

AVIGNON 2015

PRESS KIT



Press contact **Sylvie JOLY**

+ 33 (0)4 32 74 36 54

s.joly@avignon-tourisme.com www.avignon-tourisme.com

AVIGNON
TOURISME

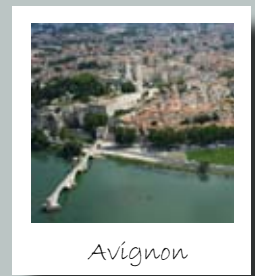
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Avignon press release



Avignon is just 2 hours and 40 minutes from Paris and 3 hours from Roissy airport by TGV and only 5 hours 30 to London by Eurostar (direct line in summer).

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 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, 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 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 1000 works 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 in 2014 and 2015, Luminessences, a sound and light show in the Palace of the Popes.

Avignon is the perfect place to discover and explore Provencal cuisine. Avignon 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.



Key figures on Avignon



Touristic clientele of Avignon

1.5 million tourists for 5.3 million nights for the Avignon destination.

Tourism Office services in 2013

Personal reception	209 827 visitors
Leading foreign clienteles	Germany USA Great-Britain Italy Spain - Portugal
Mail and telephone service	35 080 requests (mail, phone, e-mail)
Guide Service	
All sort of guided tours (City, Popes Palace, thematic tours ...)	Guided tours : 368 individuals guided, 4059 in groups 108 971 persons guided
Avignon Tourisme website	529 198 visitors

2013 Attendance at the Popes' palace and Avignon's bridge*

Monument / museum	Nombre de visiteurs
Palace of the Popes	595 257
Avignon's bridge	370 751

* Paid entrances

Festival 2013

Avignon Festival	128 000 tickets sold (95 % entrance rate)
Festival off	1265 plays for 1066 theatre troupes and 125 venues

The Avignon Festival is the biggest cultural event in Vaucluse.

Transports

SNCF (National train company)

Avignon centre city station	1.600.000 passengers (2009)
Avignon TGV train station	3 025 000 passengers (2010)
Eurostar	9900 passengers (2009)

Airport

Flybe Southampton	13 570 passengers (2010)
Exeter	5494 passengers (2010)
Jet2 (Edimbourg / Leeds)	15 962 passengers (2010)
Total Great-Britain	34 756 passengers (2010)
Business flights	about 5000 passengers (2010)
total	72.506 passengers

Boats

Restaurant boats	32 220 passengers
Rhône river cruise ships	23 640 passengers
River shuttle	218 342 passengers
Avignon harbor	834 boats for 3585 nights and 2126 passengers

Hotel Capacity in 2014

Category	
1*	5 hotels : 173 rooms
2*	27 hotels : 777 rooms
3*	24 hotels : 1327 rooms
4*	9 hotels : 579 rooms
5*	5 hotels : 244 rooms
NC	9 hotels : 225 rooms

About 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). **Shuttle bus for the town center.**

Car-parks: drop-off, long and short parks.



Avignon centre city train station: regional train schedules for Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur on www.ter-sncf.com - www.voyages-sncf.com
Day-long parking.

. Eurostar Avignon-London every Saturday in July and August.

New !

The connection between the AVIGNON TGV train station and the centre-city train station is open! There is now a rail link between the TGV train station and the Avignon centre city train station. The 2 train stations are connected by regional trains going in both directions, with nearly 70 round-trip connections per day, between 6am and 10:30 pm. The trip between the 2 stations takes just 6 minutes, a big time savings as compared to the previous bus connection.

www.ter-scnf.com

BY PLANE

The Avignon airport provides direct flights to Great-Britain:

- Southampton
- Birmingham
- Londres City

and to

- Amsterdam

also Dublin, Jersey, Edimbourg, and a lot more in connections with Flybe and CityJet.

www.avignon.aeroport.fr

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

www.tcra.fr

The Marseille – Provence airport is only a 45mn drive and provides direct flights for 120 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

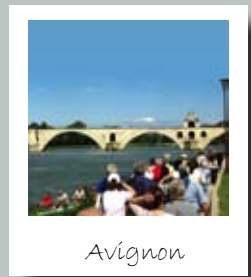
Roads also lead to Avignon :

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





Practical Avignon



Avignon

The Office of Tourism at your service

- . A warm welcome, information, advice on heritage, events, accommodation, everyday life, cultural life in Avignon and Provence
- . Information and advice over the phone and sending of documentation by mail and internet (information@ot-avignon.fr) practical guides, circuits, city maps...+ 33 (0)4 32 74 32 74
- . Monthly event calendar of Avignon
- . Discovery tours of Avignon, please ask for departure points and subjects
- . The Guide-Interpreter department for groups and individuals
- . Sales of tickets for outings, monuments, museums, and souvenir shop.
- . Website and online sale: www.avignon-tourisme.com
- . Tourism and Handicap: label covering 4 impairments (physically handicapped, hearing impaired, sight impaired, mentally handicapped). Wheelchairs loaned for the day or half-day. Descriptive document in Braille and communication systems for hearing-impaired persons, with or without hearing aids.

www.avignon-tourisme.com



www.facebook.com/OTavignon



OFFICE DE TOURISME
Pour les activités d'accueil, d'information, de promotion/communication, de production/commercialisation, de la boutique. Délivrée par AFNOR Certification - www.marque-nf.com

The tourism office at your service to prepare your stay and for any questions on Avignon

Town centre

41, cours Jean Jaurès
BP 8 - 84004 Avignon cedex 1 France
Tél. 00 33 - (0)4 32 74 32 74
www.avignon-tourisme.com
officetourisme@avignon-tourisme.com

• April to October

Monday to Saturday 9 am to 6 pm

Festival: everyday 9 am to 7 pm

Sundays and holidays 10am to 5pm

• November to March

Monday to Friday 9 am to 6 pm

Saturday 9 am to 5 pm

Sunday 10 to 12

Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

. TGV station - Courtine : peak saison



Thematic visits of the city

Avignon during the time of the Papacy

This visit concentrates on the Palace of the Popes and discusses the political aspects of the arrival of the Popes – why Avignon? The Comtat Venaissin with respect to the Kingdom of France, relations with the King of France, every aspect of Papal organization personal, political and other. Start from the Tourism Office in the centre city.

