

# AVIGNON 2016

PRESS KIT



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Avignon is just 2 hours and 40 minutes from Paris and 3 hours from Roissy airport by TGV and only 5 hours 49 to London by Eurostar since May 2015.

Avignon airport provides direct flights to Great Britain in season and Marseille – Provence airport (only 45mn drive) provides direct flights for 100 destinations.

Avignon, capital of the Christian world in the Middle Ages, home to outstanding architectural heritage, lies in the heart of Provence.

The Palace of the Popes, the largest Gothic palace, residence of the Sovereign Pontiffs during the 14<sup>th</sup> century, is in the centre of the city. Near the Palace stands the remains of the Pont d'Avignon, famous the world over for the beloved children's song, and a prestigious construction in its own right. Both monuments are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage sites.

They encircle the city and lead to interesting strolls among the old winding streets, as you explore chapels and churches, buildings from the Middle Ages, city mansions from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Art and architecture surround you. City squares and terraces, shaded from the summer sun by the leafy plane trees, are an invitation to slow down and enjoy life. The perfect place to watch the world go by, enjoy a drink, chat among friends, rest from a long day of touring or shopping.

Avignon museums house a wide variety of collections. The Archaeology Museum, called the "Musée Lapidaire" displays Greek, Etruscan and Egyptian antiquities, the Petit Palais is famous for its exceptional collection of Italian primitive paintings from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. The Calvet Museum is the museum of Fine Arts; at Angladon Museum you can see 20<sup>th</sup> century masters among other object in the founders' home. The Vouland Museum shows decorative arts and the Collection Lambert has a vast collection of contemporary art.

Avignon is also famous for its theatre festival, founded in 1947 by Jean Vilar. The festival continues to attract the leading contemporary creations in the performing arts. The "Festival Off" takes place concurrently with the Avignon Festival, showing some 1300 shows and contributing to transforming Avignon into one major stage. Cultural activities thrive all year long – opera, theatre, clubs and associations propose countless offerings.

Major events such as Cheval Passion in January, the Hivernales contemporary dance festival in February, and since 2014, Luminessences, a sound and light show in the Palace of the Popes.

Avignon is the perfect place to discover and explore Provençal cuisine. Avignon's chefs have garnered many stars in the best guides, and propose traditional and contemporary cuisine in lovely restaurants.

Avignon's market - Les Halles – offers fresh produce and regional products six days a week. As the capital of the Côtes du Rhône wines, there is no lack of exquisite wines to discover.

A visit to Avignon guarantees the unforgettable experience of enjoying the Provence lifestyle.





# new in 2016

All year round all the events on:  
[www.avignon-tourisme.com](http://www.avignon-tourisme.com)

## LE CARRE DU PALAIS

The Carré du Palais is a wine-tourism complex that will open partly to the public in June 2016, in the very heart of Avignon, on Place de l'Horloge. This project is jointly developed by Inter Rhône and its partners in Avignon, Capital of Côtes du Rhône wines. It will be developed in the magnificent historical mansion Calvet de la Palun, the building which was once the Banque de France in Avignon, just steps from the Palace of the Popes. The Carré du Palais means a School of Wine, a Wine Bar serving all the A.O.C. appellations in the Rhone Valley (opening in June) and a gastronomic restaurant and some suites with breathtaking view (opening in November).

The visitor will also enjoy workshops about fine products like wine, chocolate, coffee, tea or bread. Events about wine and food will be organised all year long.

[www.carredupalaisavignon.com](http://www.carredupalaisavignon.com)

## ALTERAROSA 2016

The rose event in Avignon.

Now happening every 2 years, Alterarosa will take place in 2016 from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> - throughout the entire Ascension Holiday weekend - in a relooked and original version. The roses, will of course fill the Palace of the Popes with their fragrant blooms, and the public will again have the chance to discover the great rose growers' latest creations.

The event will also spread out through the entire city of Avignon for more conviviality and artistic discoveries. Do not miss : the opening concert, the huge pink picnics in the gardens, the pink "tour" of the city, trainings, the exhibitions, conferences and many other surprises.

[www.alterarosa.com](http://www.alterarosa.com)

## AVIGNON'S BRIDGE

### accessible to persons with impaired mobility

The Pont d'Avignon is now entirely accessible for disabled persons. Since mid-October 2015, thanks to teamwork with several partners, the Avignon bridge is truly accessible to everyone. As part of UNESCO World Heritage since 1995, the Pont d'Avignon is proud to be able to be visited by everyone, whether in a wheelchair or not, and thus implement the principle of universality. After an in-depth study and 7 months of work on the ramp and the cobblestone paving of the bridge to adapt it to wheels, the monument is fully accessible. Further studies are underway to enable the bridge to obtain the certification for the label "Tourism and Handicap".

[www.avignon-pont.com](http://www.avignon-pont.com)





## **VICTOR VASARELY - MULTIPLI CITE**

**Du 2 juin au 2 octobre 2016**

The Victor Vasarely (1906-1997) exhibition, Multiplicity, has the ambition to present the work of Vasarely in his creative process.

It proposes a three-part course in Gordes, Avignon and Aix-en-Provence, a triangle in the heart of Provence where Victor Vasarely started its project of a Didactic museum in the Château de Gordes (1970-1996) and Centre architectonic in Aix-en-Provence (1976).

### **At museum Vouland : Victor Vasarely - IN MOVEMENT**

Many unpublished original works mainly from private collections, as well as two museums line the Hungarian Vasarely retrospective presented at Vouland Museum.

[www.vouland.com](http://www.vouland.com)



© Andres Serrano

## **Masterpieces from the Collection Lambert & Andres Serrano**

**Exhibits to 12 June 2016**

The Collection Lambert has opened new spaces for the winter season and the springtime.

The entire space in the two buildings takes the viewing public through Yvon Lambert's collection. The collection's major subjects – Minimal art, Conceptual art, Land art, painting from the 1980's, photography, video, installation — are all displayed anew, and with a new perspective. At the same time, a new exhibit will be entirely devoted to Andres Serrano, one of the leading artists in the Lambert Collection. Serrano will be showing a new series of photographs, directly related to the political and social affairs going on in the first years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

New ! In 2016 you can visit the Collection Lambert in Avignon, the Carré d'Art in Nîmes and the Van Gogh Foundation in Arles with a combined ticket: the best of contemporary art of Provence !

[www.collectionlambert.fr](http://www.collectionlambert.fr)



## AVIGNON, VISIT MORE, SPEND LESS !

### Avignon Passion

The Pass is given free of charge at the Tourism Office and in tourist and cultural sites (monuments, museums). The Pass allows you to discover the heritage in the city of Avignon at special prices. The first visit is full rate, the rate drops for all the following visits: from 10% to 50% off. It is good for 15 days and for the whole family (5 members). Use it at all the tourist sites in Avignon and Villeneuve lez Avignon as well as for excursions.

