



**Decouvertes**

Exclusive cultural tours  
Luxury independent Travel



## Historical and Artistic Provence

*Morning excursion to Aix-en-Provence followed by afternoon excursion to Arles*

Embark on a day-trip that will lead you to two historic and artistic cities of Provence: Aix-en-Provence, Cezanne's birthplace & Arles, famous for its antique monuments and for having sheltered Vincent Van Gogh!

### Make it Wildlife!

**DECOUVERTES ADVICE for a special optional venue:** Discover landscapes and traditions of Camargue aboard a horse-drawn carriage.

*Please see the last page for more information*

### Make it Olive Oil!

**DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue:** Visit a private olive oil mill near les Baux de Provence.

*Please see the last page for more information*



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## *From Marseilles to Aix en Provence & Arles*

9:00 am: Meet your guide-driver

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





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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 **discover the antique town of Arles**, the widest city in France.

The city's monuments are listed as **UNESCO World heritage** and include: The Roman amphitheatre (the arena), the Roman theatre, the Cryptoportico (foundations of the Roman Forum), the Roman baths of Constantine, the remains of the Roman circus, the cloister and portal of St. Trophime's and the Alyscamp cemetery.

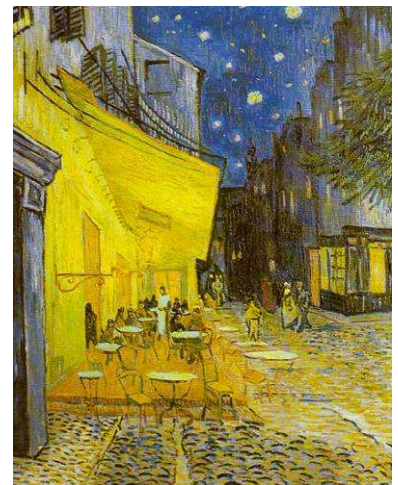
Arles has also preserved many lovely buildings dating from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

City of festivals, art, and culture, Arles has never stopped attracting artists. Picasso, a lover of bull fights, was inspired by them and produced two paintings and 57 drawings.

Upon arriving in Arles for the first time every visitor is filled with thoughts of Vincent Van Gogh. It is here that he discovered the light of the "Midi" (the South of France), and found the inspiration for many of his finest works. Under Provence's burning sun, he painted scenes of the fields, cypress trees, peasants, and rustic life characteristic of the region.

Some of the remarkable museums are: the Musée d'Arles de la Provence Antique containing archeological collections from the city and the surrounding region, the Museum Arlaten, a local ethnographical museum dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Musée Réattu, Donation Picasso, the fine arts museum exhibits 18th and 19th century works, as well as modern and contemporary artists (Picasso, Zadkine and Alechinsky). The museum also possesses a remarkable photography collection.

5:00pm: Return to Marseilles or Aix at the end of the afternoon.





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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 Wildlife!**

#### ***DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue***

Drive to the Camargue and discover landscapes and traditions of Camargue aboard a horse-drawn carriage. Your guide will tell you everything about this region of marshes. You will have the opportunity to view many birds and if you are lucky you may encounter foxes or wild boars. A unique excursion for Nature Lovers

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



### **Make it Olive oil!**

#### ***DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue***

Meet with a family in their olive oil mill near the Baux de Provence. The family owns 25ha of olive trees that produce one of the best olive oil in France.

After a visit and an explanation of the olive oil making process you will have the opportunity to taste the oil of high quality and classified as "Extra Virgin". Depending on the time of the year you taste it, the taste can be extraordinary fresh in Winter, then more fruity in the Spring.

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

