



Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel



The jewels of Provence: Aix-en-Provence & Avignon

Half day excursion to Aix followed by half-day excursion to Avignon

This day-trip will give you the opportunity to visit two of the main cities of Provence: Aix-en-Provence, Cézanne's birthplace & Avignon with its Popes' Palace. The perfect way to discover Provence.

Make it Workshop!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an exclusive optional venue: Follow a painting workshop at an artist's studio whose work is inspired by Paul Cézanne.

Please see the last page for more information

Make it Cézanne!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue: walk on Cézanne's footsteps from his birthplace to his studio.

Please see the last page for more information



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From Marseilles to Aix en Provence & Avignon

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.

Continue your trip on to **Avignon**. Located at the confluence of the Rhône and Durance rivers, Avignon is well known for its ramparts, its famous Pont Saint-Bénézet and the Pope's Palace.

Avignon is ancient and full of history, life, youth, art, music and activity.

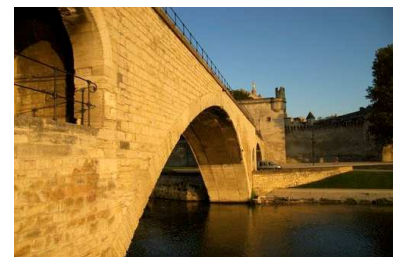
The fortified city of Avignon will not leave you indifferent. The ancient streets, the private mansions and their courtyards, the renovated façades will charm you.

The famous theatre festival has made Avignon an **extremely attractive city in modern times**.

Avignon's architecture is marked by papal history. Home to the Sovereign Pontiffs in the 14th century, **the Palace of the Popes** is the **biggest Gothic palace in the world**. You can visit 25 of the Palace's rooms, including the ceremonial rooms, chapels, cloister and private papal apartments with priceless frescoes.

Enjoy a walk around Avignon: on this walk you will encounter the main landmarks of the city, the historic core of Avignon, which has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list by the Convention of Berlin, (1995). One of France's Monuments Historiques chief architects has called it the "Acropolis of Avignon". **It is considered as one of the most beautiful sites in the world.**

05:00 pm: Back at the hotel or on the ship.





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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 Workshop!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an exclusive optional venue

Be welcomed by Monique in her studio and house downtown Aix-en-Provence. There, easels will be set for each one of you and you will be introduced to painting techniques and impressionism. You will start your work helped by the professor and after this two hour lesson; you will be able to go back to the USA with your fabulous work!

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



Make it Cezanne!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

Enjoy a walking tour of the city following Cezanne's footsteps: Rue de l'Opera, his father's hat workshop, the Café des Deux Garçons, the Café Oriental (now Bistro Romain) where he met Joachim Gasquet for the first time, the Eglise de la Madeleine where he was christened, the Ecole St Joseph, the Lycée Mignet (Bourbon in Cezanne's days), the Law School, Cezanne's last home, Church St Jean-Baptiste (where he married Hortense Fiquet), Saint Sauveur Cathedral, and his last studio.

We continue our ride along the road named after Paul Cezanne, to the foot of Mount Sainte-Victoire.

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

