



Hiking in Provence

Light hiking in Provence between Ardèche and the remarkable Cèze Valley.

Tour Highlights

- ❖ Gentle hikes along some of Western Provence's best trails, from April to late-September.
- ❖ Discover the Ardeche Gorge, Cèze Valley and some fine belvederes and hill-top villages.
- ❖ Enjoy fine Garrigues scenery, the Valbonne forest and the Sautadet Falls.
- ❖ A dual-centre tour with superior accommodation. No need to pack and move each morning.

Theme

Hiking in Provence immerses you in the delights of the magnificent Ardeche Gorge and the picturesque Ceze valley. Enjoy light hiking along bucolic trails, with plenty to discover in between.

Hiking in Provence starts off in Pont St Esprit, at the confluence of The Rhone and the Ardeche rivers. You move westwards to discover the fruits of the remarkable Ardeche gorge before discovering what lies in between - the fabulous forest of Valbonne, its Chartreuse [Carthusian] monastery and the district they call Valcezard in western Provence. Little known and explored by outsiders, it is much loved by the cognoscenti. The villages are either huddled in the bottom of the valley or perched on the top of sun-parched limestone hills and gorges. Either way, you make their acquaintance as part of the ensemble of fascinating insights gained into the life and times of one of Provence's finest territories.



4-night Programme¹

Day 1 **Pont St Esprit.**

Arrival at the starting point of your tour and check in. Early arrivals can enjoy a short urban hike around this busy town located at the confluence of the Ardeche and Rhone rivers. Night in Pont St Esprit.

Day 2 **The Ardeche Gorge.** [7.5 miles-11 kms, approx. 4 hrs, +140 ms -85 ms, with optional 3 hr extension down into the gorge itself, at 5 miles-8 kms, +200 ms -200 ms].

You start your week hiking The GR4 as it wends its way along the left bank of the Ardeche and up to the remarkable village of Aigueze, as if hewn out of the sides of the gorge itself. Night in Aigueze.

Day 3 **The Forest of Valbonne.** [8 miles-13 kms, approx. 4 hrs, +240 ms -125 ms]

A charming bucolic hike as you meander through the Valbonne forest en route to the impressive site of the Carthusian monastery. Enjoy its majestic aura, take the tour of the site and perhaps a short botanical walk around its perimeter. Chill out in its bistro before your transfer back to Aigueze. Second night in Aigueze.

Day 4 **Across Martel Bridge.** [8.5 miles-13.5 kms, approx. 4 hrs, +100 ms -235 ms]

Return transfer to La Chartreuse after breakfast and discover the fascinating Sautadet 'waterfalls' en route to the imposing hilltop village of Roque. 'Flaneur' through its 'ruelles' and imbibe its rich ambiance. Late afternoon transfer back to Aigueze. Third night in Aigueze.

Day 5 **End of your Provence walking tour.**

Breakfast and onward journey by taxi. Au revoir et bon retour.



What's Included

- 4 nights bed and breakfast in superior, '3-star standard' hotels.
- Insight Hiking Notes™, relevant 1:25,000 scale maps and themed holiday dossier.
- All relevant holiday taxes.
- Visit the remarkable Chartreuse de Valbonne site.
- Three people transfers and we transfer your luggage.
- Telephone help-line service with local native English-speaking support.

Not included

- Remaining meals and all drinks and extras.
- Personal expenses.
- Entrances into any optional cultural visits and venues, incl. the Chartreuse's inner sanctum
- Hiking, personal and travel insurance.
- Single rooms.
- Transport to Pont St Esprit and from Aigueze.



2022 Prices

**Price per person based on 2 sharing a double room:
£465.00 Pounds Sterling# or €570.00 Euros**

Peace of Mind: Tour operator bonding

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Notes:

¹ We reserve the right to alter parts of the above programme for the benefit of customer safety and the quality of the overall experience.

No suitable accommodation exists in La Roque-sur-Ceze, so you stay three nights in Aigueze, with all relevant transfers included.

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