[www.avignon-tourisme.com](http://www.avignon-tourisme.com)



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## THEMATIC VISITS OF THE CITY

All year round, our guides-interpreters offer thematic guided visits.  
More information on:

[www.avignon-tourisme.com](http://www.avignon-tourisme.com)

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## MOBILE APPS

### Monument Tracker

A virtual ongoing guidebook.

A Smartphone application that sends alerts in real time about the monuments in Avignon and tells you their history as you encounter them.

[www.monument-tracker.com](http://www.monument-tracker.com)



### Appli mobile Vaucluse Tour

The Vaucluse Tourism Board (ADT) and 22 tourism offices in Vaucluse have worked together to create a brand new free mobile phone app, many travelers' favourite travel tool! This app gives visitors with a smart phone or pad staying in Vaucluse the chance to see everything that is offered in Vaucluse. It's perfect for locals too looking for week-end ideas, restaurants, special offers and other.

[www.vaucluse-tourisme.mobi](http://www.vaucluse-tourisme.mobi)



## DIFFERENT WAYS TO VISIT THE CITY

### Daytour App - Provence Pass

Bike rental, self-guided tours to discover Provence.

A unique and fun smartphone application: Pass Provence®.

On foot, by bike or car, in every ride, nice tasting are waiting for you to get a taste from the local products (wine, but also olive oil, honey, chocolate).

Learn, have fun and discover the rich taste of Provence.

[www.daytour.fr](http://www.daytour.fr)

### Avignon on the tourist train

Discover the main sites from the Popes' Palace, classified at the worldwide heritage of the Unesco, the "Rocher des Doms", the old medieval streets of trade and crafts, and last but not least, the famous "Pont d'Avignon".

[www.petittrainavignon.fr](http://www.petittrainavignon.fr)



### Avignon Gourmet Tour

A gastronomic and cultural tour of the centre city of Avignon along a unique gourmand path. Visit the indoor market Les Halles, taste 7 to 8 local products at the various stalls in Les Halles, and local AOC wines, learn the secrets of Lavender...

[www.avignongourmetours.com](http://www.avignongourmetours.com)

### Mobilboard

Explore Avignon on a Gyropode Segway®, discovery the historic city centre alongside certified instructors: the Palace of the Popes, the Rocher des Doms gardens and panoramic views, and of course the Pont d'Avignon. Possibility of outings on Barthelasse Island to take in the beautiful view from the other side of the Rhône.

[www.mobilboard.com/avignon](http://www.mobilboard.com/avignon)

### Vélo cité

Tours lasting an hour or half-an-day. A fun and different way to discover the city. We also pick up and drop off in our pedal-powered rickshaws for transportation in the centre city of Avignon and the close outskirts.

+33 (0)6 37 36 48 89 - [velociteavignon@gmail.com](mailto:velociteavignon@gmail.com)



Find more excursions on [www.avignon-tourisme.com](http://www.avignon-tourisme.com)



avignon

# History



The city of Avignon traces its origins to the Rocher des Doms, a natural shelter located high above the Rhone river. Known both as the «City of the river» and as the «City of the violent wind», Avignon has occupied a strategic position on the Rhône since ancient times. After the Roman occupation and the following invasions, the free town was established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and it was during this period that the famous bridge was built.

With the coming of the Popes in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Avignon made great new strides and seven Popes reigned in Avignon.

First was Clement V who settled in the Venaisin County, property of the Papacy. The City of Avignon belonged to the Earl of Provence, to whom Clement V requested hospitality.

Benedict XII and Clement VI had the Palace built and Clement VI purchased the town of Avignon from Queen Jane, Countess of Provence. Avignon became the capital of Christianity.

The town flourished and served as a place of refuge, attracting foreigners, merchants, artists, religious orders, bankers, and even political outlaws such as Petrarque, famous for his love for Laura.

The arts thrived and Avignon was a flourishing centre of activity and ideas.

In 1378, with the death of Pope Gregory XI, the Papacy returned to Rome, and the great schism of Christianity started.

Since the Papal times, Avignon has remained an important urban centre ruled under the ostentatious legates. The churches grew and multiplied, which gave rise to Rabelais's description «Avignon, the chiming Town».

New troubles appeared with the Reformation, however Avignon remained faithful to Catholicism.

The 17<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries were more auspicious days for the town.

Gentry and commoners organised many festivities and built mansions where painters and architects such as Mignard, Parrocel, Franque... rivalled each other.

During the French Revolution the Venaisin County and Avignon city were annexed to France (1791).

In 1793, Avignon became the County town of Vau-cluse. The monuments from Avignon's prestigious historical past were recently classified as part as UNESCO's world heritage.

The architectural wealth of the city is a major asset which led to Avignon's nomination as European City of the Culture for the year 2000. The Palace of the Popes is also home to a leading edge Convention Centre, right in the heart of the city.

## The Ramparts

The city of Avignon was protected by rampart built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century atop the traces of the ancient Roman city. The 12<sup>th</sup> century ramparts were then destroyed by the King of France and were rebuilt in the 14<sup>th</sup> century under order from Pope Innocent VI, to protect the city from assailants. The ramparts are 4330 meters long, with 35 defensive towers. They originally had deep ditches filled with water all around the outside.



# avignon an exceptional heritage



## WORLD HERITAGE FOR HUMANITY

Capital of the Christianity in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Avignon is famous all over the world for its historical treasures: the Palace of the Popes, Avignon's bridge, the Petit Palais museum, the Palace's square and a part of the ramparts are classified world heritage site by the UNESCO since 1995.

## THE POPES PALACE

Nine popes reigned from Avignon in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Palace built at that time, both an impressive fortress and a majestic palace, is the symbol of the power of Christianity and of the Pope's temporal and spiritual authority in the Middle Ages. The Palace of the Popes was built by Pope Benedict XII and Pope Clement VI, who, in succession had the biggest Gothic palace in the world built in less than twenty years (1335 - 1352).

The visit of the palace takes you through 25 rooms: the great ceremonial rooms used for feasts and formal occasions, the chapels with their frescoes, the private apartments of the pope and the upper terraces which provide such magnificent views of the City of Avignon and the Rhône River. Priceless frescoes remain in the chapels and papal apartments, providing insight into the innovative artistic work of the French and Italian schools of painting. Certain frescoes have been attributed to the great Italian master Matteo Giovannetti.

[www.palais-des-papes.com](http://www.palais-des-papes.com)

### Multimedia tour

Relive the splendour of the papal court and go back in time to the 14<sup>th</sup> century thanks to the new multimedia tools which animate and add to your palace tour. A new audio-guide is synchronised to 7 films in various rooms on the tour. This combination presents a very dynamic and fun view of the construction of the palace and shows the frescoes and furnishings that were once in the rooms. Audio guide commentary now has music, and a screen to show certain paintings and illuminations in 11 languages: FR, GB, DE, IT, ES, NL, RU, JP, CH, PORT, POL (2 €).



