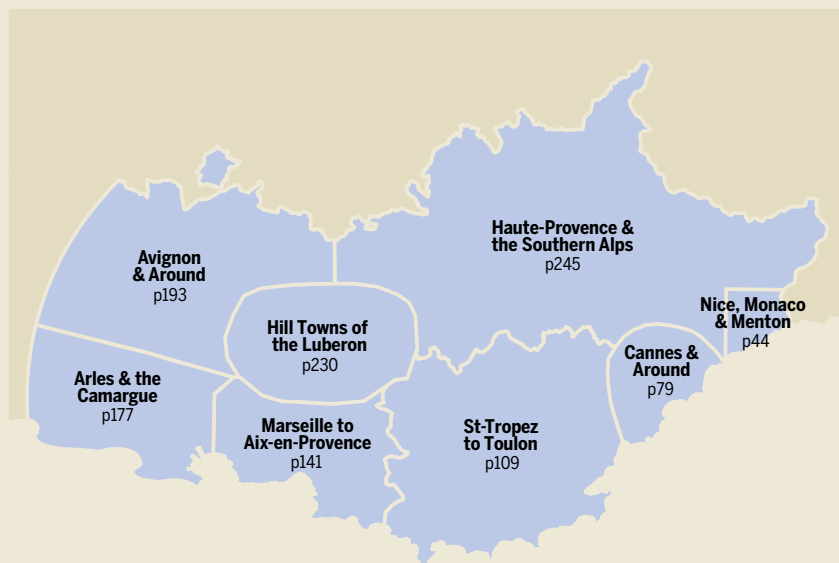




# Provence & the Côte d'Azur



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

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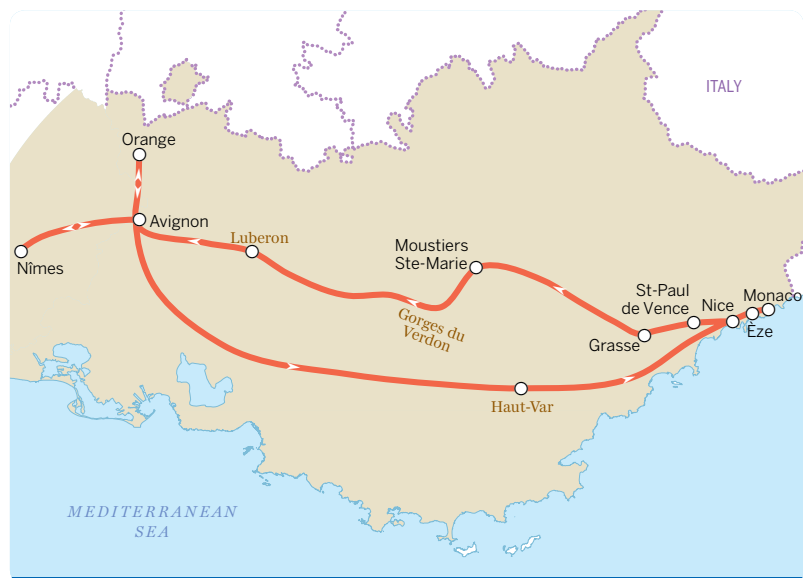
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# Itineraries



**2**  
WEEKS

## Essential Provence-Côte d'Azur

All the classics in one easy itinerary: along the coast, into the hills and back again, via gorges, villages, vineyards, Roman ruins and lavender fields.

Fly to **Nice**. On day two, mooch around Vieux Nice and amble along the Promenade des Anglais. On day three, catch a bus to stunning **Èze** to feast on views; head to **Monaco** for lunch and enjoy the rest of the day in the principality. Catch a train back to Nice. On day four, pick up a rental car and drive to the medieval wonder of **St-Paul de Vence** and its art galleries. On day five, drive to **Moustiers Ste-Marie** along the scenic N85, stopping in **Grasse** on the way for an insight into the town's perfume industry. Spend the following day in **Gorges du Verdon**.

