

# Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations  
- on & with Hidden Trails*



## About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

### Hidden Trails

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Fax: 604-323-1148

Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS

from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



# Best of Provence - France, Europe

Tour Code: ZZ-FR-Hike19  
7 days / 6 nights ~\$1,255.00  
Dates: March to November

Trip Rating : ●●●●●  
Difficulty : ●●●●●  
Lodging : ●●●

[Track:](#)  
[Horses:](#)  
[Pace:](#)

[Airport:](#) Marseille



## Introduction

Provence, France

Explore Provence and combine both the Alpilles and the Luberon mountain ranges, passing sceneries painted by Van Gogh as well as golden hilltop villages.

You follow Van Gogh's steps into the Alpilles landscapes of olive groves to the spectacular village of Les Baux. You then will explore the Luberon Mountains: its tight gorges and forest paths leading you from one magnificent perched medieval village to the next. The hills are dotted with old stone farmhouses and centuries-old stone huts, the fields blanketed in wildflowers and aromatic herbs, orchards and vines. Your journeys will take you through the famed villages of Fontaine de Vaucluse, Gordes, Goult, Bonnieux and Saignon. You will end your trip in the town of Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, with its antiques, Venice-like canals, and its famous Sunday morning market!

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Awe-inspiring vistas atop the Alpilles and the Luberon mountains
- The perched medieval village of Les Baux de Provence
- The lavender fields in front of Sénanque Abbey
- The charming small towns of Saint Rémy and Isle sur la Sorgue

## Accommodation

### Accommodations

This is a progressive trip, so you will be staying in different establishments along the way.

### Description

We favour small local establishments, often family-run hotels or B&Bs, that employ local people. Selected by our track finders, our accommodations are chosen based on the friendliness of the owners, the quality of the service, the charm of the establishment and, quite often, the quirkiness (of both accommodation and owners!) that makes where you sleep an integral part of your adventure.

Your package includes standard accommodation (with all basic comfort and services) but it is possible to upgrade to more comfortable accommodations for an extra fee.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Hotel Boquier in Avignon

Night 2: Hotel Chalet Fleuri in St Rémy de Provence

Night 3 & 4: Le Mas de la Beaume in Gordes

Night 5: Le César in Bonnieux

Night 6: Terrasses by David et Louisa in Isle sur Sorgue

#### *Hotel Boquier in Avignon*

In a quiet pedestrian street, in the heart of Avignon, stands the Boquier hotel (2 stars). This atypical and cozy building from the 18th century will warmly welcome you. Each of the 13 comfortable room comes equipped with air conditioning, a flat screen television, a private shower room and Wi-Fi access.

#### *Hotel Chalet Fleuri in St Remy*

This charming 3-star hotel is located in a historic property dating from 1870, surrounded by centenary trees. Each room offers a view on the park and comes with air conditioning, satellite TV, free Wi-Fi access and private facilities.

There is a small outdoor pool to cool off in the evening.

#### *Le Mas de la Beaume in Gordes*

This charming guesthouse offers 5 bedrooms, each with its unique décor. All rooms feature free Wi-Fi, a coffee/tea machine and private facilities.

Guests are encouraged to explore the Provencal garden and take a dip in the pool, with great views over the Alpilles mountains.

#### *Hotel Le César in Bonnieux*

This family run hotel offers panoramic views over Bonnieux. Each guestroom is equipped with free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TV and private bathroom.

#### *Terrasses by David et Louisa in Isle sur Sorgue*

This small hotel has only 8 bedrooms, located on 3 different levels. All the rooms have recently been renovated and they all come with Wi-Fi access, air conditioning and a private bathroom.

### Meals

All breakfasts are included in your package.

Breakfast will be provided by the accommodations.

## Riding

### Trip Difficulty: Moderate

You enjoy regular exercise (whether walking, cycling, aerobics, etc.). You're in good shape, used to regular and sustained exercise. You are keen to set off on all-day walks, and can handle walking uphill (slowly) for up to 2 hours at a time. Walks are generally under 5 hours, on various types of terrain – though nothing technically difficult – with up to 600m/2000ft of climbing per day





## Itinerary

**Sample itinerary - subject to changes**

### Day 1: Arrival

Your trip begins in the heart of Avignon, a medieval town on the banks of the mighty Rhône River. Avignon hides many treasures: the Pope's palace, the 12th century bridge, the 14th century ramparts, and many museums and churches. Meander through a labyrinth of cobbled streets and discover cafés in open squares, shaded by plane trees.

*Meals included: none*

*Overnight in Avignon*

### Day 2: St Paul de Mausole & Alpilles Crest

This morning, transfer to St Remy. You start your walk from the picturesque town and head into the Alpilles hills. Along the way, take the time to visit the Saint-Paul de Mausole monastery, where Van Gogh spent about a year, creating over 150 paintings, and some of his best work.

*Hiking about 10 km (3h30) + 300m / - 300m // Longer walk option: 18km (6h) +550m/-550m*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Saint Rémy*

### Day 3: Saint-Rémy to Oppidum

Today's scenic forestry path hovers high above the valley, giving you spectacular views of the hills to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Your walking path descends through the sculpted limestone "valley of hell" towards the perched village of Les Baux de Provence: its homes packed tightly and defiantly on top of the craggy rock, earning its listing as one of the most beautiful villages in France. Transfer to Gordes at the end of your walk.

