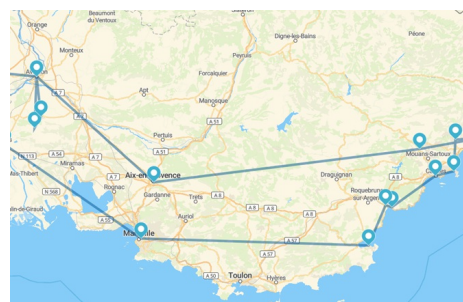




France and Monaco, 9 Days · Tailor-made by car

Lavender Route around Provence and the French Riviera

In need of inspiration? Here we propose an exciting journey to enjoy the Provençal lifestyle that you'll discover at every turn of the road. There are few itineraries as evocative as the "Lavender Route around Provence and the French Riviera". A packed tour through lavender-lined landscapes that will reveal the main attractions of this beautiful corner of France and the exclusive Principality of Monaco. Ahead of you lies a beautiful scenic route; ancient cities with an important Roman legacy such as Nîmes and Arlés (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and magnificent monuments such the famous Roman aqueduct of Pont du Gard; walled stone-built villages, medieval towns and Papal residences such as Avignon; constantly changing cities like Marseille; and picture-postcard beaches such as Antibes, Villefranche-sur-Mer, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat and Saint Raphaël. Nature lovers will find beauty in unusual places such as the Grand Canyon du Verdon and the stunning beaches of Les Calanques. And if you're looking for luxury, glamour and a movie-like experience, then nothing better than letting yourself be carried away by the vibrant city of Nice and chic towns of Saint-Tropez, Cannes and Monaco, all dotted with places that will please the most gourmet of travellers. This is an area full of contrasts where ostentation and luxury live in perfect harmony with the simple pleasures of life. And throughout the route you'll be accompanied by a heady scent of lavender and fresh flowers, a radiant light and stunning scenery that attracted artists such as Van Gogh, Chagall, Picasso, Renoir and Cézanne, making this region one of the cradles of Impressionism. You'll cross lands devoted to the cinema, widely portrayed in movie blockbusters, famous for events such as the Festival de Cannes and frequented by celebrities and Hollywood A-listers. Let yourself be seduced by this paradise!



Departure date: Departures from August 2026 till July 2027

From: London

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - MARSEILLE

Flight departure from the city of origin to Marseille and rental car pick-up.

Your adventure on French soil begins here! The oldest city in France seduces travellers with its important historical heritage, its modern proposals and avant-garde buildings, its Mediterranean beaches and seafaring essence, its Provençal traditions and culinary delights such as "bouillabaisse" (fish soup). Blessed with an inspiring and radiant light and an excellent climate, this city in transformation (European Capital of Culture 2013) boasts an interesting range of leisure and entertainment options to suit all tastes and budgets. We recommend strolling along the emblematic Canebière, discovering the bohemian atmosphere of Le Panier, soaking up the joie de vivre of Joliette, sitting on the crowded terraces of the Old Port (Vieux Port) or heading to the Norman Foster-designed mirrored canopy to watch the ceaseless stream of coloured boats that have been mooring here for over 2,600 years... If you have time, venture out of the city where you'll find charming villages such as L'Estaque and Cassis and the beautiful beaches of Les Calanques! From the Basilica of Our Lady of the Guard you'll enjoy beautiful views of the city and the nearby hills.

Overnight stay in Marseille.

● DAY 2 · MARSEILLE - ARLES - NIMES - PONT DU GARD - AVIGNON

After enjoying the cosmopolitan city of Marseille, we'll set off to explore the beautiful Provence. Today we'll drive along a fascinating stretch dotted with beautiful landscapes, imposing Roman monuments, culinary delights and beautiful enclaves forever linked with the history of art. Off we go! After driving for about 1 hour and 15 minutes, we'll arrive at the charming town of Arles (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Located between the wild landscapes of La Camargue and Les Baux, this ancient town is famous for its impressive Roman heritage and its links to great figures of art such as Van Gogh, Gauguin and Picasso. Sit in the "Cafe La Nuit" in Arles painted by Van Gogh! Another option is to visit what was once the largest Roman circus in Europe. If you visit Arles on a Saturday, don't miss the lively market where you'll discover the most authentic atmosphere of the region.