Legendary Palace and bridge

Discover two of the most famous monuments of Avignon: Palace of the Popes, this magnificent monumental symbol of the capital city of Christendom in the Middle Ages and the St Benezet bridge whose origins and the song will have no more secrets for you.

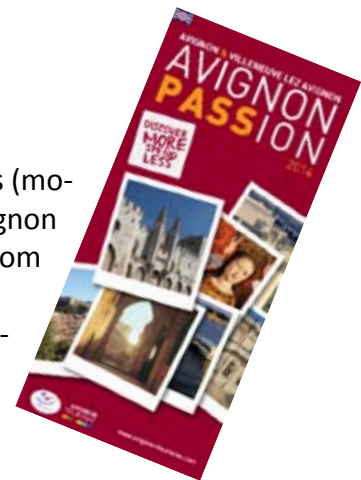


Dates and booking: + 33 (0)4 32 74 32 74
and on www.avignon-tourisme.com

Good deals

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.



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.

Information on 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



Appli Daytour - 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



Population / climate

Avignon, city of 92 000 inhabitants lies at the border of three counties, Vaucluse, Gard and Bouches-du-Rhône.

Avignon is the chief city for the county of Vaucluse.

Avignon is at an altitude of 21m and enjoys a Mediterranean climate with 2800 hours of sunshine a year.

15 municipalities are grouped together in the Greater Avignon area (COGA): Avignon, Caumont sur Durance, Jonquerettes, Le Pontet, Les Angles, Morières les Avignon, Rochefort du Gard, Saint Saturnin-les-Avignon, Saze, Vedène, Velleron, Ville-neuve lez Avignon, Entraigues, Pujaut and Sauverre which accounts about 180,000 inhabitants.

The Rhône River

The Rhone river has always played an important role in the development of Avignon: it is the major axis which connects Northern Europe to the Mediterranean Sea. Though Rhone river floods long ravaged the city, riverbanks were full of life as the business was important on the river.

Nowadays, river tourism is rapidly expanding and the city has renovated the banks of the river along the former towpath, creating a very pleasant walk.

Several passenger ship-hotels and boat cruises ply the river.

World wide heritage of Unesco.

Capital of the Christianity in the 14th century, Avignon monuments and ramparts were recently classified as part as UNESCO's World Heritage. The Avignon bridge – the famous Pont d'Avignon – is known the world over thanks to the beloved song. Avignon is also famous for its theatre Festival created in 1947 by Jean Vilar, the summer meeting place for the performing arts. In the year 2000, Avignon was named European City of Culture.

Economy

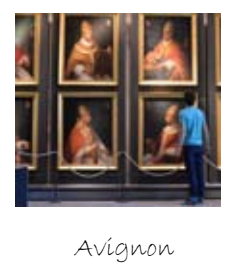
Avignon is undergoing active growth. Home to over 7000 companies, to the Agroparc Cluster Park, specialised in agribusiness and the new technologies, to the 24-hectare Market of National Interest and the new site of Courtine which extends over 300 hectares around the TGV train station, Avignon is growing and changing.

The University of Avignon was recently reinstalled in the historical, beautifully renovated buildings of the Hospital Sainte Marthe and today counts 7000 students.

Digital Avignon

On 27 September 2014 Avignon officially announced its bid for 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 would help the city develop its digital economy. Ten projects will be selected in all of France. Results will be announced in early 2015.





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.

Coats of arms

The first crest represented a square town, within the walls.

In approximately 1120, Avignon added an eagle which signified its adhesion to the German Empire.

Pope Clement VI changed the motif into 3 keys on a field of gules, which was the emblem of the Papacy. However, the inhabitants of Avignon asked for the right to keep the eagle in memory of their right to establish a republic.





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

Multimedia tour

Relive the splendour of the papal court and go back in time to the 14th 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 €).



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



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



Guided tours for individuals

«Once upon the Palace of the Popes »

Enjoy a family visit of the Palace of the Popes, the biggest Gothic fortress in the world. Enter the world of the Popes in the 1300's and discover their daily life and the splendour of their world as you visit many different rooms. Visit in French.

Easter, May, July, August and from 18th to 31st October.

« The Tale of the Palace of Popes for all ages »

This tour is specially adapted to a family audience and to young children. Lots of interesting stories to bring history to life and give insight into life at the Palace: anecdotes, daily life during the era of the Popes in Avignon... Visit in french.

Easter, May, August and from 18th to 31st October.

«The Palais Secret tour»

Winter of 2015 features a brand new way to explore the Palace of the Popes with a guide. 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 Provençal products in winter or a drink in summer on the panoramic Grand Dignitaries' terrace. This tour may not be suitable for small children and persons with reduced mobility.

In French every Saturday and Sunday at 2:30pm in January, February and March 2015.

Every Saturday at 2:30pm and Sunday at 10:30 am in April, May, September, October 2015.

In English in April, May, September, and October every Saturday 10:30am

Booking at 04 32 74 32 74 online:

www.avignon-tourisme.com

The Avignon popes were:

Clément V (1305-1314): first pope of Avignon, he believed the papacy's stay in Avignon would be temporary.

Jean XXII (1316-1334): when he was elected as a pope, he already knew Avignon very well, as he had stayed in the bishop's palace a few years before becoming pope.

Benoît XII (1334-1342): During his first year of pontificate, he started the construction of a big tower, located to the south of the former bishop's palace, followed by a two-level chapel. The bishop's palace was gradually demolished to make room for a new construction.

Clément VI (1342-1352): he wanted to double the surface of the building and redo the pictorial decoration. He ordered an ambitious architectural program, with large and formal volumes, embellished with many sculptures of vegeta and animal inspiration, very dissimilar to the work done by Benedict XII.

Innocent VI (1352-1362): he finished off the works started by his predecessor and made many improvements to traffic, including a bridge which bore his name and no longer exists.

Urbain V (1362-1370): he only created the Galerie Roma in the higher garden as he was already thinking about going back to Italy.

Grégoire XI (1370-1378): He started his reign with the intention of returning to Rome. He undertook maintenance work in the palace and primarily occupied himself with his return to Rome.

