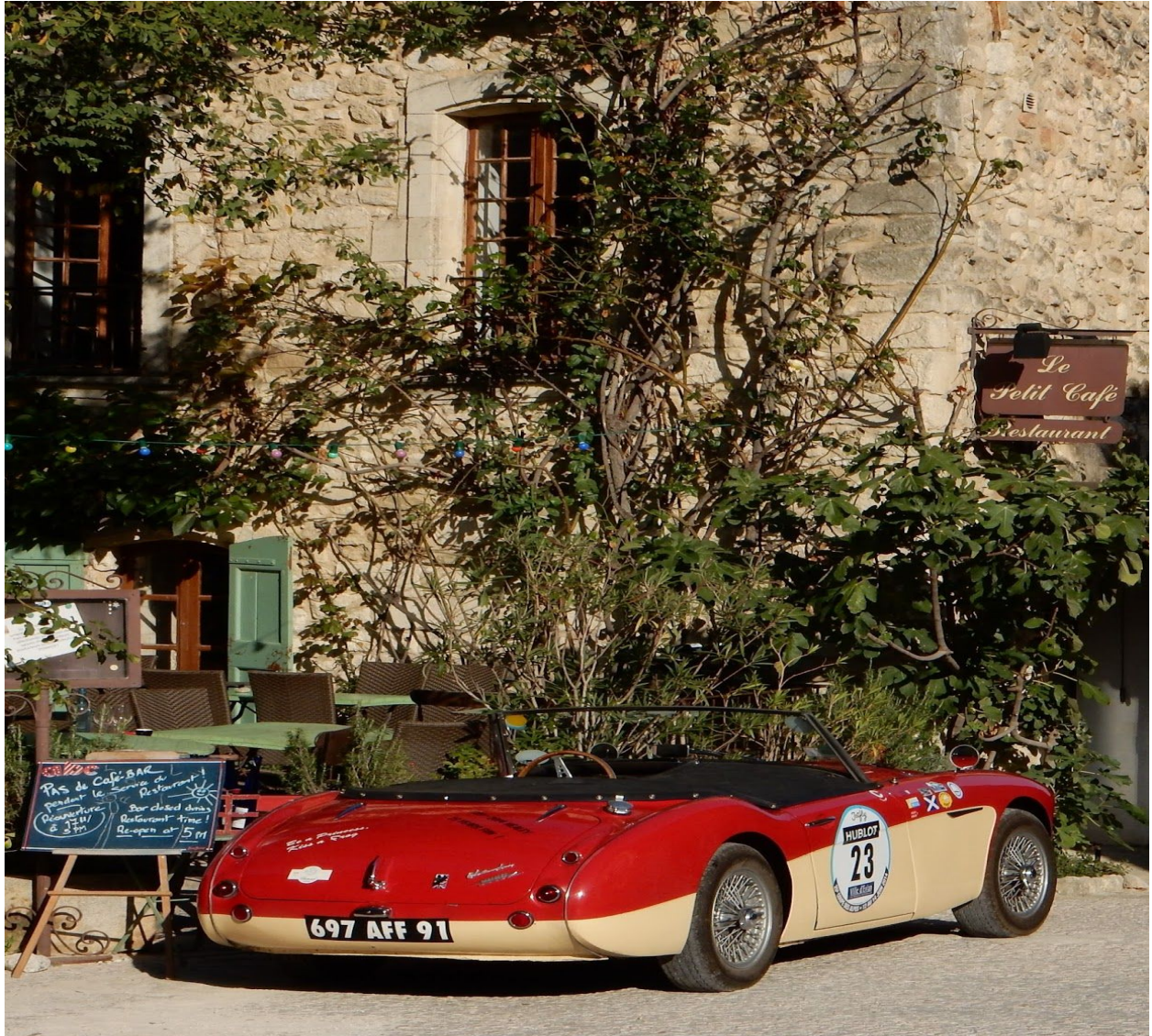


# Sur la Route

Four Day Tour of Provence



*Bienvenue à L'Isle sur la Sorgue*

Here are ideas and suggested itinerary for your visit to the Vaucluse, the Luberon and beyond. You may wish to make changes due to weather, the misfortunes of travel, or because you have other interests. We have proposed some ideas for what has worked for guests planning a short trip to the region. There are many options for add-ons should your travel schedules allow for a lengthier stay in the Vaucluse.



The village of Gordes - you will be in this very photo on your visit



Pont Julien - Roman bridge from the 1st century-another photo op on your tour

These choices allow flexibility in the event of rain as one tour visits primarily indoor venues in the region. This is a sample 3 or 4 day itinerary and is quite easy to modify to suit your interests or account for inclement weather. Every group we have shepherded through Provence has opted to spend at least an afternoon in our home base of L'Isle sur la Sorgue. It is a great town in which to relax, shop or find a corner table from which to people watch.

### **Day 1- Elevate your Cultural Awareness Tour**

- 9:00 (or so) Leave for *Les Carrieres des Lumieres* in Les Baux de Provence
- 11:00 Cloître Saint-Paul - van Gogh asylum; Glanum - Roman ruins
- 1:30 Lunch in Eygalieres or San Remy de Provence
- 4:00 Fontaine de Vaucluse and the source of the Sorgue.
- 5:30 Return to L'Isle for apero
- 8:00 Dinner

## Day 2 -The Luberon

9:30 (or so) Leave to visit several *villages perchés* of the Vaucluse and Luberon. Drive to Gordes and Pont St. Julien for photo ops. Depending on the time and the will of your travel companions, you can also visit Roussillon and the Ocres Trail or other villages dotting the hillsides

12:00 Lunch at *Le 5* in Menerbes

2:00 Continue Tour of the Luberon villages and countryside

4:30 Wine and cheese tasting

8:00 Dinner

## Another Option - The Wine Villages of the Southern Rhone

9:30 The Southern Rhone valley wine region is a half hour drive from L'Isle. There you will find the villages of Châteauneuf du Pape, Gigondas, Vacqueyras and Séguret. If interested and depending upon availability, a visit with a vignoble may be arranged. This is a meandering drive, with stops for photos, dégustations and lunch.