Onward journey of about 40 minutes to Nimes, an attractive city that combines its important Roman past (boasting magnificent monuments such as the Maison Carrée) with the modernity of the city today. We recommend taking a leisurely stroll through the old town; relaxing at the beautiful Fontaine garden, located at the foot of Mount Cavalier; or enjoying some contemporary art at the Carré d'Art. En route to Avignon, stop off at Pont du Gard (about 20 kilometres from Nimes) to see its magnificent aqueduct, one of the most visited sights in France. If you don't want to miss out on any detail of its construction, you can join a guided tour. Depending on the season, canoeing is also a popular activity. And then to Avignon! Known as the elegant "City of Popes", this walled settlement provides the traveller with lots of history, fine cuisine and an exciting nightlife.

Overnight stay in Avignon.

● DAY 3 · AVIGNON - LES BAUX-DE-PROVENCE - SAINT RÉMY DE PROVENCE - SÉNANQUE ABBEY - AVIGNON

The walled town of Avignon (UNESCO World Heritage Site) is home to stunning historical buildings that speak of bygone splendour, particularly from the fourteenth century, when the city was the Pope's residence and bore witness to the power of the church. Famous for the Saint Benezet Bridge (also known as the Pont d'Avignon) and its rich history, the town (European Capital of Culture 2000) provides the traveller with a host of great attractions and entertainment plans. Must-visits include the Papal Palace and the Angladon Museum, where you can admire works by Degas, Manet and Cézanne. And if you want to enjoy Avignon from the heights, explore the Old Town by walking along the walls, which are accessed from the Quai Saint Lazare and the Quai de Rhône. Discover its medieval charm and ever lively atmosphere!

And then on with our journey through the beautiful Provencal countryside. Its never-ending picture-postcard fields of lavender dyed a deep indigo invite the traveller to wander through picturesque rural villages such as Les Baux-de-Provence, where you can visit the Carrière de Lumières or the Castle des Baux en Baux, and Saint Remy de Provence, an excellent place to relax and savour excellent local products such as olive oil, wines, cheeses and typical pastries... A true delight for the palate! And throughout the route you'll be accompanied by a heady scent of lavender, lemon verbena and rosemary. Here you'll see some of the most characteristic scenes of Provence. These lands are home to the very fields and cafés painted by Van Gogh, the mountains that inspired Cezanne and the nature that fascinated Gauguin...

If you have time, take a short detour to the Lavender Museum (Coustellet), the picturesque "hanging village" of Gordes or the beautiful Senanque Abbey. Back in Avignon, check out the Papal Palace and the famous bridge over the Rhône in the golden light of dusk.

Overnight stay in Avignon.

● DAY 4 · AVIGNON - AIX-EN-PROVENCE - GRASSE - NICE

Today we'll head for Aix-en-Provence, the historic capital of Provence. Also known as the "City of the Thousand Fountains", this thriving academic and artistic town surprises the traveller with treasures such as the Cathedral of Saint-Sauveur, the Fondation Vasarély, the Granet Museum, the Pavillon Vendôme and the Hôtel de Caumont, to name just a few. Time in Aix elapses without undue haste, under the shade of majestic plane trees and the continuous flow of water coming from its mythical fountains. This is where Cézanne was born, spent most of his life and died; a world-famous artist whose studio has become a place of pilgrimage for followers of his life and work. (Note: There are several tours around the city to discover the painter's favourite places). The "Lavender Route around Provence and the French Riviera" now takes us to Grasse, popularly known as the "International City of Perfume". This town, perched on a hill 750 metres above sea level and surrounded by vast fields of flowers, is where the iconic Chanel, Dior and Rochas fragrances are distilled.

Recognised as a "ville d'art et d'histoire", the town captivates travellers with a historic quarter dotted with treasures of Genovese and Provencal architecture, with museums such as the Museum of Provencal Art, the Villa Museum Fragonard and the legendary International Perfume Museum, where you can learn about the history and secrets surrounding the perfume industry.

