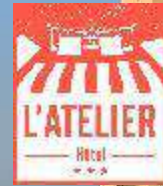


WhatToDoWhen



**MOVE AWAY
FROM AVIGNON, 15' MAX**

Our Opinion

During your stays, you often ask us if there are things to do close to Avignon. Close often means very close.

So we've got down to the nitty-gritty and come up with 10 things to do within 15 minutes of Avignon and the Hôtel de l'Atelier.

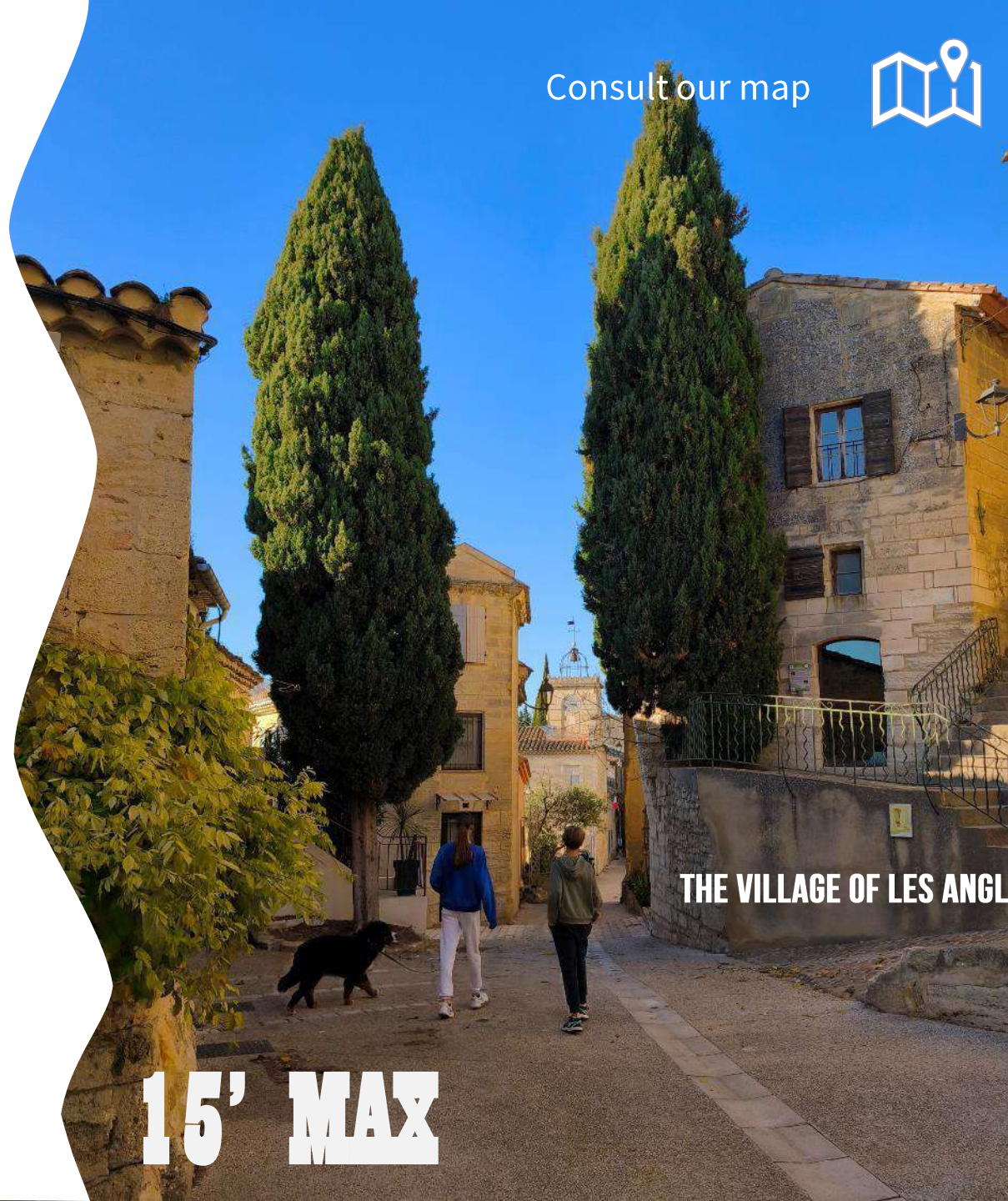
Of course, we've left out Villeneuve-lès-Avignon, Ile de la Barthelasse and the wine routes, as we've already dedicated some *WhaToDoWhen* guides. We've had no trouble finding great experiences, often less well known to traditional tourist guides. We'll let you discover them for yourself.



