

FRANCE

# Provence & St. Rémy

A Self-Guided Walking Adventure





# Table of Contents

---

Daily Itinerary .....	4
Itinerary Overview .....	11
Tour Facts at a Glance.....	12
Traveling To and From Your Tour .....	15
Information & Policies .....	21

## Travel Style

Our Self-Guided Walking Adventures are ideal for travelers with an independent spirit who enjoy exploring at their own pace. We provide authentic accommodations, luggage transfers, and some meals, along with comprehensive Route Notes, detailed maps, and 24-hour emergency assistance. This gives you the freedom to focus on the things that matter to you—no group, no guide, and no set schedule to stand in the way of enjoying your adventure, your way.



## Overview

The essential Provence literally unfolds at your feet on this easygoing Self-Guided itinerary where open ridge walks along the Alpilles and Luberon mountain ranges provide sweeping views over the southern French landscape. The route takes you to picturesque hilltop villages—Gordes, Goult, Lacoste, and Bonnieux—and through countryside straight out of Van Gogh paintings (in fact you walk in his footsteps in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence). Trails gently descend through olive and almond groves to quaint medieval villages shaded by ancient trees, where colorful markets, fountains, and narrow cobbled lanes invite exploration. Accommodations offer signature Provençal hospitality and style, as well as the true Mediterranean flavors of fresh local cuisine and wine.



# Daily Itinerary

---

## DAY 1

Arrival in Avignon. Transfer to Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

You are met in Avignon and transferred about 25 minutes to the classic southern French town of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, where you may relax with an apéritif of chilled pastis (the local anise-flavored liqueur) in the shade of the fig trees your hotel is named after. Dinner tonight is either on-site at your hotel or a short walk away at a local restaurant.

### **Hôtel Sous les Figueiers, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence**

A charming small hotel built around an interior courtyard with individually decorated guestrooms highlighting Provençal decor supplemented by antiques and artwork. Fresh local products and home-baked regional breads and pastries are on the breakfast menu, served either in the shaded terrace or the contemporary Baroque small salon. An on-site art studio exhibits contemporary works and encourages local artistic endeavors. A pleasant Provençal town, Saint-Rémy is best known for the Saint-Paul de Mausole monastery where Van Gogh received psychiatric treatment.



## DAY 2

Van Gogh loop; 6.2 miles, easy to moderate, 800-ft. elevation gain and loss

Today you follow the Van Gogh trail, through the very scenes that inspired him. At the outset of your walk, explore the Roman ruins of Glanum, or the former monastery where Van Gogh



spent the last year of his life, before following a winding botanical path up a gradual trail and to the crest of the Alpilles Mountains. Aromatic herbs and wildflowers carpet the hills as the views extend far into the horizon—a perfect setting for a picnic lunch. Upon your return to Saint-Rémy, the rest of the day is at your leisure.

### Hôtel Sous les Figuiers, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

## DAY 3

Saint-Rémy-de-Provence to Les Baux-de-Provence; 6.2 miles, easy to moderate, 900-ft. elevation gain and 350-ft. elevation loss. Transfer to Gordes

Today, once again, you leave Saint-Rémy on foot, but this time taking a different path than yesterday's walk, to the top of the windswept Alpilles. A rolling trail following the ridge is complete with awe-inspiring 360-degree views, which continue as the path gently undulates toward the medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence, set atop its rocky perch. In addition to eating lunch (before 2 p.m. if you opt for a sit-down restaurant), there is time to visit the village, including the Carrières de Lumières, famed for its unique audio-visual shows, before a one-hour afternoon transfer to the Luberon Mountains and the village of Gordes, your home for the next two nights, and classified as one of the “most beautiful villages of France.” After settling in to your hotel, you step out for a dinner of Provençal specialties.

### Le Mas de la Beaume, Gordes

This charming bed-and-breakfast, set in a restored stone farmhouse, is just a short stroll from the center of Gordes. Quaint guest rooms are individually decorated with antique furnishings, linen curtains, lavender-adorned wood beams, and waxed walls. In the late afternoon, a swimming pool and surrounding terrace and grounds are bathed in the region's unique golden light.



On a rocky outcropping overlooking classic Provençal landscapes, Gordes, one of France's loveliest towns, delights with its charm and history dating from the Middle Ages.

#### DAY 4

Abbey de Sénanque loop; 6.2 miles, easy to moderate, 800-ft. elevation gain and loss

The paths around Gordes are lined with old stone walls, lone farmhouses, and *bories*—centuries-old round shepherd's huts constructed from dry stone. You follow the paths into the valley and soon the vision of the 12th-century Sénanque Abbey appears, situated among some of the very few lavender fields in the area (which are in bloom from late June through July). After a picnic lunch overlooking the magnificent 850-year-old Cistercian abbey, a somewhat steep climb brings you back to your hotel, where the late-afternoon relaxation may include a refreshing swim before a drink and dinner.

#### Le Mas de la Beaume, Gordes

#### DAY 5

Goult to Bonnieux; 7.5 miles, easy to moderate, 1,050-ft. elevation gain and 800-ft. elevation loss or Lacoste to Bonnieux; 3.5 miles, easy to moderate, 750-ft. elevation gain and 200-ft. elevation loss. Transfer to Lourmarin

Today offers two walking options of varying lengths. For the longer option, a short taxi transfer brings you to the Calavon Valley and the timeless village of Goult—perhaps the least known and visited of the beautiful towns in the Petit Luberon. Starting at its Romanesque church, medieval lanes lead you to the restored 18th-century Moulin de Jérusalem—one of the few remaining windmills that were strategically placed on the region's ridges to grind grain. With sweeping views of the Calavon Valley below, you make your way past *bories* and farmhouses to the neighboring village of Lacoste, once home to the infamous Marquis de Sade and now to the remains of his castle (For a shorter walking option, you may ask the morning's taxi to bring you directly to Lacoste). Heading back into the valley and through cherry orchards, vineyards, and truffle oak plantations, you reach the village of Bonnieux, crowned by its 12th-century

church huddled under the canopy of massive cedar trees. There are many dining options to choose from for lunch in Bonnieux, some with spectacular views over the valley. Your afternoon transfer brings you to your home for the next two nights in Lourmarin.

### **Hôtel Bastide de Lourmarin, Lourmarin**

Located at the entrance of the beautiful town of Lourmarin, this four-star boutique hotel offers just 19 individually decorated rooms combining authentic Provençal furnishings, fabrics, and tiles with modern comfort and unique artwork. Among its grounds are meticulous gardens, heated swimming pool, solarium and lounge in an olive grove, and on-site sauna. A terrace provides shaded and sunny outdoor seating for breakfast, weather permitting.



### **DAY 6**

Lourmarin loop via Cadenet; 4.3 miles, easy to moderate, 400-ft. elevation gain and loss or Lourmarin loop via the crest of the Grand Luberon; 9.6 miles, challenging, 2,050-ft. elevation gain and loss

The day begins in Lourmarin, a small village nestled on the southern slopes of the Luberon Mountains. With its maze of cobblestone streets and centuries-old buildings, you'll soon see why it's listed as one of the most beautiful towns in France. From here, choose from two walk options along paths scented with wild thyme and rosemary through picturesque, vine-laden countryside bathed in sunlight. While the northern part of the Luberon is a mix of forest and fruit orchards, these routes amble through the majestic, arid landscape of the south, a region of bare limestone outcroppings, castles, vineyards, and private villas. Following small country roads still used by local farmers, an easy to moderate option leads you to the sleepy village of Cadenet in time for lunch. There is plenty of time to relax and soak in the atmosphere of this authentic Provençal village before returning to the trail to walk back to your hotel on foot. A more challenging alternative loops into the heart of the Grand Luberon Mountain. The Combe des Cavaliers—literally “horseback riders’ hollow”—takes you on a steady climb toward the upper slopes. Continuing through oak forest, a steep, yet short ascent delivers you to the very crest of the Luberon, with picture-perfect views of Mount Ventoux framed in the distance. From here, an optional



short detour further rewards with spectacular 360-degree views extending as far south as the Mediterranean Sea, and as far north as the snow-capped Alps. The mostly easy-going descent offers constant views of the Durance Valley before the final leg through farmer fields returns you to Lourmarin.

**Hôtel Bastide de Lourmarin, Lourmarin**

## **DAY 7**

Departure from Avignon

You bid farewell to Provence and a complimentary transfer back to Avignon is provided after breakfast (approximately one hour).

## **ITINERARY CHANGES**

Please bear in mind that this is a typical itinerary, and the actual activities, sites, and accommodations may vary due to season, special events, weather, or transportation schedules. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary, since tour arrangements are made up to a year in advance and unforeseen circumstances may arise that mandate change. Itinerary changes are made to improve the tour and your experience.

## **RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL**

Country Walkers is a leader in active travel with responsible tourism an integral part of our core values. Our tours reflect our dedication to best travel practices—and to the preservation of indigenous cultures and the environment. Country Walkers has made a donation on behalf of every traveler to the CW Travelers Fund, which supports designated projects in the communities and habitats in which we travel. We invite you to learn more about our efforts and initiatives for giving back.



## MAKE IT TO MARKET

If you time your trip properly, you can browse stalls of farm-fresh produce, deliciously cured meats, and ever-so-colorful printed fabrics at an outdoor market in towns like Saint Rémy, Gordes, or Lourmarin. It's a delicious way to find lunch—and maybe a memento to enjoy once you return home.

**Avignon:** Open Tuesday–Sunday from 6:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. on weekdays and 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays (closed Mondays), there are plenty of opportunities to pop in and check out the famous Les Halles covered food market at Place Pie if spending pre- or post-tour time in Avignon. The best time to go is early Saturday morning when all the stands are open and the locals are out doing their shopping. The market houses 40 vendors selling fantastic local Provence produce including fruit, vegetables, cheese, wine, fish, meat (cured and fresh), spices, and more. On Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. the market also hosts free cooking demonstrations featuring chefs from around Avignon.

**Saint-Rémy-de-Provence:** Well-known as one of the best in the region and highly recommended, the Wednesday St-Rémy market (weekly from approximately 7:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) has everything—fabric, clothing, flowers, ceramics, beautifully carved olive wood bowls, as well as a plethora of produce and prepared food. **Start your tour on a Monday** to visit this legendary market prior to departing on your Day 3 walk to Les Baux-de-Provence, a **Tuesday** for a more relaxed visit prior to your Day 2 loop walk, or a **Wednesday** if spending a pre-tour night in Saint-Rémy or in Avignon with an early arrival into Saint-Rémy on Day 1. There is a smaller market on Saturdays with food only.

**Gordes:** The weekly market in Gordes takes place on Tuesdays year-round from approximately 6:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. One of the most colorful markets in the area, the stalls at Gordes specialize in soaps, lavender, fabrics, and textiles. Set at the foot of the castle in the center of the village, it's also a great place to grab local cheeses and *saucisson*, as well as bread, olive oil, and honey—perfect for a picnic in the countryside! **Start your tour on a Saturday** to visit this market prior to your Day 4 loop walk to the Sénanque Abbey.

**Bonnieux:** Small but picturesque, the Bonnieux weekly market takes place on Friday mornings from approximately 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. The market starts around the “new” church at the bottom of the hill with textiles and clothing, then winds up the hill with colorful bags, straw hats, leather goods,

tapenades, and jams, and continues up to the square where food is the highlight. **Start your tour on a Monday** to visit this delightful market at the end of your Day 5 walk.

**Lourmarin:** At least twice the size of the Bonnieux market, the Lourmarin market takes place every Friday morning from approximately 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. While there are the typical pyramids of local honeys and jams, rows of cheese neatly arranged next to fresh eggs and sausages, and baskets filled to the brim with seasoned olives, there is more of an emphasis on clothing and home goods in comparison to Bonnieux—there are flowers galore, Provençal pottery and cookware, table cloths and other fine linens, silk scarves and sweaters, baskets and carved olive wood, soaps, jewelry, and much more. **Start your tour on a Sunday** to visit this market prior to your Day 6 loop walk. There is also a farmer’s market held during Tuesday evenings (from 6:30 p.m.) in the summer months (May–October) in the Old Fruit Co-operative.

**Cadenet:** Monday morning is market day in the tiny village of Cadenet, where you will find the usual wonderful mix of fresh Provençal produce, arts, and crafts. **Start your tour on a Wednesday** to visit this market during the easier optional Lourmarin loop walk via Cadenet on Day 6.

# Itinerary Overview

---

**PLEASE NOTE:** your detailed Route Notes will be mailed to you approximately one month prior to your departure. While these Route Notes may list a number of accommodation options, your specific accommodations are listed below. Please make sure to bring this Itinerary Overview with you.

## STARTING POINT

**Avignon, France**

**Based upon individual arrival times**

## NIGHTS 1 & 2

### **Hôtel Sous les Figuiers**

3 Avenue Gabriel St René Taillandier

Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France

Tel 011 33 432 60 15 40

Email [hotel.souslesfiguiers@wanadoo.fr](mailto:hotel.souslesfiguiers@wanadoo.fr)

[hotel-charme-provence.com](http://hotel-charme-provence.com)

Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

## NIGHTS 3 & 4

### **Mas de la Baume**

Route de Cavaillon

Gordes, France

Tel 011 33 490 72 02 96

Email [la.baume@wanadoo.fr](mailto:la.baume@wanadoo.fr)

[labeaume.com](http://labeaume.com)

Wireless Internet and hair dryers available. Laundry service unavailable.

## NIGHTS 5 & 6

### **Hôtel Bastide de Lourmarin**

Route de Cucuron

Lourmarin, France

Tel 011 33 490 07 00 70

Email [info@hotelbastide.com](mailto:info@hotelbastide.com)

[hotelbastide.com](http://hotelbastide.com)

Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

## ENDING POINT

**Avignon, France**

**Based upon individual departure times**

# Tour Facts at a Glance

---

## TOUR LENGTH

7 days, 6 nights

## DEPARTURES

This tour is available daily, on request, from April 1 through June 26 and September 1 through November 15, 2018. Please note that the tiered tour price is based on a guarantee of a specified number of guests—should your group decrease in size, we reserve the right to alter the per person price if necessary as reflected in the Tour Price table. Please also note that the tour price includes one arrival transfer from Avignon to Saint-Rémy-de-Provence on Day 1 of the tour and one departure transfer from Lourmarin to Avignon on Day 7 of the tour. If traveling in a group of two or more with separate arrival and/or departure times, additional charges will apply for multiple transfers.

## TOUR PRICE

2018 departures	Per person 2 guests	Per person 3–5 guests	Per person 6+ guests	Single +	Solo Surcharge
April 1–June 26 & September 1– November 15	\$2,698	\$2,598	\$2,498	\$850	\$565

---

## STARTING POINT

Avignon, France

Based upon individual arrival times

## ENDING POINT

Avignon, France

Based upon individual departure times

## ACTIVITY LEVEL

This tour is one of our Self-Guided Walking Adventures, rated easy to moderate, with an average of 4 to 10 miles per day and limited options. There are daily ascents and descents—with some steep sections—up to 1,000 feet. One optional walk on Day 6 has an elevation gain and loss of 2,000 feet. Walks are through oak and pine forests, rugged hills dotted with Mediterranean herbs and shrubs, terraced farmland, and hillside vineyards. The terrain includes single-track trails, mostly cobbled but also loose stones or gravel. The terrain also includes farming tracks, some dirt roads, and occasionally a paved country road. This diverse itinerary combines both the Alpilles and the Luberon mountain ranges, passing scenes painted by Van Gogh as well as golden hilltop villages, with plenty of time for trailside picnics and to explore archaeological sites or markets.

Many people travel to Provence to see the lavender. Except for a few areas around the town of Gordes, lavender actually grows further north. Please also note that at the time of year our tours operate it will not be in bloom, as this generally happens between the end of June and the end of July, when it becomes too hot for walking and the risk of forest fires and path restrictions is high.

## INCLUSIONS

- » Breakfast daily and three dinners (days 1, 3, and 5); beverages not included
- » All accommodations while on tour
- » Local transfers as noted in the itinerary
- » Orientation meeting with a Country Walkers representative
- » Luggage transfers between the hotels
- » Detailed Route Notes and maps (mailed to you approximately one month prior to your departure)
- » 24-hour tour-related support provided by Country Walkers' local partner
- » 24-hour One Call International Emergency Hotline and Travel Assistance
- » The unbeatable and cumulative experience of the Country Walkers staff



## **LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN**

Prior to your adventure you will be asked to sign a Participation Agreement and you will receive:

- » A Guest Information Form to complete and return at least 45 days prior to your tour
- » Luggage tags
- » Route Notes and maps
- » Your trip invoice

## **GRATUITIES**

Standard gratuities for all hotels, meals, and services that are included in your tour price will be paid by Country Walkers; however additional tips are always welcome. Should you wish to tip for meals or services not included in the cost of the tour, please do so at your discretion. Local currency is preferred.

# Traveling To and From Your Tour

---

## STARTING POINT

### Avignon, France

#### Based upon individual arrival times

A taxi driver will meet you at either the Avignon TGV (high-speed) train station, Avignon Centre (central) train station (on the ground floor in front of the newspaper stand, holding a sign with Country Walkers and/or your name on it), or an Avignon city hotel and transfer you approximately 25 minutes to the first hotel in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence. A tour representative will meet you on Day 1 or 2 of the tour to provide an orientation meeting, ensure you are comfortably settled, and answer any questions you may have.

**In order to arrange your arrival transfer and orientation meeting, please provide us with your arrival and departure details by returning your Guest Information Form at least 45 days prior to the departure.**

Please note that the tour price includes one arrival transfer from Avignon to Saint-Rémy-de-Provence on Day 1 of the tour. If traveling in a group of two or more with separate arrival times, additional charges will apply for multiple transfers.

## MOST CONVENIENT AIRPORTS

Roissy Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG), Paris  
[aeroportsdeparis.fr](http://aeroportsdeparis.fr) or [paris-cdg.com](http://paris-cdg.com)

Marseille Provence Airport (MRS), Marignane  
[marseille-airport.com](http://marseille-airport.com)

## GETTING TO THE STARTING POINT

The most convenient way to travel to the tour starting point is by train. There are two train stations serving Avignon:

- » The Avignon TGV Train Station (Gare d'Avignon TGV; [gares-sncf.com/fr/gare/fravg/avignon-tgv](http://gares-sncf.com/fr/gare/fravg/avignon-tgv)): servicing long-distance and high-speed trains, this station is situated 6 km from the city center.
- » The Avignon CENTRE Train Station (Gare d'Avignon Centre; [gares-sncf.com/fr/gare/fraes/avignon-centre](http://gares-sncf.com/fr/gare/fraes/avignon-centre)): dedicated to local trains, this

station is located in the city center—just outside the medieval ramparts and only a few minutes’ walk from the main sights and hotels of historic Avignon.

- » There is a regular train shuttle—“La Virgule,” meaning “comma”—that runs every 15 minutes between the two stations. The journey takes five minutes and costs 1.60 euros.

If you are spending pre-tour time in Avignon, be sure to select “Avignon Centre” as your destination when making your train reservation. This way, if arriving into Avignon TGV station, your tickets will include the train shuttle that runs from the TGV station to the city center.

### **From Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG), Paris:**

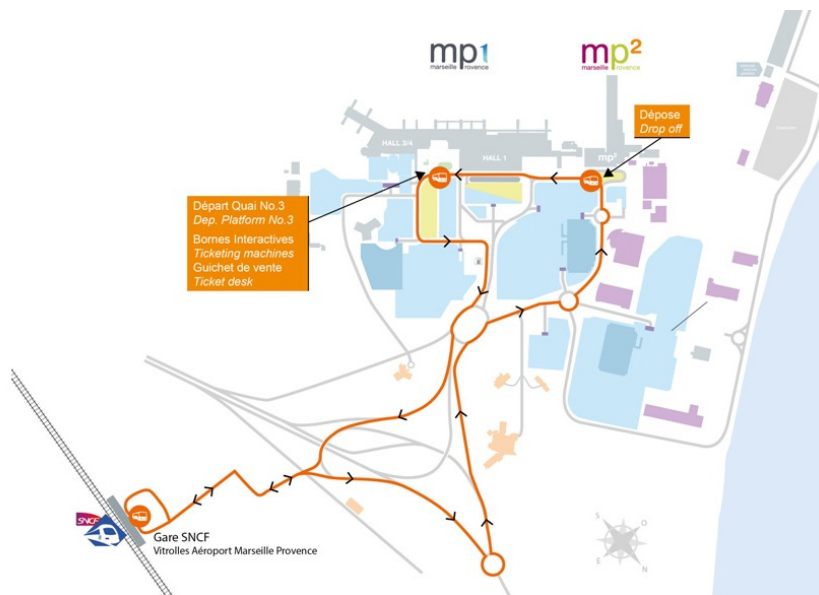
From Paris you can travel to the tour starting point via a direct TGV (high-speed) train from the Roissy Charles de Gaulle Airport to the Avignon TGV train station. Upon arrival at the airport, follow the directions to the train station (“gare SNCF” or “Paris par train”) located in Terminal 2 of the airport. The journey from Paris to Avignon takes between 2½ and 3½ hours. Prices can vary greatly depending on how far in advance you purchase your train ticket. Be sure to validate your ticket in the small yellow machines located on the platform prior to boarding, or you may be assessed a large fine. For the TGV, your ticket indicates the train car number of your reserved seat, so you can wait in the designated platform area as shown on the platform chart.

If you plan on spending pre-tour time in Paris, you may take the RER B train from the airport to central Paris, which takes approximately 35 minutes, depending on your destination. The B line stops at the Gare du Nord, Châtelet-Les-Halles, Saint-Michel, and Denfert-Rochereau, and allows you to connect with the Paris Metro system. You can purchase your ticket for the RER at the SNCF desk of the airport (although the wait can be long) or by using one of the blue automated machines (which accept coins and some cards, but no bills). Trains to Avignon from central Paris depart from the Gare de Lyon train station. For more details on Paris public transportation, including interactive maps, schedules, and a journey planner, visit [ratp.fr](http://ratp.fr) and click on “Finding your way.”

### From Marseille Provence Airport (MRS), Marignane:

From the Marseille Provence Airport, you can travel to the tour starting point combining a short shuttle bus ride and train from the Vitrolles Aéroport Marseille Provence train station to the Avignon Centre train station (60–90-minute train ride).

A free shuttle bus connects the Marseille Provence Airport (platform No. 3) with the Vitrolles Aéroport Marseille Provence train station in five minutes. Shuttles depart 20 minutes prior to every scheduled train departure. While there is no need to purchase tickets in advance, you may purchase train tickets online at [voyages-sncf.com](http://voyages-sncf.com). You may also purchase tickets upon arrival at the airport from machines by the entrance to Terminals 3–4, as well as at the train station itself. Be sure to validate your train ticket in the small yellow machines located on the platform prior to boarding, or you may be assessed a large fine.



### Arrival at Avignon TGV Train Station:

» **Train shuttle & walk:** take the train shuttle—“La Virgule”—that runs every 15 minutes from Avignon TGV train station to Avignon Centre train station. The journey takes five minutes and costs 1.60 euros. The Hôtel Cloître St-Louis, our recommended pre- and/or post-tour hotel, is no more than a 5-minute walk from Avignon Centre train station. Standing in front of Avignon Centre

and looking at the walled city, the gate in front of you is the Porte de la Republic. Enter the walled city through that gate and you will be on Cours Jean Jaurès. Inside the wall, ignore the first street on the left, Cours Président Kennedy. The second left, immediately after the chamber of commerce building, is Rue du Portal Boquier. Turn left there and the hotel door faces you in about one hundred feet.

» **Taxi:** a taxi from Avignon TGV train station to Avignon city center takes approximately 15 minutes.

### **Arrival at Avignon Centre Train Station:**

» **Walk:** The Hôtel Cloître St-Louis, our recommended pre- and/or post-tour hotel, is no more than a 5-minute walk from Avignon Centre train station. Standing in front of Avignon Centre and looking at the walled city, the gate in front of you is the Porte de la Republic. Enter the walled city through that gate and you will be on Cours Jean Jaurès. Inside the wall, ignore the first street on the left, Cours Président Kennedy. The second left, immediately after the chamber of commerce building, is Rue du Portal Boquier. Turn left there and the hotel door faces you in about one hundred feet.

» **Taxi:** a taxi from Avignon Centre train station to Avignon city center takes approximately 4 minutes.

For further rail information, including reservations, schedules, and up-to-date fares, please call Rail Europe at 877.257.2887 or consult their website:

[raileurope.com](http://raileurope.com). Or you may consult the French rail website: [voyages-sncf.com](http://voyages-sncf.com). We recommend making train reservations in advance for major train routes. Reservations are required for all TGV trains.

### **PRE-TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS**

You may wish to stay in Avignon, a provincial town you will not explore during the tour, either before or after your tour. We recommend the Hôtel Cloître St-Louis, a beautiful hotel blending ancient architecture with modern design, and boasting amenities including a rooftop swimming pool and sun terrace. Country Walkers would be happy to make a reservation here on your behalf. Please contact us to request this service as soon as possible to ensure availability. The cost of \$230 USD per single room or \$250 USD per double/twin room (subject to change), including tax and breakfast, is payable directly to Country Walkers and is due with your final payment 90 days prior to departure. Our normal



cancellation policy applies. These rooms are reserved as a service for you and include a service charge. Better rates may be available online.

### **Hôtel Cloître St.-Louis**

20 rue Portail Boquier  
84000 Avignon  
Tel 011 33 490 27 55 55  
Email [hotel@cloitre-saint-louis.com](mailto:hotel@cloitre-saint-louis.com)  
[cloitre-saint-louis.com](http://cloitre-saint-louis.com)

Should you wish to spend a pre-tour night in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, you may wish to stay at Hotel Sous les Figuiers, our standard hotel for the first two nights of the tour. Country Walkers would be happy to make a reservation here on your behalf. Please contact us to request this service as soon as possible to ensure availability. The cost of \$240 USD per single room or \$260 USD per double/twin room (subject to change), including tax and breakfast, is payable directly to Country Walkers and is due with your final payment 90 days prior to departure. Our normal cancellation policy applies. These rooms are reserved as a service for you and include a service charge. Better rates may be available online; however, please note that if you make your reservation directly with the hotel, you may not be able to secure the same room as assigned to you for the night on tour.

## **ENDING POINT**

### **Avignon, France**

#### **Based upon individual departure times**

A transfer will be provided (approximately one hour) from the final hotel in Lourmarin to Avignon (TGV or central train station, or city hotel). The most convenient way to travel from Avignon to your next destination is by train. Please refer to the Getting to the Starting Point section for more details on train travel.

**In order to arrange your departure transfer, please provide us with your arrival and departure details by returning your Guest Information Form at least 45 days prior to the departure.**

Please note that the tour price includes one departure transfer from Lourmarin to Avignon on Day 7 of the tour. If traveling in a group of two or more with separate departure times, additional charges will apply for multiple transfers.

Several trains depart Avignon for Paris each day. Please check airline schedules carefully. If you plan to schedule return flights immediately following the tour's

conclusion, please contact your airline directly for specific check-in requirements and allow plenty of time (several hours at least) between your rail and flight connections.

Should you prefer a private one-hour transfer from Lourmarin directly to Marseille Provence Airport (MRS) in Marignane, Country Walkers would be happy to reserve this on your behalf. Please contact us to request this service as soon as possible to ensure availability. The additional cost (subject to change) of \$50 USD (up to 8 guests) per transfer is payable directly to Country Walkers and is due with your final payment 90 days prior to departure. Our normal cancellation policy applies.

### **POST-TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS**

Should you wish to spend a post-tour night in Lourmarin, you may wish to stay at Hotel Bastide de Lourmarin, our standard hotel for the final nights of the tour. Country Walkers would be happy to make a reservation here on your behalf. Please contact us to request this service as soon as possible to ensure availability. The cost of \$250 USD per single room or \$310 USD per double/twin room (subject to change), including tax and breakfast, is payable directly to Country Walkers and is due with your final payment 90 days prior to departure. Our normal cancellation policy applies. These rooms are reserved as a service for you and include a service charge. Better rates may be available online; however, please note that if you make your reservation directly with the hotel, you may not be able to secure the same room as assigned to you for the night on tour.

# Information & Policies

---

## GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

Country Walkers guarantees the departure of every tour\*, which guarantees peace of mind for every guest. From the moment your reservation is confirmed, you can start preparing for your adventure. We take care of all the details to ensure a seamless, Self-Guided experience. For best availability, reserve your trip early.

*\*except in cases of force majeure*

## RESERVATIONS

If you have not already gone through our reservations process, please note that the method by which Self-Guided Adventures are reserved differs in important ways from typical scheduled tours. We encourage all guests to refrain from purchasing plane tickets or making contingent plans until they receive confirmation from us. Here's how the process works:

1. **Reservation Request.** The process begins when you make a reservation request for this tour, either online at [countrywalkers.com](https://countrywalkers.com) or by calling Country Walkers at 800.464.9255. Please note the online form does not on its own constitute a final reservation or a guarantee of tour space. If you use the form, one of our Tour Consultants will call within one business day. Outside of 90 days prior to the tour start date, a \$350 per person credit card authorization is required at the time of the reservation request. Within 90 days prior to the tour start date, your final tour cost, pre-authorized to your credit card, is required. If we are unable to accommodate you on your preferred dates/tour (or an alternative of your choice), this payment is fully refunded.
2. **Reservation Request Receipt.** Upon receipt of your deposit and preferred tour start dates, you will be provided with an emailed reservation request receipt, stating your reservation number and reconfirming the details of your reservation request (tour name, departure date, and tour price), while we get working on securing availability with all the hotels.
3. **Confirmation.** Our goal is to confirm your reservation request within five business days; however, this may take longer for a variety of reasons. All of our accommodations are available on a request basis; we

do not hold blocks of rooms and, therefore, must confirm availability at the time of your request. If at all possible, we recommend you provide a range of back-up tour start dates at the time of your initial request. Once your reservation is confirmed, a Tour Consultant will contact you and your credit card will be automatically charged the \$350 per person deposit (or full payment if within 90 days prior to your tour start date). Once you have received our official confirmation, you can make flight reservations.

4. **Final Payment.** Final tour payment is due 90 days prior to tour departure date. As pricing is determined over a year in advance, we may be forced to change our listed price over time. However, please note that once your reservation is confirmed, we will always honor the price quoted when you booked.

## TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

**Hotel Availability:** Since we typically use small, boutique properties for Self-Guided tours, securing availability can sometimes prove challenging, especially on short notice. (Again, we encourage guests to book early and be flexible.) On some tours, if our standard property is not available, we may have alternate hotels of equivalent quality that we have approved. We'll book one of these alternates if the standard property is not available. If the hotel or room type requires a surcharge, we will contact you prior to reserving it. We will not reserve non-approved properties.

**Room Category:** We typically book standard rooms. If you are interested in upgrading your room type, please contact a Tour Consultant. Please bear in mind that upgrades are not available at every hotel; surcharges will be determined once we know what's available. Triple rooms (or rooms with two beds) can be a rarity. Should you desire such an accommodation, we may need to offer two rooms—supplements may apply. Please allow us extra time to sort the options out.

## ORIENTATION MEETING & TRANSFERS

Though Self-Guided tours are a predominantly private experience, there are occasions where you may be in contact with others. Because guests are allowed to pick their own start dates, there may be other Country Walkers travelers staying in the same properties as you or even starting on the same date. For this reason, we may need to combine your orientation meeting with that of other

guests or ask you to share on-tour transfers. This does not mean you need to walk together.

### **GUEST RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each guest has the responsibility to select a trip appropriate to his/her abilities and interests and to prepare for the trip by carefully reading the confirmation materials. To join this trip, you must be in good health and capable of completing activities as described in the day-to-day itinerary. Our in-house experts welcome the opportunity to discuss the tour in more detail. In order to meet your needs, we ask that you please share any relevant physical limitations or health conditions when you make your reservation.

### **CANCELLATION POLICY**

Cancellations received 91 days or more prior to the tour start date will incur a loss of \$150; cancellations received between 90 and 61 days prior to the tour start date incur a loss of 25 percent of the tour price; there are no refunds within 60 days of the tour start date. Up to 91 days prior to departure, you may transfer your reservation, depending on availability, from one departure to another in the same calendar year at no cost\*. Cancellations must be made in writing. Please note that the tiered tour price is based on a guarantee of a specified number of guests—should your group decrease in size, we reserve the right to alter the per person price if necessary as reflected in the Tour Price table.

*\*One transfer per year; afterwards a modest per person transfer fee will apply. Please note that tours with seasonal prices may involve a higher price.*

### **TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN**

We offer guests the opportunity to purchase a Travel Protection Plan. Please contact us for details.

### **TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

Air or other travel arrangements to and from your tour are not included in the price of your trip. We encourage you to contact your local travel agent, or Better Travel, a Vermont-based agency (800.331.6996 or [bettertravel@madriver.com](mailto:bettertravel@madriver.com)), for any additional air, hotel, rail, or transfer arrangements you may need.