(Note: If you like nature, take a detour today to the Grand Canyon of Verdon).

Overnight stay in Nice.

● DAY 5 · NICE - FRENCH RIVIERA (VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER - SAINT-JEAN-CAP-FERRAT) - NICE

Today we'll get to know the emblematic city of Nice and explore part of the ever-so-seductive French Riviera. This is the very Riviera that captivated Picasso and each year attracts famous painters and artists, leading members of European society, politicians and millionaires from around the world in search of relaxation and tranquillity. We'll start the day exploring the birthplace of Garibaldi (Nice), which spans out along the beautiful Bay of Angels, and enjoying its stylish and cosmopolitan Mediterranean atmosphere. We recommend following in the footsteps of Henri Matisse, or strolling through the old quarter packed with monuments, lively street markets and charming cafés, or taking a walk along the iconic Promenade des Anglais, which embraces the beach with an uninterrupted parade of mighty palm trees and elegant white villas.

Our first stop will be the nearby quaint fishing village of Villefranche-sur-Mer, with its charming old town and its picture-postcard harbour surrounded by colourful houses. We recommend a visit to the Rue Obscure, the St. Michel church, the Port Royal de la Darse, the Chapelle St. Pierre and its frescoes painted by the artist Jean Cocteau. After skirting the bay, we'll arrive at Cap Ferrat. As you drive along the narrow peninsula, you'll come across spectacular scenery and breathe in an intoxicating scent. The town is a bustling fishing port full of restaurants and magnificent villas and mansions overlooking the sea.

Overnight stay in Nice.

● DAY 6 · NICE - MENTON - MONACO / MONTE CARLO - ÈZE - LA TURBIE - NICE

After enjoying the laid-back atmosphere of Menton, we'll set off on an interesting route that will take us to Nice along the famous scenic road of La Corniche, one of the most beautiful stretches of road in France. Today we'll set off for the luxurious and exclusive Monaco, famous for districts such as Monte Carlo, La Condamine, Moneghetti, Monaco Ville and Fontvieille... In each of them you'll discover the styles and wealth that this fairy-tale principality cherishes. The second smallest country in the world after the Vatican City, this luxury enclave seduces travellers with its chic, exclusive atmosphere and iconic places such as the Monte Carlo Casino, the Musée Océanographique and the Grimaldi Palace... And throughout the visit, you'll sense the presence of the eternal and much-beloved Princess Grace. Many places in this mini-country pay posthumous homage to her. Onward now to explore beautiful places such as the medieval village of Èze which, perched atop of a cliff, is a magnificent vantage point over the Mediterranean. Its medieval quarter is a true spectacle and one of the reasons why this place became the summer resort of princes and writers such as Prince Wilhelm of Sweden, Nietzsche and George Sand. Tastefully restored, its streets exude a unique aroma of roses, violets, jasmine and geraniums... (Note: On the way out of Èze, head up to Col d'Èze to enjoy amazing views). Our last stop today will take us to La Turbie, a beautiful village full of surprises. And then we'll arrive in Nice to soak up its vibrant atmosphere and excellent restaurants.

Overnight stay in Nice.

● DAY 7 · NICE - FRENCH RIVIERA (SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENTE - ANTIBES / CAP D'ANTIBES - JUAN-LES-PINS) - CANNES

Another day to enjoy the French Riviera, discovering its photo-friendly coastline that evokes many a movie scene. Today's leg will take us to the mythical city of Cannes. Along the way, you'll spot interesting historical monuments and important cultural centres, all set in a breathtaking landscape. You may just see the odd supercar with a celebrity at the wheel. You're about to venture into one of the most glamorous and exclusive areas of France! Our first stop will be Saint-Paul-de-Vence, a charismatic and perfectly preserved village that offers spectacular views from its ramparts. Classic refuge of artists such as Matisse, Chagall, Modigliani and Cocteau, this place is truly inspiring. It's worth strolling along the Rue Grande, its main avenue, and looking for a nice souvenir in the cute craft shops and famous galleries. (Note: Remember that the village is closed to traffic. In high season, it's better to visit early in the morning as the car parks fill up quickly as the day goes by). And now some more time to enjoy the sun, the sea and stunning scenery of the Riviera.