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Centre historique d'Avignon :  
Palais des papes,  
ensemble épiscopal et Pont d'Avignon  
inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 1995



### Off the beaten path: secret Palace

During this special Palais Secret visit, off you go along hidden corridors, up and down secret stairways, from the cellar to the rooftop terraces of the Palace. See the private chambers of the popes, the baths, the gardens... An off-the-beaten track itinerary through the palace which ends with a lovely snack featuring Provencal products in winter or a drink in summer on the panoramic Grand Dignitaries' terrace. Visit in French.

Booking at + 33(0)4 32 74 32 74 or on  
[www.avignon-tourisme.com](http://www.avignon-tourisme.com)

### Restoration of Saint-Martial Chapel



The Saint Martial chapel at the Palace of the Popes is a true masterpiece of 14<sup>th</sup> century painting.

The painted decors in the chapel were commissioned by Pope Clement VI, and executed by the Italian painter Matteo Giovannetti.

The chapel has long been closed to the public for preservation reasons. Today, the current major restoration project is ongoing.

This restoration site has been assigned to an Italian firm, the "Consorzio ARKÉ". This restoration works with a leading edge scientific committee and is cofinanced by the City and the national government, with philanthropic support from the Fondation BNP Paribas. Two steps are scheduled. The work is currently in the second phase devoted to preventive conservation studies, which will end in February 2016, for a final opening in 2016 in high season.

[www.avignon-tourisme.com](http://www.avignon-tourisme.com)

### Never-before seen images of the 1901/1944 restoration

To spring 2016

The Palace of the Popes invites you to a visual journey through the essential phases of the restoration of the Palais des Papes, conducted by Henri Nodet father and son, chief architects for the French Monuments historiques in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An impressive collection of black-and-white photographs has been displayed along the entire tour path showing views of the palace before, during and after the restoration. These large format photos also show the palace when it served as a barracks, occupied by soldiers until the early 1900's.

[www.avignon-tourisme.com](http://www.avignon-tourisme.com)



## THE PONT ST BENEZET: A BRIDGE OF LEGEND

Built on the Rhone river in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, the bridge provided an easier route for the pilgrims and the merchants who were on their way to Spain or to Italy.

Several times damaged by wars and the flooding Rhone, it was continuously repaired until the 17<sup>th</sup> century when it ceased being restored.

Only four of the original twenty-two arches remain standing. St. Nicolas Chapel, on the bridge, was dedicated to the patron saint of mariners.

Everyone knows the legend of the building of the bridge, and for those who don't: a divinely inspired young shepherd named Bénézet is said to have caused the bridge to be built. To prove his divine mission to the sceptical bishop, he hoisted an enormous stone block and cast it down at the designated site.

Visuals and sound bring the bridge to life, in addition to the information on the history of the bridge and the legend of Saint Benezet, with the audio-guide in 11 languages (free).

The site of the Avignon Bridge offers nearly entirely accessible disabled access: audioguides, parking spaces, sliding door, dedicated ticket window, flat traffic areas, restrooms, lifts.

[www.avignon-pont.com](http://www.avignon-pont.com)



Avignon's Bridge  
accessible to persons with  
impaired mobility

The Pont d'Avignon is now entirely accessible for disabled persons. Since October 2015, thanks to teamwork with several partners, the Avignon bridge is truly accessible to everyone. As part of UNESCO World Heritage since 1995, the Pont d'Avignon is proud to be able to be visited by everyone, whether in a wheelchair or not, and thus implement the principle of universality. After an in-depth study and 7 months of work on the ramp and the cobblestone paving of the bridge to adapt it to wheels, the monument is fully accessible. Further studies are underway to enable the bridge to obtain the certification for the label "Tourism and Handicap".

**The Pont d'Avignon like you have never ever seen it before !**

**A historical digital 3-D recreation of the entire Pont d'Avignon**

The project for recreating, in 3-D, the Pont d'Avignon is a scientific adventure which has brought together geo-morphologists, historians, archaeologists, and architects who have worked together for over four years peering into the bridge's secrets. Their interdisciplinary investigative work is unprecedented and has considerably increased the knowledge of the bridge, for its history, paradoxically, is not very well known. Today's project aims at reconstructing, using new technologies, the 18 arches which are missing, and which enabled the bridge to span the 2 arms of the Rhone river. This 3-D full restitution of the Pont d'Avignon Saint-Bénézet and the defensive châtelet on the side of the Philippe le Bel tower will also reconstitute the medieval river landscape and environment.

See the film on the digital recreation of going back and forth over the Pont d'Avignon on:

[www.grandavignon.fr](http://www.grandavignon.fr)



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Centre historique d'Avignon :  
Palais des papes,  
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inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 1995



## A TOWN OF COLLECTORS

### Musée du Petit Palais

The Petit Palais displays Italian paintings from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries from the Louvre museum: the Campana collection. Works by famous artists such as Botticelli and Carpaccio and works from many masters as well as other medieval Provençal sculptures and paintings and Italian paintings. It is one of the major European museums of medieval art.

Musée de France Label.

A Unesco World Heritage site.

[www.petit-palais.org](http://www.petit-palais.org)



### Musée Calvet

In a 18<sup>th</sup> C. magnificent private mansion, varied collections as paintings or sculptures from the 15<sup>th</sup> C. to the 20<sup>th</sup> C. Marcel Puech donation: furniture, decorative arts and goldsmith craft. Modern art hall Victor Martin: Soutine, Camille Claudel, Bonnard, Utrillo and Albert Gleizes. Three permanent rooms dedicated to the Egyptian collections ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in France in quality and quantity. Saint Priest rooms: paintings and sculptures to discover the evolution of the arts in Avignon from Renaissance to Revolution.

[www.musee-calvet-avignon.com](http://www.musee-calvet-avignon.com)

### Musée Lapidaire

Gallery of Ancient Art at the Calvet Museum. Displays the collections of Greek, Roman, Gallo-Roman and Paleo-Christian archeology. The rare ensemble of Greek sculptures with funerary steles, votive reliefs was enriched in 2014 with two deposits from the Louvre (Myrtia stele, Killaron lekythos), a magnificent series of Attic, Corinthian and Italiote vases and terra cotta Greek statuettes.

[www.musee-calvet-avignon.com](http://www.musee-calvet-avignon.com)

### Palais du Roure

Today, the Palais du Roure is a museum of local history and culture and a Mediterranean archives and documentation centre.

The Palais du Roure is a 15<sup>th</sup> century city mansion, built by a family from Florence who owned it up until 1907. One eminent family member was Folco de Baroncelli (1869-1943), "father" of the Camargue, whose life and times are very present in the collections.

The old home was saved from ruin in 1918 by Jeanne de Flandreysy (1874-1959), who renovated it to the state in which it is found today, and who bequeathed it and all her collections to the City of Avignon. A scholar and expert on Provence, Italy and Frédéric Mistral, Jeanne de Flandreysy established major collections and documentation on these subjects.

