

Walking Tour in Provence

7 days / 6 nights: \$1990 per person b&b or \$2190 with dinners included.*

***5% discount when 4 people or more book and deposit together**

This magnificent itinerary takes you along well marked paths through spectacular countryside with endless views. It starts with the first night in the gorgeous walled city of Avignon. The following morning, you will be taken forty kilometres north to one of the less visited parts of Provence and a range of jagged mountains cloaked in oak and pine forests, which is circled by towns and villages, several clustered around the ruins of medieval castles. With small villages concealed within a network of woods and vineyards, the Dentelles offer perfect walking conditions, with clearly marked gravel paths, passing through varied country of unrivalled beauty.

The walks:

This is a Grade 4 walk. The walks are from ten to sixteen kilometres per day. They are clearly marked and generally follow good unsealed country roads, although there are some small trails and some steeper climbs. Orientation in some sections requires a bit more experience than some of the other walks. On the whole this itinerary offers a very satisfying challenge for more experienced walkers.

The accommodation:

Hidden Italy uses the best accommodation available. Accommodation is in excellent, family-run three-star hotels, which are themselves part of the history of the region, and, along with the food and views, it is one of the highlights of the trip: in a small hotel in the pedestrian centre of Avignon; in a boutique hotel in the medieval town on Days 2 and 6; two charming family inns both well known for their restaurants. Costings are done on a twin share basis. All rooms have an en suite bathroom.

The food:

Generous breakfasts are included each day (you'll need them for your walks). With notice, the hotels will be able to prepare a cut lunch for the walk. Dinners are not included in the standard however, if you select the 'Dinners option' (which we recommend) this will include 3 course meals alla carte (ie free choice) in some of the finest restaurants in the area. The dinner option also means you'll have a guaranteed booking each night.

What's included in this walk?

- six nights accommodation
- all breakfasts
- recommendations for lunch and dinner
- reading lists and historical and cultural notes
- maps and detailed walking instructions
- daily transfers of baggage between hotels
- transfer in a private vehicle from Avignon to Vaison on Day 2, and drop off on Day 7 from Vaison to Avignon
- 24 hour backup from local manager

The Provence Walking Tour Itinerary

Day 1

Overnight in Avignon, one of the most poetic cities of southern France. Still surrounded by its medieval walls, with tree-lined boulevards and immaculately maintained lanes and squares, Avignon is a sophisticated city humming with the colour and charm of the Mediterranean.

Day 2

In the morning you are transferred north to Vaison-La-Romaine, a busy farming town of Roman origins at the foothills of the Dentelles known as the 'Pompei of France' for its extraordinary excavations. In the afternoon, there is short loop walk out to a tiny hamlet with spectacular views over distant Mont Ventoux. (10 kms; 3 hrs)

Day 3

The walk takes you through forest, skirting around the edge of the range to the most celebrated wine town of the region, via the smallest and most perfectly preserved of the villages that surround the range. (14 kms; 3.5 hrs).

Day 4

You stay a second night in this lovely country hotel. Today's loop walk that starts from and finishes at the hotel, taking you into the heart of the Dentelles, via some of the most spectacular scenery in Provence: fortified villages clinging to crags, rolling vineyards pressed against the saw-tooth ridge that gives the range its name. (15 kms; 4 hrs).

Day 5

Today's walk takes you around the southern edge of the Dentelle to a little town famous for its irresistible muscat wine, and then on to a tiny village, a classic 'village perche', clustered under the walls of the best preserved castle in the area. (16 kms; 5 hrs).

Day 6

The walk today takes you back to Vaison, skirting around the northern edge of the Dentelles, with enormous views over the interior of the range, Mt Ventoux and south to the plains that lead back to Avignon. (16 kms; 5.5 hrs).

Day 7

Morning transfer back to Avignon, which has excellent links to the rest of France and Europe via an international airport and rail links, including the express TGV.