## Day 3 - La Mer

9:00 Depart for a day trip to the Mediterranean. You can visit Marseille or the coastal towns of Cassis and La Ciotat all about an hour south of us. The drive between the two cities is spectacular. You can catch a boat to see the calanques from la Mer.

6:00 Return to L'Isle for l'âpère and dinner

## Day 4 - Save Your Soul - Romans and Catholic Day

- 9:00 Depart for the Pont du Gard
- 12:00 Picnic lunch along the Gardon river
- 2:00 Palais des Papes and Avignon
- 8:30 Dinner



## **What you are missing - alternative routes and opportunities for other days**

There is also a lovely drive to the Mont Ventoux and a return route via Malaucène through the Gorge de la Nesque.

You can rent bikes - or some can while others drive around. Rentals can be made in advance for skilled riders desiring nice equipment, or we can drive to a small town and take to the converted rail bed through the valley on the bikes (electric cycles are available) we pick up at the trailhead. A picnic can be organized as well.

We can talk about alternatives and other ideas to give you guidance with your travel planning and sightseeing opportunities. Just give us a call.

### **Before you go**

Make a copy of your passport. If anything happens this will make things easier.

You may wish to read *A Year in Provence* or *Toujours Provence* before your visit. The Ridley Scott movie 'A Good Year' was filmed in the area and is worth viewing as a teaser for the scenery. Scott has a home in the area. The film is based upon Peter Mayle's book and is a story that will resonate with memories of your working days. A harried London broker inherits a vineyard in the Vaucluse and is presented a difficult decision - work in London in the rain or relocate to Provence and drink wine in the sun with Fanny Chanel. Chuck it all for a more sane life or keep chasing the pound sterling? We will crisscross the same roads as Russell Crowe, Marion Cotillard, Abbie Cornish and Albert Finney did in the film. The vineyards and house used in the film are close by. After your stay in Provence you'll be envious that you had no Uncle Henry to take similar care of you.

## **Travel Tips**

Trainline is an excellent source for looking at schedules as you plan and booking rail tickets.

<https://www.thetrainline.com/>

We frequently use Auto Europe to book our rental car

<https://www.autoeurope.com/>

## Disclaimers

It rains in France - only you can let it spoil your trip.

Monday in the region can be incredibly quiet. Most shops and restaurants close after Sunday lunch and reopen Tuesday. Some of the sites we'll visit are courtesy of nature, the Romans or *le bon Dieu* and open 24/7. But, there is plenty to do to occupy a Monday in the Vaucluse, one needs to simply plan accordingly.

The trashman comes around 5:30 am but not everyday. It is noisy. It is even noisier on the day they collect the bottles for recycling. Keep in mind that by choice you are staying in a neighborhood, not a residential district. You are on vacation. If they wake you up with their chatter or banging the dumpster on the truck, consider exploring the town during an early morning walk, reading a few chapters of the trash novel in your bag, or go back to sleep

It can be very windy in this region. The locals classify most every gust as a *mistral*, providing something to complain about. We recommend that our guests wear hats, mousse appropriately and not complain that one 'can't do a thing with my hair.' You are in the south of France - it is incredibly laid back. Nobody will care if your coif is a muss.

Dress is always casual. If you wear a necktie to dinner, not only will you be out of place.

*A bientôt,*

Kevin et Patty



If you want more information about some of the stops on your path here are a few links:

The Sunday Market in L'Isle sur la Sorgue

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g608811-d486621-Reviews-L\\_Isle\\_sur\\_la\\_Sorgue\\_Market-L\\_Isle\\_sur\\_la\\_Sorgue\\_Vaucluse\\_Provence.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g608811-d486621-Reviews-L_Isle_sur_la_Sorgue_Market-L_Isle_sur_la_Sorgue_Vaucluse_Provence.html)

Ocres Trail-Roussillon

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g635587-d2224811-Reviews-Le\\_Sentier\\_des\\_Ocres-Roussillon\\_Gordes\\_Luberon\\_Vaucluse\\_Provence.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g635587-d2224811-Reviews-Le_Sentier_des_Ocres-Roussillon_Gordes_Luberon_Vaucluse_Provence.html)

Carrieres de Lumieres

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g1819081-d2651179-Reviews-Carrieres\\_de\\_Lumieres-Les\\_Baux\\_de\\_Provence\\_Bouches\\_du\\_Rhone\\_Provence.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g1819081-d2651179-Reviews-Carrieres_de_Lumieres-Les_Baux_de_Provence_Bouches_du_Rhone_Provence.html)

Pont du Gard

<http://www.pontdugard.fr/fr/visite/visite-globale-du-site>

Pont Julien

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g580180-d3378458-Reviews-Le\\_Pont\\_Julien-Bonnieux\\_Luberon\\_Vaucluse\\_Provence.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g580180-d3378458-Reviews-Le_Pont_Julien-Bonnieux_Luberon_Vaucluse_Provence.html)

Les Calanques

<http://www.ot-cassis.com/en/les-calanques-par-les-sentiers-gb.html>