Our next stop will be Antibes, one of the main beach resorts of the Côte d'Azur. You can stroll along the harbour front with pretty yachts bobbing in the water, admire the historic walls, wander around the old town and discover the lively Provençal market and the Cathedral... In the magnificent Grimaldi Castle, you can visit the prestigious Musée Picasso. If you have time, drive fifteen minutes down to the beautiful Cap d'Antibes. Its beaches, impressive mansions and lush vegetation are well worth seeing. And don't forget the luxurious Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc, a classic in the area. This exclusive hotel, a favourite of Picasso and Hemingway, is now frequented by artists and international celebrities, especially in May when they're attending the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

(Note: If you're traveling with children, we recommend making a stop at Marineland, where the shows with killer whales and dolphins are magnificent). Then back on the road running parallel to a beautiful coastline, dotted with gardens and steep cliffs. After relaxing in the laid-back Juan-les-Pins, we'll set off for Cannes.

We'll be met by a stylish city made fashionable by the aristocracy in the nineteenth century. European capital of film, by night the famous Boulevard de La Croisette is filled with lights and action.

Overnight stay in Cannes.

● DAY 8 · CANNES - SAINT-RAPHAËL - FRÉJUS - SAINT-TROPEZ - MARSEILLE

The penultimate day of our tour along the glamorous French Riviera.

After visiting the charming towns of Saint-Raphaël, where Napoleon left from for his exile to the island of Elba, and the sightseeing haven of Fréjus, we'll head back on the road for an hour until reaching the stylish and exclusive Saint-Tropez.

This former fishing village has changed greatly since Brigitte Bardot first visited in the 1950s. (Note: The town rose to fame in the 1960s after the premiere of the film "And God Created Woman"). Today Saint-Tropez has become one of the favourite haunts of the international jet set, with it being common to see luxury sailboats and yachts moored in the harbour against a backdrop of vividly-painted villas. In high season, Saint-Tropez is one of the most visited tourist resorts on the French Riviera. In less touristy times (usually autumn to spring), this charming village enjoys relative peace and quiet. (Note: From the walls of the citadel, you can admire panoramic views of the town and the Gulf).

And finally we arrive in Marseille! The oldest city in France seduces travellers with its important historical heritage, its modern proposals and avant-garde buildings, its Mediterranean beaches and seafaring essence, its Provençal traditions and culinary delights such as "bouillabaisse" (fish soup). We recommend strolling along the Canebière, discovering the bohemian atmosphere of Le Panier, soaking up the joie de vivre of Joliette, sitting on the crowded terraces of the Old Port (Vieux Port) or heading to the Norman Foster-designed mirrored canopy to watch the ceaseless stream of coloured boats that have been mooring here for over 2,600 years... If you have time, check out some Le Corbusier at the Cité Radieuse or take in some art in Cours Julien, the hip artistic district packed with interesting galleries.

Overnight stay in Marseille.

● DAY 9 · MARSEILLE - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

✓ Return flight.

✓ Stay in selected hotel in Marseille.

✓ Selected meal plan in Marseille.

✓ Stay in selected hotel in Avignon.

✓ Selected meal plan in Avignon.

✓ Stay in selected hotel in Nice.

✓ Selected meal plan in Nice.

✓ Stay in selected hotel in Cannes.

✓ Selected meal plan in Cannes.

✓ Rent-a-car.

✓ Insolvency protection.

Your trip doesn't include

✗ Accommodation taxes in France direct payment in facility.

✗ Possible toll charges.

Destinations Visited

Marseille



Arles



Nimes



Vers - Pont - Du - Gard



Avignon



Les Baux-de-Provence



Saint-Rémy-de-Provence



Aix-en-Provence



Grasse



Nice



Villefranche-sur-Mer



SaintJeanCapFerrat





Menton



Monaco



Eze



La Turbie



Saint-Paul-de-Vence



Juan-les-Pins



Cannes



Saint-Raphael



Fréjus



Saint-Tropez



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far

the possible.

- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.