[www.avignon.fr/fr/culture/musees/roure.php](http://www.avignon.fr/fr/culture/musees/roure.php)

### Requien museum

The Museum of Natural History in Avignon is named after the 19<sup>th</sup> century Avignon naturalist Esprit Requien (1788-1851), who acquired national and international fame in the field of botany. His herbarium is a world standard. His collections, which also cover geology and paleontology, alongside the collections of Esprit Calvet make this museum the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked museum of natural history outside of Paris, and contain nearly one million specimens.

The rooms open to the public retrace the geological and paleontological history of Vaucluse, the formation of the Earth and the glaciations in the Quaternary, displaying fossils, rocks and minerals...

Frequent temporary exhibits in addition to the permanent displays.

[www.museum-avignon.org](http://www.museum-avignon.org)

### Municipal Archives in Avignon

#### The Former Pawn Shop

Since 1986, the Municipal Archives have made their home in the one-time pawn shop in Avignon. The Archives are a cultural public service and endeavor to make the archives and past history accessible to one and all, for

scientific research, general knowledge and pleasure.

Temporary exhibitions.

### The Pawnshop and the Silkworks Conditioning Museum:

This museum space, located in an ancient chapel, displays objects, works and documents which tell the story of the oldest pawnshop in France (1610) and of the establishment founded to condition silk, that the pawnshop administrators created in 1801.

[www.archives.avignon.fr](http://www.archives.avignon.fr)



### Collection Lambert in Avignon

The Yvon Lambert collection of art reflects the major trends in contemporary art and contains 556 works of art. Yvon Lambert's donation to the French government, placed in permanent deposit in Avignon, is one of the biggest donations ever made in France. The Collection has doubled the exhibition area with the renovation works.

Temporary exhibits take place in the Caumont mansion. Works from the permanent collection are displayed in the Montfaucon mansion, the new building next door to the Caumont mansion.

The Collection brings together works of Minimal art, Conceptual art, Land art, painting from the 1980's, video and photographs from the 1990's and works by artists such as: Cy Twombly, Sol LeWitt, Donald Judd, Niele Toroni, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Anselm Kiefer, Christian Boltanski, Nan Goldin, Douglas Gordon and Jenny Holzer, Robert Ryman, Andres Serrano, Donald Judd, Brice Marden, Daniel Buren, Dennis Oppenheim, Gordon Matta-Clark, Anselm Kiefer, Miquel Barcelo, Julian Schnabel, Douglas Gordon, Bertrand Lavier...

The new extended building also has an amphitheatre and a large reception room, two outside courtyards, a project room for artists' videos and films, performances, concerts, hosting dance companies or theatre troupes, a residence apartment for guest artist and a restoration workshop. The spaces dedicated to museum educational activities, to the bookshop and the restaurant also double in size. The Berger & Berger architectural firm has been selected to design the future buildings for the Collection.

Masterpieces from the Collection Lambert & Andres Serrano

Exhibits to 12 June 2016

[www.collectionlambert.com](http://www.collectionlambert.com)



### Angladon museum

The heirs to the collection of couturier Jacques Doucet founded a museum in their home (the 18<sup>th</sup> century Massilian mansion).

This museum, opened in 1996, is the only museum in the South of France to display a painting by Van Gogh «Wagons de chemin de fer». Collection of painting of the 19<sup>th</sup> C. and 20<sup>th</sup> C.: Manet, Degas, Daumier, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Vuillard, Sisley, Picasso, Fujita, Modigliani.

The museum presents as well another interest: he was restored to present the house of his founders with his 17<sup>th</sup> C. lounges, cabinet of drawings and a lounge of Far East. Forty works gathered from collectors and museums.

[www.angladon.com](http://www.angladon.com)

### Fondation Louis Vouland

In a cosy mansion from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a prestigious collection of decorative art from 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> C.: Parisian furniture, china, tapestries, painting and a new collection of paintings of artists from Avignon and Provence from 19<sup>th</sup> C.

2016 summer exhibition: Vasarely.

[www.vouland.com](http://www.vouland.com)

# avignon on stage



Avignon has long been an important intellectual crossroads. Avignon University is one of the oldest in Europe and exerted strong intellectual influence up until the French Revolution. St. Marthe Hospital has been transformed into the modern-day university, and offers all disciplines of higher learning.

Avignon, land of the Papacy, has also been a centre of art from the Middle Age when the popes employed many artists to embellish the city and the churches.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, major painters Nicolas Mignard and Joseph Vernet were born in Avignon.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Avignon became a cultural epicentre with scientists such as Jean Henri Fabre, Esprit Requien and the birthplace of the « Felibrige » movement (defence of the Provençal language) with poets such as Frédéric Mistral, Aubanel...

Avignon is Henri Bosco's birthplace and the town where Jean Vilar founded in 1947 Avignon Theatre Festival which is one of the most important theatre festivals for new creations in the world.

## AVIGNON'S FESTIVAL

July 6<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>

The Avignon Festival means 70 years of universal thought at the service of cultural heritage and contemporary creation. 70 years of placing art in perspective with the reality of society. 70 years of aesthetic and political projects that observe the major metamorphoses of the performing arts and the complexity of mankind. In 2014, Olivier Py was the first director to run the Festival since it was founded by Jean Vilar. In keeping with his ideas, Py has reconnected to the militant spirit and offers theatre-goers "a different relation to the world, one in which politics are not isolated from both thinking, and hope".

[www.festival-avignon.com](http://www.festival-avignon.com)

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## THE FESTIVAL OFF - 70<sup>th</sup> edition

July 7<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>

The Off, a vast fair of live performances and cultural events on an international scale, offers over 1300 different plays each year. The Off means nearly 8000 artists from all over France and over 20 foreign countries, performing their creations in 125 different venues, to audiences from near and far. All the different companies performing in the Off festival turn the city of Avignon into one gigantic stage where all the theatre disciplines come together: theatre, readings, café-theatre, circus, dance, music, street theatre... classical works, modern works, contemporary creation for every audience and every age. Each summer, the huge opening parade stages thousands of the actors involved in the Off.

[www.festival-avignon.com](http://www.festival-avignon.com)



## THE OPERA HOUSE

The Opera-Theatre for Avignon and the Vaucluse offers a wide range of shows achieving great for all types of audiences – opera, dance, theatre and music. It reserves time and space for contemporary performances, young actors, singers and musicians.

[operagrandavignon.fr](http://operagrandavignon.fr)

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## MAISON JEAN VILAR

The Maison Jean Vilar is dedicated to the performing arts and has exhibitions, a videotheque and a library that is the decentralised branch of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. The Maison Jean Vilar proposes events, performances, workshops and editorial content that includes the Cahiers Jean Vilar.

**Présences de Jean Vilar (1912-1971):** the permanent installation of the collections of the Jean Vilar Association. Biography of Jean Vilar, the founder of the Festival d'Avignon (1947), director of the Théâtre National Populaire (1951-1963). Presentation of scale models and costumes, manuscripts, correspondence, posters, press kits, videos... Bookshop.

