

Touring holidays of France

Expressions



Lavender and sunflower fields of Provence fly-drive holiday



Lavender and sunflower fields of Provence fly-drive holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Crillon-le-Brave

Joucas

Luberon

Moustiers Ste Marie



This 7-night lavender and sunflowers fly-drive tour of Provence celebrates summer in Provence. Summer in Provence is a time when the region's fields are bursting with colour and fragrance, as perfumed lavender and dazzling sunflowers are in full bloom. An iconic symbol of Provence, violet-coloured lavender fields are usually in flower from the end of June to mid-August, with the peak time being in early July. After the lavender harvest, watch as the plants are crushed into essential oils at distilleries, or visit one of the many lavender festivals. Meanwhile, the bright yellow sunflowers that line the roadsides on this tour, and famously inspired the likes of Van Gogh, also bloom in July and August, giving you the chance to view vast fields of these two eye-catching flowers side by side. You arrive in Marseille and collect your hire-car for the short drive to the village of Crillon-le-Brave, at the foot of Mont Ventoux and near the Gigondas wine-producing area. From here you can visit for a day the lavender fields of Sault. After two nights at Crillon-le-Brave there is a short but scenic drive to the Luberon where you spend three nights, giving you time for more lavender-related visits in the immediate area. There are lavender museums and distilleries to visit as well as lots of opportunities for photography. The drive to your final stay takes you over the Valensole plateau, renowned for its lavender, through Riez to Moustiers Sainte Marie at the start of the dramatic Gorges du Verdon. The two nights you have here allow for a full day's exploration of the village, the gorge and the Lac de Sainte Croix. You return your hire-car to Nice for the return flight to London.

PRICES

From £2,240 per person

Based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

DATES

This fly-drive holiday can be arranged for any departure date subject to availability.

TOUR CODE

FRFD09

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Scheduled flights with British Airways London to Marseille, Nice to London
- Hire of a group B car for the duration of your holiday
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in a Standard room at Hôtel Crillon le Brave, Crillon-le-Brave
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in a Classic room at Le Mas des Herbes Blanches, Joucas
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in a Superior room at the Bastide de Marie, Moustiers Sainte Marie
- Concierge service and Expressions Holidays regional helpful hints

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Early check-in or late check-out at any hotels (although we can arrange this on request at additional cost)
- Any other services not mentioned above, such as transfers and meals except breakfast at hotels
- Personal holiday insurance. This is essential and cover should be in place from when you book the holiday.
- Local tourist tax, usually between Euros 1 and 3 per person per night, and payable locally to the hotel

Day one Marseille to Crillon-le-Brave

Your fly-drive touring holiday of the lavender and sunflower fields of Provence starts when you arrive in Marseille, collect your hire-car and drive for about an hour and a half to the pretty village of Crillon-le-Brave, situated in gently undulating countryside of fields and orchards, with magnificent views of Mont Ventoux in the near distance. The village is very attractive with houses of golden stone, small squares and narrow streets. It is in the Cotes du Ventoux wine region. You stay here for two nights.

Day two Visit Sault

It is a drive of about 40 minutes from Crillon-le-Brave to the village of Sault, in the high Vaucluse. Sault is located at about 778 metres above sea level and sits on the border of a wooded plateau that blooms with lavender in season. Around the village the fields are a sea of purple and yellow where the wheat alternates with the lavender. There are lavender festivals, the main one being on 15 August, lavender distilleries and visits of the lavender fields. In the village itself is a Romanesque church and a museum with a collection of prehistory, Gallo-Roman and mediaeval items. Other villages in the region that are centres of lavender production are Bedouin, Morieux, Saint Trinit and Aurel.

Day three Crillon-le-Brave to Joucas

Today is a glorious, gentle drive into some of the most beautiful countryside of Provence as you enter the Luberon, a gentle landscape of vineyards, orchards, rolling hills and home to the famous lavender and sunflowers, associated greatly with Provence. Your destination in this region is the village of Joucas where you spend three nights.

Days four and five in the Luberon

You have two days to explore this beautiful area of Provence. There are plenty of lavender-related visits including to the lavender museum at Coustellet, with its still and lavender cutting displays. Near Gordes is Senanque Abbey, famous for its picturesque lavender beds. Gordes itself is well-worth exploring as is the Village des Bories. At Lagarde d'Apt, about 40 minutes' drive away, there are more fields and two distilleries. This is quite a remote 'village' but renowned for its lavender production. It's worth combining a day here with the village of Roussillon, situated at the foot of the Monts de Vaucluse, and renowned as one of the prettiest villages in the Luberon.



Provence lavender field

Day six Luberon to Moustiers Sainte Marie

Your journey today takes you eastwards out of the Luberon towards Manosque and then through yet more lavender growing areas at Valensole to Riez (also known for its truffles and honey) and on to Moustiers Sainte Marie. This village where you stay for two nights is situated at the entrance to the Gorges du Verdon, the deepest gorge in France, with a lake and quite exceptional geographic location.

Day seven in the Verdon area

There are plenty of opportunities today to explore the area, perhaps on foot as there are numerous walks, or drive to the Lac de Sainte Croix, as well as driving through the dramatic Gorges du Verdon. The village is renowned for its earthenware tiles and there are several workshops and sales outlets for the tiles. There is also a pottery museum.

Day eight Moustiers Sainte Marie to Nice for flight to London

Today you return to Nice for your flight back to London.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

OUR TOURS

Our tailor-made touring holidays are suggested itineraries which can be adapted in numerous ways. They can be fly-drive (with flight and hire-car included), self-drive (with ferry or Eurotunnel included with your own car) or rail and hire-car.

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of your chosen transport and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

The logo for Expressions Holidays, featuring the word "Expressions" in a white, elegant script font on a dark blue rectangular background.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators).

Expressions Holidays
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL



HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441250

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process.