

AVIGNON 2018

PRESS KIT



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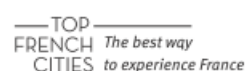
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www.avignon-tourisme.com



AVIGNON
Ville d'exception

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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.

Avignon airport provides direct flights to Great Britain in season and Marseille – Provence airport (only 45mn drive) provides direct flights for 150 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 14th 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 18th and 19th 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 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 20th 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, the harvest proclamation in August...

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 2018

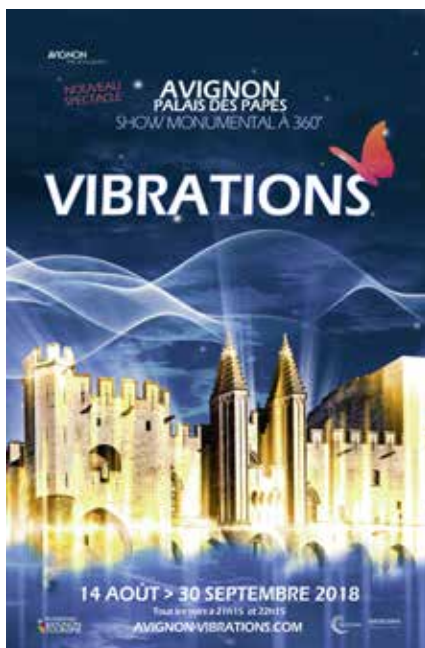


MIRABILIS

30 June 2018 - 13 January 2019

The first exhibition from AVIGNON MUSÉES presents an unusual grouping of different works from the secret collections of Avignon museums, displayed in the spectacular setting of the Great Chapel inside the Palace of the Popes. This exhibit, entitled MIRABILIS (MARVELOUS-MIRACLE), brings together a group of 350 to 400 works, documents and collections. Here, visitors discover the wide-ranging heritage of history and art in Avignon, from Prehistory to ethnic collections to modern art. The curators of the museums in Avignon have selected the works in this exhibit that has been orchestrated by CHRISTIAN LACROIX.

www.avignon-tourisme.com



VIBRATIONS

MONUMENTAL 360° SHOW

14 August - 30 September 2018

Discover the brand-new monumental 360° show surrounding you in the Honour Courtyard at the Palace of the Popes every evening at 9:15 and 10:15pm from 14 August to 30 September

A performance to see with the whole family or among friends that opens the doors of the Palace of the Popes as night falls for an utterly amazing experience.

A totally immersive experience where emotions are fed by both image and sound, leading the viewer into a world of sensations and vibrations.

www.avignon-vibrations.com



HISTOPAD

Visitors to the Palace of the Popes are invited to experience a unique journey into the past in the heart of the biggest Gothic palace in Europe. You are the actor of your visit. Using 3-D technologies and augmented reality, you can activate a door into the past whenever you want.

During your visit, take along our tactile tablet to enjoy time immersion in the major rooms of the palace, entirely virtualized as they were in the 14th century. The Histopad proposes material based on historical and cultural content reviving spectacular historical reconstitutions, prepared by a scientific committee.

Histopad content has been developed in 7 languages (French, English, Chinese, German, Italian, Spanish and Japanese), and in sign language, language for the visually-impaired and is also adapted for persons with reduced mobility.

This digital development is a co-production with Histoverly, a start-up and member of the French Tech Culture, association based in Avignon. It works with regional digital leaders to provide a solution 100% made in France.

www.palais-des-papes.com



Good deals to visit



THEMATIC VISITS OF THE CITY

All year round, our guides-interpreters offer thematic guided visits.

More information on:

www.avignon-tourisme.com

New: Avignon off the beaten track

This brand new visit will take you to discover the intimate and more secret face of the city. You will discover in exclusivity the courtyard, the hall and the painted ceiling of a magnificent 17th century mansion. Avignon reveals all its secrets and all its great and small history.



Once upon a time, the Palace of the Popes

A guided tour in the largest Gothic Palace in the world.

The guide will comment on details and anecdotes about the construction of the monument, its history or the daily life of the popes or other characters of the palace.

Treasure hunt

Discover Avignon with your family!

With the help of a guide of Avignon Tourism, discover the Avignon of yesterday and today in family, as a treasure hunt...

William from the Middle Age, lost the keys of the city. Projected in the Avignon of the 21st century, it will be helped by Charlotte, a girl of our time to find them.