During the great Schism: Clement VII (1378-1394) and Benedict XIII (1394-1424).

Restauration de la Chapelle Saint-Martial

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". This restoration works with a leading edge scientific committee and is co-financed by the City and the national government, with philanthropic support from the Fondation BNP Paribas. Two steps are scheduled. In 2015, the work site enters a new phase devoted to studies of the preventive conservation required prior to re-opening the chapel.

avignon-saintmartial.blogspot.com



Photo ARKE



Les Luminessences d'Avignon

Monumental video show in the Palace of the Popes

Season 3 - every night from August 12th to October 3rd 2015

English performances at 10.15pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Sound and light display designed by Bruno Seillier. A 35-minute staged show that restores the castle to its medieval glory, when Christianity reached its apex.

The Cour d'Honneur at the Palais des Papes is drenched in light, plunging spectators into the midst of over-sized high-resolution images.

A heady journey through time.

The Palais des Papes: a historical gem set in all its glory beauty right in the heart of Europe

Seeing it in all its majesty, standing proud in the historical heart of Avignon, people often wonder: but what were popes doing here in Provence? Why did they leave the Roman hillsides to come to the banks of the Rhône ? The monumental video projection, music and story-telling reveal the history of the building, the city and the region like never before.

ENGLISH PERFORMANCE at 10:15 PM Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Les Luminessences D'AVIGNON

Une création de Bruno Seillier

SPECTACLE DE VIDEO MONUMENTALE AU CŒUR DU PALAIS DES PAPES

Séances tous les soirs à 21h15 & 22h15
12 AOÛT - 3 OCTOBRE 2015

www.lesluminessences-avignon.com

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www.lesluminessences-avignon.com

The Pont St Bénézet: 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 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.

Access to bridge Saint Bénézet

Avignon has looked at several proposals from the Historical Monuments Chief Architect, Mr. Didier Repellin, and has selected a modern concrete footwalk which visually extends the perspective of the bridge.



Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture



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

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.

This spectacular result has used gigantic resources combining all the research skills of the many branches involved, over four years, from 2011 to 2014 of historic and scientific investigation.

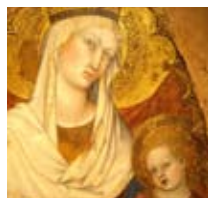
This research will be available to visitors as of next year. Thanks to augmented reality, interactive devices, touch pads and smartphones will enable visitors to see the grandiose former reality of the bridge. This project has been supported by Grand Avignon and the CNRS, with support from the Compagnie Nationale du Rhône, the ANR, European Union, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, City of Avignon and City of Villeneuve lez Avignon.

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

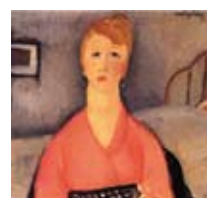
Visit: www.grandavignon.fr



A town of collectors



Avignon



Avignon

Musée du Petit Palais



Salle du tombeau du cardinal Jean de Lagrange

Open since 1976, the Petit Palais museum displays two collections from distinctly different origins. See the collection of Italian painting collected by Marquis Campana in the early 1800's, given by the Louvre and a series of Provençal paintings and sculptures from the Middle Ages, given by the Fondation Calvet.

The Petit Palais museum is housed in the former Archbishops' Palace, built in the early 1300's when the papacy settled in Avignon. The Petit Palais is on the Palace of the Popes square, a dazzlingly beautiful location that is now the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage site. The stunning location and the quality of its collections make the Petit Palais one of the greatest European museums on the Middle Ages. riches

The Campana collection, with over 300 paintings, takes visitors on a marvellous discovery of Italian painting from 13th-century works of Byzantine influence to the artistic revolution in Florence. This panorama of Italian painting displays some of the most famous artists from the period such as Botticelli and Carpaccio, and the masters and their workshops from nearly every region on the peninsula. The Petit Palais also displays Avignon and Provençal medieval art with a rich collection of funerary sculptures from the 14th century including the tomb of Cardinal Jean de Lagrange. The paintings are from the Avignon School, one of the most innovative artistic centers in the 15th century. This is the opportunity to discover the treasures of the Avignon artistic activity in the 14th and 15th

centuries.

The Petit Palais museum gives visitors of every kind, both connoisseurs and total neophytes, the very beautiful occasion to contemplate a complete range of works from the Middle Ages.

+33 (0)4 90 86 44 58

www.petit-palais.org

Musée Calvet

Housed in a fine 18th century mansion, these 2 museums display major collections and stand among the 32 ranked museums in France.

The rich, varied collections range from archaeology to the Beaux Arts, Decorative arts and ethnology. Prehistoric, Greek and Roman objects, art objects and paintings. A contemporary art room opened in July 97.

The Marcel Puech donation completes the collection with pieces of furniture, ceramics, bronzes, gold work and paintings.



New rooms hold displays from the permanent collections, with a special emphasis on the Avignon School.

The rooms provide an overview of artistic creation in Avignon from the Renaissance to the French Revolution, with paintings, sculptures and objects which have been recently restored, many of which have never been displayed in public before.

The first room honours 16th century painter Simon de Châlons, who was perhaps the most active painter in Avignon in the 1500's. The second room presents works by Nicolas Mignard, a voyager and painter during the Baroque era, talented in countless areas, including grand décor, history painting, portraits and religious paintings. Here too are works by his contemporaries and rivals, Reynaud Levieux and Pierre Mignard. The third room is devoted to art from the late 17th and early 18th cen-

turies, when French painting held sway throughout Europe, around the time of the reign of Louis XIV. In Avignon, the trends emanating from Paris replaced the prevailing Italian style, with works by Pierre Mignard and Pierre Parrocel.

The Victor Martin modern art room at Calvet Museum

Generous gifts from 2 donors - Joseph Rignault (1874-1962) and Victor Martin (1913 -1988) have made this new room possible. The new space will display 75 paintings and sculptures including 5 works by Chaïm Soutine, one of the major Expressionist artists from the 1920's, a Manet, a Sisley, a Vlaminck, and works by Bonnard, Gleyses, Vuillard, sculptures by Camille Claudel and her professor Alfred Boucher. A large format by Joe Downing will also be displayed.

