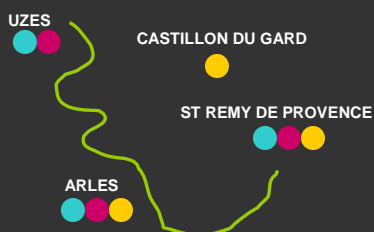




MAP OF FRANCE

PROVENCE REGION



LES BAUX DE PROVENCE



PROVENCE 6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS

The World of Vincent Van Gogh Provençal Towns and Roman Vestiges

Day 1 : Arrival

A taxi will meet you in Avignon today (either at your hotel or at the train station) and transfer you to the first hotel in the semicircular hill town of Uzès. Wander around and visit the Place aux Herbes, where the local market takes place, admire the restored Renaissance facades, and climb up to enjoy the view from the impressive Ducal Palace. There is also an option of a short ride to limber up your legs if you feel like it. Before dinner, our representative will meet up with you to go over your trip package and make sure your bikes are fitted properly. Dinner is included tonight.

Day 2 : Uzès loop 35 km

Your ride is a great first full day, taking you through a variety of Provençal countryside. En route, you go through St. Quentin la Poterie, a charming Provençal village with a history of pottery making that has become home for many artists today. You'll also see the famous Pont du Gard, an exceptional 2000-year-old well-preserved, three-tiered Roman aqueduct. Quiet and picturesque routes will bring you to your home for the evening.

Day 3 : Uzès to Arles 58 km

Another type of countryside awaits you today, as you first cross the Gardon Gorge and then descend into the flat riding of the Costières de Nîmes vineyards. You'll ride past small agricultural hamlets and canals, dotted amongst the vines and beautiful scenery. The end of the day has you enter Arles on a tiny road. You will definitely want to take some time in Arles: visit the spectacular Roman amphitheatre where Provençal style bull fights are still regularly held (the bull doesn't get killed), and sit in one of the many popular cafés in the Place du Forum for an end of the day pastis, like the locals do. Arles is also where Van Gogh lived from 1853 to 1890, and where he painted many of his most well-known works. Dinner included tonight.

Day 4 : Arles - Day of Options 42 km

You may decide to simply relax today, and take more time to visit the sites of Arles: the arena, antique theatre and historical town, as well as the boutiques and many souvenir shops. But if you feel like more activity, you can head out on a loop ride into the scenic Natural reserve of Camargue just south of the town. This natural river delta (the largest in Europe!) is the home for hundreds of varieties of birds; as you ride along the flat marshy terrain, cut off from the sea by sandbars, you may spot flamingos or some of the famous Camargue horses.

Day 5 : Arles to St Remy de Provence 35 km

You have a nice ride today, looping around the bottom of the spectacular Alpilles hills, and passing through many small Provençal villages. You may decide to stop at an olive mill on route to taste the product of the many, centuries-old olive trees that you'll be passing. Your goal of the day is St. Remy de Provence. St Remy is where Vincent Van Gogh was incarcerated in the Saint Paul de Mausole hospital for a year (and where he completed an astounding 150 paintings!), but it is also worthwhile visiting the archaeological site of the Glanum. To help your explorations, we provide a small on your own walking tour.

Day 6 : St Remy loop to Les Baux 20 or 50 km

Your final day riding is quite beautiful, bringing you through olive groves and vineyards to the fortified village of Les Baux de Provence. There is a big climb today, but it will be worth it! And of course you get the glorious downhill back into St. Remy at the end. Take your time to visit the village chateau, looking down on the gorgeous Alpilles mountain range as a backdrop, and also the sound and light show in one of the old bauxite mines, with a different artist as its theme each year. The day's ride is not long, leaving you time to sit in one of St. Remy's many cafes, to watch Provençal life pass by, before your final dinner, included tonight! Longer option for those who wish.

Day 7 : Departure - Bon Voyage!

Transfer from your hotel after breakfast to Avignon

You had always wanted to do a self guided biking tour, but not on your own.

This tour is perfect for you!

Joining one of our set dates is a great opportunity to meet new friends, cycling at your own pace with a small group.

JOIN US TODAY!

*** Hotel Provençal in Uzès

<http://www.hostellerieprovencale.com>

*** Hotel Arlatan in Arles

<http://www.hotel-arlatan.fr>

*** Mas des Carassins in Saint Remy de Provence

<http://www.masdescarassins.com>

Exact hotels depend on availability

CLASSIC + Itinerary

HOTEL SELECTION