WhaToDoWhen
MOVE AWAY FROM AVIGNON,

15' MAX

Consult our map

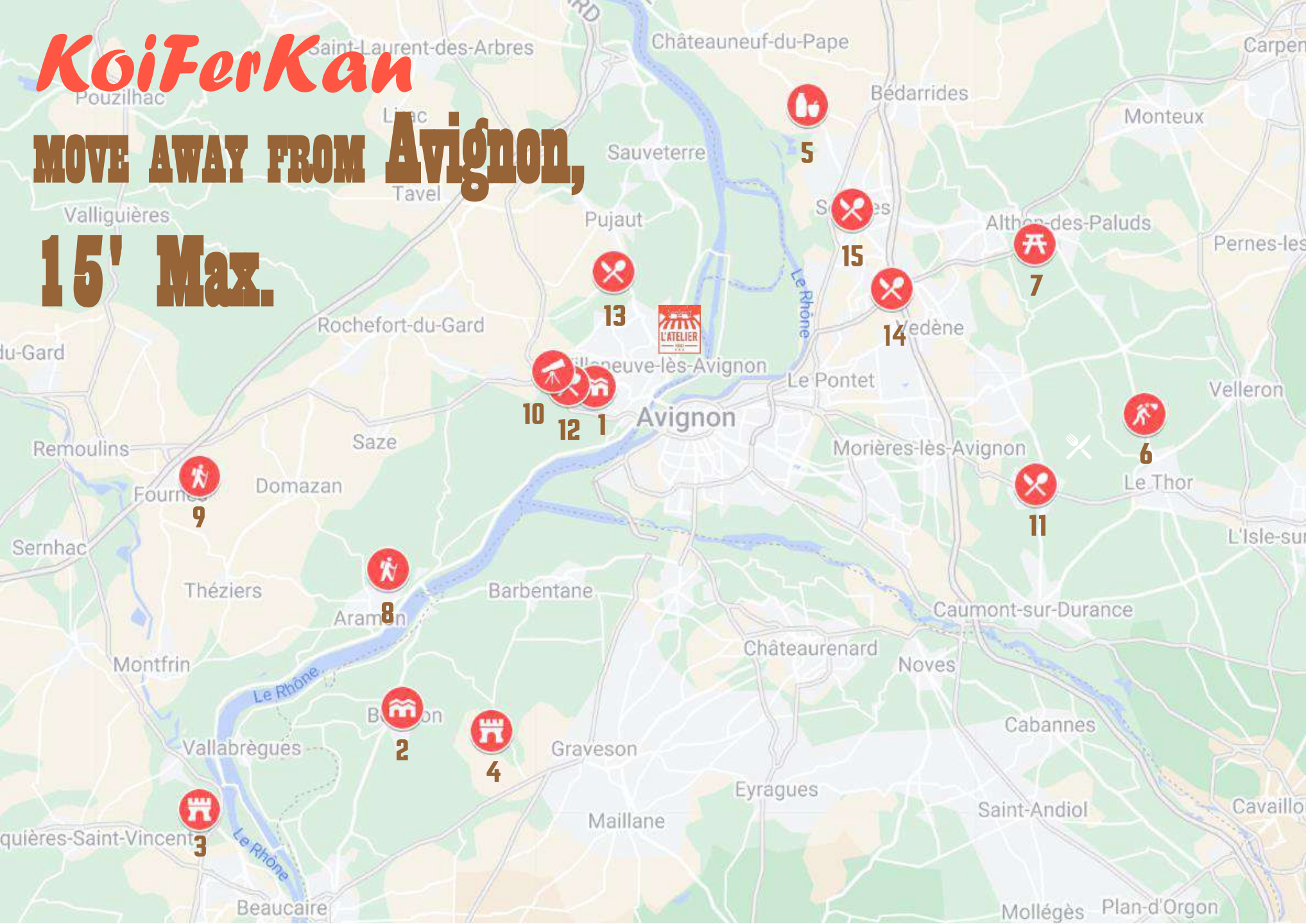


THE VILLAGE OF LES ANGL

KoiFerKan

MOVE AWAY FROM Avignon,

15' Max.



HERITAGE

1. Les Angles
2. Boulbon
3. St-Roman Abbey
4. St-Michel de Frigolet Abbey

ACTIVITIES

5. Chocolate factory Castelain
6. Caves of Thouzon
7. Labyrinthe des Hautes Herbes
8. Capitelles hiking
9. Les Fosses de Fournès trail
10. Parc Cosmos

RESTAURANTS

11. La Maison de Celou
12. Dodo Blanc
13. Entre Vigne et Garrigue
14. Le Confidentiel
15. La Table de Sorgues

WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



1 Visit two "almost" Most Beautiful Villages in France: LES ANGLÉS

It takes just 5 minutes to get there. Too little known, even by the locals! It's forgotten how famous it was with painters of the 19th and early 20th centuries. And understandably so. What's striking about Les Angles is its "mille-feuille" village feel. The village has many faces.

A village perched in the middle of the garrigue, sun-drenched and swept by the Mistral wind, it hides the beauty of its narrow streets at first glance. It's THE authentic village par excellence. Every photo hits the bull's-eye. But the surprises continue. Descending to the foot of the village, it's an oasis of freshness and majestic hundred-year-old trees, accompanied by a beautiful washhouse. Beautiful homes dot the lower part of the village, and it's easy to imagine Grivolos, Derain or Chabaud being inspired by the place.

3 complementary trails enable you to discover all the treasures of Les Angles: the painters' trail, the heritage trail and the plant trail (allow around 1 hour for each trail). You'll discover a village with a rich heritage: church, wash-house, remains of the fortified castle, Château de Pontmartin (where the painter Montagné lived), tower, etc.



WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.

