



## PROVENCE EXPLORER

MAZAN TO GORDES, FRANCE

La belle vie spills over on this Provence cycling experience.

The Provençal attitude, "la vie est belle ici" (life is good here) runneth over on this bike tour. The textured landscape of le Lubéron and the Vaucluse plateau capture a diversity and charisma that defies description. Life in Provence is about discovering a slower pace, from savoring each bite of cuisine to chatting with the locals as you walk through the market. For those who prefer a leisurely pace, cozy cafés, village strolls, and relaxing afternoons temper the adventure of each day's ride. And for avid cyclists ready for the challenge, the Tour de France's epic Mont Ventoux is ready to be conquered. Trek Travel's Provence biking trip offers the opportunity to indulge in all things Provençal at the perfect pace, in the perfect place.

 [Upgrade to Provence Luxury](#)

### TRIP WOWS

Enjoy sweeping views of vineyards and poppy fields as you cycle treasured local routes including the Gorges de la Nesque

Experience the picturesque village of Gordes in the heart of the Luberon

Explore the iconic French villages of Roussillon, Bonnieux, Lacoste and Beaumes de Venise

Ride the Epic Mont Ventoux if you're up for the challenge

From  
\$3299

Rider Type  
Active / Recreational

Hotel Style  
Explorer

Duration  
6 days | 5 nights

Start | End  
Avignon, France

Dates  
2018/May/Jun/Aug/Sep/  
Oct



## DAILY ITINERARY

2018

Day

1

### TODAY'S RIDE:

**Mazan to Blauvac Loop**  
Approximately 15 miles with 1,000 feet of climbing

### DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to Southern France! After a private one-hour shuttle, you will arrive in Mazan, a quiet village in the Vaucluse department of Provence, home to Mont Ventoux. You'll meet your Trek Travel guides over a delicious lunch, then spend some time ensuring you have a perfect fit to your Trek bike. Afterwards, head out on a warm up loop as you take your first pedal-strokes and test your bike on a climb up to Blauvac with its stunning views of the surrounding region. Hillsides covered in lush vineyards speckled with sleepy villages accompany you on your ride with the mighty Mont Ventoux in the background. Tonight, you'll gather with your new traveling companions for conversation and a short round of introductions. Savor your first dinner and wines of the region together at your charming hotel, Château de Mazan, once frequented by the notorious Marquis de Sade.

### HOTEL:

Château de Mazan  
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

### INCLUDED MEALS:

Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

[VIEW MEETING AND DEPARTING INFORMATION»](#)

# Day

## 2

### TODAY'S RIDE:

**Mazan to Malaucene to Barroux Loop**  
Approximately 25 miles with 1,820 feet of climbing

### SHORT OPTION:

**Mazan to Malaucene to Barroux with Shuttle**  
Approximately 21 miles with 1,740 feet of climbing

### AVID OPTION:

**Mazan to Malaucene to Suzette to Barroux Loop**  
Approximately 35 miles with 2,700 feet of climbing

### DESCRIPTION:

Following your morning café and pain au chocolat, head out for a warm up ride toward Bedoin, where you'll be met with the vibrant colors, sights and sounds of the open-air market. Sample regional tapenade and fougasse before taking a stroll through the tapestries of the local artisans. Back on the road, the rugged Col de Madeleine stands between you and Malaucene, where you'll enjoy lunch on your own. Take some time to explore its cobbled streets and fortress while learning about the village's rich history. This afternoon, climb through winding roads to the tiny village of Suzette, perched among sloping vineyards in the stunning Dentelles de Montmirail mountains. Alternatively, riders interested in a less demanding spin are invited to remain in the picturesque valley and pedal on directly to the village of Barroux. Meander back in time as you visit the impressive 12th-century chateau here which dominates the skyline, then enjoy the short ride back to Mazan. Tonight, you and your travelling companions will be treated to another decadent gourmet meal at the Chateau de Mazan's fantastic restaurant.

