

# 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





# Winter Walk in Provence - France, Europe

Tour Code: ZZ-FR-Hike20  
6 days / 5 nights ~\$1,130.00  
Dates: Jan-Apr

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

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

[Airport:](#) Marseille



## Introduction

Provence, France

This stunningly beautiful region in the South of France can be just as exciting in winter as during the busy hot summer months. Its mild temperatures and bright blue skies reveal a very different kind of charm in the low season and the places are less crowded and overrun than during the summer months.

Explore two of Provence's most important mountain ranges: the Alpilles & Luberon. Your trip starts in medieval Avignon, before transferring to the artsy town of St Remy where you'll spend two days literally walking through Van Gogh landscapes.

Foodies have the option to add an extra cooking class or a truffle hunting tour.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Avignon medieval town & the Popes Palace
- Half day wine tour with an expert (1 or 2 wine estate visits & tastings)
- Isle sur la Sorgue canals & waterwheels
- The thousand year old perched village of Les Baux de Provence & Gordes the most famous hilltop villages of the Luberon

## 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.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Hotel Boquier in Avignon

Night 2 & 3: Villa Glanum in St Remy

Night 4 & 5: Les Terrasses in Isle sur la 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.

#### *Villa Glanum in St Remy*

This charming hotel offers 25 comfortable bedrooms featuring air conditioning, flat-screen TV, ensuite facilities and free Wi-Fi access. The hotel has been renovated in 2019 and it has a beautiful patio as well as a small outdoor pool.

#### *Les Terrasses in Isle sur la Sorgue*

This small hotel offers 8 simple but comfortable bedrooms. Each room features air conditioning, private facilities and free Wi-Fi.

### Meals

All breakfasts are included in your package.

Breakfast will be provided by the accommodations.

## Riding

### Trip Difficulty: Easy with moderate options

You enjoy walking as a means to get fresh air and see the countryside, without considering yourself as a "real hiker". You like to walk to get exercise on your holidays, and enjoy strolls in the countryside and discover Provence in a different & fun way. Walks are generally from 2 to 4 hours / day on easy terrain, with some climbing up to perched villages. You don't need to be an athlete to enjoy this trip !

## Itinerary

Sample itinerary - subject to changes

### Day 1: Arrival

Arrive in Avignon and explore the medieval town and its cobbled streets, famous Pope's Palace & St Benezet Bridge.

*Meals included: Dinner*

*Overnight in Avignon*

OPTIONAL COOKING CLASS (not possible on Monday's) - *inquire for rates*

9AM to 3PM

Meet a local well-known chef and visit LES HALLES indoor market to discover local specialties and buy your ingredients for the cooking class. Then head back to the restaurant for a hands-on cooking class. Enjoy lunch with the chef.





with the chef.

#### OPTIONAL TRUFFLE TOUR - inquire for rates

2PM to 5PM

Take a tour of a Provençal truffle plantation to learn how truffles are cultivated and truffle dogs are trained. Go on a hunt for France's elusive "black gold" with professional hunters who know all the tricks of the trade. You'll be regaled with stories of successes and sabotage. You'll also learn how to properly clean, store and cook with truffles. Tours are followed up with a sampling of fresh truffle hors d'oeuvres, Champagne and a tasting of our organic Les Pastras olive and truffle oil.

#### **Day 2: Wine Tour**

This morning, taxi transfer to Saint Remy.

Today you will participate in a half day wine tour (non private - maximum 6 participants) of the Southern Rhône's premium wine villages (pick up and drop off from Avignon). A local wine expert will reveal a wealth of secrets about the vines and explain the key elements of the wine making process as you visit the cellar and taste four to five different wines at a local wine estate (depending on the wine expert you visit 1 or 2 wine estates). The tasting characteristics, ageing potential and varying influences of the terroir and cellar methods will all be described (full day tours can also be arranged upon request with supplement).

In the afternoon a taxi will transfer you to St Remy de Provence. Free afternoon in St Remy, with the option to follow the "Van Gogh's" walking tour. Take the time to explore the town and taste local specialities (candied fruits, olive oil, wine...).

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Saint Rémy*

#### **Day 3: Walking through Van Gogh's landscapes**

From St Rémy you pass St Paul de Mausole, the former monastery where Van Gogh spent the last year of his life. From there you head up a quiet valley, following a botanical path to the ridge of the Alpilles mountains, and to the "Rocher des deux trous".

