

Provence: Vaucluse & the Lubéron

7 or 5 Day Trip
Independent Walking up to 42.3 miles

Route Open • 1st Apr to 30th Jun; 1st Sep to 2nd Oct



12TH CENTURY CISTERCIAN ABBEY OF SÉNANQUE

Features

- Walk from Fontaine-de-Vaucluse to Lourmarin
- Discover idyllic Provençal country, as featured in 'Jean de Florette'
- Countless images that inspired Van Gogh, Cézanne and the impressionists
- Picturesque villages such as Gordes with its built-in terraces; Fontaine-de-Vaucluse with Europe's largest resurgent spring; and Roussillon with its ochre quarries
- The Lubéron, with its rows of lavender, notable vineyards and flower-filled meadows

Itinerary

Day 1 • Arrive in Fontaine-de-Vaucluse
Opportunity to visit the village where the Italian poet Petrarch lived from 1337–1353 and composed 366 poems to 'Laura'; the small Romanesque church; and the world-famous resurgent spring that flows at a rate of 2,000–33,000 gallons per second.

Day 2 • Fontaine-de-Vaucluse to Gordes
Paths lead up through a dry limestone gorge, onto the plateau of the Vaucluse, through pine woods and stonewalled meadows, before descending to the 12th century Cistercian Abbey of Sénanque. Set in a quiet valley amongst lavender fields, the abbey retains all its original 12th century buildings. A path then leads up to Gordes (9.6 miles, 5 hrs). There is a more direct, less demanding option for those who would prefer a gentler start (6 miles, 3 hrs).

Day 3 • Free day in Gordes (5 day itinerary – Arrive in Gordes)
Explore the picturesque village of Gordes with old houses rising in tiers from the valley, and its Renaissance Château with very fine chimney piece. Optional walk to a village of restored *bories* (stone huts), grouped around a communal bread oven (5.2 miles, 2.5 hrs).

Day 4 • Gordes to Roussillon
Walk down through the old streets of Gordes and through olive groves, to a valley with fields of wheat, lavender and poppies (!) to Roussillon. Time to explore the village set high on an outcrop of ochre rock – its many different colours evident in houses along the picturesque village streets (5.7 miles, 3 hrs).

Day 5 • Roussillon to Buoux
Paths lead through ochre quarries, then across a fertile plain before climbing gently, enjoying increasingly extensive views, to the Col between the Petit and Grand Lubéron, and the village of Buoux (12.1 miles 6.5 hrs).

Day 6 • Buoux to Lourmarin
Paths lead up from the valley through woods and high meadows to the ridge of the Grand Lubéron (2,950 ft) with views across the Vaucluse to the white limestone crest of Mont Ventoux and across southern Provence to the sea. From here an optional route diverts to the panoramic summit of Murre Negre (3,685 ft), highest point of the Lubéron. Both routes descend through maquis scrub to the village of Vaugines (location for filming *Jean de Florette*) before following a wide farm track towards Lourmarin. Opportunity to explore the village, dominated by its interesting château, set high on a rock bluff: (9.7 or 17.4 miles, 4.5 or 8 hrs).

Day 7 • Departure day
5 DAY ITINERARY: GORDES TO LOURMARIN (ONE NIGHT IN EACH HOTEL)

CYCLING ITINERARY ALSO AVAILABLE
SEE PAGES 64-67 FOR DETAILS 



Provence: Vaucluse & the Lubéron Trip Information

Finding Your Way



The ATG Route Booklet includes detailed directions and maps, as well as up-to-date information on towns visited, places of interest, local history, restaurants, cafés and shops en route.



Your Route Manager is there to ensure your trip runs smoothly. They will brief you before you set out, move your luggage along the route, offer advice and answer your questions, and they're contactable by phone to help out in case of emergencies.

