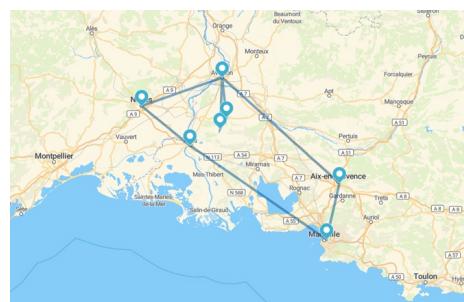




France, 6 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the most authentic Provence

This tour of the most authentic Provence invites the traveller to leisurely explore this seductive region of southern France, to discover its magnificent Roman treasures, to admire its rural landscapes of lavender and vineyards that stretch as far as the eye can see, to stroll through beautiful cities such as Marseille, Arles, Nîmes and Avignon; and to discover unique traditions in charming villages such as Les Baux-de-Provence and Saint Rémy de Provence. This route meanders through endless fields of lavender that when in flower form a hypnotic landscape of deep lilac tones and permeate the entire region with a heady aroma. These lands are home to the very fields and cafés painted by Van Gogh, the mountains that inspired Cezanne, the nature that fascinated Gauguin and the beauty that moved Picasso. Nestled among the stunning aromatic lavender fields you'll come across ancient churches such as the Abbey of Senanque and picturesque locations such as "the hanging village" of Gordes. Nature lovers will find beauty in unusual places such as the Grand Canyon du Verdon and the stunning turquoise sea of Les Calanques. Discover the main sights of Provence, savour its delicious cuisine and fine wines at traditional markets and on cute pavement terraces, and soak up its laid-back and genuine lifestyle where thousands of details revolve around lavender.



Departure date: Departures from July 2026 till July 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

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) or "navettes" (typical boat-shaped biscuits). 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 AND SURROUNDINGS

Some more time to explore the charismatic Mediterranean city of Marseille. Today we suggest admiring some Le Corbusier at the Cité Radieuse; discovering all the secrets of the Château d'If immortalised in "The Count of Monte Cristo" and its neighbouring Frioul islands; enjoying art in Cours Julien, the hip artistic district, and interesting museums such as the MuCEM (Museum of Civilisations in Europe and the Mediterranean) or the FRAC (Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain); taking a stroll around Noailles market and learning about the secrets of Marseille's famous soap production at the renowned La Grande Savonnerie...

Another option is to head to the beautiful beaches and turquoise waters of Les Calanques. (Note: Remember that this area is protected by strict traffic laws. You can only access by car before 7.00 am or after 7.00 pm. There's the option to park the car at the entrance and walk the steep hills for at least half an hour or take a short trip on one of the boats leaving from the port of Marseille. Please check schedules).

Overnight stay in Marseille.

DAY 3 · 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 4 · 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 5 · AVIGNON - GRAND CANYON OF VERDON - AIX-EN-PROVENCE - MARSEILLE

Leaving Avignon behind, we'll now embark upon the final leg of this exciting journey. After driving through the region of Pays de Sault, famous for the deep lilac of its fields and its popular summer festivals, 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 Vasarely, the Granet Museum, the Pavillon Vendôme and the Hôtel de Caumont, to name just a few. Don't miss its colourful flower market, its lively tree-lined boulevards, its elegant seventeenth- and eighteenth-century mansions, its charming cafes, and its delicious calisson d'Aix (a traditional French sweet) and biscuit sucré (sweet biscuits)... 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, ending up on the outskirts next to the imposing and beautiful Mount Sainte-Victoire, so often portrayed by the artist in his paintings). If you like nature and have time, take a detour to the impressive Grand Canyon of Verdon; gigantic gorges that reach 25 kilometres in length and 700 metres in depth. (Note: This eco-tourism route is busiest in the months of July and August. From May to June and in September, the gorges offer really beautiful scenery. Throughout the tour, you'll find well-kept vantage points that guarantee excellent and safe views. Depending on the season when you decide to visit, there's the possibility of canoeing or hiking through the gorge).

Overnight stay in Marseille.

● DAY 6 · 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.

✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

✗ Accommodation taxes in France direct payment in
facility.

✗ Possible toll
charges.

✗ Insolvency
protection.

Destinations Visited

Marseille



Arles



Nimes



Avignon



Les Baux-de-Provence



Saint-Rémy-de-Provence



Aix-en-Provence



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.