The Egyptian Collection

In 3 restored rooms, the museum presents a remarkable Egyptian collection, which ranks it 5th Museum of France in quality and quantity. Currently being restored: Esprit Calvet's Cabinet of Curiosities, which will be opened in the near future.

+ 33 (0)4 90 86 33 84

www.musee-calvet-avignon.com



Musée Lapidaire

Egyptian, Etruscan, Greek, Roman and Gallo-Roman sculptures and objects from daily life, from the Calvet museum, are displayed in the 17th century Jesuit College chapel.

New rooms on Ancient Greece.

+ 33 (0)4 90 86 33 84

www.musee-calvet-avignon.com

Palais du Roure

This centre of Provençal culture is located in the Baroncelli Javon mansion, which Frédéric Mistral himself named Palais du Roure.

Roure means oak in Provençal, and Mistral christened the home Palais du Roure in reference to the oak branches sculpted on its façade. This old mansion became the home of the Félibrige (Provençal language and literature revival) movement.

Today, the Palais du Roure remains the home of

Provençal intellectual life: lectures, exhibitions, special events, and Provençal festivals are organised to keep the Provençal culture and language alive.

It houses an impressive collection of manuscripts and icons, unique source of Provençal documentation.

During the Avignon theatre festival, a Provençal festival takes place in the museum.

It is also a museum of arts and popular traditions, presenting heterogeneous collections such as Provençal furniture, clay figurines and cribs, traditional outfits, Folco de Baroncelli's souvenirs of Camargue, tools and even the Maillane coach.

The building is currently undergoing restoration.

+33 (0)4 90 80 80 88

Requien museum

Natural History Museum of Avignon created in the 19th century by Esprit Requien.

Everything about regional geology and zoology. Free entrance.

+33 (0)4 90 82 43 51

www.museum-avignon.org

Musée du Mont de Piété et Condition des Soies

A former pawnbroker's establishment, this museum houses a collection related to silk works and conditioning. Free entrance.

Exhibition ongoing:

Avignon 14-18 : the great war

Until September 15th 2015.

+33 (0)4 90 86 53 12

www.archives.avignon.fr



New !

Collection Lambert in Avignon The Collection Lambert in Avignon is expanding!



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, currently closed for expansion works, has up until now been housed in the city mansion known as the Hôtel de Caumont. After the renovation work, it will also be displayed in the next door mansion, the Hôtel de Montfaucon, which will more than double the exhibition area, which is currently 1800 m². The reopening is scheduled for July 2015.

The museum will reopen with two major exhibitions: one exhibit of the collection's masterpieces, and a temporary exhibit which will feature the first historical collaboration with the Festival d'Avignon.

Temporary exhibits will take place in the Caumont mansion (the current home of the Collection Lambert). Works from the permanent collection will be 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 com

panies or theatre troupes, a residence apartment for guest artists and a restoration workshop. The space 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.

+ 33 (0)4 90 16 56 20

www.collectionlambert.com

Angladon museum

The heirs to the collection of couturier Jacques Doucet founded a museum in their home (the 18th 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 19th C. and 20th C.: Manet, Degas, Daumier, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Vuillard, Sisley, Picasso, Foujita, Modigliani.

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

+ 33 (0)4 90 82 29 03

www.angladon.com

Fondation Louis Vouland

Decorative arts from the 17th and 18th centuries housed in a beautiful 19th century mansion.

Open since 1982, this museum presents 200 masterpieces: faïence, paintings, furniture, works of inlay, tapestries from Louis Vouland's collection built up for more than forty years.

+ 33 (0)4 90 86 03 79

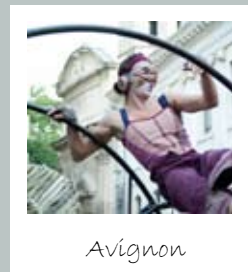
www.vouland.com



**Basilica Notre-Dame des Doms is closed for
renovations to September 2015.**

www.cathedrale-avignon.fr

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 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

The Festival d'Avignon, founded in 1947 by Jean Vilar, is the oldest and most famous festival in France. The Festival's history speaks of powerful continuity, with only four directors

in more than fifty years. Yet the Festival's history is changing also, from a single stage, a single troupe, a single venue to over fifty plays performed in twenty different venues.

Above all the Festival d'Avignon is a living, driving force, witnessing the creative capacity of all the stage arts and the inter-relations between the artists, the theatres and the audiences.

The Festival primarily presents new creations which are performed for the first time in Avignon before taking off on tours throughout the world and in France.

Avignon is a historical city and the Festival is a prestigious part of its impressive cultural heritage. The Honour Courtyard at the Palace of the Popes

serves as a major venue for Festival performances, and now other historical settings, not originally intended for use as stages, are also part of the festival venues. Cloisters, chapels, schools... have all been revealed and restored to hold plays and their audiences. The Festival's most powerful asset is indeed its public. Enthusiastic theatre-goers play a very active role, influencing choice, discussing and critiquing form and content. They are active participants, spectator-citizens from around the world. Many spectators come back year after year, and the audience base also grows with young and new spectators, creating several generations of theatre-goers. Festival after festival a collective memory of theatre and dance slowly takes form.

In 2014, the adventure continues with new director Olivier Py.

42 plays / about 400 representations each year

130.000 spectators

4th to 25th July

Final program published in May.

Bookings open in June.

Since 2013

FabricA

The Festival d'Avignon's place of rehearsals opened in July 2013. It is also used as a place of residence for the artists.

A very large room and eighteen studios built in this building, drawn by the architect Myria Godlewska, welcome all year round artistic teams which work for new creations for the Festival of Avignon.



The festival off

The Off, a vast fair of live performances and cultural events on an international scale, offers over 1000 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.

1265 plays, 125 venues and 1066 troupes in 2013.

July 4th to 26th



Avignon is a centre of cultural activity

The Opera house of Avignon offers a theatrical, lyrical, musical and dramatic repertory of high quality plays.

operagrandavignon.fr

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

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.

The "FEST'HIVER"

The Winter Festival takes place from **29 January to 6 February 2015** and is in its 7th year.