Avignon au temps des Papes

Immerse yourself in medieval Avignon! A guided tour of the city, the UNESCO perimeter and the visit of the famous Palais des Papes!

MOBILE APPS

MyVizito

Discover MyVizito, the new mobile app from Avignon Tourisme!

Create your own touring itinerary based on your criteria – your interests (gastrology, culture, sport, nature...), your means of locomotion, age group, etc, and let yourself be guided, see your choices on a city map. Free on your tablets and phones, or on the touch screen in the Tourism Office. Create your very own customized tour and take full advantage of a unique experience!

My Vizito 

Google play



Available on the App Store



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



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

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

Avignon Calèches

Discover Avignon in a period horse-drawn coach. Tour through the historical city centre: the Popes' Palace square, the old winding streets, the charming Place Crillon and Place Saint-Pierre, and atop the Rocher des Doms with the magnificent views over the Rhône River Valley.

Summer time.

www.facebook.com/AvignonCaleches

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

Mobilboard

Explore Avignon on a Gyropode Segway®, discover 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 Barthelemy Island to take in the beautiful view from the other side of the Rhône.

www.mobilboard.com/avignon

South Spirit Tours / E-bike Rental

E-bikes available for rental to discover Provence. Ideal for wonderful and simplicity. Guided tours of the history and heritage of Avignon and the surrounding area on electric bikes. Several themes are offered, with tastings of regional products and wine tastings.

www.southspiritbike.com

Provence Tuk Tuk Tour

Take an original trip in a tuk tuk (for 1 to 3 persons). Several ways to do it. Try the City tuk tuk which takes you on a touring itinerary in and around Avignon. Or a Holiday tuk tuk.

Reservations required.

www.provencetuktuktour.fr

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

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 12th century, and it was during this period that the famous bridge was built.

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

First was Clement V who settled in the Venaissin 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 17th and the 18th 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 Venaissin County and Avignon city were annexed to France (1791).

In 1793, Avignon became the County town of Vaucluse. 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 12th century atop the traces of the ancient Roman city. The 12th century ramparts were then destroyed by the King of France and were rebuilt in the 14th 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.



An exceptional heritage



WORLD HERITAGE FOR HUMANITY

Capital of the Christianity in the 14th 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.

PALACE OF THE POPES

Nine popes reigned from Avignon in the 14th 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





Saint-Martial Chapel

The Saint Martial chapel at the Palace of the Popes is a true masterpiece of 14th 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".

Following preventive conservation work done in 2016, a glazed door has been installed at the entrance to the Chapel in 2017.

This transparent protection allows the public to admire the totally restored frescoes during the visit.

www.palais-des-papes.com

New! Histopad for all at the Palace of the Popes

Visitors to the Palace of the Popes are invited to experience a unique journey into the past in the heart of the biggest Gothic palace in Europe. You are the actor of your visit. Using 3-D technologies and augmented reality, you can activate a door into the past whenever you want.

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www.palais-des-papes.com



PONT SAINT BENEZET: A BRIDGE OF LEGEND

Built on the Rhone river in the 13th 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 17th century when it ceased being restored.

Only four of the original 22 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

Avignon's Bridge accessible to persons with impaired mobility

New! The Avignon Bridge - Pont Saint-Bénézet – the first fully-accessible site from the Middle Ages, has been awarded the "Tourism and Handicap" label for access to persons with mental and motor handicaps.

The Pont d'Avignon is now entirely accessible for disabled persons.

The monument is currently studying other devices in order to welcome persons with hearing and visual impairments.

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.

www.avignon-pont.com

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



A TOWN OF COLLECTORS

The Avignon Musées Museum Group



Created in April 2017 the Avignon Musées museum group brings together the Calvet museum, the Lapidary museum, the Petit Palais museum, the Requier museum and the Palais du Roure. The five museums in Avignon Musées propose joint programs, special events and combined ideas to create new synergy and guide visitors through the history and richness of the collections in Avignon, giving a whole new dimension to museum-going in Avignon.

Since April 2018, the entrance to the Avignon museums group is free for all.

Petit Palais museum

The Petit Palais displays Italian paintings from the 13th to the 16th 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. A tea salon inside the Petit Palais museum, in an interior garden, serves tea indoors and outdoors in the garden, open during museum opening hours.

Musée de France Label. A Unesco World Heritage site.

