

ITINERARY

Provence: Sun-Soaked Landscapes, Painterly Inspiration, Picturesque Villages, and the Roman Past
Led by Wendy Allen, Professor Emerita of French, and Richard Allen, Professor of Computer Science
April 19–30, 2021

This program was custom designed for travelers who want to discover and experience quintessential France: stunning landscapes, quaint villages, and the Roman past that remains vibrant today.

This itinerary is subject to change.

Travel demands flexibility. We will strive to balance adaptability with remaining on schedule. Please trust that, when it is not possible to follow the plan laid out below, your program leaders will work to find substitutions that retain the quality of this Study Travel program. Various details may be added or changed due to information obtained while making reservations, or perhaps on site, especially because of the weather. BLD indicate included group meals.

Monday, April 19 **Depart USA**
Individual departures from your home town.

Tuesday, April 20 **Arrive Avignon (D)**
Upon arrival in Avignon, make your way to the group hotel. For those of you who were on the Bordeaux and Dordogne program, you will remember our guide, Bruno, who will join us for the duration of the program. The program starts with introductions and a group welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Hotel: Cloite Saint-Louis or similar.

Wednesday, April 21 **Avignon (BL)**
Guided tour of the Palace of the Popes, once a mighty symbol of the church's influence in the area. We'll enjoy a relaxing lunch cruise on the Rhone, followed by a tour and tasting at a local vineyard. Dinner on your own.

Thursday, April 22 **Avignon/Day Excursion (BL)**
Today we'll visit Glanum, a fortified Roman town, and Saint-Rémy de Provence to visit Saint Paul le Mausole, where Vincent Van Gogh lived in 1889 after his year in Arles. Group lunch at a countryside restaurant near Saint-Rémy. In the afternoon, visit Les Baux de Provence, a lovely hilltop village dating to the Middle Ages, with a stop at a private olive oil mill for a tasting before returning to Avignon for dinner on your own.

Friday, April 23 **Avignon/Day Excursion (B)**
Travel to Arles for a walking tour of the Roman monuments and then a guided tour of the Musée de l'Arles Antique, exhibiting the famous "tête d'Arles," a possible portrait of Julius Caesar. Lunch on your own in Arles. We'll also view the places painted by Van Gogh and visit the Roman necropolis, and visit a lavender farm for a tour. Return to Avignon for late dinner on your own.

Saturday, April 24 **Avignon/Day Excursion (BD)**
Depart for Nîmes, for a guided visit of the elliptical Roman amphitheater, still used today as a bull fighting and concert arena. Continue to the Maison Carrée, a small Roman temple dedicated to the

sons of Agrippa, and one of the best preserved Roman temples anywhere. Lunch on your own in Nîmes. The visit Norman Foster's Carré d'Art, a museum of contemporary art. Continue to the Pont du Gard, the tallest aqueduct in the world, and its museum. Return to Avignon for group dinner.

Sunday, April 25 **Avignon/Day Excursion (BD)**

Travel to Orange, a city rich in history, from its Celtic fortifications to its Roman monuments, for a guided tour. Lunch on your own. On the way back to Avignon, visit a truffle farm for a tour and tasting. Group dinner in Avignon.

Monday, April 26 **Avignon — Gordes (BLD)**

After checking out of our hotel, we'll transfer first to the Abbey of Sénanque, built in the 12th century and surrounded by fields of lavender, for a visit. Group lunch. We'll continue to the village of Roussillon. Built on top of a hill and situated in one of the largest ochre deposits in the world, the village is known for its striking colors. Return to Gordes to check into the hotel and group dinner. Hotel: Mas de la Senancole or similar.

Tuesday, April 27 **Gordes — Aix en Provence (BD)**

Check out of the hotel and travel to Isle sur la Sorgue, a charming Provencal town. The numerous canals and branches of the Sorgue have given the town the nickname of Venice of the Comtat. Lunch on your own. Then, we'll have a guided tour of Ménerbes, one of the prettiest villages in France. Visit a honey farm for a tour and tasting and then continue to Aix en Provence for group dinner. Hotel: Hotel de France or similar.

Wednesday, April 28 **Aix en Provence (BD)**

This morning we'll visit the Atelier Cezanne, where the artist worked for the last four years of his life. Then we'll take a guided walking tour of Aix en Provence. Lunch on your own. We'll have a guided tour of the Musée Granet, whose collection has evolved over the years to more than 12,000 pieces. We'll end our day with a tasting of local food products, and group dinner at a local restaurant.

Thursday, April 29 **Aix en Provence — Avignon (BD)**

Free time this morning, perhaps to experience the local market on Place Richelme, offering up a wealth of local specialties. Lunch on your own and then return to Avignon for a farewell group dinner.

Friday, April 30 **Depart France (B)**

One airport transfer will be provided; more information on the timing to be announced. Depart on individually-booked flights.