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

. Bureau du festival d'Avignon
+33 (0)4 90 27 66 50
www.festival-avignon.com

. Avignon festival et compagnies
+ 33 (0)4 90 85 13 08
www.avignonleoff.com

. Maison Jean Vilar
+ 33 (0)4 90 86 59 64
www.maisonjeanvilar.org

. Théâtre du Chêne Noir
+ 33 (0)4 90 86 58 11
www.chenenoir.fr

. Théâtre du Bourg-Neuf
+ 33 (0)4 90 85 17 90
www.bourg-neuf.com

. Théâtre du Chien qui Fume
+ 33 (0)4 90 85 25 87
www.chienquifume.com

. Théâtre des Halles
+ 33 (0)4 90 85 52 57
www.theatredeshalles.com

. Théâtre des Carmes
+ 33 (0)4 90 82 20 47
www.theatredescarmes.com

. Théâtre du Balcon
+ 33 (0)4 90 85 00 80
www.theatredubalcon.org

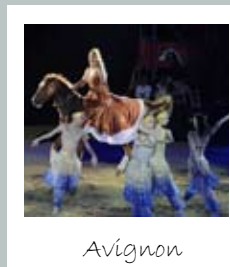
. Théâtre des Doms
+ 33 (0)4 90 14 07 99
www.lesdoms.be

. Théâtre de la danse Golovine
+ 33 (0)4 90 86 01 27
www.theatre-golovine.com

. CDC les Hivernales
+ 33 (0)4 90 82 33 12
www.hivernales-avignon.com



Ask for further information at the
tourism office.



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 celebrates its 30th anniversary !

For this 30th 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!

21st to 25th January

www.cheval-passion.com



Les Ateliers d'art du Palais des Papes

From January to July, the Association Altera Roma offers a programme of medieval art classes for adults, right in the very heart of the Popes' Palace.

Classes in illuminated manuscripts, calligraphy, paper marbling, ceramics, Ikebana.

Introduction and advanced classes for adults are proposed and taught by well-known experts.

www.lesateliersdupalais.com

Fête de la truffe

Les Halles market - 7th edition.

Culinary fun, tastings, demonstrations by great regional chefs...

February 8th

www.avignon-tourisme.com

Springtime in Avignon

Theatre: Le Paris

4th edition of the Festival of Comedy.

February 21st - March 8th

www.leparisavignon.com

37^e Hivernales d'Avignon

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

From February 21st au 28th

www.hivernales-avignon.com

Rencontres Cinématographiques du Sud,

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

March 17th to 21st

www.lesrencontresdusud.fr

The «Globe-Trotteurs» festival

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

From March 21st to 23rd

<http://abmavignon.free.fr>

Avignon Motor Festival

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.

March 20th to 22nd

www.avignon-motor-festival.com

Festo Pitcho

Performing Arts Festival for young audiences.

April 11th to 26th

www.festopitcho.com

Dates may change.

Spring fair - 93rd edition

400 exhibitors, 45,000 m², renewable energy, sustainable development, environment, automobile, guests of honour...

From April 29th to May 3rd

www.foireavignon.com

Festival Emergences

4th edition. Festival of young artistic creation from Avignon and the region.

From May 14th to 24th

www.surikat-prod.com

Naturavignon

Organic and solidarity products, regional crafts market.

2 days in May

www.avenir84.org

Museums open at night

Saturday May 16th

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 29th to 31st

www.chienquifume.com

Music Day

June 21st

Horn Festival

Concerts, masterclass, competitions.

June 15th to 21st

Theatre festival for children

Plays, workshops, and exhibitions.

From July 7th to 25th

www.festivaltheatrenfants.com

Festival provençal

Shows in Provençal: theater, dance music and Provençal songs.

3 weeks in July

Book and Record Market

Second-hand books, records and festival posters.

July

National day

Fireworks.

July 14th

Festival Résonance - 8th edition

Electronic Music Festival in outstanding historical architecture sites.

3 days in July

www.festival-resonance.fr

69th 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.

4th to 25th July

www.avignon-festival.com



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.

4th to 26th July

www.avignonleoff.com

Avignon jazz festival

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

in August

www.trempjazz.com

Harvest day and traditional fair

(Montfavet)

3 days in August

New wine celebration

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

A Saturday end of August beginning of September

www.bandesvendanges.fr

Dates may change.

Luminessences

Light and sound show in the Popes' palace
Every night, from August 12th to October 3rd
(dates may change)

English performances at 10.15pm on Mondays,
Wednesdays and Fridays.

www.lesluminessences-avignon.com



Medieval Festival at Carmes square: medieval market and events

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

2nd week-end of September

Salon Auto Moto Retro

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

A week-end in September

European Heritage Day

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

3rd week-end of September

www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr

10km race in the city

Running race in the centre city and on Barthelasse Island.

Sunday September 28th

Gastronomy Festival

Lots of fun events to celebrate regional gastronomy, banquet.

September

www.fete-gastronomie.fr

Parcours de l'art

20 artists in different places of exhibitions in the city.

3 weeks in October

www.parcoursdelart.com

Avignon Blues Festival

in October

www.avignonbluesfestival.com

Period Music Festival

October

Science festival

Mid-October

Les Automnales de l'orgue

Organ festival. Concerts, animations, master class.

3-4 week in October - November

Festival des jeux de l'esprit

Bridge, checkers, chess, go, pyramid, scrabble tournaments.

Octobre - November

Model Show

A week-end in October - November

Millévin

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

3rd Thursday of November

www.millevin.fr

Animo & Nature

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

A week-end in November

www.animo-nature.com

Foire de la Saint-André

Traditional commercial fair.

November 30th and December 1st

Collection fair

A day end of December

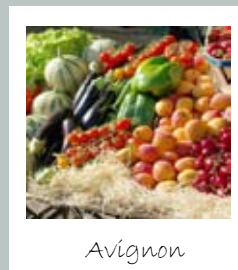
Christmas Market

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, aïoli, the various «tians» casseroles made with zucchini, eggplant, cardoons, «ragouts» (stews) of asparagus, artichokes. Vegetables of all sorts and countless seasonal salads...



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 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.

