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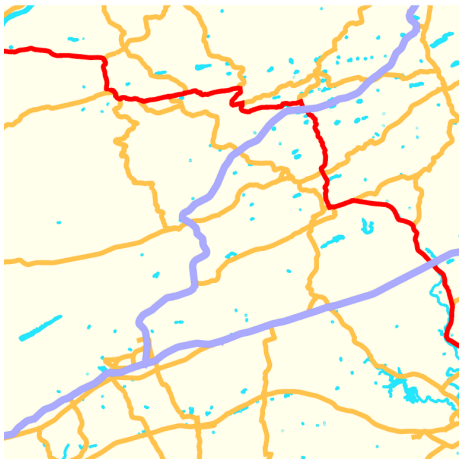
SUMMER SPRING & AUTUMN

type :	Self-Guided Hiking Tours
level :	
duration :	7 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	FRSW260

Provence: Castles and Abbeys - France

Provence: Castles and Abbeys

7 days, PRICE FROM *€ 1175*



A journey to discover **Provence that you don't expect** - but also the Provence you've always imagined. On this journey, **steep cliffs alternate to trails lost among windmills, deep canyons to peaceful villages**, from 'bories' - the typical stone constructions, similar in use to Puglia's trulli - to **imposing abbeys surrounded by lavender fields**.

In **Fontaine-de-Vaucluse**, an underground river springs to the surface, creating a **charming fountain of green-blue water**; on the trails, you'll be accompanied by the sound of crickets in the countryside.

Route

Day 1 **Arrival in Fontaine-de-Vaucluse (optional 7 km)**

Arrival at your first accommodation, in the center of Fontaine-de-Vaucluse, an emblematic village of the Luberon. It is here that the famous source of the Sorgue springs. Fontaine de Vaucluse gave its name to the department. If you arrive early, you will have the option of doing a short circular walk on the heights of the village. Round trips to the famous "Gouffre de Fontaine-de-Vaucluse" and the ruins of the castle are also possible. With an average total flow of 630 million m³ per year, this source is the largest in France and one of the largest in the world, by volume of water flowing. Cool and peaceful in summer, bubbling and impetuous in spring and autumn, the source, a true whim of nature, has never ceased to intrigue curious people and researchers since Antiquity.

If you arrive early, you will have the option of doing a short optional circular walk to warm up and get a first glimpse of the surroundings of Fontaine-de-Vaucluse. This loop can also be done on the last day of your trip when you return to Fontaine.

Distance: 7 km

Elevation Gain: +268/-268 m

Day 2 **From Fontaine-de-Vaucluse to Saint-Gens , 13 km**

This first stage on the GR91 begins with a strong positive elevation gain for the first few kilometers through a beautiful forest. The first Provencal smells will amaze your nose: pine, thyme, rosemary, ...

After a long descent you will discover the beautiful village of Le Beaucet, set against a steep rock face, before passing a deep gorge and strolling through tranquil landscapes. Passing by the odd house and vineyard, enjoy the aromas of Provence on your way to your guesthouse. In the evening enjoy dinner at your accommodation in a peaceful environment!

Distance: 13 km

Elevation gain: +660/-383 m

Day 3 Circular walk through Le Venasque, 12 km

Discover the surroundings of Venasque, a magnificent hilltop village in the Vaucluse mountains. The village of Venasque is considered to be one of the most authentic villages in the Comtat Venaissin area, and is the source of the area's name. Venasque has been sheltered since time immemorial by its shielded location atop a rocky outcrop. To the east of the village, the hamlets known as Pérégrine and Le Petit Défend retain their wilderness character which has led them to being ranked as Environmentally-Sensitive Areas. The village of Venasque built atop a rock, one of the most beautiful villages in France. Stroll the narrow streets that climb up to the heart of the village, see the beautiful doors and building façades, the old ramparts... Don't miss the 6th-century Baptistry near the church, at the end of the village. The Baptistry was built atop the ruins of a Roman temple and is the centre of a remarkable ensemble of religious buildings.

Distance: 12 km

Elevation gain: +444/-444 m

Day 4 Walk from Saint-Gens to Gordes, 11,5 km

Today you traverse quiet surroundings on your way up to Rochers Rouges. At the top, you'll enjoy panoramic views of the Dentelles de Montmirail, Mont Ventoux and the Rhone Valley. Then, through holm oak woods dotted with rocky outcroppings, you make your way down to the beautifully situated village of Senanque and its 11th century Abbey. After a visit to the Cistercian monks, and sampling their homemade products, you continue onward to the famous town of Gordes. Be ready for a magnificent view of the village from your hotel.

Distance: 11,5 km

Elevation gain: +400/-400 m

Day 5 Gorges de la Veroncle, 11,5 km

A wonderful walking route for today, from Gordes through the spectacular Gorges de la Veroncle with its steep, jagged cliffs. You walk all the way down to the bottom of the spectacular gorge then up again, passing several old mills along the way. Following quiet footpaths and country roads, you'll pass the Bois d'Audibert set just below Gordes. Finally, after a steep uphill section, you arrive back at the familiar Chateau de Gordes.

Distance: 11,5 km

Elevation gain: +350/-350 m

Day 6 Walk from Gordes to Fontaine-de-Vaucluse, 12 km

From the lively town of Gordes, you continue walking across the silent Plateau de Vaucluse with its many "bories", enjoying the mysterious ambience created by these curious round structures. Later in the morning, you will visit a real "Village des Bories", a unique site that invites you to travel through time. 4 kilometres from Gordes, on the slopes of the Vaucluse Mountains, facing the Luberon, the village of Bories (curious constructions made from dry stones), built at the beginning of the 17th century is evidence of the exceptional quality of the ancestral art of building and know-how in the stacking of stones, that has since disappeared.

Before returning back to Fontaine de Vaucluse, continue downhill on a beautiful steep path through the forest.

Distance: 12 km

Elevation gain: +225/-494 m

Day 7 End of program

Your walking trip comes to an end today after breakfast. Departure from the Vaucluse.

Practical info



Arrival and departure from Fontaine-de-Vaucluse

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT: From Marseille airport, you can take a train to Avignon or Cavaillon, then arrange an optional taxi transfer (at an additional cost) to Fontaine-de-Vaucluse. For further details, go to: www.marseille-airport.com.

PRIVATE TAXI: From Marseille airport, we can arrange a taxi transfer to Fontaine-de-Vaucluse (optional extra). Private taxi transfers can be arranged from/to Fontaine-de-Vaucluse back to/from Marseille airport. Prices on request.



Thanks to our special APP, you will be able to follow the track of the whole trip on your mobile phone, with no need for internet. GPS tracks are available on request.

Included

What is included

- 6 Nights in double room in **/*** hotels , B&B and agriturismi with breakfast
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- maps and detailed description of the itinerary
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- cancellation insurance