



Decouvertes
Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel



Colorful & Picturesque Provence

Morning excursion to Aix-en-Provence followed by afternoon excursion to les Alpilles

Embark on a day-trip that will lead you to Aix-en-Provence, Cezanne's birthplace & to the Alpilles, immortalized in art by Vincent van Gogh, who painted many images of the Alpilles' landscapes during his time in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence on the north side of the mountains.

Make it Culinary!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for a special optional venue: Follow a local chef in Aix market and attend a hands-on cooking class followed by lunch at a private bastide.

Please see the last page for more information

Make it Alchemist!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue: Visit a private garden in les Alpilles which is a blooming evocation on the theme of Alchemy

Please see the last page for more information



Decouvertes
Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel

From Marseilles to Aix en Provence & the Alpilles

9:00 am: Meet your guide-driver in Marseille or Aix en Provence. Enjoy visiting Aix en Provence. Do not miss out on one of the most famous "Cours" in France, the **Cours Mirabeau**, once a street for horse-drawn coaches and the link between the Mazarin quarter and the old commercial town.

Cours Mirabeau is located in the center of the city, and the heart of Aix. **The Cours Mirabeau** is a beautiful tree-lined avenue, with one side lined with wonderful terrace cafés and bookshops.

Aix-en-Provence is full of fountains. Everywhere, throughout the town, fountains big and small bubble. Aix-en-Provence is the city of art, and a city of light and activity. Aix is also a home of art schools and several universities, including some American, attracting a youthful population that sparks the atmosphere.

The center of Aix en Provence is **the old town**, surrounded by a circular boulevard and squares. It's a small enough area to explore on foot. Medieval Aix was protected by a wall with 39 towers, today only the 14th century "Tourreluquo" tower remains, at the northwest corner of the town.

Be delighted by Aix's bustling **daily open-air market** on the Place Richelme. The market offers provençal products such as fruit, vegetables, olives and oysters. And not only food: wicker baskets, brightly patterned tablecloths made from Provençal cloth, olive wood bowls and platters and rolling pins. Enjoy a visit to a **Calissons boutique** and taste the local specialty!

The main Market takes place on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. This market located by the Palais de Justice is a big affair of **fresh produce and food, bric-à-brac and a flea-market**. On market days, a colorful flower market is held at the Place de l'Hotel de Ville (Town Hall).

You may wish to visit **the Pavillon Vendôme**, a fine example of an elegant "bastide" built in the 17th century. Preceded by a beautiful French garden, the Pavillon Vendôme was built in 1665 and commissioned by Louis de Mercour, Duke of Vendôme. It is said that it was built to house his love, Lucretia de Forbin Solliès, better known as Beauty of Le Canet. Today it is a **small museum housing a collection of furniture, paintings and 18th century fabrics**.

Admire the mansions in the **Mazarin district** with the Hotel de Caumont, the 4 dolphins square with the graceful 4 dolphins fountain





Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel

and Saint Jean de Malta church, a fortified gothic church built at the end of the 12th century. **Visit the old town** with the Palais des Justice (Law Courts) built on the former Palace of the sovereign counts, Madeleine church, 17th century building, and St Sauveur cathedral.

Enjoy lunch at leisure in Aix en Provence at a typical provençal restaurant. We suggest **Les Bacchanales**, a restaurant boasting a long dining room with magnificent old beams, frequented by lovers of Southern cuisine.

In the afternoon, drive along the Alpilles and visit **Saint Rémy de Provence**, a particularly interesting town because of its typical architecture: an old center with **quaint 17th and 18th century houses and narrow cobblestone streets**, surrounded with ramparts, a circular boulevard around the ramparts planted with plane trees (sycamores of Provence), immortalized by Van Gogh. When one discovers Saint Rémy, one falls in love with the authentic atmosphere, so very Provençal.

You may wish to visit **Saint-Paul de Mausole**, the clinic where Van Gogh was taken in, on May 8th, 1889. He found the quality of light and the ardent beauty of the landscapes around Saint Remy quite fascinating. The beauty of the surroundings and the pleasure of finding a serene and understanding atmosphere surrounded by the nuns and the personnel who took him in were such that, in the space of a year, **he had completed more than 150 paintings and numerous sketches**.

Continue onto **Les Baux de Provence** and visit this spectacular hilltop village, the open air ruins of the Citadelle, its medieval war machinery and the Tower of Eperon.

Les Baux de Provence is **one of the most photogenic hill towns in Provence**. Once a brilliant center of the 14th-century courts of love, it retains only its city walls, ramparts and Citadelle from where the panorama embraces the mountains and plains of Provence.

Continue on to Eygalières where you will see **the Saint Sixte Chapel**. Built in the 12th century on the top of a rocky hill, this roman chapel is quite simple. You will have a lovely view over Eygalieres and the surrounding hills.

Return to Marseilles or Aix en Provence at the end of the afternoon.





Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel

*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



Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel

Make it Optional

Make it Culinary!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an exclusive optional venue

You begin the day for a walking tour of Aix market with a local chef where you will purchase produces for the hands-on cooking class that will take place in a countryside bastide located at the outskirts of Aix-en-Provence (15 minutes drive).

You will prepare a three course Provencal meal that will be followed by lunch. You will also enjoy a guided visit of the beautiful gardens of the estate.

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



Make it Alchemist!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

Visit the Jardin de l'Alchimiste, a blooming evocation on the theme of Alchemy. There are three main steps to visit the garden: The Berechit maze, Magic garden, and the Alchemic Garden, which is based on 3 other steps: the Black Work garden, The White Work garden, and the Red Work Garden...

The visit starts with a maze formed by the letters of the first word of the Bible : "Berechit" ; then the garden of magical herbs explains the secrets and the therapies supposed to be cured through these plants in Provence ; finally, the alchemical garden shows the three Works through this vegetal and symbolic evocation made of plants, elements, flowers and lights...

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