+33 (0)4 90 86 44 58
www.petit-palais.org



Calvet museum

In a 18th century magnificent private mansion, varied collections as paintings or sculptures from the 15th century to the 20th century 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 5th 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.

Two still-lives from P. Gauguin et O. Redon
Until 4 March

2 amazing paintings lent to the museum

+ 33 (0)4 90 86 33 84
www.musee-calvet-avignon.com



Lapidary museum

Gallery of Ancient Art at the Calvet Museum.

This archaeological museum is housed in the beautiful baroque chapel that was once part of the Jesuit college, and displays the collections of Greek, Roman, Gallo-Roman and Paleochristian archaeology. There is a rare ensemble of Greek sculpture containing beautiful funerary stelae, votive works. In 2014 this collection was enriched with two deposits from the Louvre – the Myrtia stele, and the Killaron lekythos. See the magnificent series of Attica, Corinthian and Italiote vases and Greek terracotta statuettes.

www.musee-calvet-avignon.com

Palais du Roure

Museum and Hôtel de Baroncelli-Javon.

Museum and documentation centre essentially devoted to Provençal culture. This former private home is still furnished and retains its natural grace which gives it a lovely atmosphere.



Requien museum

The Museum of Natural History in Avignon is named after the 19th 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 5th 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



Municipal Archives in Avignon

The Former Pawn Shop

The municipal Archives are located in what was once a thriving pawnshop, known as the Mont-de-Piété, in Avignon.

Museum displays at the archives show objects, works and documents that tell the story of the oldest Mont-de-Piété in France (1610) and also tell of the silk-conditioning works that the administrators later created.

In the courtyard and on the outside walls there are temporary exhibitions on the history of Avignon and local people.

www.archives.avignon.fr

Collection Lambert in Avignon

This collection of contemporary art was donated to France by gallery owner Yvon Lambert. Placed permanently in Avignon, the collection reflects all the major artistic movements of our era.

Exhibition space has doubled in size since July 2015. Two side-by-side mansions house the collection. The Montfaucon House and the adjoining Caumont House will display temporary exhibits as well as presentation of the permanent collection.

. Djamel Tatah dialogue with La Collection Lambert

. I love Avignon

. Rêvez #2 - Exposition et Prix Yvon Lambert pour la jeune création
Until May 20 2018

www.collectionlambert.com



Angladon museum

The Collection gathered by the Pioneer of Haute Couture.

This beautiful city mansion is home to the sumptuous collection of paintings and objects inherited from the couturier Jacques Doucet (1853-1929), enlightened art lover and philanthropist. The Angladon museum offers an outstanding visit from the Renaissance to the great masters of modern art including Van Gogh, Cézanne, Degas, Manet, Sisley, Picasso, Modigliani, Vuillard, Foujita... Formerly home of artists Paulette Martin and Jean Angladon, this home-turned-museum also hosts artists in residence and displays temporary exhibits related to the universe of Jacques Doucet.



. René Char – L'Homme qui marche dans un rayon de soleil

March 23 to June 10 2018

. David Hockney / La Chaise de Van Gogh

April 21 to October 28 2018

. François Morellet, L'esprit de suite

July 5 to October 28 2018

. François Aubrun. L'absolue peinture

November 23 2018 to March 4 2019

Painting from François Aubrun.

+ 33 (0)4 90 82 29 03

www.angladon.com

Fondation Louis Vouland

The museum is named for its founder, Louis Vouland, a magnate who was active in the food industry. The museum displays an outstanding collection of Decorative Arts from the 17th and 18th centuries, with furnishings, ceramics, tapestries and other works. Just as Louis Vouland had wanted, the spirit of the museum is one of an 18th century mansion. It opens onto a lovely garden on the southern side. It is also home to a collection of the late 19th-century and 20th-century Provençal painting and shows different works each year, between the temporary exhibitions which feature monographic or thematic collections.

Shop and bookshop.

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 17th and 18th centuries, major painters Nicolas Mignard and Joseph Vernet were born in Avignon.

In the 19th century, Avignon became a cultural epicentre with scientists such as Jean Henri Fabre, Esprit Requier 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 FESTIVAL - 72nd EDITION

The Avignon Festival means 72 years of universal thought at the service of cultural heritage and contemporary creation. 72 years of placing art in perspective with the reality of society. 72 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".

6 to 24 July 2018

www.festival-avignon.com

Press contact: presse@festival-avignon.com

FESTIVAL OFF - 53rd EDITION

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.