### HOTEL:

Château de Mazan  
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

### INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Dinner

# Day

## 3

### TODAY'S RIDE:

**Mazan to Methamis to Beaumes de Venise Loop**  
Approximately 44 miles with 2,680 feet of climbing

### SHORT OPTION:

**Mazan to Methamis Loop**  
Approximately 27 miles with 1,410 feet of climbing

### AVID OPTION:

**Mazan to Ventoux to Beaumes de Venise Loop**  
Approximately 53 miles with 6,230 feet of climbing

### DESCRIPTION:

No matter which ride you select today, it will be the ride of a lifetime. You may opt for a gentle start with a quiet ride through rolling vineyards under the sparkling sun to the picturesque hilltop village of Methamis. Or, choose to take a try at the Géant de Provence (Giant of Provence): le Mont Ventoux. This classic climb from Bédoin is renowned throughout the cycling world as one of the most challenging ascents in the Tour de France. All routes lead back to the bustling town of Bedoin where you can join cyclists from all over the world seeking a post-ride lunch. This afternoon's ride leads you along a gentle road to the quaint village of Beaumes de Venise, known for its sweet Muscat wine and olive production. Sample the local fare on a sunny patio with a mid-afternoon café. Once back at the hotel, relax with a swim in the pool or a well-deserved massage. Tonight, armed with a list of recommended restaurants, you'll have the chance to enjoy a meal of your choice in the town of Mazan.

### HOTEL:

Château de Mazan  
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

### INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

# Day

## 4

### TODAY'S RIDE:

**Mazan to Gorges de la Nesque to Gordes**  
Approximately 48 miles with 4,150 feet of climbing

### SHORT OPTION:

**Mazan to Gorges de la Nesque to Gordes with Shuttle**  
Approximately 26 miles with 3,300 feet of climbing

### ACTIVITY:

Private Wine Tasting

### DESCRIPTION:

The Gorge de la Nesque awaits today, as you pedal along one of the most beautiful rides in the Vaucluse. This ride is a Trek Travel guide favorite, and is arguably one of the most gorgeous rides in the world. An enormous limestone massif, the gorge has been carved over millenia by the meandering Nesque River. Remains of Neanderthal inhabitants have been discovered in this river valley and its beauty is immortalized in Frederic Mistral's poetry. With cliffs measuring 600 feet, your climb is rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views as you descend to Sault for lunch as a group at a local bistro. This afternoon's ride takes you over the edge of the Vaucluse Plateau and into the magical heart of the Lubéron, where winding roads lead you through breathtaking valleys and villages to your destination: Gordes. This romantic medieval village perched high on a cliff overlooking the valley was once the heart of the area's resistance during World War II. An optional avid ride will take you to the iconic and oft-photographed Abbaye de Senanque – a Cistercian abbey dating to the 12th-century, whose monks still produce lavender and honey. Before dinner, we'll gather for a private wine tasting of Rhones wines with Laetitia, a local sommelier. Tonight, you are free to explore Gordes for dinner at one of its many fantastic restaurants.

