



Beautiful lavender fields

## ...ICONIC PURPLE LANDSCAPES IN A SOFT NATURAL LIGHT

Provence is a bewitching corner of southern France, a region that has inspired artists and writers for centuries and is immersed in history, culture and art.

The soft natural light and timeless landscapes have been used to create iconic masterpieces by the likes of Van Gogh, Picasso, Dumas and modern-day author Peter Mayle. Matisse described the light as 'soft and tender, despite its brilliance'.

Envisage sleepy villages perched on hilltops, guarding the beautiful backdrops. Imagine patchwork fields blanketing the land, olive groves, vineyards and, in the south-east, fragrant apple orchards. In between walking or cycling, take a break and stop off to taste the region's local wines and immerse yourself in this spectacular setting.

Traveling on foot or by bike is the ideal way to take in the wonders of this region and the legacy left behind by the Romans that is evident at every turn. It's almost like strolling into a living history book as you pass the first vineyards ever grown, various monuments, castles and fountains. Vaison-la-Romaine has the most extensive collection of Roman remains including a 6,000-seat theatre, baths, houses and streets.

Admire Provence's skyline, which is dominated by the majestic silhouettes of mountains such as dramatic Mont Ventoux or the Dentelles de Montmirail. Pass by sweet-smelling cherry orchards, aromatic pine forests, the sway of potent lavender carrying aromas from the fields and let the heady mix of wild herbs growing envelop

you as you move between destinations. The pretty purple lavender fields make for stunning violet-tinged views.

Food is a passion in this region and recipes are dominated with Mediterranean influences: think olive oil, locally-produced wine, home-grown tomatoes and garlic – the Provençal cuisine is a true highlight – *bon appetit!*

**One to watch:** The medieval hilltop village of Gordes, one of France's most beautiful villages, dominated by a Renaissance château and museum.

## LANDSCAPES OF THE LUBERON WALK

WALKING ACTIVITY LEVEL



Roussillon

## YOUR HOLIDAY DAY-BY-DAY



## DAY 01 ARRIVE IN PERNES-LES-FONTAINES

Arrive at the **Hôtel l'Hermitage**, located just north of the town of Pernes-les-Fontaines. Visit a local restaurant for dinner (included).

## DAY 02 PERNES-LES-FONTAINES TO ROUSSILLON 16KM/10MI/4.5HR

We give you a ride to medieval Saint-Saturnin; explore the narrow streets and the château ruins, then walk through fragrant lavender fields before descending into Roussillon. You stay at **Les Sables d'Ocre** for the next two nights (pay locally for dinner).

## DAY 03 AT ROUSSILLON

Roussillon is famous for its streaked ochre cliffs and is the starting point of the Ochre Trail. Visit the village of Bonnieux, full of art galleries, cafés and restaurants that are perfect for lunch.

## DAY 04 ROUSSILLON TO LES IMBERTS 16KM/10MI/4.5HR

Stroll past the Domaine de Tara wine estate, then enjoy views across the Luberon valley as you head north to the perched village of Gordes. After a short climb, descend to your hotel, the **Mas de la Sénancole**, with pool and spa. Dinner is included on your two nights here.

## DAY 05 AT LES IMBERTS

It's a short walk to the hilltop village of Gordes. Made up of wonderfully photogenic houses, terraces and gardens, its Renaissance château dominates, which also houses a museum.

## DAY 06 LES IMBERTS TO FONTAINE-DE-VAUCLUSE 11KM/7MI/3.5HR

Arrive at Cabrières-d'Avignon with its golden stone houses and old castle. Head up into the hills, past a section of the 27km/17mi-long Mur de la Peste, built by locals in 1720 to block the spread of the Plague. Stay at the **Hôtel du Poète** (pay locally for evening meals).

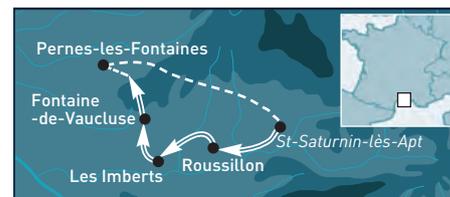
## DAY 07 AT FONTAINE-DE-VAUCLUSE

Visit the Fountain of the Vaucluse (the biggest spring in France) and the ruins of the castle of the Bishop of Cavaillon. There are lots of cafés and a museum about the Resistance to explore.

## DAY 08 FONTAINE-DE-VAUCLUSE TO PERNES-LES-FONTAINES 14KM/9MI/4.5HR

Ascend the Plateau de Vaucluse for stunning views of Mont Ventoux and the jagged peaks of the Dentelles de Montmirail, then head through cherry orchards to popular St-Didier. Return to the **Hotel l'Hermitage** for your final night (evening meal included at a local restaurant).

## DAY 09 LEAVE PERNES-LES-FONTAINES



- ★★★★★ customer rating
- Exclusive Headwater Rep Service
- Delightful walking through the timeless Luberon landscape
- Heady mix of lavender, wild herbs, olives, pine and colourful flowers
- Dazzling ochre cliffs; stunningly beautiful villages; endless swaying vines; superb views of Mont Ventoux

*"An excellent experience in a lovely part of France."*

Mr Fraser

## PRICES FROM

**\$1,685** *per person*

With departures every two days from May 13th to October 14th 2018

## YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

- 8 nights hotel-to-hotel accommodation in \*\*\* hotels
- All breakfasts and 4 evening meals
- Services of your local Headwater Representative
- Route directions and maps
- Luggage transfers between hotels
- Walking transfers
- Headwater Wine Collection Service

## OPTIONAL UPGRADES

- Nearest arrival airport: Marseille airport
- Rail from Marseille to Avignon TGV/return (including local transfers), details and prices available on request
- Sole occupancy of a double room \$71 per person per night
- Room upgrades available
- Extra nights in Pernes-les-Fontaines
- City break add-ons in Paris or Avignon

## WHERE YOU STAY



Hôtel l'Hermitage \*\*\*



Les Sables d'Ocre \*\*\*



Mas de la Sénancole \*\*\*



Hôtel du Poète \*\*\*