



Trip description

Cycling week along the ViaRhôna from Vienne to Avignon

Follow the marked and secure path along the ViaRhôna from the Côtes-du-Rhône vineyards to the Provence lavender fields. A perfect trip for Nature and History lovers!



Destination	France
Location	Vallée du Rhône
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Easy
Validity	April to novembre
Minimum age	12 years
Reference	VR0801

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



Discover the ViaRhôna, a route rich of 2000 years of History. From the Antique theater in Vienne to the Palais des Papes in Avignon including the

château de Rochemaure and the Triumph Arch in Orange, experience a trip through the Ages. The landscapes are always changing from the abrupt Ardèche to the lavender fields, from the Côtes-du-Rhône vineyards to the ones in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. You will be impressed by the many bridges crossing the Rhône river, exceptional pieces of art! The itinerary is either on green paths or shared lines and crosses 5 very different departments. Last but not least, the food variety in the Rhone valley will please everyone!

Day 1

Arrival in Vienne

Vienne boasts many Gallo-Roman vestiges. The best way to visit it is to walk from one site to the other, as the majority of the built heritage is located in the town center. Among them, the most famous are the antique theater, remarkable for its size, and the temple d'Auguste et de Livie, which nicely stands out in the middle of a town square.

Day 2

Vienne - Serrières

Bike
34km

You cycle quietly along the Rhône River on the bike path before crossing the river to get to the "Ile au Beurre". Have a break on this peaceful island known for the diversity of its fauna! Take the time to have a look around since you are in the heart of the major vineyards of the Rhône Valley including the famous Condrieu, Saint-Joseph, Côte-Rôtie. From this point on, you will get your first glimpse of the typical Provence villages and houses.

Day 3

Serrières - Valence

Bike
59km

Stop in Saint-Vallier to visit Saint-Valéry church in which stands the funeral chapel of the Poitiers, lords of Saint-Vallier and parents of the beautiful Diane de Poitiers, lover of the King of France Henri II. Then, you cross the Rhône river on the bridge "passerelle Seguin", oldest still used today suspension bridge in France and enter Tain l'Hermitage and its famous wines.

After the vineyards, the scenery changes and you ride through the orchards of Ardèche. Don't hesitate to taste the delicious fruits stopping in a farm. Valence, Ville d'Art et Histoire opens the gates of the South. With its colorful market places, its gardens, its lively areas and the its pedestrians streets, Valence rhyme with Provence!

Day 4

Valence - Montélimar

Bike
74km

Keep riding South along the Rhône river having in the background the beautiful Abbey of Cruas and the Rochemaure castle. These two pieces of art perfectly illustrate the rich architectural heritage in the Rhône Valley. Then you cross the Rhône river on the amazing "himalayan bridge" build on the pillars of the old Bridge of Rochemaure, quit an experience! You are now in the Drôme and your way will gently ends with some sweets in Montélimar, the city of "nougats"!

Day 5

Montélimar - Pont-Saint-Esprit

Bike
49km

Leave Montélimar and ride through the medieval cities of Viviers and Donzère, witnesses of the flourishing past in the area. Your next stop will be Bourg-Saint-Andéol with its numerous historical buildings. There, you'll see the most important bas relief in antique Gaule. Then, you will reach 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!

Day 6

Pont-Saint-Esprit - Orange

Bike
36km

You keep on following the Rhône river to reach Caderousse. This Provence village is a beauty with its stone dam protecting the town since the 19th century 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 7

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 8

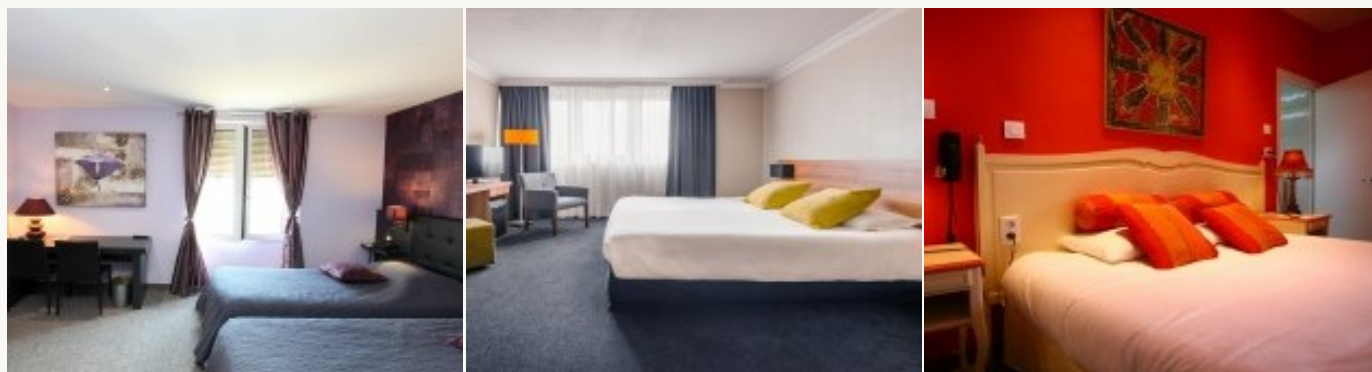
Departure from Avignon

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: many regional trains go to Vienne from Lyon, from either Lyon Part-Dieu or Lyon Perrache train stations (duration of the trip about 20min). High-speed trains do not stop in Vienne. To plan your trip, www.oui.sncf

Parking

If you come by car to Vienne, you can park in the secure car parks of Saint-Marcel (11,60 €/day) or SNCF station (11,50€/day).

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 Vienne. Bikes are accepted for free. The duration of the trip is about 2h. Full rate is 31.70€/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 advise you to plan half a day for visiting Vienne, which is worth it. We thank you to advise us if you plan to arrive late.

Price description

Category B

Double room fare

2-3 adults	1078 €/pers
4-5 adults	998 €/pers
+ 6 adults	948 €/pers
7 nights in **/**** hotels	
7 breakfasts	
6-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 (*)	30 €/pers
Surcharge during Avignon Festival (**)	60 €/pers
Half-board	27 €/dinner
Single occupancy extra (***)	43 €/nuit
Extra night in Vienne	65 €/pers
Extra night in Avignon (except during Festival season)	55 €/pers

Options

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (6 days)	85 €/pers
Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-90 €/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

Children discount (in the same room as 2 full rate participants) :

0-4 year : -70%

5-11 year : -50%

12-17 year : -30%

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)

For more information or booking : www.levelovoyageur.com
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