


Landscapes of the Luberon

Hotel-to-hotel  independent walking

- Delightful walking through timeless Luberon landscape taking in the very best of the region
- Heady mix of lavender, wild herbs, olives and colorful flowers
- Dazzling ochre cliffs; stunningly beautiful villages; superb views of Mt Ventoux & the Dentelles de Montmirail
- Wonderful wines and classic Provençal cuisine
- Hotels full of local character – most with pools



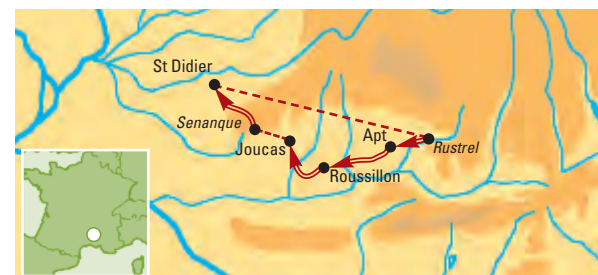
This popular walking holiday is based in the glorious Luberon National Park, taking in the lush Provençal countryside and affording stunning mountain views. It's a land which has been an inspiration for generations of poets, painters and writers from Petrarch in the 14C to contemporary abstract artist Victor Vasarely, and best-selling author Peter Mayle.

You'll be intoxicated by the rich colours of the landscape, all intensified by the wonderful limpid light. Seventeen shades of ochre were once quarried at Roussillon, from violet through purple to vivid reds, oranges and mellow yellows. Its delicate natural tints were used to wash the local houses.

At Fontaine-de-Vaucluse, the emerald-green Sorgue river gushes in torrents from a mysterious subterranean reservoir. Lavender makes a fragrant mauve carpet, green forests cloak the hills, and, in spring, white blossom veils the cherry orchards. And it's all against the backdrop of an azure sky.

The walks are short, with plenty of time for exploring exquisite villages, natural wonders and historic sights. Three of the four hotels have pools in the grounds. We have included four evening meals, on other nights you choose from a range of nearby restaurants.

Please note that September is the hunting season in Provence. We provide reflective day-glow jackets for customers wishing to walk through the woods/forests on the main hunting days (typically two per week) however alternative road routes will also be offered.



Book now on **1-800-567-6286** or visit www.breakaway-adventures.com for more information

LANDSCAPES OF THE LUBERON | DAY BY DAY

Day 1 Arrive at St Didier

Our hotel is in its own grounds with swimming pool and tennis courts.

Day 2 Rustrel to Apt 17km/10mi/4.5hr

We give you a lift to the starting point in Rustrel, where you can begin the day with an hour-long circuit in the Provençal Colorado, once ochre quarries and now a strange landscape of fantastic shapes and vivid colours. Today's main walk is through classic Provençal countryside where you will see vineyards and cherry orchards, fig trees and olive groves, and neat plantations of scented lavender before continuing in to Apt.

Day 3 At Apt

Apt is famous for its crystallized fruits and traditional pottery. It has plenty of shops, cafés and colorful Saturday and Tuesday markets. Visit the Maison du Parc du Luberon and Ste Anne's Cathedral, part of which dates to C13.

Day 4 Apt/Roussillon 16km/10mi/4.5hr

After a short transfer to the lovely village of St Saturnin, your walk today heads south and up through cherry orchards, vineyards and pine forests - a magnificent panorama across the Apt plain and the Luberon. After Gargas, you continue through pine forest along blood-red ochre-colored tracks, then descend in to Roussillon.

Day 5 At Roussillon

Roussillon, one of the most beautiful villages in France, is famous for its streaked ochre cliffs. Visit too the superb perched village of Bonnieux - lots of art galleries, pavement cafés and little restaurants for lunch.

Day 6 Roussillon to Joucas 13km/8mi/3.5hr

Today's walk takes you through the most incredibly beautiful ochre colored countryside, as you stroll through cherry orchards, vineyards and fields ablaze with lavender. After lunch, walking with the striking "eagle's nest" village of Gordes ahead (lots of time to explore tomorrow), you finally turn off north to charming Joucas - where you'll find a warm welcome at our family-run hotel.

Day 7 At Joucas

This is a great opportunity to explore the picturesque village of Gordes, which clothes the hilltop with wonderfully photogenic houses, terraces and gardens. The village is dominated by its Renaissance chateau and the streets are crammed with cafés, restaurants and shops.

Day 8 Joucas/Senanque to St Didier 18km/11mi/5.5hr

Lift to the C12 cistercian abbey at Sénanque where today's walk begins. Up first through pine and oak forest, then out across the plateau de Vaucluse. Stunning views of Mt Ventoux and the jagged peaks of the Dentelles de Montmirail. Then it's down through cherry orchards back to St Didier for a final swim.

Day 9 Leave St Didier

Note: The village fête take place in Joucas from August 25-27. Great atmosphere but if you prefer things quiet, perhaps choose a different week.



"Excellent combination of activity and relaxation. You felt you really got to know the area. Some lovely contrasts."

Mrs J Erskine

Dates and Prices

Departs every two days **Tour Only**

2012 departures

May 1-25, Sep 22-Oct 8	\$2,723
May 27-31, Jun 8-12	\$2,723
Sep 2-20	\$2,723
Jun 2-6, Jun 14-Jul 8	\$2,797
Aug 29-31	\$2,797
Jul 10-Aug 27	\$2,797
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,829

Singles: Add \$62 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Room upgrade: Prices from \$13 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent walking, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

Departs: Every two days from May 1 to Oct 8.

Duration: 9 days (8 nights).

Meals: Continental breakfast and 4 evening meals.

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Marseille Airport.

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA Airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Pick up at Avignon TGV train station at 12:07 (transfer to hotel 40 mins, provided). **Return:** Avignon TGV station by 12:16.

Rail Options: Marseille St Charles to Avignon TGV 11:33/12:07. Return: Rail Avignon TGV to Marseille St Charles 12:16/12:47

Second Class French Rail: Add \$97 per person, round trip.

First Class French Rail: Add \$147 per person, round trip.

Tour only: Transfers included from Avignon TGV train station at 12:07, and back to Avignon TGV train station at 11:20.

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LANDSCAPES OF THE LUBERON | WHERE YOU STAY



Hotel les 3 Colombes
★★★★
St Didier
Days 1+8



Hotel Ste Anne
★★★★
Apt
Days 2+3



Hotel les Sables d'Ocre
★★★
Roussillon
Days 4+5



Hotel la Bergerie
★★★
Joucas
Days 6+7

For extra nights we recommend St Didier and Roussillon.

LANDSCAPES OF THE LUBERON | WALKING DETAILS



Relatively easy walking, mostly along marked paths (the occasional short rocky section) and quiet country lanes. There are a couple of short ascents so walking boots are highly recommended. From early July until mid September, the local fire authorities restrict access to forested areas after 12 noon so early starts (0800/0830) are advised.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

19 21 27 28 28 25 22
APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

42 46 24 11 34 60 75
APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT