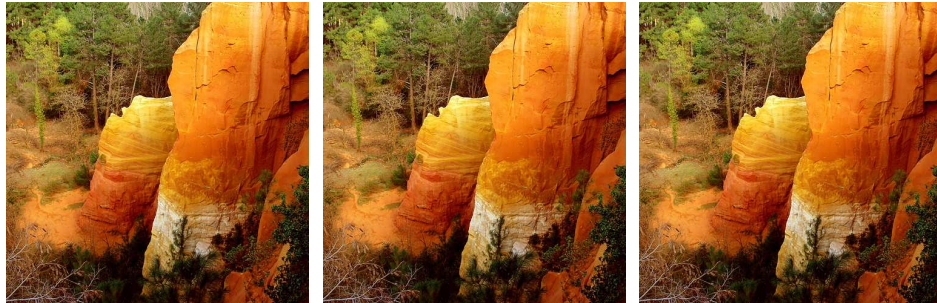




Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel



Colorful Luberon

Morning excursion to Ménerbes & Gordes followed by afternoon excursion to Roussillon

This day-trip that will introduce you to the Luberon Mountain range and its fantastic colors: Ménerbes with its imposing citadel, Gordes and Sénanque Abbey surrounded by a field of lavender, and Roussillon “The Colorado Provençal!”

Make it from the Skies!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for a special optional venue: Enjoy a hot air balloon ride over Provence and the Luberon and discover the beautiful villages and landscape from the skies!

Please see the last page for more information

Make it Green!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an exclusive optional venue: Visit a private garden in Bonnieux designed by Nicole de Vesian

Please see the last page for more information



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From Aix en Provence to Ménerbes, Gordes, Roussillon

9.00 am Meet your guide-driver and your in the lobby of the hotel in Aix en Provence.

Start your journey by visiting Ménerbes: **This superb little village in the Luberon is considered one of the finest in France.** Built on a hill, it is surrounded by magnificent countryside.

When visiting Ménerbes you will notice that its rich historic past has been well-preserved. **The Dolmen de la Pichouno** (unique to the Vaucluse) shows that Ménerbes has been inhabited since prehistoric times.

You can admire **the imposing citadel** built between the 12th and 16th century and visit the **domaine de la citadelle** and its unique corkscrew museum!

Nicolas de Staël and **Picasso** both owned houses at Ménerbes and they have since been joined by other famous artists, musicians, comedians and writers.

Here you may wish to visit « **The truffle and wine House in the Luberon** », a residence and knowledge center dedicated to wine and truffle production.

An interactive stand provides the visitor with all information relative to wine-making and to the Truffle in the South East: history, wine-making methods, the vines, matching wines with food, wine storing techniques, types of truffles.

Continue with your trip and **visit Gordes**: due to its privileged position, its exceptional charm and its typical architecture, Gordes has been listed as “**one of the most beautiful villages of France**”.

While strolling around the tiny streets which climb up between the tall houses you will discover here and there beautiful old doorways, arcades and walls of flat stone perfectly restored, and on the other side, there is the panorama of the valley and mountains of Luberon.

Here you may want to visit **the Abbaye of Senanque** which remains one of the purest examples of Romanesque Cisterian architecture.





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Cisterian monks still live here producing honey, lavender essence, and liqueurs.

You can also visit the **Bories Village**, where the beautiful huts of dry stone present architecture directly connected to the nature of the ground. The village gives evidence of a collective, organized and permanent rural group settlement.



Enjoy lunch on your own and continue the trip to Roussillon. We suggest **the Clos des Glycines** overlooking the ochre mines. Treat yourself with a tasty luncheon and admire the Giants' causeway.



Situated in the heart of one of the biggest ochre sites in the world, Roussillon is famous for **its magnificent red cliffs and ochre quarries**. The red, yellow and brown shades of the earth form a striking contrast with the lush green pine trees.

The **vivid blue of the Provençal sky** and the exceptional quality of light make this a magical site. It is like an artist's pallet, with the infinite combinations of colours varying from yellow to purple with all the shades of pink and red in-between.



Here you will **visit the former ochre quarries** and walk along the ochre pathways. You can also learn about how the ochre is treated and used in the building industry by visiting the "Conservatoire des Ogres et des Pigments Appliqués", situated in an old ochre factory.

Return to Aix en Provence at the end of the day.



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NB: Please note that some sites mentioned in the itinerary might not be available every day or all year long. We suggest you to check with our Production Managers

This package includes

- Deluxe minivan which can carry up to 6 passengers
- Professional English speaking guide-driver who will chauffeur you on your sightseeing tour and is licensed to guide and accompany you on walking tours, as well as into museums and monuments
- Découvertes fees
- 24 hour assistance available during your stay
- All taxes

This package does not include

- Entrance fees
- Tips
- Lunch or dinner

Découvertes can also provide:

- Pre-payment of all entrance fees to museums and other sites
- Lunch reservations



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Make it Optional

Make it from the Skies!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

While flying in a balloon you will join the world of the birds, flying effortless in the blue skies, enjoying the ever-changing variety of landscapes; mountains, vineyards, lavender fields, orchards, cornfields and little, well known, villages like Gordes, Menerbes (Peter Mayle), Roussillon, Lacoste, Bonnieux, widely spread over the green hills, which will find no equal with its colours, clear and soft at the same time, and beautiful in every season.

Please contact us for more information and price. Upon request and availability.



Make it Green!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an exclusive optional venue

Exclusive and private visit to a garden which was created by the late Nicole de Vesian, on a rocky terrace, created out of a steep, brushy hillside where a sophisticated and artful meeting of mineral and plant forms melt into the other. Perched on the western slope of the Luberon, La Louve came to life in 1987 when Nicole de Vesian acquired a village house with its adjoining land. Needing constant clipping, the garden is composed of Mediterranean plants, evergreen for the most part, set in a framework of local stone and river pebbles from the Durance which maintain humidity and discourage weeds. The guiding idea of the garden has been to create an environment out of the play of shadow and form in harmony with its natural surroundings.

Please contact us for more information and price. Visit available everyday. Upon request and availability.