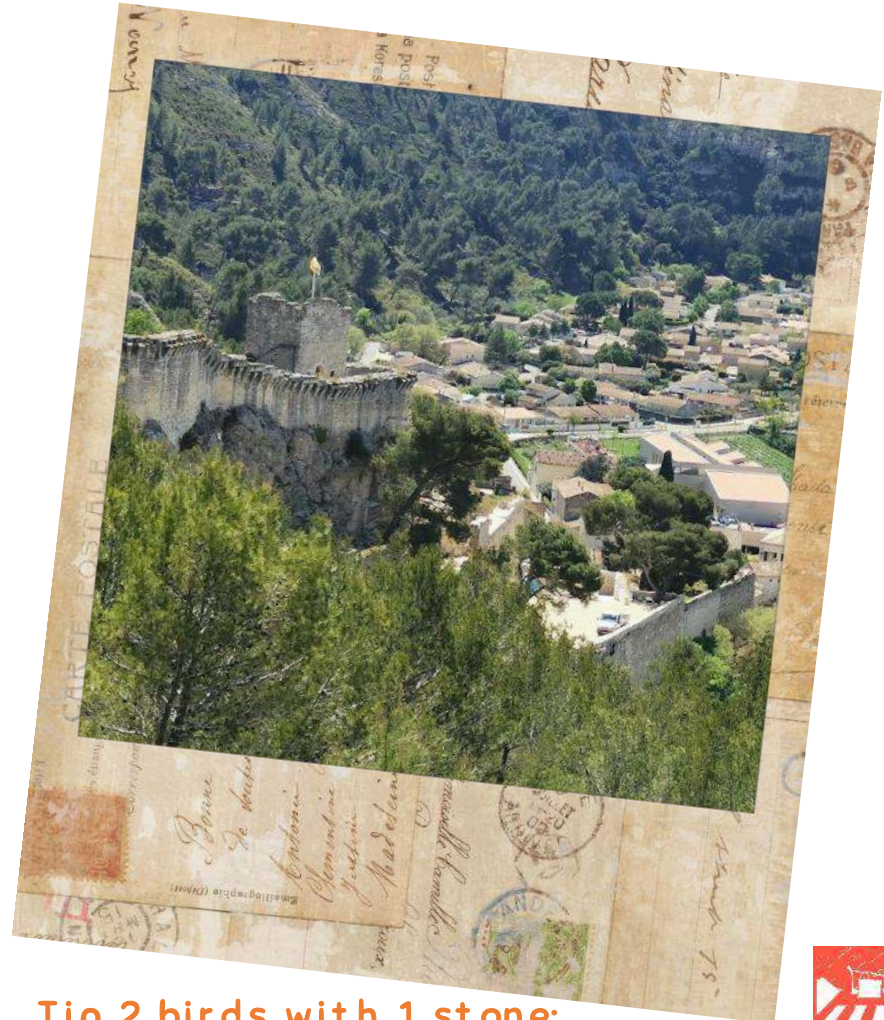


2 Visit two "almost" Most Beautiful Villages in France: BOULBON

A village gem just minutes from L'Atelier. It has it all. At the foot of the famous Montagnette mountain, it's immediately charming with its narrow streets and medieval gates (Porte Loriol), softened by the deliberate presence of vegetation.

Boulbon's appeal doesn't stop there:

- The 17th-century **Moulin de Bonnet** offers a magnificent panoramic view. I highly recommend the 2-hour loop via the Mill and
- The recently restored **château** (11th century) is now open to the public (guided tour only). A turbulent history...
- Thanks to its **quarries**, the village has become a major venue for the Festival IN de théâtre d'Avignon.
- The **Bottle Procession** on June 1^{er} at 7pm. Everyone brings their best bottle and uncorks it. The priest blesses it. You can guess what happens next...



Tip 2 birds with 1 stone:
Try to visit the village on Mondays. There's a market in the alleyways!



WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



3 St-Roman Abbey

St-Roman Abbey is something of a UFO in the world of religious heritage. It's like no other. You'll find the remains of a **monastery carved out of a huge rock** (chapel and large cave hall), and you'll be amazed by this open-air troglodytic **necropolis**.

What's more, it's within easy reach of the hotel. It's the perfect idea when you don't want to go too far, but still want to discover a place that's both magnificent, in the middle of nature, unusual and highly atypical.

A 10-15 minute walk from the parking lot takes you to this hill in the Aiguille massif.

From the summit, the view over the whole region is simply magical (Rhône Valley, Alpilles, etc.). For this reason, we recommend going on a clear day.

Another place that will stay in your memory, and not necessarily highlighted enough in tourist guides.



Tip 2 birds with 1 stone:
You're not far from Tarascon Castle...



WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



4 St-Michel de Frigolet Abbey

Grenoble has its Carthusian monks. Avignon, or rather Tarascon, has its white canons. And yes, when you go to St-Michel de Frigolet Abbey, you're entering a place occupied by monks. That makes all the difference. The place is alive. People come here for retreats. There are services. There are guided tours. There's even a restaurant, the Auberge de la Treille. And above all, there's the famous century-old Frigolet liqueur, which was already mentioned by a certain A. Daudet in his character Père Gaucher.

The place is an invitation to rest and serenity. Situated in the middle of the **Montagnette** massif, there's nothing but garrigue, pines, thyme and rosemary. Just a few minutes from Avignon, the isolation is total. This is undoubtedly why the locals love to go there at weekends... To say hello to the monks, of course, but also to contemplate the church's murals (magnificent and actually quite rare), drop in at the store or hike the many paths of the Montagnette.

An inspiring place you won't forget!



