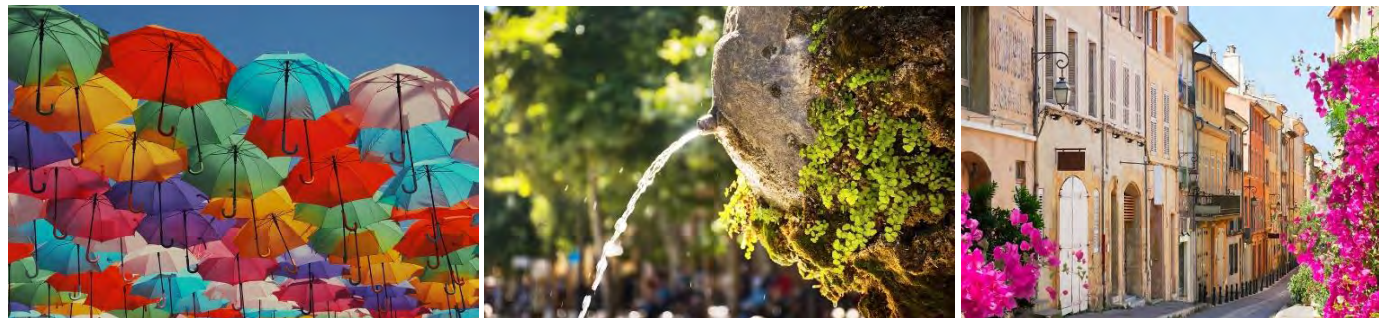


Today begins with a trip to **Sault**: Stop by at Sault for all things lavender! This village is an ideal take off point to discover distilleries and blooming lavender fields. Best for outdoor activities, exercise those muscles on an invigorating climb to Mont Ventoux. For those who prefer less strenuous activities, indulge in delectable tastings of local products such as nougat, macrons and lavender honey!

We will then go **Hiking in lavender land**: Connecting three villages on the Albion plateau: Sault, Aurel & St Trinit, this hike alternates between undergrowth and open landscapes. You will enjoy splendid views of Mont Ventoux mountain and the lavender fields. (*Duration: 4.5 hours ; Distance Apprx 14 kms*)

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

#### **Day 7:28-Jun-2020, Aix en Provence- Marseille**



Check out this morning and head to **Aix-en-Provence**. Hometown of Paul Cezanne, elegant Aix en Provence is a living embodiment of the Provençal way of life. The town lures you with its narrow streets embellished with tony hotels, it's squares adorned with gurgling fountains and cafe terraces apt for that drink in between all the discovering.

Lunch in Aix en Provence (**own cost**)

**The tour ends with a post lunch transfer to Aix en Provence station or Marseilles airport (Dep time 1500 hours).**

**Please note: This is an active, walking tour**

\*\*\* Return home with wonderful memories \*\*\*

**Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: INR 168,900**

**Single supplement: INR 29,500**

### Price includes

- 6 nights' accommodation in the 3/4 star hotels mentioned **or similar**
- Daily Breakfast
- Daily Dinner (Except Day 1)
- Lunch on Day 2
- Transportation in a private vehicle for the entire duration of the trip
- Sightseeing tours with an English speaking guide
- Entrance fees where applicable
- Services of an Odyssey Tour escort

### Price excludes

- Air ticket for travel to and from Marseilles
- Visa & Insurance
- Meals and sightseeing not mentioned
- Tips (recommended at EUR 7 pp per day)
- Hotel Tourist Tax
- Items of a personal nature
- **GST at 5%**
- Anything not specifically mentioned under "Price includes"

### Notes:

- Standard check in at hotels is at 1400 hours onwards. Where necessary we will request an early check-in however, this is not guaranteed. The same applies to check out, which is at 12h00.
- Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, rate of exchange fluctuations.
- Please note that your passport should be valid for more than 6 months beyond the date of travel and that you must have at least 2 blank pages on your passport.
- Please contact us if you would like to book pre-tour or post-tour accommodation in France
- ROE calculated at 1 EUR = Rs 79.7. Any fluctuations at the time of payment will alter the cost
- **Price based on a minimum of 14 people travelling together**

### Airfare options

#### **Option 1**

Carrier	Flight	Dep.Date	Day	From	To	Dep	Arr	Arr.Date
Air France	217	22JUN	Mon	Mumbai - India	Paris - France	0205	0815	22JUN
Air France	7662	22JUN	Mon	Paris - France	Marseille - France	0950	1110	22JUN
Air France	7673	29JUN	Mon	Marseille - France	Paris - France	0705	0840	29JUN
Air France	218	29JUN	Mon	Paris - France	Mumbai - India	1125	0005	30JUN

Apprx fare: Rs 73900 pp

#### **Option 2**

Carrier	Flight	Dep.Date	Day	From	To	Dep	Arr	Arr.Date
Swiss	155	22JUN	Mon	Mumbai - India	Zurich - Switzerland	0055	0615	22JUN
Swiss	2576	22JUN	Mon	Zurich - Switzerland	Marseille - France	1225	1350	22JUN
Lufthansa	2267	29JUN	Mon	Marseille - France	Munich - Germany	0630	0800	29JUN
Lufthansa	766	29JUN	Mon	Munich - Germany	Mumbai - India	1120	2310	29JUN

Apprx fare: Rs 68700 pp

### Option 3

Carrier	Flight	Dep.Date	Day	From	To	Dep	Arr	Arr.Date
Turkish Airlines	721	22JUN	Mon	Mumbai - India	Istanbul - Turkey	0630	1045	22JUN
Turkish Airlines	1367	22JUN	Mon	Istanbul - Turkey	Marseille - France	1435	1700	22JUN
Turkish Airlines	1366	29JUN	Mon	Marseille - France	Istanbul - Turkey	1205	1620	29JUN
Turkish Airlines	720	29JUN	Mon	Istanbul - Turkey	Mumbai - India	2000	0450	30JUN

Apprx fare: Rs 54200 pp

### Map of Provence



### Terms & Conditions

#### BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of Rs 50,000 per person will be payable by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Odyssey Tours & Travels.
2. At the time of making the booking, please send a copy of the first page of your passport
3. Balance payment is to be made by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
4. All rates are subject to a revision if there is a fluctuation in the currency rates.
5. Payment of the booking deposit constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions.

#### CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

1. Should you wish to cancel any part or all of a confirmed booking / reservation all such cancellations must be advised in writing . Given below is the cancellation policy.
2. Cancellation of a reservation due to any visa being rejected will amount to cancellation charges being levied as per the scale mentioned below and Odyssey Tours & Travels will not be responsible for any visa rejection by the respective consulates.
3. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Cancellations effected before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 will attract a cancellation fee of Rs 10000 pp.
  - b. Cancellation from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 will attract a fee of 30% of the total
  - c. Cancellation from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 will attract a fee of 75% of the total
  - d. Cancellation after 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 will be charged 100% of the total cost.
  - e. No refund will be due after commencement of travel

**Refunds due can take up to 5 weeks to process.**