

LA PROVENCE, the singular paradise that everybody knows and loves

Api Provence Tour

Aix En Provence – Avignon– Le Baux de Provence – Point du Gard – Camargue – Arles

France is divided into 22 regions and every one produces honey. The largest producer is the Rhone-Alps region and the smallest is the island of Corsica. France has one of the oldest and best managed honey industries in the world. Provence honeys are some of the most popular with connoisseurs. Wildflower, lavender, maquis, heather... Provence bees produce fine 'vintages', under the direction of passionate beekeepers. The most typical honey of Provence is lavender honey, which is very fragrant, cream-coloured, and presents a very fine grit. Provence and the Côte d'Azur are perfect for explorers. One can enjoy touring the back roads and soaking up the stunning variety of landscapes: fields of lavender, ancient olive groves, cliff-top roads, maquis-cloaked hills and even snow-tipped mountains.



Day 01 Arrival – Visit to Aix En Provence – Visit to a winery – Visit to a beekeeper

Arrival to Marseille airport. Pick up at the airport and drive to Aix-En- Provence. After refreshment break in the hotel we'll explore Aix-En-Provence, capital of Provence with rich history. Aix was an important city in the Roman Empire; however the city nowadays is one of the most elegant and charming cities in Europe with palaces, thermal springs and countless fountains. Many famous people lived there, such as Paul Cezanne, Darius Milhaud, Emile Zola, and others. In the afternoon, we will visit winery in Puyloubier and a beekeeper at the foot of Mont Sainte Victoire. Dinner and overnight in hotel in Aix en Provence.

Day 02 Aix En Provence – Salon de Provence – Visit to a beekeeper & lecture on beekeeping – Visit to a biodynamic estate – Arles

In Salon de Provence you will be struck by the olive plantations that cover the surrounding hills and have formed the basis of the town's renowned olive oil industry for the last 600 years. The city is known as a place where Nostradamus lived, famous French doctor, astrologer and visionary. In Saint Mitre les Ramparts visit to a beekeeper and the president of Société Régionale d'Apiculture des Bouches du Rhône will explain you more about beekeeping in France, particularly in Provence, activities of the association and challenges and issues in the beekeeping industry in Provence. Tasting of different types of honey will follow. Those not interested in beekeeping might want to stay in the city and enjoy free time or take a visit of Greek Romans ruins in St. Blaise in St. Mitre. Short stop to see the hives of Mr. Moreau. Afternoon visit to a country estate Domain de Sulauze, where they produce wine, olive oil, sheeps and bulls by following biodynamic approach. Drive to Arles, dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 03 Camargue & boat ride – Visit to a wine cellar & wine tasting – Arles

Visit to **the Camargue**, a vast wetland of approximately 100,000 hectares, the largest in France and also one of the most secret. It is a fragile sanctuary for fauna and flora, uncommon in Europe; protected by the Camargue Regional Park and natural reserve, it forms a unique landscape. A magic world where man lives alongside horses, bulls, birds, the sky and water. Camargue is developing sustainable agriculture for rice growing and salt harvesting. Around a hundred herds are used for breeding Camargue horses and bulls. Here horses are, above all, the herdsman's companions but they are also his work tools. The Camargue is also an ornithological sanctuary as nearly 400 species of birds are seen here. This includes the pink flamingo that stands as a symbol for Camargue birds. We explore this unique and amazing flora and fauna by boat. Afternoon visit to a wine cellar and wine tasting. Vines with a hundred year-old history grow in the soils that are composed of sand carried in from the Alps by the Rhône river, the wind and Mediterranean tides. Dinner and overnight in hotel in Arles.

Day 04 Arles sightseeing – Visit to a beekeeper – Visit to a biodynamic farm specialised in rice production – Avignon

In the morning Arles, UNESCO world heritage site, with Roman treasures, sultry stone squares and a festive atmosphere that crescendos during bullfights. And if its colourful sun-baked houses evoke a sense of déjà vu, it's because you've seen them already on a Van Gogh canvas. Short drive to visit a female beekeeper and presentation of her beekeeping. Those not interested in beekeeping visit can stay in Arles. In the afternoon a visit to a biodynamic farm that is specialised in rice production. They were the pioneers in Europe in practicing ancient Asian method, using ducks as a weedkillers that gives their rice an original taste and made them know world-wide. Guided tour of the estate and the presentation of their work, also visit to some beehives in their estate. Drive to Avignon. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 05 Antique market in Isle sur Sorgue – Gordes – Senanque Abbey with lavender fields – Avignon

This day's visit will start by exploring unique antique market in Isle sur Sorgue, the third most important centre for antiques in Europe. L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue fair is larger than that of Saint-Ouen and is second only to the famous London fair, Europe's largest antiques trade salons. Over time, antique shops, and art galleries have developed in the area. Continuing to Gordes, which was built on the foothills of the Monts of Vaucluse and it is considered of one of the most well-known hilltop villages in the region as well as one of the most beautiful in France. Its houses and buildings of white stone root themselves into the sharp cliff of the mountain, its labyrinth of "calades" (narrow cobblestone streets) do not leave the visitor indifferent to its charms. Nearby Notre-Dame de Senanque is a Cistercian abbey surrounded by fields of lavender. The Abbey was founded in 1148 under the patronage of Alfant, bishop of Cavaillon, and Raymond Berenger II, Count of Provence, by Cistercian monks who came from Mazan Abbey in the Ardeche. The monks who live at Sénanque grow lavender and tend honey bees for their livelihood. Return to Avignon where we take a walk through the old city-centre and get to see the famous bridge Pont Saint Benezet. Dinner and overnight in hotel in Avignon.

Day 06 Point du Gard – Les Baux de Provence – a visit to a queen breeder in Eyguieres – Marseilles

In the morning drive to Pont du Gard, which impresses with ancient architecture and 2000 years old aqueduct, one of the most famous and most beautiful examples of ancient art. Proceed toward Les Baux de Provence. This fortified hilltop village with narrow cobbled streets wend car-free past ancient houses and a splendid ruined castle is one of the most visited in France. Afterwards a visit to a queen breeder in Eyguieres. If time permits us, we ll do another beekeeping visit in the area of Marseille. Dinner and overnight in hotel near Marseilles.

Day 07 Departure

Early breakfast and transfer to the airport in Marseilles. End of Api Tour.

Package price from:

949 EUR

Price calculated in February 2016. Price is per person, based on twin room.

Included in the price:

- ✓ Transportation in air-conditional coach per itinerary
- ✓ Transfer to Marseille airport and back
- ✓ 6 nights in hotel 3* or 4* on twin rooms
- ✓ 6 buffet breakfasts
- ✓ 6 dinners in hotel (no drinks)
- ✓ Entrances and fees as per program
- ✓ English speaking guide
- ✓ Tourist tax
- ✓ Organization and assistance

Not included:

- ✓ Flight ticket to France and back
- ✓ Supplement for single room 180 EUR
- ✓ Drinks
- ✓ All optional visits
- ✓ Assurance in case of sickness before departure
- ✓ Everything not listed in «Included»

** Final price depends on the number of passengers, on the confirmed date, hotels and services.*

**Specialised beekeepers visits are made upon your request and interests.*

Have a great Api Tour!