Tip 2 birds with 1 st one:

The walk between the Abbey and Boulbon is a **MUST!**



WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



5 Castelain chocolate factory

It's been 30 years since Bernard Castelain created this chocolate shop, which has become an Avignon institution. Or should I say Châteauneuf-du-Pape!

It all began on the famous vineyard, when the famous Marc de Châteauneuf-du-Pape was combined with dark chocolate. The result is Palet des Papes ;-)

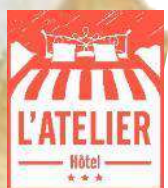
Today, Castelain chocolates are an essential part of local Avignon gastronomy. But the attraction of this chocolate factory goes far beyond this, offering video projection, a tour of the (very large) boutique, a view of the production workshops through large bay windows and, above all, the choice of one of the many chocolate discovery workshops.

There's something for everyone: a tour of the workshop, making your own chocolates (including workshops for children and families), pairing wine and chocolate (or even truffles), or coffee and chocolate.

And best of all, you can take your own creations home with you!



Tip 2 birds with 1 stone:
Taste the PAC à l'eau (next door to the chocolate factory).



WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



6 The Thouzon caves

Is there a grotto in Provence? Yes, and it's in Thouzon, a small village near Avignon.

Of course, the caves of the Ardèche and Gard regions, such as Chauvet, La Salamandre, Les Mademoiselles and Orgnac, have acquired an international reputation. But "little" Thouzon hides its secrets well. It's full of surprises and amazing attractions.

60 million years in 45 minutes: that's the challenge taken up by the cave's guides, who are a big part of the cave's success.

The route takes place in the fossilized bed of an ancient river. The passage is therefore easy and particularly well laid out. New lighting highlights the stars of the cave: the golden-yellow fistulas (ultra-thin stalactites). Some are up to 2m long and only 3mm in diameter. The delicacy of these stalactites is truly impressive. The highlight of the show is the arrival at the basins (see photo). A real treat!



Tip 2 birds with 1 st one:
Convenient snack bar on site.



WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



7 The Hautes Herbes maze

Happiness is often found in simple pleasures. That's the philosophy behind this atypical place, recently created by a farming couple. There are no rollercoasters or thrill rides here, "just" a maze in a cornfield that promises a multi-reconnection with what's essential. There's no need to look at your watch, just take the time to find your way out. Be patient! On average, labyrinth adventurers find their way out in 1h30! And yes, that's longer than a Space Mountain tour... The labyrinth covers an area of 2 hectares.

It's a great idea, especially as each year there's a different route on a different theme (e.g. insects).

Live the experience to the full. Rediscover a kind of France of yesteryear. And rediscover your childhood memories. Watch your children let off steam and have fun in this immense green space.

To complete the experience, bring a picnic and enjoy the pedal go-karts or wooden games on site.



WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



8 The Capitelles hiking

What is a capitelle? Well, it's a borie. A dry-stone hut, once used by shepherds (flocks of sheep) or farmers (olive harvest). If you're in the Gard, you say capitelle. If you're in the Vaucluse, you say borie. Quite simply.

We often see visitors heading for the village of Les Bories in Gordes (lovely, but not free and very touristy). Well, we propose "our very own village of capitelles" near Aramon. Closer, free of charge, with (almost) no-one around, and fantastic views over the Rhône valley, the Alpilles and the Ventoux, it will take you around 2 hours to cover a perfectly marked 6 km (yellow) trail.

You'll discover the region's historic heritage thanks to excellent information panels. I was impressed by the quality of maintenance and renovation of these stone cabins. A truly magnificent tour!



Tip 2 birds with 1 stone:
Why not combine this walk with a visit to St-Roman Abbey.



WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



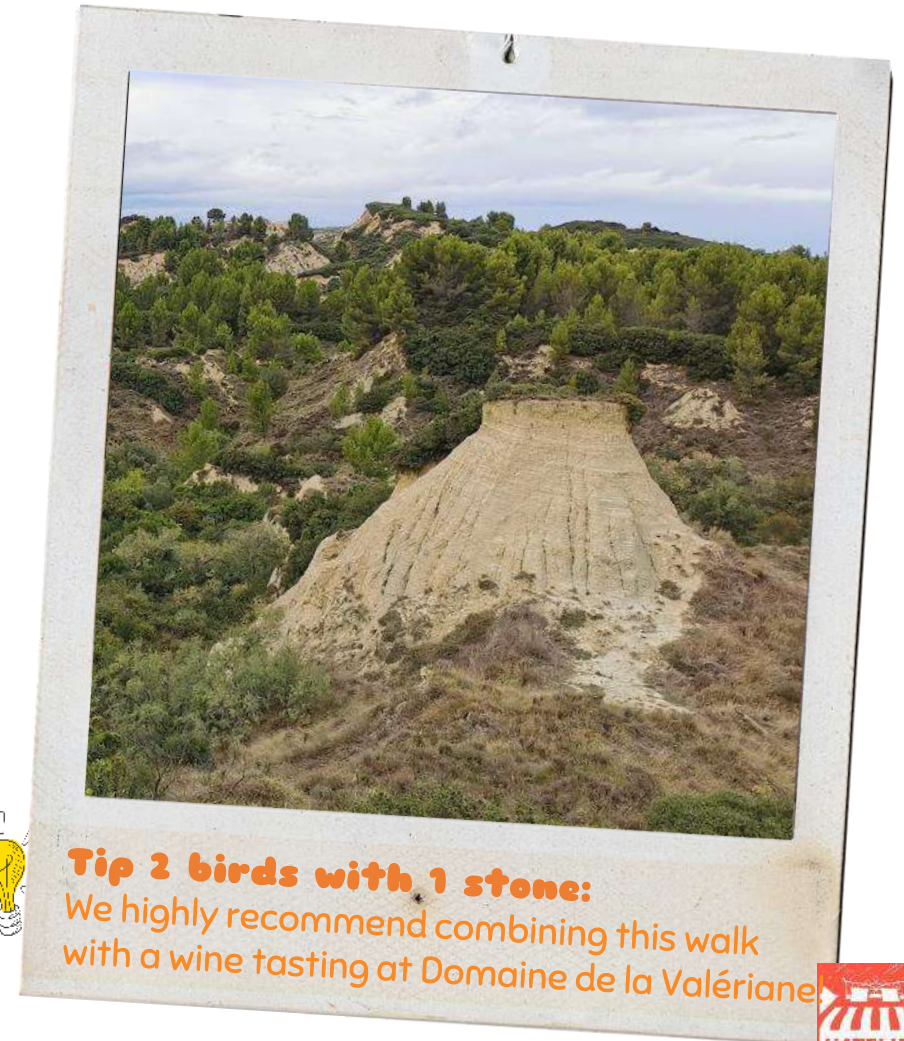
9 The Fosses de Fournès trail

It's an easy 1h45 walk (almost level loop) on a geological site that's at once unusual, strange, spectacular and very pretty. Between lunar scenery, vineyards and wildlife (lavender, rosemary, kermes oak...), this walk is a kind of UFO in Provence, and is sure to remain in your memories.

The highlight of the show, of course, is the fifty or so clay pitons, ranging from 10 to 30 metres in height, that you'll see on your journey. They are the result of a long process of erosion. The best known is the *Mourre de Pitaraçon*, a kind of legendary local peak.

The pretty colors of the pitons, ranging from white or yellow to ochre, blend perfectly with the tall grasses of the plateau. For budding geologists, a small protected perennial plant, the *Stipa Paviflora*, unique in France, has taken root here.

Clay comes in handy in the small village of Fournès, which is still developing a terracotta industry.



Tip 2 birds with 1 stone:
We highly recommend combining this walk with a wine tasting at *Domaine de la Valériane*.



WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



10 **Cosmos Park**

We're lucky enough to have a scientific and cultural center dedicated to astronomy and space right next door.

In my opinion, the main attraction of the visit lies in the many "happenings" created by the center: guided tours, planetarium sessions, evening sky observations, telescope workshops and lectures. In short, don't go without calling, and plan your visit to find out about the day's events.