Cooking classes

Hôtel La Mirande*****

Cours de cuisine « le Marmiton » 1 semaine par mois avec des chefs de la région.

Adultes et enfants.

+ 33 (0)4 90 14 20 20

www.la-mirande.fr

Concept chef - Julien Charvet

Cours de cuisine aux halles et au bistrot du Cabestan. Adultes et enfants.

www.conceptchef.com

Epicurium

04 32 40 37 71 - www.epicurium.fr

La Maison de Fogasses

06 60 61 77 77 – 04 90 87 25 02

www.maison-de-fogasses.com

Le Jardin de la Tour

04 90 85 66 50

<http://restaurant-lejardindelatour.com>

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.

Avignon capital of the Côtes du Rhône

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 Cotes du Rhone wines and the grand crus, or vintages, of which the most famous is the heady red wines from Châteauneuf du Pape.



Millévin en novembre

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». Here, every year in August or September the city celebrates the proclamation of the grape gathering. It is a folk festival that opens the grape harvest.

The Papal Vineyards - project 2015

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.

After work that is underway, the vineyard will be replanted in March 2015.

www.bandesvendanges.fr - 04 90 16 00 32

Harvest proclamation

A Saturday end of August - beginning of September

The “Compagnons des Côtes du Rhône” organize a series of wine-related cultural and festive events which include the “Harvest Proclamation”, or “Bandes Vendanges”, a traditional celebration which is held along the Rhone river. The “Côtes du Rhône Bandes 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 “Bandes 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 “Bandes Vendanges” was the best-tolerated of all the seigniorial obligations. Today, the famous «bandes 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.

The Côtes du Rhône touring routes

The Côtes du Rhône vineyards – an entire world to explore! Interhône proposes 9 different marked itineraries which combine spectacular countryside and the fabulous Côtes du Rhône heritage.

The guide lists the winemakers and sellers who meet the quality criteria for wine cellars open to the public, and who have joined the “Côtes du Rhône, terroir d'accueil” quality charter. The wine road around Avignon is the “Azur” itinerary, which takes you through Avignon, Caumont, Morières, Jonquerettes, St Saturnin, Bédarrides and Sorgues, Courthézon and Châteauneuf du Pape, where you can discover and taste many wines and vintages. The brochure also provides ideas for what to see, where to stay, where to eat, and the list of selected wine-tasting cellars.

Guide available on request.

www.vins-rhone-tourisme.com



Renaud & Mognetti

Wine Tourism

New in Avignon: The Carré du Palais

The Carré du Palais is a wine-tourism complex that will open to the public in the second part of the year 2015, in the very heart of Avignon, on Place de l’Horloge, just steps from the Palace of the Popes.

The Carré du Palais means:

- A School of Wine with workshops and classes for all levels and in several languages.
 - A Wine Bar serving all the A.O.C. appellations in the Rhone Valley, with outdoor seating on the Palace of the Popes’ square.
 - A gastronomic restaurant with both large dining spaces and intimate small rooms, and a panoramic deck overlooking the Place de l’Horloge. The starred chef works with selected regional products.
- Boutiques and an apartment-hotel are also part of the programme.

The Avignon architectural office Renaud & Mognetti is in charge of this prestigious project, which will be developed in the magnificent historical mansion Calvet de la Palun, the building which was once the Banque de France in Avignon.

This ambitious new project is jointly developed by Inter Rhône and its partners in Avignon, Capital of Côtes du Rhône wines. Avignon is proud to prepare this new lifestyle centre which combines heritage, terroir, gastronomy, art de vivre and wine.

www.carredupalaisavignon.com
www.vins-rhone-tourisme.com

The Restaurants and Rhone Valley Wines operation. Inter Rhône, the Vaucluse ADT and the UMIH propose a charter for restaurant chefs in the Rhone Valley to enhance and showcase quality local wines. The chefs who sign this charter commit to presenting local wines and to providing opportunities to discover local wines – wine by the glass, wine tastings, other...

Tourisme viticolee - ADT Vaucluse
www.vinchaisnous.fr



Epicurium, the fascinating world of fruits and vegetables

Starting on June 2010, Epicurium opens 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. 8000m² 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 enjoying, 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



Ask for our guide
«Avignon Gourmand»



Green spaces and great atmosphere in Avignon



Avignon

Green spaces

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

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).

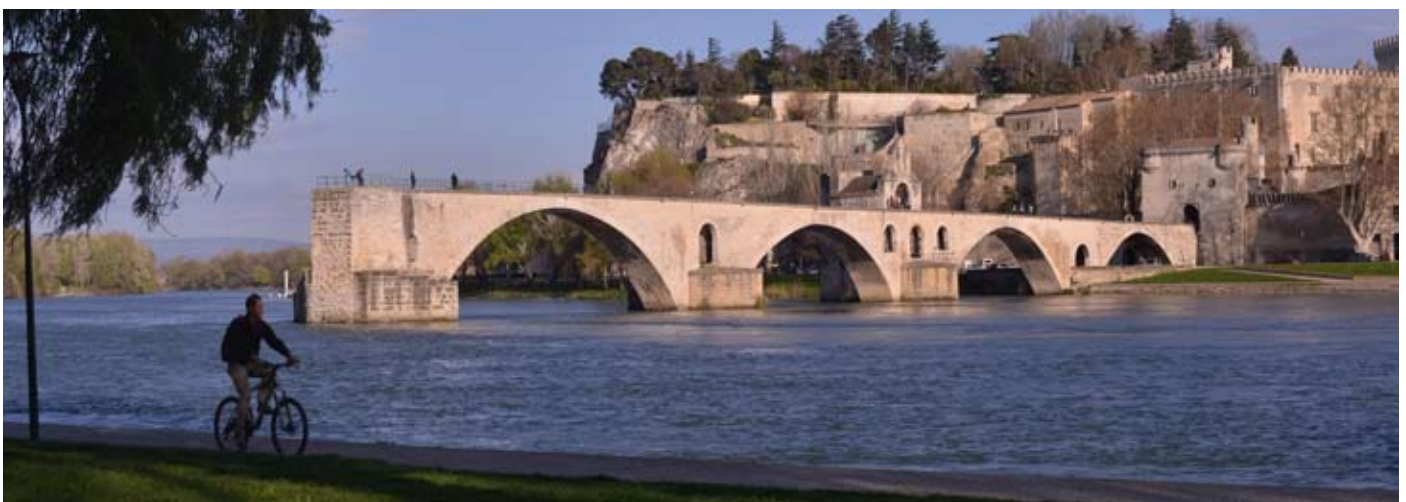
The river ferry makes regular crossings from one side to the other.

