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Lavender bloom in Provence mid-June until the end of July

Lavender belongs to Provence. Its unreal blue can be admired in some area of Provence from mid June to the end of July. Lavender is also the symbol of numerous fragrant plants of Provence. This trip allows the discovery of the cultivation of Lavender and other fragrant plants through the countryside and the visit of a distillery workshop.

Day 1: Nice, Aix en Provence

Arrival in Nice or Marseilles airport. Welcome by your guide and transfer to Aix en Provence with a small tour of the university town. **Aix** capital of Provence and since 1501 host of a Parliament founded by Louis XII, challenges Avignon as Arts and Cultural Center. Dinner and overnight in a hotel in Provence

Day 2: Sault, Roussillon, Apt

Day trip to the discovery of the lavender fields and visit in connection with lavender. Over a picturesque road, we reach **Sault**, the main center for lavender in the Vaucluse. Detailed visit of lavender fields and of a distillery with appropriate explanations. After the very special "Bleu Lavande" we continue to **Roussillon** with its red and pink ochre fields and have a unique stroll in the so called "Provençal Colorado". Excursions ends with a visit of the **lavender museum** in Apt. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 3: Avignon, Chateauneuf-du-Pâpe, Orange

After breakfast the journey continues to **Avignon**. The city of the Popes is dominated by a 58 meters high limestone, the Rocher des Doms, on which the Pope's Palace leans. Guided city tour and visit of the Pope's Palace. Continue to Châteauneuf du Pape for a wine tasting. Afternoon visit of **Orange** and its roman theatre. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight

Day 4: Ile sur Sorgue, Fontaine-de-Vaucluse, Sénanque, Gordes

Departure to **L'Isle sur Sorgue** a large Provençal market and then to **Fontaine-de-Vaucluse**, a small town at the foot of the plateau du Vaucluse, known because of its re-emerging source, one of the most popular natural sights of Provence. In the vicinity of Gordes we visit the Cistercian Abbey of **Sénanque**, surrounded by lavender fields. We continue to **Gordes** with its castle and its nice restored old houses overlooking the valley. Stroll through the narrow streets of the village with its many craft shops. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 5: Forcalquier, Salagon

Travel in the direction of **Banon** and **Forcalquier** to admire en route the beautiful lavender fields . We visit the monastery of **Salagon**: anyone interested in herbs, should visit the old monastery of Salagon. Here in the gardens one can learn about the history and application of different Provençal plants. Among others, there is a collection of herbs from the early folk medicine, a scent garden and a presentation of native cooking herbs. The former Benedictine monastery from the 12th Century became since the early eighties, a museum responsible for the ethnographic and botanical heritage of the region. Last night in eastern Provence

Day 6: Departure

Transfer to Nice or Marseilles airport for departure

Our services:

- 5 x dinner overnight and breakfast in Provence
- Private coach and guide during the whole tour from/to Nice or Marseilles airport
- Admissions, according to the program: lavender distillery in Sault, lavender museum, Pope's Palace in Avignon, Roman theater orange, Abbey in Sénanque, Monestary of Salagon
- 1 x Wine tasting in Châteauneuf du Pape



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