You then have two options: either a leisurely stroll down the mountain or a breathtaking path on a rocky crest, adding a bit of adventure and a lot of "wow" to the day's walk (followed by the same leisurely stroll back down the mountain...). Note that the second option is a more challenging walk in an otherwise easy walking holiday, and you may not feel comfortable completing it unless you have some walking experience on jagged and uneven paths.

*Walking about 10 km (2h45) + detour (18km, 6 hours, +550m / 550m)*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Saint Rémy*

#### **Day 4: St Rémy to Les Baux**

Once more, you leave St Rémy by foot, and up to the crest of the windswept Alpilles mountains. A rolling track atop the ridge is complete with awe inspiring 360° views. These views accompany you as the track gently undulates towards the medieval village of Les Baux de Provence, set atop its rocky perch. Visit the village before an afternoon transfer (1 hour) to the village of Isle sur la Sorgue (also called the Provençal Venice with its many waterwheels & canals).

*Walking about 10 km (2h45)*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Isle sur la Sorgue*

#### **Day 5: Fontaine de Vaucluse to Gordes**

After breakfast a short taxi transfer takes you to the village of Fontaine de Vaucluse, with its magical water source: a well that descends into infinity. If you would rather ease into your holiday, and have an easier walk, you can ask the taxi driver to take you to the village of Cabrières d'Avignon instead (shorter option).

We strongly recommend doing the whole walk though, as the first section is the most stunning, especially the views from the Mur de la Peste.

Your path climbs through pine and cedar forest on seldom used trails, and up to a plateau from where the panorama extends to far reaching hilltop villages.

Your journey ends at the magnificent village of Gordes, perched up on its rocky crag, its majestic grey stone homes rising vertiginously from the valley below. Afternoon transfer back to Isle sur la Sorgue.

*Walking about 13km (4h) +450m 200m or 10 km (3h15) with shortcut*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Isle sur la Sorgue*

#### **Day 6: Departure**

After breakfast end of trip in Isle sur la Sorgue or extend your stay.

#### OPTIONAL 3-DAY EXTENSION

##### **Day 6: Bonnieux to Lourmarin**

Morning transfer from Isle sur la Sorgue to Bonnieux. You begin by a leisurely stroll on farming tracks behind Bonnieux. You then climb steadily but easily towards the crest of the Luberon, where you are met by majestic views of the plains. You remain atop the crest on an undulating track before a short but very steep climb towards a rounded summit. From here you embark on a long descent towards Lourmarin.

*Hiking about 12km (4h) + 500m*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Lourmarin*

##### **Day 7: Walk to Cadenet**

Today, you go on a short walk to explore the countryside around Lourmarin and the quaint town of Cadenet. You climb above the village of Lourmarin, and look back to discover a wonderful panorama. Through paths, tracks, and quiet country roads you reach the village of Cadenet, unpretentious, with its pretty streets and village homes. From the ruins of the castle behind Cadenet you can decide to take a detour on a track high above the valley, with outstanding views.

*Walking about 7 km (2h30) / Detour to the lookout: +40 minutes, 2km, +90/90m*

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight in Lourmarin*

##### **Day 8: Departure**

After breakfast, at around 10am a taxi transfer takes you to Avignon or Aix en Provence. End of trip.

## **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:**

Trail:

**Level:**     (2 out of 5) Easy to Moderate

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

Rates and Dates 2024 - ZZ-FR-Hike20

Rates include: Accommodations, All breakfasts and 1 dinner, Local transfers described in the itinerary, Emergency phone number & Road Book

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	6 day Self guided walking tour	€1025	\$1130
	Group discount (4-6 pax), pp	(€110)	(\$120)
	Single supplement	€250	\$275
	Solo hiker supplement	€660	\$725

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

Transfer Option

Description

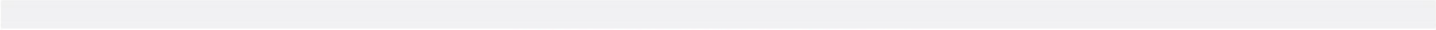
2024	Make your own way to Avignon on Day 1		
2024	Optional cooking class in Avignon (lunch included), pp - not possible on Mondays	€180	\$200
2024	Optional Truffle Tour, pp	€85	\$95
2024	Optional 3-day extension - inquire for rates		

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	01/01/2024 - 04/06/2024	6d / 5n	6 day Self guided walking tour

Min/Max: 2/6

Rates do not include:All lunches and most dinners, Drinks, Transfers before and after the trip, Optional tours & 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 Inter.	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 \_\_\_\_\_

Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141

## Hidden Trails

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Pacific Standard Time