[www.maisonjeanvilar.org/news](http://www.maisonjeanvilar.org/news)

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## LES SCENES D'AVIGNON

The group of theatres known as "Les Scènes d'Avignon" includes 6 theatres and year-round companies in Avignon: Théâtre du Balcon, Théâtre du Chêne Noir, Théâtre du Chien qui Fume, Théâtre des Carmes, Théâtre des Halles and Les Hivernales.

The group puts on quality productions all year long, emphasizing top-notch creation in Avignon and beyond, while also cultivating their differences.

### Fest'Hiver

All 6 theatres work together in the heart of winter in Avignon to celebrate theatre and dance, hosting young companies from the P.A.C.A. region who do not have their own theatres in which to perform.

[www.scenesdavignon.com](http://www.scenesdavignon.com)

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## LE CDC - LES HIVERNALES

All year long, Les Hivernales Choreographic Development Centre programmes activities furthering choreographic culture, and hosts performances and choreographers in residence. It organises classes and events in its theatre. Among the highlights each year – Les Hivernales Festival in February with performances and classes in and around Avignon, a festival which has been ongoing for more than 35 years. There is also a summer festival in July – L'été au CDC.

[www.hivernales-avignon.com](http://www.hivernales-avignon.com)

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## A.J.M.I.

Improvisational and jazz music, classes, conferences... Great program from October to June, a summer festival and on request for groups and individuals. Occasional rental of the room and the equipment.

[www.jazzalajmi.com](http://www.jazzalajmi.com)

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Events all year round, an intense cultural life!

Special events in Avignon are characterised by the originality and wide diversity of things to do. Upon arriving in Avignon, request the monthly events bulletin called "Rendez-vous" published by the Tourism Office, to learn about all the choices awaiting you. Here you will find information on the art exhibitions, dance performances, music, festivities, conferences, theatre offerings and other events. Avignon has an Opera-Theatre and many small theatres which perform live theatre all year long.

Ask for our monthly event calendar « Rendez-vous d'Avignon ».

### Cheval Passion - 31<sup>st</sup> edition

1200 horses, 250 exhibitors, contests and 90 hours of entertainment and show... and of course the famous Gala des Crinières d'Or. And many more surprises to come!

**January 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>**

[www.cheval-passion.com](http://www.cheval-passion.com)



### 38<sup>e</sup> Hivernales d'Avignon

Festival of contemporary dance: shows, trainings, meetings...

**February 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>**

[www.hivernales-avignon.com](http://www.hivernales-avignon.com)



### Springtime in Avignon - theater festival

6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival of Comedy in le Paris theater.

**March 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>**

[www.leparisavignon.com](http://www.leparisavignon.com)

### Rencontres Cinématographiques du Sud

Cinema event: meeting between professionals and the public. 20 films casted in avant-première.

**March 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>**

[www.lesrencontresdusud.fr](http://www.lesrencontresdusud.fr)

### The «Globe-Trotteurs» festival (Escalaes Voyageuses)

Fabulous festival on the subject of travel and human adventures. Conferences, films, photos.

**3 days in March**

<http://abmavignon.free.fr>

### Festo Pitcho - 10<sup>th</sup> edition

Performing Arts Festival for young audiences.

**March 19<sup>th</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

[www.festopitcho.com](http://www.festopitcho.com)

### Avignon Motor Festival

International festival of mechanical locomotion. Over a century of motorised travel – a great auto, motorcycle, leisure show. 50 000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibit space, 2400 vehicles, over 35 000 visitors, 140 clubs, 360 exhibitors.

**March 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>**

[www.avignon-motor-festival.com](http://www.avignon-motor-festival.com)

### Spring fair - 94<sup>th</sup> edition

400 exhibitors, 45,000 m<sup>2</sup>, renewable energy, sustainable development, environment...

**April 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>**

[www.foireavignon.com](http://www.foireavignon.com)

### Alterarosa - 11<sup>th</sup> edition

Rose's exhibition in the Palace of the Popes.

**May 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>**

[www.alterarosa.com](http://www.alterarosa.com)



### Festival Emergences

6<sup>th</sup> edition. Festival of young artistic creation from Avignon and the region.

**May 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>**

[www.surikat-prod.com](http://www.surikat-prod.com)

### Antics market

**May 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>**

[www.avignon.fr](http://www.avignon.fr)

### Naturavignon

Organic and solidarity products, regional crafts market.

**May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

[www.avenir84.org](http://www.avenir84.org)

### Museums open at night

**Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>**

[www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr](http://www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr)

### Fenêtre sur Courts - Short Film Festival

Fiction, documentaries, journalistic films, film clips, essays. The jury is made up of actors and directors.

**May - June**

[www.chienquifume.com](http://www.chienquifume.com)

### Horn Festival

Concerts, masterclass, competitions.

**June 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>**

### Music Day

**June 21<sup>st</sup>**

Dates may change.



## 70<sup>th</sup> Avignon Festival

Created in 1947 by Jean Vilar, the oldest and the most famous festival of France. The Festival d'Avignon is above all a Performing Arts Festival.

**July 6<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>**

### Festival off

More than 1000 different theatre companies from all of France, and many foreign countries, turn the city of Avignon into one immense stage.

**July 7<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>**

[www.avignonleoff.com](http://www.avignonleoff.com)

### Theatre festival for children

Plays, workshops, and exhibitions.

**July 9<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>**

[www.festivaltheatrenfants.com](http://www.festivaltheatrenfants.com)

### Bastille day

Bike races and bal.

**July 14<sup>th</sup>**

### Festival Résonance - 9<sup>th</sup> edition

Electronic Music Festival in outstanding historical architecture sites.

**3 days end of July**

[www.festival-resonance.fr](http://www.festival-resonance.fr)



### Avignon jazz festival

Jazz concerts and the European Jazz competition - Tremplin du jazz – for young jazz musicians.

**July - August**

[www.trempjazz.com](http://www.trempjazz.com)

### New wine celebration

The traditional harvest proclamation which starts the Côtes du Rhône grape harvest. Cultural and festive wine events.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**

[www.bandesvendanges.fr](http://www.bandesvendanges.fr)

### Luminessences

Light and sound show in the Popes' palace

**August 12<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>**

(dates may change)

[www.lesluminessences-avignon.com](http://www.lesluminessences-avignon.com)

### Salon Auto Moto Retro

Old cars fair. Regional and national automobile and motorcycle clubs, cars, motorcycles, scooters, Solex...

**September**

Dates may change.

### Medieval Festival at Carmes square: medieval market and events

A medieval camp, medieval market, medieval banquet. Seminar on the Middle Ages.

**September**

### European Heritage Day

Discover historical heritage. On Sunday city monuments are free. Guided tours, access to historical sites rarely open to the public...

**3<sup>rd</sup> week-end of September**

[www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr](http://www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr)

### 10km race in the city

Running race in the centre city and on Barthelasse Island.