### HOTEL:

Hotel Le Jas de Gordes  
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

### INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch

# Day

## TODAY'S RIDE:

**Gordes to Bonnieux Loop**  
Approximately 28 miles with 2,000 feet of climbing

## SHORT OPTION:

**Gordes to Bonnieux with Shuttle**  
Approximately 17 miles with 1,350 feet of climbing

## AVID OPTION:

**Gordes to Bonnieux to Oppède le Vieux Loop**  
Approximately 51 miles with 3,020 feet of climbing

# 5

## DESCRIPTION:

Discover an area of Provence legendary for its medieval hilltop villages, rolling hills, and quiet winding roadways. Orchards of cherry trees and vineyards line your route as you pedal to the Roussillon market. Ride over the Pont Julien, a 2000-year-old Roman bridge that spans the Calavon River. Explore the cobblestone streets and art galleries of Bonnieux and find the perfect bistro for lunch. A spectacular view of the Château Lacoste beckons as you climb to this quaint village. Today's avid option post-lunch will lead you through the villages of Ménerbes and Oppède le Vieux, tucked along the Lubéron ridge. This afternoon, you'll have time to explore Gordes and enjoy the views over the valley, which have made this hamlet such a strategic prize in bygone eras. Later, relax as a group with a glass of wine and a few rounds of Petanque, one of Provence's favorite pastimes. We'll spend the evening celebrating on a cliff-side terrace with the most beautiful view of Gordes. Tonight, enjoy a delicious meal while we reminisce about our adventures among newfound friends.

## HOTEL:

Hotel Le Jas de Gordes  
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

## INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Social Hour | Dinner

# Day

## TODAY'S RIDE:

**Gordes to Lioux Loop**  
Approximately 16 miles with 1,000 feet of climbing

# 6

## DESCRIPTION:

On this final day, take the morning to explore Gordes and capture its beauty in the morning sun. If you prefer to pedal, rise early for a morning loop to the tiny village and towering cliff of Lioux. Legend has it that Hannibal garrisoned his troops here when he marched on Rome and was thwarted at Marseille around 218 BC, thus explaining why there are elephants on the village crest. Returning to the hotel, you'll have enough time to return to your room, shower, and change before your shuttle arrives. You'll say farewell to your guides at 10:30 AM at the Hotel Le Mas de Gordes, then take a private coach to the Avignon TGV or Central Station (approximately 50 minutes). Here you can take a train to Paris or any other destination. Please do not book any train before noon.

## INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

[VIEW MEETING AND DEPARTING INFORMATION»](#)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### We Include More

Every moment of a Trek Travel bike trip has more than you could have ever dreamed. More romance. More scenery. More choice. It's the little additions to every Trek Travel cycling vacation that make it truly special. And that's how we help you create more memories. [See more](#)

### Activities

- Gratuities for all scheduled special events, restaurants, hotels, local guides and transportation during your trip.
- Private tours
- Entrance fees to all group events/activities
- All luggage transfers
- All transportation during the trip, including private coaches

### Lodging

- 5 nights of accommodation
- In every region we travel, we uncover the area's best, and most delightful accommodations. On our Provence trip, you will stay in quaint three-star accommodations, each offering stunning locations and a relaxing environment.

### Dining

- Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 3 social hours, 3 dinners, and all snacks and drinks for each day
- On our Provence trip, you will enjoy mouth-watering Mediterranean cuisine that is cooked to your individual liking “a la minute.” Most food is locally grown, often organic and exploding with flavor. The food is discovered over a number of courses and the portions are smaller, to enable you to extend your appetite until the dessert course! Some meals are included in the price of your trip. Breakfast is always served at the hotel, buffet style.

## Support

- The knowledge, support, and camaraderie of experienced guides
- Daily route support
- Paper route guides also available upon request
- Comprehensive trip literature

## Gear

- The use of a Trek Domane SL 7 carbon road bike with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting, or Trek 7.6 FX Hybrid bicycle
- Trek Electric Assist XM700+ also available in a limited quantity
- The use of GPS cycling computer
- The use of Bontrager bike helmets and other gear and equipment to make your ride comfortable
- Trek Travel water bottles
- Coupon valued up to \$500 off a new Trek Bicycle. Contact us for details.
- Trek Travel Bontrager RL jersey

### THANK YOUR GUIDES, BY TIPPING

Gratuities for your Trek Travel guides are not included in your trip price. We recommend tipping 7.5-10% of your trip price for the guide team. Local currency is preferred and unless you want to tip separately, guides will divide tips amongst themselves. Please tip your guides at your discretion, based on their level of professionalism, guest care and service.