Restaurants, Food & Wine

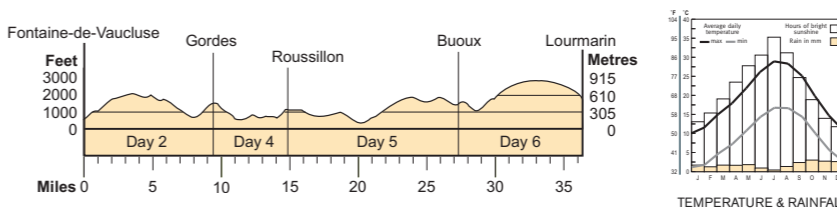
This is an ideal trip for gourmets! Regional specialities include *bouillabaisse* (fish stew) and dishes à la *Provençale* (with tomatoes, olive oil, garlic, aubergine, etc). There are a number of *Michelin* restaurants along the route.

There are some delicious wines from the area: crisp, dry whites, some excellent

On booking you will be sent further trip information: details of how to get to/from the route, what to bring and other practicalities.

Terrain

Paths over hills are stony and dry underfoot. In the valleys there are wood and farmland tracks, open country paths, and occasional, quiet asphalt lanes.



Prices


You can plan your Footloose trip for any time within the route opening dates, subject to availability.

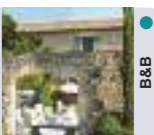
TRIP OPTIONS	TRIP PRICES (excluding flights)	DOUBLE FOR SINGLE OCCUPANCY (per night)
• 7 Day Standard	• £1,025 / \$1,795	• £48 / \$ 84
• 7 Day Superior	• £1,435 / \$2,510	• £86 / \$151
• 5 Day Standard	• £ 745 / \$1,305	• £48 / \$ 84
• 5 Day Superior	• £ 965 / \$1,690	• £79 / \$138

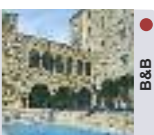
Extend Your Stay


To extend your stay in Lourmarin or anywhere on the route, please contact the ATG office. See page 69 for extension hotel rates in Arles, Aix-en-Provence or Avignon.

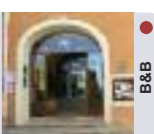
Accommodation

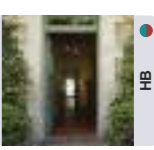
NIGHT 1  **B&B** **FONTAINE-DE-VAUCLUSE**
Hôtel du Poète
★★★★
Elegantly converted mill in lovely setting, with pool
Superior rooms

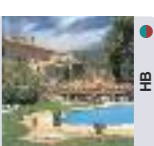
NIGHTS 2 & 3  **B&B** **1 MILE FROM GORDES**
Le Gordos
★★★★
Converted farmhouse with terrace and pool


NIGHTS 2 & 3  **B&B** **GORDES**
La Bastide de Gordes
★★★★★
17th century Provençal house with outdoor pool


NIGHT 4  **B&B** **ROUSSILLON**
Hôtel Rêves d'Ocres
★★
Modern hotel close to village centre

NIGHT 4  **B&B** **ROUSSILLON**
Le Clos de la Glycine
★★★★
Comfortable hotel in tranquil setting

NIGHT 5  **HB** **OUTSIDE BUOUX**
Auberge de l'Aiguebrun
★★★★
Charming hotel in idyllic setting with pool
Superior rooms

NIGHT 6  **HB** **1 MILE FROM LOURMARIN**
Mas de Guilles
★★★★
Restored farmhouse with pool and gastronomic restaurant

EXTENSION  **B&B** **ARLES**
Hôtel d'Arlatan
★★★★
Historic residence in the heart of the old part of town

EXTENSION  **B&B** **AIX-EN-PROVENCE**
Hôtel des Augustins
★★★★
Centrally located, within a former convent

 **NUMBER OF NIGHTS HB (DINNER INCLUDED)**
7 DAY • Standard: 2 / Superior: 2
5 DAY • Standard: 2 / Superior: 2

- STANDARD OPTION
- SUPERIOR OPTION
- STANDARD & SUPERIOR OPTIONS