**September**

### Gastronomy Festival

Events to celebrate regional gastronomy.

**September**

[www.fete-gastronomie.fr](http://www.fete-gastronomie.fr)

### Animo & Nature

Animal and Pet show: approximately 6000 dogs, cats, birds, poultry, rabbits, reptiles, spiders, ostriches...

**October**

[www.animo-nature.com](http://www.animo-nature.com)

### Parcours de l'art

20 artists in different places of exhibitions in the city.

**3 weeks in October**

[www.parcoursdelart.com](http://www.parcoursdelart.com)

### Science festival

**Mid-October**

### Avignon Blues Festival

**October**

[www.avignonbluesfestival.com](http://www.avignonbluesfestival.com)

### Les Automnales de l'orgue

Organ festival. Concerts, animations, master class.

**October - November**

### Model Show

**October - November**

### Millévin

Festive celebration of the new Côtes du Rhône wine, processions of the Wine. Confraternities, tastings...

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**

[www.millevin.fr](http://www.millevin.fr)

### Foire de la Saint-André

Traditionnal commercial fair.

**November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>**

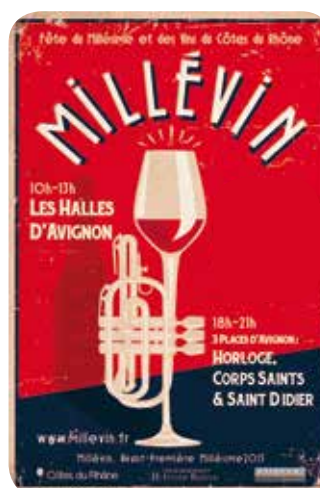
### Collection fair

**A day end of December**

### Christmas Market

Traditional Christmas Market.

**4 weeks in December**



Dates may change.

# avignon town of gastronomy



## PROVENÇAL GASTRONOMY

Avignon and the surrounding area are the centre of very rich Provençal and classic gastronomic traditions. Avignon is the city in France with the greatest number of starred restaurants and offers to its visitors a large scale of establishments renowned for the excellence of their cuisine.

Typical local cuisine is characterised by garlic, olive oil, tomato sauce and above all aromatic herbs (thyme, rosemary, onion, basilica...).

The region is rich in fresh vegetables which play a great part in the local cuisine. Examples are pistou soup, ratatouille, aioli, the various «tians» casseroles made with zucchini, eggplant, cardoons, «ragouts» (stews) of asparagus, artichokes. Vegetables of all sorts and countless seasonal salads...

## Specialties

Papalines: (fine chocolate with sugar and oregano spirit) are Avignon specialties. Other regional specialties include: Candied fruits from Apt; the melon from Cavaillon; «Berlingots» (sweets) from Carpentras; Nougat from Sault; Rice from Camargue; Asparagus from Lauris; Olives; Pastis, Provençal herbs.



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## DISCOVER REGIONAL PRODUCTS

Les Halles: Covered market, Tuesday to Friday 6am-1:30pm.  
Saturday and Sunday 6am-2pm.

This big covered market has 40 food merchants selling local food. Place Pie.

## La Petite cuisine des Halles

Every Saturday morning from 11am to 12pm (except August)  
Avignon's chefs have space to prepare their specialties and demonstrate their talents, featuring recipes and a menu with products from Les Halles.

This space is also open to other food lovers, who can propose their own recipes.

[www.avignon-leshalles.com](http://www.avignon-leshalles.com)





## AVIGNON, CAPITAL OF THE CÔTES DU RHÔNE WINES



Vine has been cultivated in the Rhone Valley since antiquity, and extended with the State of the Papacy in the 14<sup>th</sup> century on the left side of the Rhone river, and in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in the Kingdom of France, on the right banks of the river.

The «Côtes du Rhone» appellation was born in 1937. It establishes strict rules of production for Cotes du Rhone wines and the grand crus, or vintages, of which the most famous is the heady red wines from Châteauneuf du Pape.

Other Côtes du Rhone wines include the vintages from Gigondas (rosé and red); Vacqueyras (white, rosé and red); Rasteau (Grenache); Beaumes de Venise; Cairanne; Roaix; Sablet; Séguret; Valréas and Visan.

There is also the first Côtes du Rhone, known as the Primeur wine, traditionally celebrated on the third Thursday of November in Avignon. In 1996, Avignon officially became the capital of the Cotes du Rhone».

### The Papal Vineyards

At the Rocher des Doms park, the Papal vines were planted by the “Compagnons des Côtes du Rhône”. The 554 vines include Grenache noir, Viognier, Grenache blanc and Syrah varietals, the stars of the Côtes du Rhône guaranteed vintage label.

These grapes are harvested during a VIP harvest in the fall. 20 teams prune them throughout the year, guided by the vintners. The harvest also features a Côtes du Rhône choir and a band. The first vintage was made in the year 2000 and the 100 bottles of red and white wine are auctioned off for charity.

[www.bandesvendanges.fr](http://www.bandesvendanges.fr)



### Harvest proclamation - 21<sup>st</sup> edition

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**

The “Compagnons des Côtes du Rhône” organize a series of wine-related cultural and festive events which include the “Harvest Proclamation”, or “Ban des Vendanges”, a traditional celebration which is held along the Rhone river. The “Côtes du Rhône Ban des Vendanges” unites the two banks of the Rhône and the towns and villages along its banks, from Switzerland to Camargue, and more specifically, from Vienne to Avignon. The festivities are placed under the auspices of Saint Agricole, patron saint of agriculture, vines and soil. The “Ban des Vendanges” originates from the Middle Ages, when it was a compulsory collective service which both controlled and collected the “dime”, or tithe owed. Although it was strictly applied, the “Ban des Vendanges” was the best-tolerated of all the seigniorial obligations. Today, the famous «ban des vendanges» is a popular feast celebrated each year in September in Avignon, featuring a parade of the wine-making brotherhoods, a Harvest Mass, gathering of the grapes from the papal vineyard, tasting of Côtes du Rhône wines and sales of regional products. Musical entertainment.

[www.bandesvendanges.fr](http://www.bandesvendanges.fr)

## New in Avignon: The Carré du Palais

The Carré du Palais is a wine-tourism complex that will open partly to the public in June 2016, in the very heart of Avignon, on Place de l'Horloge.

This project is jointly developed by Inter Rhône and its partners in Avignon, Capital of Côtes du Rhône wines. It will be developed in the magnificent historical mansion Calvet de la Palun, the building which was once the Banque de France in Avignon, just steps from the Palace of the Popes.

The Carré du Palais means a School of Wine, a Wine Bar serving all the A.O.C. appellations in the Rhone Valley (opening in June)

and a gastronomic restaurant and some suites with breathtaking view (opening in November).

The visitor will also enjoy workshops about fine products like wine, chocolate, coffee, tea or bread. Events about wine and food will be organised all year long.