Indeed, the visit takes on a whole new dimension when accompanied by an astronomy instructor. I was deeply impressed by the planetarium session. And I'd like to attend it again as soon as possible, especially as the planetarium (8m diameter dome), now called Claudie Haigneré, was completely renovated in 2022. The experience lasts 1h15 and promises to take you far, far away, to discover lands you'd never imagined. When you leave this session, you'll instantly have taken one hell of a step back from your daily routine. While this may frighten some people, it does me a world of good.

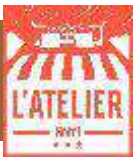


WhatToDoWhen Move away from Avignon, max. 15 min.



11 à 15 Our TOP 5 restaurants at 15' Max

- **Entre Vigne et Garrigue:** Michelin-starred restaurant in neighboring Pujaut. Everything I love about it: traditional Provençal cuisine in a charming, secluded setting (an old farmhouse). Ask to see the restaurant's impressive cellar.
- **La table de Sorgues:** Housed in a former manor house, this restaurant has become one of the region's best-known establishments. The Riss couple, originally from Alsace, offer market cuisine. What I like about them is their sincerity. The product comes first, without distorting it with artifice.
- **Le Dodo Blanc:** As a fan of Creole cuisine, I couldn't help but fall under the spell of this place. Reunionese cuisine, very good quality, and now easily accessible from the hotel. Will you pass the final test of guessing the 7 rhums arrangés?
- **La Maison de Celou:** Another of the region's best-known restaurants, in Châteauneuf-de-Gadagne. In a restored house, everything is there: quality of cuisine and welcome, and what can we say about its panoramic view of the Ventoux.
- **Le Confidentiel:** It may come as a surprise to find it in this selection. Located in a Novotel in the Le Pontet business park, it's not normally the type of address we highlight at L'Atelier. But it fully deserves its place. Firstly, because everyone in Avignon knows it. It's incredibly popular here. And secondly, we must salute the extraordinary work done to create a unique, friendly and festive atmosphere. The food is good, but it's the atmosphere that you come for.



PRACTICAL - 15' MAX FROM AVIGNON

Vineyard



St-Michel de Frigolet Abbey	04 90 95 70 07	Open daily from 7am to 7pm.	Liqueur recommended.
St-Roman Abbey	07 81 56 44 51	Tuesday to Sunday, 2pm to 5pm, except July and August (also mornings, 10am to 1pm).	Departure from the parking lot.
Chocolaterie Castelain	04 90 16 46 20	Monday to Saturday 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 7pm. From 1 to 24/12: Monday to Friday 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 7pm, Saturday 9am to 7pm, Sunday 10am to 6pm.	Store, tasting area, various workshops.
Caves of Thouzon	04 65 81 16 55	April, May, June, September and October. Daily from 10am to 6pm. Last departure at 5.15pm. July and August. Daily from 10am to 7pm. Last departure at 6pm.	Snack bar on site.
High Grass Labyrinth	06 09 32 13 63	June 1 to 30, every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 1pm to 5pm. July 1 ^{er} to July 31, daily, 1pm to 5pm. Sept. 1 ^{er} to Nov. 3, every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. 1pm to 5pm.	Picnic possible.
Parc Cosmos	04 90 25 66 82	Off-holidays: Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday (2.15pm to 5.30pm). Vacations: Tuesday to Sunday (2.45pm to 7pm).	Guided tours available.
Entre Vigne et Garrigue	04 90 95 20 29	Open Wednesday to Sunday, lunch and dinner.	1-star restaurant
La Table de Sorgues	04 90 39 11 02	Open Tuesday to Saturday, lunch and dinner.	Gourmet restaurant.
Le Dodo Blanc	04 90 33 83 78	Open Tuesday to Sunday, lunch and dinner (except Sunday evening).	Quality Reunionese cuisine.
La Maison de Celou	04 90 16 08 61	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: lunch and dinner. And Wednesday lunchtime.	Quality home cooking.
Le Confidentiel	06 80 57 46 83	Open daily for lunch and dinner.	Reservations recommended!