- 15th February to 30th March: Wednesdays 2pm to 5:30pm and Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday 10am to 12pm / 2pm to 6:30pm
- April 1st to June 30th (except May 1st): everyday 10am-12.30pm / 2pm – 6.30pm
- July 1st to August 31st: everyday 11am to 9pm
- 1st to 30th September: everyday 10am-12.30pm/ 2pm - 6.30pm
- 1st October to 31st December (except Christmas): Wednesday 2pm – 5.30pm – Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday 10am -12pm / 2pm – 6.30pm.
Closed from January 1st to February 15th.

Be sure to discover the Rocher des Doms gardens.

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 Rhone and afford magnificent views of the entire area.



Opens: 7:30 - Closes: January 5:30; February 6 pm; March 7 pm; April and May 8 pm; June, July and August 9 pm; September 8 pm; October 6:30; November 6 pm; December 5:30.

www.avignon.fr



A plant wall at the Halles Market!

The city of Avignon commissioned botanist Patrick Blanc to install a wall of plants that is 30 meters high and 11.5 meters wide, on the north side of the Halles market building. The design calls for a steel frame, a layer of PVC and a felt irrigation layer on which the plants, seeds and slips grow, with some twenty plants-per square meter, creating a true living green lung in the heart of the city!

www.avignon-leshalles.com



Avignon and the environment

A noter en matière de transports :

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.

Bus platform

The creation of a multi-modal platform for bus-transfers. This action will concentrate the city bus station, the train station and the regional bus station in the same space along the Cours Kennedy. This will free up space in the historical city centre, in particular on Place Pie.

www.tcra.fr

Vélopop

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

www.velopop.fr

Car-parks outside the ramparts with free shuttle bus service to the centre city

. Parking de l'Île Piot

1600 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.

. Parking des Italiens

1150 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.

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, vidéosurveillance... 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.

5, avenue Monclar
+ 33 (0)4 90 82 07 35

Avignon in Provence



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.



Day trip from Avignon
Information and sales on line :

www.avignon-tourisme.com

ADT Vaucluse
+ 33 (0)4 90 80 47 00
www.provenceguide.com

Bus and minivans

Regular and private excursions in minivans and coaches with guide-drivers speaking different languages. Tours to discover the region, wine tastings, cellar visits... Car rental with driver.

Autocars Lieutaud

www.cars-lieutaud.fr

Provence Panorama

www.provence-panorama.com

Provence Réservation

www.provence-reservation.com

Occitania Provence Tours

www.occitania-provence-tours.com

Provence Sites

www.provence-sites.com

Avignon Prestige Tour

www.avignon-prestigetour.com

L'Echo de Provence

www.echo-provencetour.com

Elora Tours Provence

www.eloratoursp Provence.com

HWA-REN excursions

contact@HWA-REN.com

Midi Tours

www.midi-tours.fr

By plane

The magic of seeing Provence from the air.