[www.carredupalaisavignon.com](http://www.carredupalaisavignon.com)

## EPICURIUM, the fascinating world of fruits and vegetables



In June 2010, Epicurium opened its doors to the public at large. Epicurium is a living museum on fruit and vegetables where visitors can explore the fascinating world of fruit and vegetable varieties, from seed to the plate. 8000m<sup>2</sup> of space houses the orchard, the vegetable garden and a sensorial exhibit on man's use of fruits and vegetables in agriculture, industry and food. A programme of workshops has been planned for all ages – both on the kitchen side, to learn about cooking and en-joying, and on the garden side.

Epicurium is supported by the European Fruit and Vegetable Innovation Cluster, and invites the general public to a captivating sensorial, scientific and cultural exploration of fruits and vegetables.

[www.epicurium.fr](http://www.epicurium.fr)



Ask for our guide  
«Avignon Gourmand».



## LES FABRICATEURS

The Fabricateurs is a collective gathering twenty art venues, artists and craftsmen from Avignon. Their guide is dedicated to creations: design, textile art, decoration, fashion, accessories, stationery, furniture and contemporary art and offers a discovery tour in the city. Available at the Tourist Office.

<https://lesfabricateurs.wordpress.com>



## DESIGNER'S SPRING

Each square of the city welcomes thirty creators and artisans and some workshops (floral, makeup or street art...), free on reservation for child and / or adult.

In May



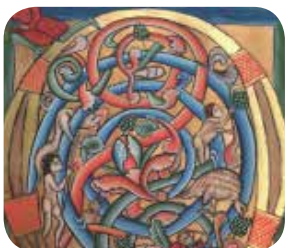
## ATELIERS D'ARTISTES

40 artists open their individual or collective workshops to the public to discover all kind of visual arts.

Map available on:

<https://sites.google.com/site/aacavignon/home>

In November



## LES ATELIERS D'ART DU PALAIS DES PAPES

The Association Altera Roma proposes a program of medieval art classes for adults, right in the very heart of the Popes' Palace. Classes in illuminated manuscripts, calligraphy, paper marbling, ceramics.

[www.lesateliersdupalais.com](http://www.lesateliersdupalais.com)



avignon

# nature and environment



People come to Avignon for its outstanding architecture, then stay to enjoy its lovely green spaces.

## BARTHELASSE ISLAND

700 hectares of land, 400 of which are farmable, Barthelasse Island is the biggest river island in France. It is surrounded by the two arms of the Rhone river, the big Rhône on the Villeneuve side and the little Rhône on the Avignon side.

The mighty and wild Rhône river created islands which varied in number and size over the centuries. Some ended up as part of the mainland on the Gard side, some on the Vaucluse side. Others formed a sort of unstable archipelago which joined together forming a single island, Barthelasse Island, whose southern tip has retained the name of a former island, Ile Piot. In 1447 an Avignon citizen by the name of Jean Richard, referred to as "Barthelucius", took out a long lease on most of the islands between Villeneuve and Avignon.

[www.avignon.fr](http://www.avignon.fr)

The banks of the Rhone have been developed into a walking path since the year 2000. This former towpath has fabulous views over the city of favourite with the Avignon people for jogging or simply strolling (bicycles circuits sign posted on the island).

## ViaRhôna

The circuit « ViaRhôna from the Léman to the Méditerranéan » : 815 km

Ride on this path of civilization, over 2,000 years of history, between the Mediterranean and Europe.

[www.viarhona.com](http://www.viarhona.com)



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## CRUISING ON THE RHÔNE RIVER

### Free shuttle boat

Now the banks of the Rhône surrounding the Pont d'Avignon have been redesigned and a free river shuttle « La Ville d'Avignon » takes you across to this bucolic retreat, the largest green space in Avignon.

### Cruises

Several river cruises offer other views of the city from the Rhône river.

### Dinner and lunch on the Rhône river

Have a look at the cruises on: [www.mireio.net](http://www.mireio.net)



## GARDENS

For a nice break after your visit, enjoy these two public gardens in Avignon: the Rocher des Doms garden, and the square Agricola-Perdiguer, right next to the Tourist Office.

### Rocher des Doms garden

This high area was the cradle of civilization in Avignon, where a large Neolithic settlement existed, and then an oppidum. During the middle Ages, this area was common grazing grounds. In 1839 the decision was made to develop a park, and statues of famous men were added: Jean Althen, Félix Gras, and then the Venus with Swallows by Félix Charpentier.

The park now covers 29,000m<sup>2</sup> and has a large basin with swans, ducks, geese and carp, the delight of generations of children and a cool, pleasant stop for all. The gardens overlook the Rhône and afford magnificent views of the entire area.

[www.avignon.fr](http://www.avignon.fr)



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## AVIGNON IN THE HEART OF PROVENCE

The Avignon countryside is outstandingly beautiful and diverse.

In just a short time, visitors can get to the many varied sites such as Fontaine de Vaucluse, Mount Ventoux, the ochre cliffs of Roussillon, the Luberon range with its old high perched villages, Camargue with its Rhone delta, Pont du Gard, Baux de Provence and the Alpilles range.

In addition to its countless natural attractions, the Avignon countryside and villages offer rich architectural heritage.

- . Roman ruins in Orange, Vaison-la-Romaine, Arles, Nîmes, Pont du Gard
- . Romanesque and Gothic churches, abbeys
- . Ansois, Lourmarin, Barbentane castles
- . Many art museums and various collections
- . Folk museums such as the Bakery museum in Bonnieux, the Lavender museum in Coustellet or the Vinegrower museum in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Jean-Henri Fabre's house...

The county of Vaucluse is also a great place for many country style holidays: Gîtes (country lodging) and Bed and Breakfasts offer many possibilities in the countryside. Biking, hiking and riding routes can be suggested from Avignon throughout the entire region.

[www.provenceguide.com](http://www.provenceguide.com)



# avignon and the environment



## AVIGNON FOR A PRESERVED ENVIRONMENT

### Vélopop

Velopop means 200 bicycles for rent 24 hours a day and 7 days a week at 17 bus stops in Avignon and one in Villeneuve.

[www.velopop.fr](http://www.velopop.fr)



### ViaRhôna

« ViaRhôna from the Léman to the Mediterranean »: 815 km

Ride from the shores of Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean beaches by bicycle along the Rhône river ! Ride along this path of civilization, over 2,000 years of history, between the Mediterranean and Europe. Enjoy the sceneries, towns, villages and vineyards. The Valence-Avignon section is already achieved, the Avignon - Sète one is in progress.

[www.viarhona.com](http://www.viarhona.com)

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### La Baladine

A 100% electric, silent clean vehicle with 7 seats to travel through the centre city. Adapted to the narrow winding streets in the historical city centre, this new Baladine Bus is the perfect solution to get around town, do your shopping, get from one neighbourhood to another, stroll or visit the monuments. Wave your hand to show you want to get on.

Ticket price is 0.50 €. Subscription tickets are available.

[www.tcra.fr](http://www.tcra.fr)

### Electric shuttle buses

between the "Parking des Italiens" and the city centre.

