

# Bespoke Provence

## Bespoke Cycling Holidays in Provence

Many of the cycling tours we deliver in Provence are for customers who want us to deliver a particular wish list. It may be just a small tweak to an existing tour such as adding a day to explore the islands off the coast by boat or, more usually, developing a whole tour just for them. (also see Bespoke Planning)

You can combine the jewels of the coast with the lavender fields or the Camargue and, once we know your specific dates we can fit it to the local cultural calendar of events. We might time your journey to match markets days or, identify events such as an onion or honey festival that might be found along the way, to name just two.

Fellow Velo have been cycling, playing and living in Provence for decades and have an intimate knowledge of what is on offer. So, come and discover or rediscover Provence; it has so much to offer, from its rugged coastline to its hill top villages, from the shimmering heat of olive groves to the knarled vines standing to attention in rows and, from sleepy villages that time appears to have forgotten to vibrant markets full of local produce.

After your day's cycle, relax and sip a glass of local wine as you listen to the evening cicadas, with the sky a painter's dream as the sun sets.

So if you have ever had that "what if" or "wouldn't it be nice to" cycling idea then, just ask us and we will build a tour around you – let us help you make your cycling dreams come true. See the sections below for just a few ideas . . .

## Lavender Fields

The Lavender Fields of Provence are one of those archetypal images of the region. They are found across most of the breadth of northern Provence but, if you want to experience the lavender in full bloom then, you need to choose your dates carefully.

The fields can be in full flower in June, July and August but this can only be used as a general guide; different varieties can be harvested at different times, the variety of locations and changing topography also has an impact and, like vintages of wine, the prevailing weather of a specific year will have its own influence too.

Mid June to mid July is usually best, as harvesting often starts from then onwards however, you can sometimes be lucky

and find the blooming season stretching into August as well. We usually offer cycling through the lavender as part of a guided tour, as we aim to lead our customers a little off the main tracks to gain the very best experiences. Even just a two or three day element of a wider cycle tour can provide you with a truly immersive experience in the lavender. If you haven't had the opportunity to share in this before, prepare yourself for more than just the beauty, you'll be amazed by the smells and the sounds that lavender fields generate.

## **Gorges Rivers and the Sea**

The beauty, the tranquillity and sometimes the raw power of water in the landscape can be a great draw for us all and, following its journey, sometimes from the source to the sea, can be a great hook for a cycle touring holiday. There's the obvious attraction for some that it can provide at least a level, if not a down hill ride; and this does often work out to be the case but, even following a river's course can place

hills in your path.

We can design and create bespoke tours based around;

- a meandering trail along the Mediterranean to the French Riviera,
- the awe inspiring Gorges du Verdon, with its more adventurous challenges,
- a great river like the Rhone, shadowing the Viarhona or,
- a more gentle Provencal course from the source to the sea.