6 to 29 July 2018

avignonleoff.com

Press contact: presse@avignonleoff.com



OPERA GRAND AVIGNON

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.

Since June 2017: renovation work gets underway, scheduled to last 2 seasons. Performances are now held in a pop-up theatre with 850 seats, in Courtine.

<http://operagrandavignon.fr>

JEAN VILAR HOUSE

Exhibitions, meetings, conferences and publications are all part of the rich offerings the Maison Jean Vilar contributes to the cultural scene in Avignon. The Maison Jean Vilar is a resource centre on the performing arts, with a rich library and videotheque. It is the living memory of the Avignon Festival, with outstanding collections from the inception of the Festival to the present day, and is also home to the archives of Jean Vilar.

www.maisonjeanvilar.org/news



LES SCÈNES 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

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 nearly 40 years.

There is also a summer festival in July – L'été au CDC.

www.hivernales-avignon.com

AJMI

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.

AJMI celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2018 !

www.jazzalajmi.com

Events in 2018



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 and many small theatres which perform live theatre all year long.

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

Cheval Passion - 33rd 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!

17 to 21 January 2018

www.cheval-passion.com

Avignon Vélo Passion Vaucluse

1st edition

All sorts of bikes in one event! Shows, competitions, exhibition, and animations.

26 to 28 January 2018

www.avignon-velopassion.com



Fest'Hiver

Dance and theatre festival.

A week in January / february 2018

www.scenesdavignon.com

Les 40th Hivernales d'Avignon

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

23 February to 3 March 2018

www.hivernales-avignon.com



Les Fous Rires d'Avignon

Humour Festival - 8th edition

March 2018

www.leparisavignon.com

Rencontres Cinématographiques du Sud

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

20 to 24 March 2018

www.lesrencontresdusud.fr

Avignon Motor Festival - 16th edition

International festival of mechanical locomotion.

Over a century of motorised travel – a great auto, motorcycle, leisure show. 50 000 m² of exhibit space, 2400 vehicles, over 35 000 visitors, 140 clubs, 360 exhibitors.

23 to 25 March 2018

www.avignon-motor-festival.com

Festival Escales Voyageuses

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

23 to 25 March 2018

www.abmavignon.free.fr

Festo Pitcho - 12th edition

Performing Arts Festival for young audiences.

7 to 22 April 2018

www.festopitcho.com

Avignon spring fair - 96th édition

Renewable energy, furnishings, decoration, well-being, regional products, gastronomy...

13 to 16 April 2018

www.foireavignon.com

Alterarosa

Celebration of the rose, flower show in the Popes' Palace, workshops...

19 to 21 May 2018

www.avignon-tourisme.com



Spring of designers - 4th edition

On the squares and streets of the city, designers and craftsmen will show and sell their creations. Stands, workshops...

A week-end in May 2018

European Museum Night

19 May 2018

www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr

Rendez-vous aux jardins

A wonderful invitation to discover the riches and diversity of public and private parks and gardens.

du 1^{er} au 3 juin 2018

www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/rendezvousauxjardins

European Music Festival

21 June

72nd Festival d'Avignon

Founded in 1947 by Jean Vilar, one of the oldest and most famous theatre festivals in the world.

Theatre, dance, lectures, music, exhibition...

6 to 24 July 2018

www.avignon-festival.com



Festival Off - 53rd edition

More than 1000 different theatre companies, from all of France, and many foreign countries come to Avignon to present 1400 performances (theatre, dance, lectures, tales, circus, poetry...).

6 to 29 July 2018

www.avignonleoff.com

Festival Théâtre'enfants

Plays, workshops, and exhibitions.

July 2018

www.festivaltheatrenfants.com

Bastille Day

14 July

Festival Résonance - 10th edition

Electronic Music Festival in outstanding historical architecture sites.

26 au 29 July 2018



Avignon jazz festival - 28th edition

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

August 2018

www.trempjazz.com

Vibrations

Light and sound show in the Popes' palace.

14 August - 30 September 2018

www.avignon-vibrations.com

New wine celebration

23rd edition

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

End of August - beginning of September 2018

www.bandesvendanges.fr

Retro Car and Motorcycle Show

1st week-end of September 2018

Frames Festival

Video Web and heritage meet together in Avignon: conferences, projections, shootings etc. are proposed.