## What's Not Included

- Airfare and transportation to and from the trip pick-up/drop-off locations
- Lodging before and after the trip
- Personal items purchased during the trip
- Optional activities not scheduled by Trek Travel
- On select trips some meals are not included. On these trips, Trek Travel invites you to explore the local cuisine at your leisure.
- Gratuities for your Trek Travel Guides may be given at your discretion in response to their professionalism and leadership. Industry standard is for each individual guest to tip the guide team 7.5-10% of the trip price.

# HOTELS



### CHATEAU DE MAZAN

#### MAZAN, FRANCE

Nestled in the tiny town of Mazan - only a short distance from the base of Mont Ventoux - stands Château de Mazan. Originally built in 1720 during the Regency Period, the Château soon became the property of the notorious Marquis de Sade. It was here that the Marquis organized his first Theatre Festival. In 2001, the new owner, Madame Lhermie, transformed the Château into the quaint Hotel de Charme that welcomes tourists from all over the world.



### HÔTEL LE JAS DE GORDES

#### GORDES, FRANCE

Situated in the heart of the Lubéron, at the entrance of Gordes, a picturesque village perched on a hill, Hôtel Le Jas de Gordes offers you calm, freshness, and relaxation in a luxurious location, surrounded by a magnificent park. This hotel is formerly known as the Mas de Gordes.



# MEETING & DEPARTING

## How To Get There

We suggest that you arrive at least one day prior to the trip start, which will enable you to adjust to the time zone and minimize the risk of missing the trip start due to flight-related delays. We recommend that you fly into Paris (CDG). All major US airlines and Air France offer nonstop flights from major US cities. From Paris, take a TGV train to Avignon, either from the TGV station at Charles de Gaulle Airport or from the Gare de Lyon in Paris. Please consult [www.voyages-sncf.com](http://www.voyages-sncf.com) to book your tickets. Alternatively, you may fly into Marseilles (MRS) or Nice (NCE) and take a train to Avignon. Avignon (AVN) also has a small airport with local flights. Please note that there are two train stations in Avignon--the TGV and the Centre station. The TGV station is approximately five miles from the Centre Station downtown. If you happen to arrive at the Avignon Centre train station, there is a frequent shuttle bus that runs between the two stations that costs a few euros per person, which usually takes 10 minutes, and runs approximately every 20 minutes. Taxis are also available at the Centre Station for the 10-minute ride for approximately 20 euros. Train schedules are available and tickets can be booked directly online at [www.SNCF.com](http://www.SNCF.com) or using our in house travel agent services. (Please note the train schedule changes frequently. Please consult the SNCF site for the most up-to-date schedule.)

## Before: Avignon, France

If you are planning on extending your trip and exploring the walled city of Avignon, there are a number of must-sees. Palais des Papes stands as the largest Gothic palace in Europe. With the arrival of the popes in the 14th century, for a period known as the Avignon Papacy, the Palais des Papes was home to the Sovereign Pontiffs. One must also visit the nearby Pont du Gard, an ancient Roman aqueduct that was used to bring Uzès spring water to Nîmes. We recommend the following accommodations for your pre-trip hotel:

## Meeting Time And Location

### Avignon TGV and Central Train Station | Avignon, France

Your Trek Travel guides will meet you in the bus parking located in the North Exit of the Avignon TGV Station at 11:30 AM on the first day of the trip. To find the north exit follow signs to: Sortie Nord, the car rental area (location voitures) and to Parking P1. Exit the station and descend all the way to the car rental area. After a private shuttle of around 1 hour, you will arrive in Mazan, a quiet village in the Vaucluse department of Provence, home to Mont Ventoux. Hillsides covered in lush vineyards speckled with sleepy villages accompany you on your ride with the mighty Mont Ventoux in the background.

If you will be late for the pick-up or are going to miss it altogether, please inform your guides. You will receive an email a week before the trip start with their names and contact details. If you cannot reach them, please call our first hotel, Château de Mazan (+33 (0) 4 90 69 62 61), and leave a message with your expected arrival time and contact details. You may take a taxi to the first night's hotel for approximately 100 euros.