*Hiking about 12 km (4h) + 270m / - 100m*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Gordes*

### Day 4: Walk to Sénanque Abbey

Gordes is perched high above the Calavon valley, its majestic stone homes rising dramatically in concentric circles to its castle, crowning the village. Atop a vast plateau, you cross through lavender and thyme-laden fields dotted with old stone huts, on your way to Sénanque Abbey - a jewel of 12th century Romanesque architecture. You will have time to explore the abbey before returning to Gordes via a cobbled path.

*Hiking about 11 km (3h30) + 320m / - 250m*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Gordes*

### Day 5: Goult to Buoux

Short morning transfer to Goult, a timeless village of medieval homes and untouched by modern tourism. You walk among the ruins old stone farmhouses and to the village of Lacoste, crowned by the imposing ruins of the castle of the Marquis de Sade. Then you continue to Bonnieux, another gem of the Luberon and one of the centre-stage villages in Peter Mayle's A Year in Provence. Beyond Bonnieux, you enter in the Grand Luberon, walking alongside lavender fields before reaching Buoux castle, and the village of Buoux itself. Spectacular arrival at the Auberge des Seguins, in the depths of the Aiguebrun gorge.

*Transfer at the end of the day to Bonnieux.*

*Hiking about 16.5 km (5h30) + 450m / - 350m*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Bonnieux*

### Day 6: Buoux to Apt

Transfer from Bonnieux to Buoux, the start of your walk.

You walk along the base of the Aiguebrun canyon to the hidden hamlet of Sivergues. Its stone wall terraces are the only remains of the cultivated fields that once sprawled around the tightly-packed handful of homes. Continue through the vast lavender fields and truffle oak plantations to Saignon.

*Transfer at the end of the day from Apt to Isle sur la Sorgue.*

*Hiking about 11 km (5h) + 400m / - 300m*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Isle sur la Sorgue*

### Day 7: Departure

Your tour ends in l'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue after breakfast. Your accommodation is in the heart of the town, surrounded by the crystal clear waters of the Sorgue river. The town's Sunday market is among the most colourful in Provence. Lose yourself among a labyrinth of narrow streets and in the town's warm, Provençal charm.

### WARNING – Path restrictions

*From July 1st until September 15th access to forest paths may be forbidden or partially restricted (access until 11:00am) if the risk of forest fire is high. Walks may vary due to weather conditions and dry season (lack of rain = forest fires). It is the client responsibility to get this information, that is featured no later than 6pm a day ahead. Clients can ask the reception to call for them, if they want to make sure they understand the instructions correctly. Any extra cost due to those restrictions (or to any other reason) will be at the clients' charge (extra transfers). If the paths happen to be restricted - forbidden, we will do our best to offer alternative options.*

## Other Info

**Meeting:** Avignon

**Airport:** Marseille

**Train station:** Avignon

Transfers are not available for this trip. You need to make your own way to Avignon on Day 1.

**Tack:**

**Horses:**

**Pace:**

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾 (3 out of 5) Moderate

**Riders:** Min 2 riders Max 6 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - ZZ-FR-Hike19

Rates include: Accommodations, All breakfasts, Local transfers described in the itinerary, Emergency phone number & Road Book

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	7 day Self guided walking tour (High)	€1140	\$1255
	Group discount (4-6 pax), pp	(€50)	(\$55)
	Single supplement	€590	\$650
	Solo hiker supplement	€990	\$1090
B 2024	7 day Self guided walking tour (Low)	€1075	\$1180
	Group discount (4-6 pax), pp	(€50)	(\$55)
	Single supplement	€540	\$595
	Solo hiker supplement	€990	\$1090

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

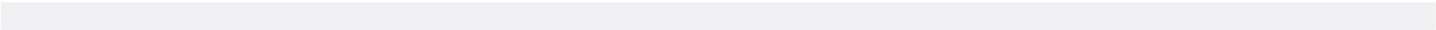
2024	Make your own way to Avignon on Day 1
2024	Possible accommodation upgrade - inquire for rates

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
B 2024	03/01/2024 - 04/29/2024	7d / 6n	7 day Self guided walking tour (Low)
A 2024	04/30/2024 - 09/30/2024	7d / 6n	7 day Self guided walking tour (High)
B 2024	10/01/2024 - 11/15/2024	7d / 6n	7 day Self guided walking tour (Low)

Min/Max: 2/6

Rates do not include:All lunches and dinners, Drinks, Transfers before and after the trip & Entrance fees





# Reservation Form

Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ from: \_\_\_\_\_ to : \_\_\_\_\_

The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female	Single room / or tent	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height	Weight	Special diets													
						Special diets	Beginner	NoVICE	Intermediate	Strong Intern.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking				
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: \_\_\_\_\_

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? \_\_\_\_\_

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (wk) \_\_\_\_\_ (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (mandatory) 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel Cancellation Insurance** Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

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Pacific Standard Time