Explore the villages of the **Luberon** on days seven and eight, and on day nine head to **Avignon**. Enjoy the city for a day, and take a day trip to **Orange** or **Nîmes** on day 11. On days 12 and 13, head to the **Haut-Var** for hilltop villages and vineyards, before returning to Nice.

1  
WEEK

## Cities & the Camargue

A mix of city and countryside, starting in the bustling port city of Marseille and followed by some clifftop hiking, art appreciation, Roman history and flamingo spotting. This entire itinerary can be done by public transport.

Spend your first day exploring **Marseille**: the Vieux Port, the historic Le Panier quarter and the art scene. On day two, take a boat trip to **Les Calanques** or visit Château d'If before heading up to Basilique Notre Dame de la Garde for panoramic views of the city and the sea. Go for dinner in the picturesque Vallon des Auffes. On day three, head to **Aix-en-Provence** to visit Cézanne's studio, his family house and the Bibemus quarries where he painted. Treat yourself to dinner at one of Aix' fine restaurants.

On day four, head to **Arles** and discover the places that inspired Van Gogh. Book a table for dinner at one of the city's Michelin-starred establishments. On day five, immerse yourself in the town's fine Roman heritage to learn about life in Roman times. Take a day trip to **Camargue** on day six: hire bikes if you're game, and don't forget your binoculars for birdwatching. Head back to Marseille.

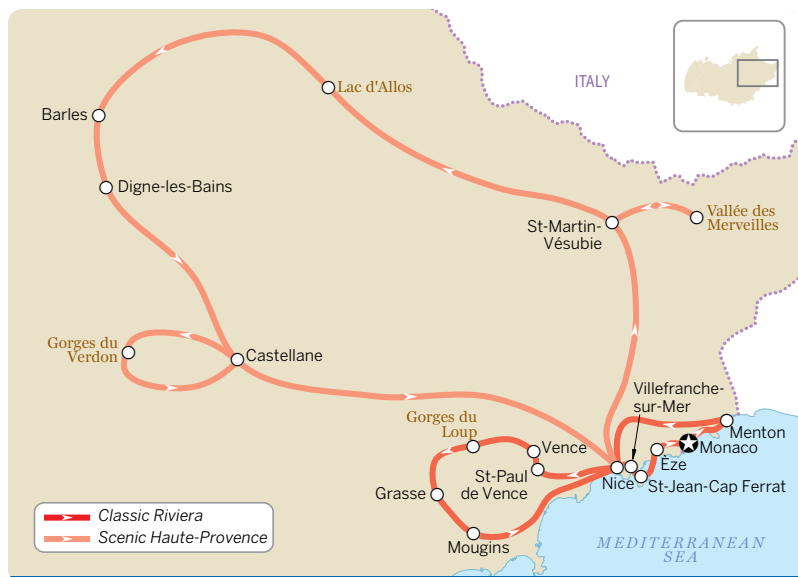
1  
WEEK

## Quintessential Provence

This trip captures the essence of Provence, starting in bustling Avignon and ending in the mighty Gorges du Verdon, with stops at some of the area's dreamiest villages and most photogenic sights en route.

Spend day one in **Avignon**, exploring the old town and the Palais des Papes. On day two, drive down to **St-Rémy-de-Provence** in Les Alpilles. Explore Glanum and visit the asylum where Van Gogh spent the last – but most productive – year of his short life. On day three, take a day trip to **Les Baux-de-Provence**: visit the ruined castle and go olive-oil tasting around **Maussane-les-Alpilles** in the afternoon.

On day four, drive to the **Luberon** and spend the afternoon exploring a trio of lovely villages: **Bonnieux**, **Lacoste** and **Ménerbes**. On day five, visit **Gordes** and its Abbaye Notre-Dame de Sénanque and the ochre-coloured village of **Roussillon**. On day six, pack a picnic and set off to explore the gorges, forests and lavender fields around **Lourmarin**, **Vauginès** and **Cucuron**. Treat yourself to dinner at the gastronomic Auberge La Fenière. On day seven, drive back to Avignon or carry on to **Pays de Forcalquier** and the **Gorges du Verdon** for another three days.

