



Trip description

Cycling week to discover the ViaRhôna and Dolce Via

During this 7-day trip you will discover the Rhône valley and the beautiful Ardèche thanks to 2 itineraries fully marked and secure: the ViaRhôna and Dolce Via.



Destination	France
Location	Vallée du Rhône
Duration	7 days
Difficulty Level	Moderate
Validity	April to November
Minimum age	14 years
Reference	VR0703

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



From Valence, named the "South Gate" follow the Rhône river heading south and enter the Provence. Escape the riverside for a break in the heart of

Ardèche along the Eyrieux on the Dolce Via, a 90km long easy green way built on the former railroad tracks. You will enjoy every minute of this luxurious valley where orchards, mills and architectural buildings will tell you the story of the agricultural and industrial past of the valley, you will not forget this experience! Your path, then, get back to the ViaRhôna itinerary where you will discover along the roman remnants, the chapels and cathedrals, the rich heritage of the Rhone valley. Your trip will beautifully ends up in the historic cities of Orange and Avignon. This is the perfect trip for Nature and History lovers!

Day 1

Arrival in Valence

Valence, a classified Town of Art and History. With its colorful markets, shaded gardens and historic quarters, this living city makes you feel like being in Provence already.

Day 2

Valence - Le Cheylard

Bike
75km

Today the ViaRhôna takes you on Ardeche territory. In La Voulte-sur-Rhône, the itinerary joins the Dolce Via to enter the gorgeous Eyrieux valley. The former railroad tracks reused as a green way offers you a spectacular dive in the so-well preserved Ardeche.

With the mountain on one side and the river stream on the other, the Dolce Via lets you appreciate a beautiful nature and some very typical villages such as Saint-Laurent-du-Pape or Saint-Sauveur-de-Montagut. You end up your journey in Le Cheylard, a village surrounded with hilly woods.

The route is flat all along, you easily make it in a day!

Day 3

Le Cheylard - Baix

Bike
61km

You leave le Cheylard and get back on the Dolce Via back to La Voulte-sur-Rhône. The itinerary, although the same, seems completely different and you will discover new landscapes along this gentle slope down.

Enjoy the Eyrieux gorges in the midst of a fantastic nature and admire the numerous works of art on your way. After reaching back the ViaRhôna in La Voulte-sur-Rhône, you cross the nature reserve of Printegarde to get to your hotel in Baix.

Day 4

Baix - Bourg-Saint-Andéol

Bike
52km

You still head south alongside the Rhône river with the beautiful Abbey of Cruas and the Rochemaure Castle in the background. These two pieces of Architectural Art perfectly show the rich heritage of the Rhone valley. You cross the Rhone river using the "himalayan bridge" built on the pillars of the Old Bridge of Rochemaure, quite an experience!

You can make a detour on the Drôme side of the Rhone river (+12km) to visit Montélimar, city of the famous "nougats"! After visiting the medievals towns of Viviers et Donzère, witnesses of the rich past of the region, your biking day ends in Bourg-Saint-Andéol.

Day 5

Bourg-Saint-Andéol - Orange

Bike
51km

You cycle to Pont-Saint-Esprit, crossroad of 3 departements : Vaucluse, Ardèche and Gard. Cross its 700 years old stone bridge and enjoy the beautiful view over the medieval city and its cathedral. It is a jump in History! You keep on following the Rhone river to reach Caderousse. This Provence village is a beauty with its old stone dam protecting the town against the regular floodings.

You leave the Rhône river to cross the plains and discover the roman city of Orange. The typical ochre colors of the city will tell you you are in Provence. With an exceptional historical heritage, Orange will take you back to the heart of the Roman civilisation. Of course, you will visit the Antique Theatre, very well preserved and still used today during

the summer festival and admire the impressive Triumph Arch.

Day 6

Orange - Avignon

Bike
42km

You leave Orange to reach Châteauneuf-du-Pape and its 3000 hectares of vineyards. Of course, tasting its Grands Crus is a must! Take a stroll in the small streets of the village up to the ancient Chateau des Papes, resort place for the Popes from Avignon.

Then your path takes you through the beautiful vineyards back to the Rhône banks. Following the river, you'll get slowly to the impressive Cité des Papes. Admire the gorgeous treasure of Avignon : the Palais des Papes, the bridge Saint Bénézet named « Avignon's bridge », the city walls, the numerous churches and chapels..

Day 7

Departure from Avignon

Enjoy a last walk in the streets of Avignon and visit the Palais des Papes before your departure or you can extend your stay.

Accommodation

Category B

You are accommodated in **/** hotels selected for their ideal situation on the itinerary. You will be comfortable and warmly welcomed. Breakfast is included.



** Example of the type of accommodation*

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: the nearest airport is Lyon Saint-Exupery. At the airport, there is a shuttle tramway Rhone Express taking you to the city center at Lyon Part-Dieu train station in 30 mn.

By train: TGV trains direct from Paris/Gare de Lyon to Valence TGV (2h10). Then, bus or TER train to reach Valence city center station (10min). To plan your trip, www.oui.sncf.

Parking

If you come by car, you can park in the secure car parks of Valence station or Champ de Mars. Price 7 days: 60€-75€. Possibility to reserve your parking space in advance.

To get back to starting point:

Trains take you back to your starting point if you wish. Regular regional trains are riding between Avignon and Valence. Bikes are accepted for free. The duration of the trip is about 1h20. Full rate is 21.90€/pers.

You will find the timetable of the day in your travel documents.

Meeting time:

The first day is an arrival day without cycling. You arrive whenever you want depending on from where you come. Please note that rooms are usually available in the middle of the afternoon depending on your accommodation. We thank you to advise us if you plan to arrive late.

Price description

Category B

Double room fare

2-3 adults	925 €/pers
4-5 adults	855 €/pers
+ 6 adults	805 €/pers

6 nights in **/** hotels
6 breakfasts
5-day rental of a fully-equipped touring bike (packs, helmets, locks...)
luggage transport
a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes
the delivery the bike
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
24h/24 hotline

High season (*)	20 €/pers
Surcharge during Avignon Festival(**)	50 €/pers
Half-board	26 €/dinner
Single occupancy extra (***)	42 €/night
Extra night in Valence	65 €/pers
Extra night in Avignon (except during Festival season)	55 €/pers

Options

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (5 days)	70 €/pers
Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-70 €/pers

(*) High season :
from 01.07 to 02.07 2020
from 27.07 to 31.08 2020

() Avignon Festival season from 3 to 26 July 2020.**

(*)** Minimum 2 participants

The package doesn't include:

the journey to the tour location
the drinks
the meals which are not included
the entrance fee to sites
insurances (optional)

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