There are now two parking lots outside the city walls, connected to the city centre with shuttle buses which run every 20 minutes. One parking lot is on Ile Piot, and the second is the "Parking des Italiens".

3 electric shuttle buses replace the old buses.

Clean, silent smaller electric buses connect the parking lots to the centre city – an improvement in the quality of life for inhabitants and visitors.

## PARKING IN AVIGNON

Outside parking with free shuttle to the city centre:

### Ile Piot car park

1100 free parking places. Garded from Monday to Friday 7.30am to 8.30pm, Saturday 1.30pm to 8.30pm. During the theater festival in July: every day 7.30am to 2.30am.  
Free shuttle bus to the city center every 10 min.

### Italiens car park

1430 free parking lots. Garded from Monday to Saturday 7.30am to 8.30pm. Free shuttle bus to the city center each 10 min from Monday to Thursday 7.30am to 10.00pm, Friday and Saturday 7.30am to midnight.

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### Cityz Avignon - car sharing

Car renting 24/7. Six stations are available through the city.

[www.avignon-autopartage.org](http://www.avignon-autopartage.org)

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### Multi-modal traffic hub

After 8 months of construction work, the Avignon Bus Station (gare routière) reopened in June 2014 and is now a multimodal traffic hub: space where all the different modes of travel interconnect to optimise trips and travel time.

This new pole has several advantages: dock-side information system, one per dock, reduced-mobility access, lifts to the SNCF train station and the carpark, videosurveillance... There are also security and surveillance personnel on site. Three hundred and fifty coach arrivals and departures each day. An average of one million passengers uses the bus station each year.

[www.pemavignon.fr](http://www.pemavignon.fr)



# avignon high tech



## Digital Avignon, the French Tech label

In 2015 Avignon has been awarded of the French label “French Culture Tech” which emphasizes culture and digital technology. The Avignon-Arles economic basin includes 600 companies which work in the field of digital technology. Awarding of this label to Avignon will help the city develop its digital economy.

[www.lafrenchtech.com](http://www.lafrenchtech.com)



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## Technopôle Pégase Avignon

The Pegasus cluster was created in May 2006 by a group of 14 people from industry, education and research area, with a request to build an ambitious development plan for the aerospace industry in the region of Provence Alpes Côte d’Azur.

It brings together more than 300 actors motivated by the development of a new generation of aircraft (drones, airships, light aircraft, helicopters, new concepts and stratospheric aircraft).

[www.pole-pegase.com](http://www.pole-pegase.com)      [www.avignon.aeroport.fr](http://www.avignon.aeroport.fr)



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## Avignon’s bridge in 3D

The Pont d’Avignon, a real feat of technical prowess in its time, once connected the two banks of the Rhône river. The bridge has always been a vector of legends and a powerful symbol of the area. Since the year 2010, interdisciplinary research has been conducted on the bridge under the auspices of the Grand Avignon metropolitan area and the CNRS French research institute. New museum space and devices present the results of this unprecedented research.

The apps are available on smart phone or tablets on the websites:

[www.palais-des-papes.com](http://www.palais-des-papes.com) et [www.grandavignon.fr](http://www.grandavignon.fr)





avignon

city of  
conventions



## CONVENTION CENTRE IN THE PALACE OF THE POPES

### The outstanding theatre for all of your events

The Convention Centre in the Palace of the Popes offers a unified venue with 16 different character-filled rooms for the organisation of your meetings, congresses, special events and gala evenings, for 20 to 536 persons in meeting style, 700 persons in reception mode. There are 1800 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, in two private wings of the palace, in the very heart of the historical city centre and accessible on foot to the hotel infrastructures.

## PARC EXPO

### The strategic crossroads for your events.

The Parc Expo or Avignon Fairgrounds is a multi-purpose, modular site with 27,500 m<sup>2</sup> of single-level, roofed space including 7 exhibition halls ranging from 930 to 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> and a plenary hall with 930 places.

The Fairgrounds are located just next to the airport and the Agroparc cluster park, a pole of excellence located in Avignon – the biggest business incubator in the PACA region. The Agroparc cluster has long been dedicated to food intelligence and now also turns to other sectors including the digital sector, where Avignon won the French Tech label in 2015.

Two other clusters are located by the Fairgrounds: TERRALIA for the food industry, and PEGASE, an Aeronautics cluster.

### Contact

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# getting to Avignon



## BY TRAIN - 2 stations

The **TGV station** designed by Jean-Marie Duthilleul and opened in June 2001 in the Courtine area, Avignon is now 2 hours 40 minutes from Paris, 3 hours of Roissy Charles de Gaulle and 1 hour of Lyon thanks to the Mediterranean TGV line (30 minutes to Marseille).

**Avignon-London in Eurostar all year round.**

**New direct connection with Barcelona, Madrid, Frankfurt and Geneva.**

**Avignon centre city train station:** regional train schedules for Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur on [www.ter-sncf.com](http://www.ter-sncf.com) - [www.voyages-sncf.com](http://www.voyages-sncf.com)

Train connection to city centre "la Virgule", 35 returns a day.

[www.ter-scnf.com](http://www.ter-scnf.com)

## BY PLANE

The **Avignon airport** provides direct flights to **Southampton, Birmingham and London city** and many more with connections from these airports to Ireland, Scotland... .

[www.avignon.aeroport.fr](http://www.avignon.aeroport.fr)

**Bus line n°21 from city centre to the airport.**

[www.tcra.fr](http://www.tcra.fr)

The **Marseille – Provence airport** is only a 45mn drive and provides direct flights for 140 destinations from terminal mp1 (traditional companies) and terminal mp2 (low-cost companies).

Direct train connections between **Marseille Provence Airport and Avignon center city** (around 1 hour): 24 trains a day.

For further information and schedules:

[www.mp.aeroport.fr](http://www.mp.aeroport.fr)

## ROAD ACCESS

Roads also lead to Avignon :

- . N7
- . A7
- . A9
- . N100

# avignon key figures



## Tourism Office services in 2015

<b>Personal reception</b>	217 514 visitors
Leading foreign clienteles	Great-Britain USA Germany Spain - Portugal Italy
<b>Mail and telephone service</b>	12 707 requests (mail, phone, e-mail, sales)
<b>Guide Service (2014)</b>	
All sort of guided tours (City, Popes Palace, thematic tours...)	City tours: 6052 persons guided (individuals) et 6390 guided in groups.
<b>Avignon Tourisme website</b>	1 499 325 visitors

## 2015 Attendance at the Popes' palace and Avignon's bridge\*

Monument / museum	Nombre de visiteurs
Palace of the Popes	641 554
Avignon's bridge	380 512

\*paid entrances

## Festival 2015

<b>Avignon Festival</b>	58 shows, 280 representations and a 93% attendance rate.
<b>Festival off</b>	1336 plays for 1071 theatre troupes and 127 venues

The Avignon Festival is the biggest cultural event in Vaucluse.