## Departing Time And Location

### Avignon TGV and Central Train Station | Avignon, France

You will say farewell to your guides at 10:30 AM at the Hôtel Le Jas de Gordes, or your hotel variation, Mas de Romarins. After saying goodbye to your guides, you will take a private coach to the Avignon TGV or Central Station (approximately 50 minute shuttle). You can take a train to Paris or any other destination from either station. Please do not book any train before noon to accommodate possible delays due to traffic.

#### CLOÎTRE ST. LOUIS

A Jesuit monastery built in 1611, this building was converted to a hotel in the early 1900s. A walled courtyard, lined with old plane trees, makes for a relaxing setting. It has a small rooftop pool and is one block from the central train station. 80 rooms.

20, rue du Portail-Boquier | +33 (0)4 90 27 55 55 | [www.Cloitre-Saint-Louis.com](http://www.Cloitre-Saint-Louis.com) | ~\$280

#### HÔTEL D'EUROPE

A former 16th century residence of the Marquis de Graveson, Hôtel d'Europe once hosted Napoléon. It is tucked away in a walled courtyard and decorated with antiques. The rooms are mostly large with two suites that overlook the Palais des Papes. The hotel boasts one of the finest restaurants in Avignon. 44 rooms.

12, Place Crillon | +33 (0)4 90 14 76 76 | [www.Hotel-D-Europe.fr](http://www.Hotel-D-Europe.fr) | ~\$425

#### HÔTEL DE L'HORLOGE

L'Hotel de L'Horloge is an independently owned 4-star property in the heart of Avignon. Enjoy Provençal elegance in its cosy and chic 19th century building located on Avignon's main square.

1 rue Félicien David | +33 (0)1 55 33 16 55 | [www.Hotel-Avignon-Horloge.com](http://www.Hotel-Avignon-Horloge.com) | ~\$165

## HÔTEL LA DEMEURE

An oasis in the middle of the vibrant Latin Quarter on the left bank, this family-run hotel will make you feel comfortable and at home. 43 rooms.

51 Boulevard Saint Marcel | +33 (0)1 43 37 81 25 | [www.Hotel-Paris-Lademeure.com](http://www.Hotel-Paris-Lademeure.com) | ~\$210

## HÔTEL LOUVRE MARSOLLIER

In the heart of historic Paris, located on a quiet street in the center of a prestigious neighborhood, this is a stylish hotel where Oscar Wilde lived in 1899. The hotel's website has some useful information and links to activities.

Opéra 13 Rue Marsollier | +33 (0)1 42 96 68 14 | [www.Louvre-Paris-Hotel.com](http://www.Louvre-Paris-Hotel.com) | ~\$185

## HÔTEL D'ANGLETERRE

Situated on one of the most famous streets in the world, right in the heart of the Champs-Élysées between the Etoile and Place de la Concorde.

91 rue La Boétie | +33 (0)1 43 59 35 45 | [www.AngleterreParisHotel.com](http://www.AngleterreParisHotel.com) | ~\$130

## HOTEL ROYAL SAINT HONORÉ

Located right on the main luxury shopping street and within walking distance to the Louvre, Opera, and the Tuileries, this 4 star hotel is a perfect spot to see the City of Lights. You can also enjoy a lunch or coffee at elegant on-site Café 221. Special rates for Trek Travel guests may apply – ask your trip consultant for more information.

221 Rue Saint Honoré | +33(0)1 42603279 | [www.leshotelsduroy.com](http://www.leshotelsduroy.com) | ~\$360

## After: Paris, France

Paris is home to many of the world's best-known monuments and museums. A backdrop of many famous photos, the Arc de Triomphe sits majestically at the top end of the Champs-Élysées. You can go to the observation deck for an expansive view down the world-famous boulevard from Napoléon's huge triumphal arch—the largest in the world. The Arc isn't the only site that offers a great view of the city, however. Other monuments with impressive vistas include the view from the white dome of the Basilique du Sacré-Coeur de Montmartre, or from atop the 56 floors of the Tour Montparnasse, and of course at the summit of the most famous monument in Paris—la Tour Eiffel. We recommend the following accommodations for your post-trip hotel:

\* Hotels listed above are local properties we love. We do not have special rates available.