La Provence vue d'avion

www.provence-vue-avion.com

Vaucluse ULM

www.vaucluse-ulm.com

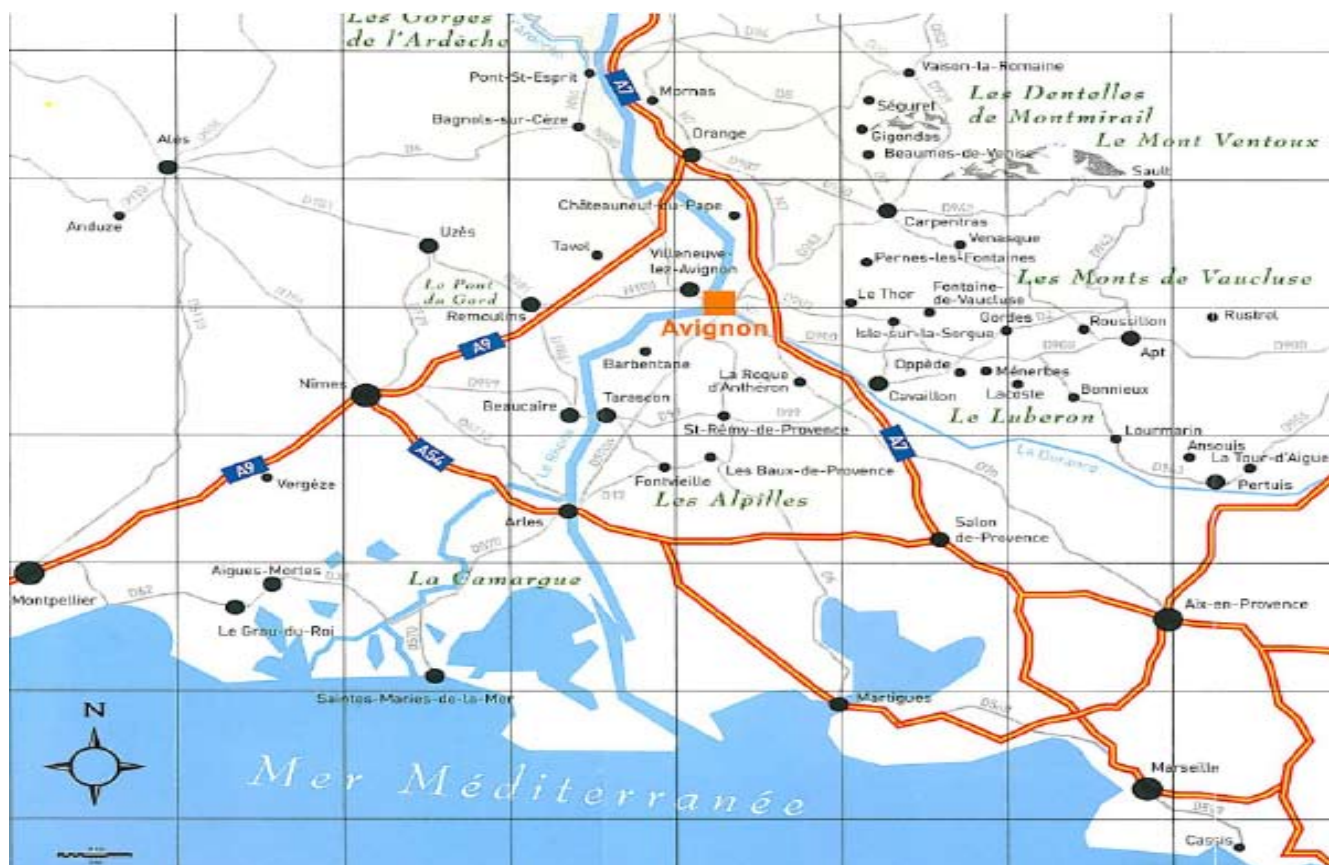
Bicycles and motorbikes

Provence Bike

www.provence-bike.com

Daytour

www.daytour.fr



Avignon

city of conventions

Avignon, your convention destination

Only 2 hours 38 minutes from Paris, Avignon benefits from an outstanding natural environment for organising outings (Camargue, Luberon, Alpilles, the wine road, and more), and it has on hand all the necessary infrastructures for organising your special events (convention centre, exhibition park, hotel accommodations).

The Popes' Palace Convention Centre: an excellent place for staging all major events

Located within the core of the Popes' Palace, historical monument that is a UNESCO World Heritage site, the convention centre offers character meeting rooms in the heart of Avignon, with 16 meeting spaces for 20 to 536 persons, reception space for up to 700 persons and 1800m² of exhibition space. Many hotels within walking distance (3700 rooms, 1600 of which are in the centre city).

The Palais des Papes Meeting and Convention Centre has been ISO 9001-certified since 2002 and has been awarded QUALITE TOURISME since June 2011. These distinctions are true testimony to our clients of our commitment to quality service in order to constantly meet the needs of our clientele.



Choose Avignon

Easy access

2hrs38 min from Paris Gare de Lyon station

3 hrs from Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle airport

Avignon TGV station is only 4 minutes from city centre.

Travel between the 2 Avignon centre and Avignon TGV stations in only 4 minutes with the train shuttle.

- Extensive hotel capacity: 1,600 rooms within walking distance of the convention hall, and 3,700 rooms in greater Avignon.

- A team and services to enhance your event organisation and ensure its success:

- technical assistance before and up to the day of your event

- free management of accommodations

- handling of convention-goers' enrolments

- management of the exhibits/shows

- ease of parking: the Popes' Palace garage is located right under the Convention Centre; a special rate is offered to convention participants.

An original angle on the Popes' Palace

Discover the Popes' Palace when it's empty of visitors, experience the magic of the place:

- Visit the "must-sees": the Popes' Palace and the Avignon bridge, both fantastic monuments listed UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- A private showing for an evening visit, as an appetizer to your gala dinner, in the ceremonial premises of the Popes' Palace: Grand Tinel or Grande Audience rooms.

- Architectural backdrop: Drape lighting over the walls of the Grand Tinel and endow your evening ceremonies with superb atmosphere... You'll find yourself mesmerised by the giant lighting (on themes such as nature, water and outer space), an astounding succession of images accompanied by creatively-designed music to harmonise with the unique decor and create that "wow" factor for your evening.

- Incentive-based Noct'en Bulle activity: experience an unusual and unforgettable adventure in the depths of the monument with the fun Noct'en Bulle game: at nightfall, wearing hard hats and cap lamps, you'll be part of a huge treasure hunt, exploring the monument in ways you'd never imagined.

The convention Centre of the Palace of the Popes hosted 174 events in 2014 (+ 9,4 %) compared with 2013; 50 national and international events (+ 28 %).

Exhibition center

BP 88 – Parc Expo - 84006 Avignon cedex 1
Tél. + 33 (0)4 90 84 02 04
info@avignonexpo.com
www.avignonexpo.fr

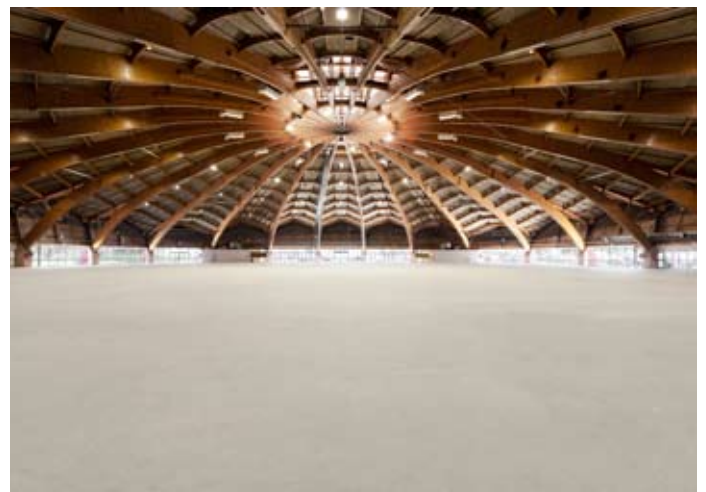
The Avignon “Parc des Expositions” or Fairgrounds and Exhibition area is located in the area of Agro-parc, the international food industry cluster which currently holds 260 firms and is on the rise. The Exhibition area is also near the future aeronautic cluster known as Pôle Pégase.

New at the Avignon Fairgrounds: a convention hall which holds 900 persons, and planned renovation of the fairgrounds, with a total transformation of the buildings and surroundings.

There are 7 ground-level, modifiable halls from 750 m² to 6000 m², in all: 15,000 m². 1 hall is entirely designed as a plenary meeting hall to hold 900 persons, with food service spaces, display space and committee rooms nearby. 50,000 m² of outdoor area, 6,000 free parking spaces. Newly-designed space to meet the requirements of major events and quality services!



© Eric Larrue



Contacts : Florence Jullian
tél. + 33 (0)4 90 27 50 56
www.avignon-congres.com
f.jullian@avignon-tourisme.com