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Mediterranean landscapes Provence and Cote d'Azur

Visit two Mediterranean areas on a same journey: Provence and Cote d'Azur.

The Mediterranean shores, the Provençal country, the art and history of rich cities, the Southern Alps, the banks of the Rhone, the great natural areas make a region with many faces. Diversity but also many common points: a clear transparent sky, a Light full of power and sweetness and tap rich colours, a Mediterranean plant with World Vineyards, olive trees, almond trees and lavender, always nearby Mediterranean, a "Singing language, the cuisine and the houses make the Provence and Côte d'Azur unforgettable. Following the discovery of major cultural sights of Provence, and wild ride through Landscapes, it goes to the Cote d'Azur. Always full of dynamism, the Cote d'Azur throughout the year revived, mainly thanks to a rich and diverse cultural entertainment, a particularly favourable access (Nice is the second French airport) and a strong tourist infrastructure.



Day 1: Arrival in Marseilles or Nice, hotel in the Provence

Arrival in Nice or Marseilles. Welcome by your local guide and departure by coach in the **Provence**. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 2 Arles, Camargue, Sainte-Marie-de-la-Mer

Trip to Arles and visit of the city and the arena: **Arles** has a glorious past testified by the magnificent Roman buildings, the Romanesque churches and the rich art treasures of its museums. At the beginning of the Rhone River Delta, north of the salt marshes **Camargue**, the town has reached new meanings as an agricultural center through the rice cultivation. Afternoon, continuing into the Camargue: the plain of the Camargue count undoubtedly among the more unique Provençal landscapes. It is partly protected and therefore has not lost its originality. We reach les **Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer**, the capital of the Camargue. As soon as we arrive from the north, long before the arrival, we can see the white silhouette of the village ahead with the old church dominated by a bell. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight

Day 3: Avignon, Saint-Remy, Les Antiques, Les Baux de Provence

We drive to **Avignon**, which is on the left bank of the Rhone. The most important epoch in this city was the period 1309 to 1377, when Avignon was the seat of the popes. The main building is the Pope's Palace giving at least from the outside the impression more of a fortress. Inside the palace are located Rooms and chapels with precious frescoes. Other interesting points are the church of Notre Dame de Doms and the Bridge St. Bénézet well-known through the old song "**Sur le pont d'Avignon**".

Afternoon, travel to **Saint Remy de Provence**, near the Roman ruins of Les Antiques in a beautiful environment. Last stop is **Les Baux de Provence**, in the middle of the Alpilles the village is located on a hill with a magnificent panorama of the whole of Provence from **Mont Ventoux** to the Mediterranean. Here met 700 years ago minstrels and Troubadours for noble competitions. Evening dinner and overnight at the hotel.

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Day 4: Aix en Provence, gorges du Verdon, Côte d'Azur

Departure for **Aix en Provence** where a city tour will allow us to enjoy the Provencal atmosphere of the town. The city where **Paul Cezanne** lived and painted is full of vibrant life. In the old town, small narrow streets lead to fountain places. Students of this venerable university town meet along the Cours Mirabeau with its shady trees. Next we reach the Verdon gorges: on the comb-altitude road from the lake of Sainte Croix we drive along the **Verdon gorges** with stunning panoramic vantage points. In the pretty village of **Moustiers**, known for its pottery, we have a small break and then continue from Castellane over the **Napoleonic road** to reach the Côte d'Azur late afternoon. Welcome at the hotel on the Cote d'Azur, dinner and overnight.

Day 5: Cannes, Island of Lerins

City tour of **Cannes** just a fishing village until 1834 when it was discovered by Lord Brougham. Today the fashionable seaside resort, home of the **International Film Festival**, is located in a beautiful bay, opposite the islands of Lerins and next to the **Estérel**. A stroll along the palmed **Croisette** belongs to the city visit. Some steps away you are expected by the boutiques of Rue d'Antibes, the market district "Forville" and the old "Le Suquet. " Afternoon optional trip to the **islands of Lerins**: We discover the island of Sainte Marguerite with its botanical trails and the Iron Mask fort. Accommodation with dinner.

Day 6: Nice, Matisse museum

Visit of **Nice**, the capital of the Cote d'Azur situated along the "angels bay," one can discover from the famous **Promenade des Anglais**. The Old Town with its floral fragrances on the market, the baroque churches and the colourful houses are a reminiscence of the Italian history of the town. The neighborhood "**Cimiez**" recalls the Roman tracks and the day of the Belle Epoque. The modern quarters with the Congress House "Acropolis" and the avenue Jean Médecin show the dynamism of this city of 400000 inhabitants. We visit the **Matisse Museum** in a beautiful villa with olive gardens presenting many interesting sketches and Paintings by the master

Day 7: Eze and Monaco

After breakfast travel to **Monte Carlo**. On the way, visit of the **Fragonard perfume** manufacturer in Eze. In Monte Carlo, visit of the small independent and sovereign Principality of the **Grimaldi family**, which offers very attractive places. The neighbourhood "**Le Rocher**" is famous through the **Prince's Palace**, the **Cathedral** and the famous **oceanographic institute**. The sophisticated "Monte Carlo" has the largest European Casino. Here are the luxury hotels and boutiques where the famous stars from all over the world meet. We visit the exotic garden and have a city tour with a break in the quarter "le Rocher". Back in the hotel for our last night on the Côte d'Azur.

Day 8: Transfer and home flight

Time at leisure and transfer to the airport in Nice or Marseilles

Our Services

- 7 x Dinner, Bed and breakfast in a 3-star hotels.
- Local coach from arrival to departure (or your own bus)
- Official bi-lingual guide from arrival to departure.
- Admissions: theater or arena in Arles, Avignon Pope's Palace Museum Matisse or Chagall in Nice, Exotic Garden in Monte Carlo
- 1 person free of charge in DR from 20 paying guests

