



Avignon & Around

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ L'Oustau de Baumanière (p225)
- ➔ Le Verger des Papes (p206)
- ➔ Le Moulin à Huile (p211)
- ➔ Le Vivier (p219)
- ➔ 83.Vernet (p201)
- ➔ Christian Etienne (p201)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hôtel La Mirande (p200)
- ➔ Sous les Figuiers (p223)
- ➔ La Prévôté (p219)
- ➔ Mas de l'Amarine (p224)

Why Go?

Encircled by crenellated ramparts dating back 800 years, Avignon lords above the mighty Rhône. Its 14th-century hill-top palace – the former seat of popes – defines the skyline and begs for exploration, while the narrow streets and leafy squares fanning out beneath it invite wandering.

Rolling countryside unfurls outside Avignon, dotted with ancient villages and vineyards that produce some of France's best wines. Sample renowned vintages in Châteauneuf-du-Pape or in the saw-toothed Dentelles de Montmirail. Discover incredibly preserved Roman ruins in Orange, Nîmes and St-Rémy-de-Provence, and explore medieval streets in Vaison-la-Romaine and Les Baux-de-Provence.

The glass-green River Sorgue – ready-made for canoeing – connects picturesque towns like L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, celebrated for antiques shopping, and Fontaine-de-Vaucluse, the river's mysterious source. Hikers and bikers flock to windswept Mont Ventoux, Provence's highest peak, rising from purple lavender fields that perfume the summer breeze.

Driving Distances (km)

Carpentras	67				
Vaison-la-Romaine	80	24			
Orange	53	22	28		
St-Rémy-de-Provence	41	45	70	48	
Avignon	42	25	46	27	20
	Nîmes	Carpentras	Vaison-la-Romaine	Orange	St-Rémy-de-Provence

Avignon & Around Highlights

- 1 Explore palaces, bridges and ancient streets in **Avignon** (p196).
- 2 Sample France's great wines in **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** (p205).
- 3 Revive Rome at the **Théâtre Antique** (p207) in Orange.
- 4 Climb to hilltop, medieval **Vaison-la-Romaine** (p209).
- 5 Paddle beneath the famous **Pont du Gard** (p229).
- 6 Village-hop through the **Dentelles de Montmirail** (p211).
- 7 Ascend Provence's mightiest peak, **Mont Ventoux** (p213).
- 8 Antique-shop and explore canals in **L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue** (p218).
- 9 Spot royalty, explore Roman ruins and make a pilgrimage to Van Gogh's last home in **St-Rémy-de-Provence** (p222).
- 10 Joust with gladiatorial ghosts at the spectacular arena in **Nîmes** (p226).