## FAQS

### Trip Changes

Our itineraries are an approximation of our trips. Trek Travel strives to offer each and every guest a vacation of a lifetime on every trip. At times routes, hotels, activities, etc. listed here may change at the discretion of the trip designer or guides to improve the trip experience.

### What are the daily rides like?

- Rider Type | 2&3
- Average Daily Mileage | 30
- Terrain | Hilly
- Average Daily Elevation | 2,800 ft.

On all of our vacations, Trek Travel strives to find quiet, paved secondary roads or bike paths to experience a region; busy roads are avoided as much as possible. Provence is best suited for our Type 2&3 Riders. Our Trek Travel guides can also easily accommodate Type 1 Riders, who seek less mileage or fewer uphill, with a boost in the van. Those who wish to ride every mile but are concerned about their physical ability may want to try our electric bike option—you still get a workout but can climb alongside even the strongest rider. Type 4 Riders will enjoy the extra mileage the avid route options offer. The terrain is highlighted by stunning views, quiet roads & hilly terrain. There will be an average of 2-3 major climbs per day. You will be surrounded by vineyards & wonderful cherry orchards, all great spots to rest in the shade. See Itinerary for specific daily ride distance and elevation options.

### What are the options for a non-rider travel companion?

On most Trek Travel trips, we offer non-riding options for riders who want to take the afternoon off, or travel companions who want to spend little or no time in the saddle. Some of these options may need to be scheduled before your trip—please contact one of our Trip Consultants for more information. Expenses and/or related transportation to these activities may not be included in the trip price. See Included In The Trip Price for more information. Some non-riding options on this trip are:

- Visit the Provencal market in Bédoin
- Explore the hilltop town of Gordes
- Visit the 2000-year-old Pont Julien, an ancient stone bridge
- Discover the ancient stone dwellings known as "bories"
- Learn the skill of playing Pétanque
- Shop and explore the ochre village of Roussillon
- Optional in-house massage and spa treatments

## What is the weather going to be like?

May, June, September, and October in Provence usually bring clear, warm, and pleasant days with cool evenings. July and August days can be hot, but it does cool off in the evenings. Rain is always a possibility so be prepared with the proper rain gear in order to best enjoy your vacation. If you are planning on riding Mont Ventoux, we recommend bringing your fall/winter riding gear. The descent can be very cold.

## If I book a tour, can I be guaranteed that it will run?

If you're going we're going on almost all our trips. Trips with 1 guest booked are guaranteed to run. Select trips like Cross Country, Race and Special Edition trips require a minimum number of guests to run and are not guaranteed until that number is reached. Contact your Trip Consultant for more details.

In the event that a departure has low enrollment, we will notify guests at 60-90 days before departure to give the option to select a different date with more guests booked. Please do not reserve airfare before confirming your Trek Travel trip.

## What kind of information is provided?

When a trip is booked, a guest confirmation letter is immediately sent out. One week prior to the trip start you will receive an email containing a trip start meeting location reminder and any last minute information that you will need to know before your trip. Once you arrive at your destination Trek Travel staff will brief you on the day-to-day plan for the trip and provide you with daily route guides and a detailed map allowing you to ride with complete confidence and independence.

## What should I pack?

Please review our [packing list](#) page for more details.

## What if I have to change or cancel my trip?

We understand things happen in life and sometimes you have to cancel or change your bike tour. We want to make it as easy as possible to do so and below you will find our timeline. If you ever have a question, just give us a call, 866 464 8735. [Read our cancellation policy.](#)

## General FAQs

Didn't find what you were looking for? [Check out our General FAQs section.](#) You will find answers to all the most common questions that don't necessarily pertain to a specific trip.