10  
DAYS

## Scenic Haute-Provence

It's time to tear yourself away from the coast and explore the mighty, majestic Alps. Amazingly, just an hour's drive north of Nice, you'll find yourself surrounded by mountain scenery – perfect for hiking, biking and wildlife-spotting.

Start in **Nice** – enjoy a day of urban delight in Vieux Nice before hitting the road on day two. Drive to **St-Martin-Vésubie** and watch semiwild wolves in the Alpha wildlife reserve. On day three, organise a guided hike to see the amazing ancient rock art of the **Vallée des Merveilles**, then head west to explore the many hiking trails around **Lac d'Allos** on days four and five.

On day six, drive to **Digne-les-Bains**, stopping in **Barles** along the way for fossil hunting in the Réserve Géologique de Haute-Provence. Organise a lavender walk on day seven, and on day eight drive down to **Castellane**, and take a scenic tour of the **Gorges du Verdon**. Explore the canyon in a different way on day nine: go rafting, canyoning or just trekking. On day 10, drive back to Nice or carry on along the Riviera.

10  
DAYS

## Classic Riviera

This tour captures all the Côte d'Azur's unmissable sights. You can do the first part by bus and train, but for the full Riviera experience a car is preferable – and a convertible would be better still.

Dedicate your first couple of days to the belle of the Côte d'Azur: **Nice**. Stroll in Vieux Nice and browse the market stalls of cours Saleya; visit Cimiez' wonderful Musée National Marc Chagall and Musée Matisse; and party till dawn in Vieux Nice's numerous bars.

On day three, take a day trip along the Corniche Inférieure, stopping at **Villefranche-sur-Mer** and **St-Jean-Cap Ferrat**. On day four, head to hilltop **Èze** for sensational views of the Med; carry on to **Monaco** for the rest of the day. Spend the following day in **Menton**.

On day six, rent a car and head for the hills: stop in **St-Paul de Vence** and **Vence**, and spend day seven motoring around the beautiful **Gorges du Loup**. On day eight, visit **Grasse**, its museums and perfumeries; leave your last day for the pretty village of **Mougins**. Drive back to Nice on day 10, continue in Haute-Provence or head west along the coast.

# Map Legend

## Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

## Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

## Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

## Eating

- Eating

## Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

- Entertainment

## Shopping

- Shopping

## Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

## Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

## Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

## Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/S-train/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

## Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

## Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

## Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

## Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Alexis Averbeck

**St-Tropez to Toulon, Marseille to Aix-en-Provence, Arles & the Camargue, Avignon & Around** Alexis Averbeck first came to Provence when she was four and now visits every chance she gets. Whether careening through hilltop villages in the Haut-Var, exploring art and antiquities in Arles, or browsing markets in the Dordogne (she also contributes to the *France* book), she immerses herself in all things French. A travel writer for two decades, Alexis has lived in Antarctica for a year,

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Read more about Alexis at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/alexisaverbeck>



### Oliver Berry

**Plan Your Trip, Hill Towns of the Luberon, Haute-Provence & the Southern Alps, Understand Provence & the Côte d'Azur, Survival Guide** Oliver Berry is a travel writer and photographer based in Cornwall. He has worked on many guidebooks for Lonely Planet, including several editions of the bestselling *France* guide. He first travelled to Provence on a family holiday aged two, and has been travelling back at every possible opportunity ever since. For this book he covered the Hill

Towns of the Luberon and the mountains of Haute-Provence, covered 3582km, got lost six times and ate an awful lot of olives and fruit confits. His latest work is published at [www.oliverberry.com](http://www.oliverberry.com).

Read more about Oliver at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/oliverberry>



### Nicola Williams

**Cannes & Around; Nice, Monaco & Menton** British writer Nicola Williams has lived in France and written about it for more than a decade. From her hillside house on the southern shore of Lake Geneva, it's an easy hop to France's hot south where she has spent endless years revelling in its extraordinary art, architecture, cuisine and landscape. In 1998 she wrote the 1st edition of *Provence & the Côte d'Azur* and worked on several subsequent editions. Her travels

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