



# MEJDI TOURS

## Four Days in Provence, the South of France at its finest

### **Tour Summary:**

Discover the region in which France reaches perfection, in four days and five nights of flavors, nature, exciting cities, and the arts. Yuval Ben-Ami, author, traveler, expert guide in the Holy Land for National Geographic Expeditions, resident of Provence and die-hard Francophile will reveal to you the wonders of the South, from the first spoon of Bouillabaisse to the wing of the sparrow-tail butterfly, while putting a special emphasis on arts and culture.

**The Destination:** The final western ripple of the Alpine range, between the Luberon chain and the Mediterranean coast, is the landscape beloved by artists Cezanne and Van Gogh and by writers such as Marcel Pagnol and Jean Giono. This is a France of pine forests, of vineyard and of ancient stone village, but also of exciting cities, from fortified Avignon to bubbly Marseille. Provence is a crossroads of nations: namely Spain, Italy and the rest of France, and as such presents a quintessence of Mediterranean Europe. The meeting of mountains, sea and sun produces a tempting cuisine, stunning landscapes, and a relaxed way of life.

**The Model:** Our fresh approach allows travellers to take in the best of the region alongside other experiences in France or Europe as a whole. The package includes four days and five nights complete to the last detail: airport pickup, stylish accommodation, breakfasts, lunches and dinners of the highest standard, guiding, visits to sites, wine tasting and more. The program is tailored for small groups, between a single traveler and eight. It is ideal for one or a few couple's vacation, a group of friends or a family. "Four Days in Provence" is presented in collaboration with young and vibrant International tour company Mejdi Tours.

**The Guide:** Yuval Ben Ami is a travel writer, tour guide and columnist splitting his time between his native city of Jerusalem and his adoptive region of Provence. Ben Ami is the author of six Hebrew books and nine online English travelogues portraying diverse landscapes from the mountains of Judea to the forests of Finland and from the American South to the South of France. Ben Ami serves as expert guide to the Holy Land for National Geographic expeditions.

**Timing:** The program is offered during six month out of the year: May, June (when the lavender famously blossoms), July, August and September, as well as December: the time of truffle festivals and Christmas markets. Each itinerary will be adjusted to feature the best of the season.

## **Tour Itinerary**

### **Day 1 - Arrival**

Arrive at Marseille Provence International airport, or by fast rail to Aix en Provence TGV station (three hours from Paris and 90 minutes from Lyon's international airport). You will be picked up to your hotel, to a welcome dinner, a toast of rose wine, and a short review of all that awaits us in the days to come.

Nights at Hotel L'horloge, Avignon, or compatible

### **Day 2 - The Luberon, Provence at its Finest.**

Above all, Provence is villages. Each dense cluster of stone abodes harbours different secrets and bares a character of its own. At the foot of the Luberon mountain range, among a carpet of vines, are nestled some of France's most beautiful communities: calm Cucuron, centred around a magical fish pond, charming Lourmarin, Lauris with its unique dye -plant garden, Lacoste, with its fabled castle, and more. This is the countryside portrayed in Peter Mayles' book "A Year in Provence", and a perfect gateway to the South. We shall wander its paths, taste its delicacies, visit its markets and historical landmarks.

Nights at Hotel L'horloge, Avignon, or compatible

### **Day 3 - Avignon, Wine Country and the Relics of Antiquity**

River Rhone flows beneath the ancient limestone walls of Avignon, an unsurpassed historical gem. We shall walk the city's alleyways, enjoy its market and visit the Papal Palace, which serves as an alternative Vatican in the 14th century. After lunch we shall head north, to the city of Orange, where a Roman theatre was perfectly preserved, telling the tale of the region's ancient past. To conclude the day we will visit the village of Chateauneuf du Pape, and taste its bold, world famous wines.

Nights at Hotel L'horloge, Avignon, or compatible

### **Day 4 - Marseille, The Water and The Rocks**

This day, too, begins in an urbanscape, then rolls into the countryside. The city is electric Marseille. We shall visit its famous old harbor, and another, secret harbour, explore its unique boutiques, its North African market and the quaint neighbourhood of Le Panier. We will hear of France's current reality and witness contemporary art. For lunch we will enjoy bouillabaisse, Marseille's famous fish soup. We will then continue down the coast to the National Park of the Calanques, to walk the dramatic rocky bluffs and enjoy the Mediterranean coast at its most striking.

Night at Le Catalan, Jouques, or compatible

### **Day 5 - A Farewell to Provence Among Natural Wonders**

The poets and novelists of this region praised its natural landscapes. We shall tell some of their tales and read their poetry between the deep Canyon of the Verdon river, the rocks of Mt. St. Victoire, the Lavender fields of Valensol and the beautiful lake of Esperron. Here we will admire a unique coexistence between humanity and nature.

Night at Le Catalan, Jouques, or compatible