September 2018

www.framesfestival.fr

Médiévales des Carmes

Medieval Festival at Carmes Square. Jousts, knights, magicians and jugglers, medieval arts and crafts, a medieval banquet, troubadours, a tavern, games for children...

September 2018

European Heritage Days

The European Heritage Days : free entry or reduced price in the monuments and museums. Exhibitions, conference, guided tour...

15 and 16 September 2018

www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr

Parcours de l'art - 24th edition

Art show all over the city center.

29 September to 21 October 2018

www.parcoursdelart.com

Science Festival

Mid-october 2018

Model Show

Model fair.

One week-end in october / November 2018

Millévin

Festive days for the Côtes du Rhône growing area.

3rd Thursday in November 2018

www.millevin.fr

Open day in artists workshops

The contemporary artists of Avignon open their studios to the public and present their work.

One week-end in November



Week-End gastronomique

The farmers, the breeders of the network Bienvenue à la Ferme make discover their products.

One week-end in November

www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com

Christmas in Avignon

Village of children with shows and activities.

Craftmen markets, streets shows...

Provençal cribs in churches: few days before

Christmas. Christmas food traditions of Provence at the Palais du Roure...

December and beginning of January



Town of gastronomy



Provençale 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, aïoli, 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.

Les Halles market

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



Avignon temple of gastronomy

In the very heart of Provence, Avignon benefits from a cornucopia of gorgeous local products that are creatively put to delicious use by a great number of chefs, including young chef Mathieu Desmarets, who recently returned to his native town of Avignon after a stint in the presidential kitchens at L'Elysée. Other examples include the new chef at La Mirande, Florent Pietravalle, Guilhem Sevin who has taken over the celebrated Maison de Christian Etienne, a shrine to Provençal cuisine just next to the Palace of the Popes, Julien Gleize and his sought-after restaurant l'Agape, Gérald Azoulay at Hiely Lucullus with its Belle-Epoque decor, Thierry Baucher, meilleur ouvrier de France and his restaurant Les 5 Sens, and countless other reputed tables in Avignon.

All draw inspiration from food products grown locally – whether from Barthelasse Island or directly from Les Halles d'Avignon or other local farmers' markets. Growers and chefs come together to transform the fruits of the earth and delight our senses.



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 14th century on the left side of the Rhone river, and in the 17th 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 Côtes 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».du Rhône primeurs».

C'est en 1996 qu'Avignon est devenue la Capitale des Côtes du Rhône.



THE CARRÉ DU PALAIS

In the heart of hearts of Avignon, a gourmand palace for Côtes-du-Rhône wines and all things wine-tourism related.

Located on the square in front of the Palace of the Popes, the Carré du Palais is the place to be in Avignon. Devoted to the wines from the Rhône valley, to gastronomy and wine-tourism, the Carré du Palais is home to a school on Rhône wines and a 100% Rhône Oenotouristic Wine Bar. With an impressive cellar, fabulous rooms and patios, special events all year long, the Carré du Palais is a magnet for visitors passing through Avignon, meeting-goers, business tourism and locals.

www.carredupalaisavignon.fr



Havest Proclamation - 22^e édition

End of August / beginning of September 2018



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 Agricola, 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

Designers



Avignon, home of arts and creation since the Middle Ages and more than ever today, is a melting pot of art, culture and craftsmanship. Come and discover the design «Made in Avignon» !



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>



DESIGNERS' 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



LES 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

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.

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).



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



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 29,000m² 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



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
- . Ansouis, 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



A preserved 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

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

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.

New Greenway!

An 11-km Greenway christened the "Canal Path" or Chemin des canaux connects centre-city Avignon to Montfavet using soft transportation along the banks of the Canal de Vaucluse. This Greenway is exclusively reserved for: pedestrians, persons with reduced mobility, cyclists, and roller sports, for daily travel and outdoor leisure.

And all around the Avignon ramparts: a 4.3-km cycling itinerary has been laid out along the rampart walls.

www.avignon.fr



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

Parkings

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 mid-night.

Cityz Avignon - car sharing

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

www.avignon-autopartage.org

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

Tram Construction

Work has been underway on the new Tram lines since October 2016. The future tramway for the Greater Avignon area is scheduled to start operations in 2019 with 5.2 km of tram lines and 10 stops.

www.grandavignon.fr



High tech



Digital Avignon, the French Tech label

In 2015 Avignon has been awarded 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

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

www.avignon.aeroport.fr

Avignon Confluence

Development project of the Coutine district.

