

The Luberon
July 23-25

The Luberon is my favorite region in Provence, in the south of France, and one of my favorite regions in all of France. There are numerous worthwhile itineraries in the Luberon in other nearby parts of Provence. On my first trip to the Luberon, we stayed in Gordes (which may be my favorite village in all of France), and visited Rousillon and the market towns of Isle-sur-la-Sorgue and Apt. We were lucky to visit in early May, at the height of poppy season. On my second trip to the area (in September, also a fantastic time to visit), we first visited Arles, St. Remy de Provence (my friend rents a lovely home in St. Remy: <http://www.lagouttedor-provence.com>), Les-Baux-de-Provence and spent a day in the Camargue (including an excellent 2.5 hour jeep tour, €33/person, camargue-safari.gallon@camargue.fr). Then back in the Luberon, we again stayed in Gordes and visited towns such as Saint Saturnin les Apt and Fontaine de Vaucluse. Another trip (in August) took me to Aix-en Provence, Cassis, Le Casselet and Bandol.

Renting a car is essential. Avignon is the closest big train station to the region and it's quite easy to rent a car at the station, but you can also take the train to Aix-en-Provence or fly into the Marseille Provence Airport, which is about half-way between Marseille and Aix. On the trip for the itinerary below, we wanted to visit Marseille briefly, then focus on the northern part of the Luberon, and also, of course, on wine tasting. Thanks to my friend Julien and to *Les Plus Beaux Villages de France* (<http://www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org/en>), we went equipped with a map (see below) highlighting a number of villages to visit or at least drive through during our two days of exploring the region.

Date	To	Cost (total)	Flight/Train/Hotel Details
Fri, July 23	<p>A&K: train Paris to Marseille 18h46, arr. 21h58</p> <p>Two of us took the TGV (high speed train) from Paris and one friend flew from Madrid to Marseille Provence Airport.</p>	<p>Train (2 people): €197.60 (paid)</p> <p>Hotel: €81 for twin + €50 for single (not yet paid)</p>	<p><i>Train info:</i> 18h46 PARIS GARE DE LYON Train # 06135 21h58 MARSEILLE ST CHARLES</p> <p>Hotel Saint Ferreol Adresse: 19, Rue Pisançon Ville: Marseille - Code Postal: 13001 Téléphone: +33 4 91 33 12 21 Mail: reservation@hotel-stferreol.com Numéro de réservation: 00114416-01080 http://www.hotel-stferreol.com</p> <p>This is a no frills hotel but very centrally located, kind people and not too expensive.</p>
Sat, July 24	<p>Saturday we stopped in the village of Vaison-la-Romaine for lunch, then visited Séguret before going to our hotel.</p>	<p>Rental car: US\$159.87 (paid)</p> <p>Hotel: €131 for triple (not yet paid)</p>	<p><i>Rental car info:</i> Voucher number 3233030. Pick-Up Details: 24 Jul 2010 @ 09:00, Auto Europe 1-800-223-5555 Marseille Downtown Office 59 Allees Leon Gambetta</p> <p><i>Hotel:</i> Societe hoteliere de Montmirail Tél.: +33 (0) 4 90 65 84 01 Adresse: Château des eaux, 84190 Gigondas hotel-montmirail@wanadoo.fr http://www.hotelmontmirail.com</p> <p><i>**call if arriving after 6pm</i></p> <p>Dinner at hotel reserved: arrive between 19h45 and 21h00</p> <p>The Montmirail is a quiet hotel with a nice pool a few miles from Gigondas. At first we were annoyed that the hotel was not in walking distance to the town, but then we decided to just take the afternoon to relax by the pool, spend the evening at the hotel restaurant and visit the town the next day.</p>

Date	To	Cost (total)	Flight/Train/Hotel Details
Sun, July 25	<p>Sunday we had lunch in Gigondas, then visited Beaumes-de-Venice, Le Barroux. Bédoin and Crillon-le-Brave before driving up Mt. Ventoux, then spent some time in Châteauneuf-du-Pape before dinner in Avignon.</p> <p>Return rental car Avignon TGV</p> <p>Train Avignon-Paris 22h05, arr. 00h45</p>	<p>Train (2 people): €169.80 (paid)</p>	<p>Rental Car Drop-Off Details: 25 Jul 2010 @ 21:45 Avignon TGV Railstation Route Du Confluent</p> <p><i>Train info:</i> 22h05 AVIGNON TGV 06142 00h45 PARIS GARE DE LYON</p> <p>[La Petite Maison de Carla 7, rue du Puits Neuf - 13100 Aix-en-Provence Tel : 33 (0)4 42 21 20 73 - Mobile : 33 (0)6 74 18 60 98 http://www.provence.guideweb.com/bb/maison-carla/indexa.html]</p> <p>Our friend had a flight back to Madrid the next morning, so I suggested he spend Sunday night in an adorable guesthouse where I had stayed the year before, La Petite Maison de Carla. Carla's mom is the owner and she is extremely welcoming and helpful. The rooms are beautifully decorated and she serves a nice breakfast (included). It was easy enough for our friend to take a train from Avignon to Aix Sunday evening. Then buses leave from the Gare Routière in the center of Aix every 30 min on the 00:30 and 00:00 to the Marseille Provence Airport. The trip takes about 30 minutes. Purchase tickets (€7) at the bus station.</p>

Google maps Address

To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.

Northern Luberon

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• Avignon