A South of France Tour in Provence

Provence is located in southern France on the Mediterranean Sea, stretching from the southern Alps to the French Riviera and adjacent to Italy and Monaco to the east. It is considered the home of many varieties of grapes, having different soils, climate, altitude and historical influences. This customized itinerary is focused on the best of what this region has to offer.
DAY 1 — Arrival

Arrival at the airport by a TBA flight. You will be transferred to your hotel.

*VERY IMPORTANT*
- The driver will be waiting for you outside the Customs Area and the Baggage Claim Area, holding a signboard/iPad with your name on it.
- Drivers and assistants are NOT allowed to enter the Customs Area.

DAY 2 — AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND MARSEILLES (Full Day – 8 hours)

Aix was the capital of Provence in the 15th century. Wealthy merchants and local dignitaries helped turn this city into the Florence of Provence: private mansions of the upper class, city squares bursting with flowers, ancient fountains and shaded narrow streets. In the center of Aix you find the old town (or vieille ville), which is ringed by a circle of boulevards and squares. Cours Mirabeau, which is found in the center of the center of Aix, is a beautiful tree-lined avenue, with wonderful terrace cafés and bookshops on one side. Marseilles, the administrative and commercial capital of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, is one of France's fastest-growing regions. A stroll around the ancient harbor gives visitors a feel for the thriving Mediterranean atmosphere of Marseilles. The lively waterfront is a focal point for tourists, and many say that this area is the best place to find authentic bouillabaisse, the flavorful seafood stew that is a specialty of Marseilles. On the east side of the harbor, the Quai des Belges hosts a fish market every morning. Once an important commercial port, the Vieux Port is now used primarily by fishing boats and sports craft.
DAY 3 — ARLES, AVIGNON, NÎMES (Full Day – 8 hours)

Arles is a good example of an ancient city adapted to medieval European civilization. It has some impressive Roman monuments, such as the Roman Arena, that date back to the 1st century B.C. During the 4th century A.D., Arles experienced a second golden age, evidenced by the Baths of Constantine and the necropolis of Alyscamps. Avignon is famous for being the city to which the Popes fled after leaving Rome due to corruption in the 14th century. Le Palais des Papes, or the Palace of the Popes, is the world’s largest Gothic building. It has been emptied over the centuries, and its vast stone rooms are filled with little more than old frescos, but it is still an imposing building. Not far from the Palace of the Popes, you will find the Pont d’Avignon (Avignon Bridge). According to legend, the bridge was built in the 12th century by a young shepherd, Bénézet (a derivative of Benedict), who had been inspired by angels to build it. Nîmes is a lively commercial center these days, but two millennia ago it was one of the most important cities of Roman Gaul. There are plenty of museums and markets to explore in the city’s palm-tree-lined streets, as well as a host of high-profile festivals throughout the year. The city is famed for the hard-wearing twill fabric known as serge de Nîmes, which is traditionally worn by agricultural laborers and is now universally known as denim.
DAY 4 — LUBERON PARK VILLAGES (Full Day – 8 hours)

Luberon Park features a spectacular countryside with vineyards, orchards and a series of strikingly picturesque hilltop villages, which seem as if they have been perched on top of the hills. The villages date back over 1,000 years or more. Some famous ones are Gordes, Roussillon, Bonnieux, Lacoste and Ménerbes, but there is also a host of beautiful villages that are relatively unknown. In the Luberon region there is an open-air market found every day of the week in a different village or town. Here you will find food that is fresh, artisanal and unadulterated—seasonal fruit and vegetables, meat, fish, bread, olives, tapenade, honey and conserves, herbs and spices, cheese, flowers, oils and wines, ready-to-eat rotisserie chickens—as well as Provençal fabrics and housewares, clothes and so much more... Enjoy!

DAY 5 — AVIGNON, UZÈS, PONT DU GARD AQUEDUCT (Full Day – 8 hours)

If you want to combine Avignon with Uzès and the Pont du Garde Aqueduct, this is the best full-day tour. Uzès is a small town in the Gard department, north of Nîmes, with a history that dates back to Roman times. The circular streets around the historical center were once walls that protected the medieval castle in the 11th and 12th centuries. The medieval streets in the town's center are perfect for wandering and exploring. The Place aux Herbes, with its fountain, arcades and terrace cafés, is often crowded with people and full of activity during the famous Saturday market and offers a great place for a coffee or lunch. The Pont du Gard
Aqueduct is one of the most visited ancient monuments in France and listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The Pont du Gard Aqueduct remains one of humankind’s greatest technical feats. It is 48 meters high and has three vertical rows of arches: six on the lowest level, 11 on the second level and 35 on the third and top level. Its upper part reaches a length of 273 meters (originally 360 meters when there were twelve extra arches). It served as an aqueduct until the 6th century before becoming a tollgate in the Middle Ages and finally a road bridge from the 18th to 20th century.

DAY 6 — Departure

Check out of your hotel this morning after breakfast and meet your private driver for your transfer to the airport, in time for your outbound flight.

*Thank you for allowing us to handle your trip, we hope you enjoyed it.*

*Au revoir & come back soon.*