

Gardens of Provence – 7 nights



30 June 2018 – 1 departure from £1,529GBP per person

Includes return flights from Heathrow into Marseille or Manchester into Nice with ground transfers on locale

**Price also available without flights/transfers*

Escorted by Sally Nex

Experience the glory of Provence in lavender season while exploring the world-famous gardens nestling at the foot of the Luberon Hills. We'll admire gardens ancient and modern, from 13th century monastic gardens to the breathtaking designs of Nicole de Vesian

Holiday highlights

- Mme Liardet's Lavender Farm and Garden, home to a collection of over 200 lavender varieties
- The celebrated Nicole de Vesian contemporary gardens, renowned for their sense of place and sculptural beauty
- The grand terraces of the Château Val Joanis, a working vineyard laid out in the 17th century manner

Great reasons to join us

- Great value: all prices include en-suite Half Board accommodation and five full-day excursions, including entrance charges to gardens
- Expert leader: all our leaders are experts in their field and will ensure that you get the most out of your holiday
- Accommodation: enjoy good quality accommodation and excellent food
- Sociability: we pride ourselves on the social atmosphere of our holidays - explore together, eat together, relax together

There are some slightly longer coach journeys on this holiday. We're happy that the travel time on the coach is reasonable for the experience of visiting so many charming gardens in this area.

Arrival day

Your leader will welcome you and talk you through the holiday. Please be aware that walking shoes or sturdy footwear are advisable if you want to make the most of your visit to Provence, for although we have footpaths that can be accessed by all, there are many over the sites that require regular walking attire.

There is a free day during the holiday, for you to explore the local area independently or to relax in the hotel.

Soft plantings at Pavillon de Galon and classical terraces at Le Clos de Villeneuve

We spend the morning wandering through the peaceful pools and soft planting of the Pavillon de Galon. This is designated a 'jardins remarquables' by the French Ministry of Culture. In the afternoon there's more to delight the eye (and nose!) at the grand formal 17th century gardens of Le Clos de Villeneuve where fountains, terraces and more roses tumble down the hillside.

Lavender loveliness as we follow the Lavender Route to Mme Liardet's Lavender Farm and Garden

Today you'll set off along the Lavender Route through billowing fields of flowers - one of the finest sights (and scents!) in France. You'll discover the art of growing and distilling lavender, with a chance to sample the fragrances; and the day ends at Mme Liardet's Lavender Farm and Garden, home to a collection of over 200 lavender varieties.

Roses smell as sweet... at Château Val Joanis and Abbaye de Valsaintes

A day to bask in the beauty of French classical gardening style. First you'll visit the grand terraces of the Château Val Joanis, a working vineyard laid out in the 17th century manner. The sweetly-scented rose gardens planted around the old Cistercian monastery at the Abbaye de Valsaintes are a breathtaking sight, perched 600m up in the Haute Provence hills.

Contemporary chic by Nicole de Vesian at La Louve and her hidden gem, Le Clos Pascal

The celebrated Provence-based designer Nicole de Vesian created thoughtful, contemporary gardens which are renowned for their sense of place and sculptural beauty. Among those you'll visit is her most famous, La Louve, a peaceful, sculptural space created over 10 years as a homage to the characteristic 'garrigue' landscape of the area, and her hidden gem of Le Clos Pascal.

Mazes and parterres at the superb Bastide de Romegas & graceful, leafy boulevards of Aix en Provence

The superb gardens at the Bastide de Romegas have been cultivated since the 16th century and make a great introduction to the delights of Aix en Provence: you'll enjoy mazes and parterres, fountains and relaxing lawns before heading off to spend the afternoon exploring the graceful, leafy boulevards and marketplaces of the birthplace of Paul Cézanne.

Departure day

An early start to the day before saying au revoir!

Sometimes things happen beyond our control – the weather, traffic jams or changes at the places we visit. If we need to adjust your holiday programme, for whatever reason, your leader will help smooth the way.



Sally Nex



Sally is a qualified professional gardener, planting designer and well-established garden writer. She is a columnist for the RHS journal *The Garden*, and writes regularly for BBC *Gardeners' World Magazine*, *Grow Your Own* and *Guardian Weekend*. She loves to share her passion for all things plant-related, especially design, garden history and kitchen gardening, and is much in demand for her talks at gardening events from horticultural society meetings to the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show. She is also an online tutor at My Garden School.

For enquiries or to make a booking please contact:

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