The BAU - B Arquitectura I Urbanismo team has been chosen to take over the management of the future district.

6000 inhabitants expected, an urban project of 600 hectares, 2500 dwellings planned, 300 businesses... the Coutine Confluence program, a real innovative district that will create a modern city, exemplary in terms of sustainable development, focused on technical, architectural and social innovations.

Source : www.avignon.fr

www.grandavignonentreprendre.com

Avignon convention center



. City of heritage and culture

. Avignon is in the heart of Provence at the intersection of 3 French regions: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Languedoc-Roussillon and Rhône-Alpes. Avignon's unique geographic position, just 2 hours and 38 minutes from Paris by TGV, makes it the ideal location for your meetings and events.

. Avignon has significant hotel supply with nearly 4500 hotel rooms, 1800 of which are within walking distance of the Meeting and Convention Centre and 2800 outside the city walls.

« For your events to be part of History »

The Palace of the Popes Convention Centre is the outstanding setting for all your events. The Convention Centre occupies two private wings of the Palace of the Popes, located in the heart of the historical centre of Avignon, easily accessible on foot from the hotels.

- Meeting rooms

In the heart of the biggest Gothic palace in Europe, discover 13 meeting spaces for 20 to 550 persons, equipped with the latest equipment and technologies.

- Reception spaces

Take advantage of the unique setting of the Palace of the Popes for your receptions. Eight different spaces full of character and beauty are available to become the outstanding theatre to stage your events.

- Exhibition spaces

1800m² of space. Four exhibition rooms which can be configured in many different ways.

www.avignon-congres.com



« Le carrefour stratégique de vos événements »

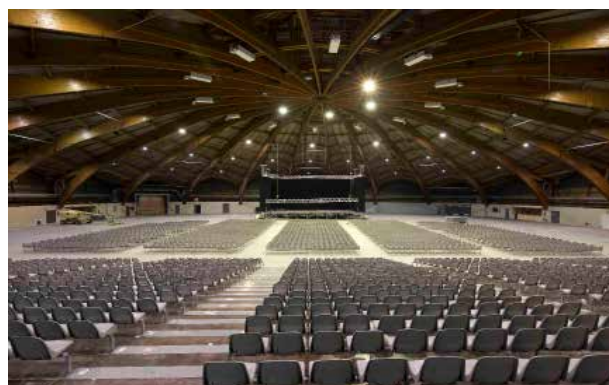
PARC EXPO

2 minutes from the motorway exit Avignon South: 7 halls on one level: 15000 m², on a total surface of 50 000 m², free parking and a room of 920 seats to host great events: trade shows, congresses, concerts, competitions, etc.

www.avignon-expo.com

TWO VENUES, ONE TEAM :

A team at your service, a unique contact from the first contact to the realization of your event so that the result is up to your objectives and your event remains exceptional and unforgettable.



Getting to Avignon



BY TRAIN - 2 stations

La gare TGV, 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, Geneva and Amsterdam.

Avignon centre city train station: regional train schedules for Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur on www.oui.sncf

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

BY PLANE

The Avignon airport provides direct flights to Southampton, Birmingham and London city in summer (May to September) and many more with connections from these airports to Ireland, Scotland...

www.avignon.aeroport.fr

Bus line n°30 from city centre to the airport.

www.tcra.fr

The Marseille – Provence airport is only a 45mn drive and provides direct flights for 150 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

ROAD ACCESS

Roads also lead to Avignon :

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

Key figures



Tourism Office services in 2017

Personal reception	191 381 visitors
Leading foreign clienteles	Great-Britain Germany Spain USA Italy
Mail and telephone service	9898 documentation requests + 817 sales + 24 068 phone calls
Group service All sort of guided tours (City, Popes Palace, thematic)	City tours: 4918 persons guided in visits 5817 groups
Avignon Tourisme website	775 000 visitors

2017 Attendance at the Popes'palace and Avignon's bridge

	Visiteurs
Palace of the Popes	598 085
Pont d'Avignon	397 946

Festival 2016

Festival d'Avignon	Each year between 35 and 50 shows, French and foreign, for about 300 performances, in about twenty venues and delivers between 120,000 and 140,000 paying tickets.
Festival off	1416 plays for 1092 theatre troupes in 2016.

Festival d'Avignon is the most important cultural event of Vaucluse.