

AVIGNON 2017

PRESS KIT



Contents

Avignon - press release	P. 1
New in 2017	P. 2
Good deals to visit	P. 4
History	P.6
Exceptional heritage	P. 7
. Palace of the Popes	
. Saint-Bénézet bridge	
. A town of collectors	
. Petit Palais museum	
. Calvet Museum and the Lapidary Museum	
. Palais du Roure	
. Requier Museum	
. Mont de Piété	
. Collection Lambert in Avignon	
. Angladon museum	
. Louis Vouland Foundation	
Avignon on stage	P. 12
. Festival d'Avignon	
. Festival off	
. Cultural venues	
Events in 2017	P. 14
Avignon town of gastronomy	P. 17
. «Provençal» gastronomy	
. Specialities	
. Capital of the Côtes du Rhône wines	
Avignon's designers	P. 20
Avignon nature and environment	P.21
. Barthelasse Island	
. Cruising on the Rhône river	
. Gardens	
. Avignon in the heart of Provence	
Avignon and the environment	P. 23
Avignon High tech	P. 25
Groups and conventions	P. 25
Getting to Avignon	P. 26
Key figures on Avignon	P. 28



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Avignon is just 2 hours and 40 minutes from Paris and 3 hours from Roissy airport by TGV and only 5 hours 49 to London by Eurostar since May 2015.

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 1300 shows 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, the harvest proclamation in August...

Avignon is the perfect place to discover and explore Provençal cuisine. Avignon's 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.

THE HISTOPAD IN THE PALACE OF THE POPES SEPTEMBRE 2017



Starting with the next French Heritage Days, visitors to the Palace of the Popes are invited to experience a unique journey into the past in the heart of the biggest Gothic palace in Europe. You are the actor of your visit. Using 3-D technologies and augmented reality, you can activate a door into the past whenever you want.

During your visit, take along our tactile tablet to enjoy time immersion in the major rooms of the palace, entirely virtualized as they were in the 14th century. The Histopad proposes material based on historical and cultural content reviving spectacular historical reconstitutions, prepared by a scientific committee.

Histopad content has been developed in 6 languages (French, English, Chinese, German, Italian and Spanish), and in sign language, language for the visually-impaired and is also adapted for persons with reduced mobility.

This digital development is a co-production with Histovery, a start-up and member of the French Tech Culture, association based in Avignon. It works with regional digital leaders to provide a solution 100% made in France.

www.palais-des-papes.com

LA LÉGÈRETÉ RAOUL DUFY April 7 to August 27 2017



Thanks to an exceptional loan from a private collector eager to share these precious treasures, over 60 works by Raoul Dufy (1877-1953) enlighten visitors to the Musée Angladon-Collection Jacques Doucet. An exhilarating show that sheds light on Dufy's love of life and the profound lightness of art. This retrospective fills the newly-designed temporary exhibit rooms on the upper floor of the museum.

www.angladon.com



LES COMBAS DE LAMBERT Goes until 5 June 2017

The current exhibition at the Collection Lambert displays a wide range of works by one of the collection's best-represented artists. Jubilant, sardonic works full of colour and activity that recall the great colourist Gaston Chaissac and the impudence of an entire decade of true freedom of thought, light years away from the current reign of politically correct, ideological and religious morality which dominates public discussion. Artist Robert Combas occupies a very special place in the fifty years of the history of Yvon Lambert's gallery. Combas arrived in the mid-80's, a period when the art market and history of painting were in upheaval. Figurative painting, dead and buried for over fifteen years, was beginning to rise from its ashes in many parts of the world.

www.collectionlambert.com

CARRÉ DU PALAIS April 2017



In the heart of hearts of Avignon, a gourmand palace for Côtes-du-Rhône wines and all things wine-tourism related.

Located on the square in front of the Palace of the Popes, the Carré du Palais is the place to be in Avignon. Devoted to the wines from the Rhône valley, to gastronomy and wine-tourism, the Carré du Palais is home to a school on Rhône wines and a 100% Rhône Oenotouristic Wine Bar. With an impressive cellar, fabulous rooms and patios, special events all year long, the Carré du Palais is a magnet for visitors passing through Avignon, meeting-goers, business tourism and locals.

The Carré du Palais is also devoted to the theme of fermentation in general and is a great place to explore coffee, tea, chocolate, bread, charcuteries, cheeses... with workshops and shops, classes and demonstrations for food lovers from near and far.

www.carredupalaisavignon.com

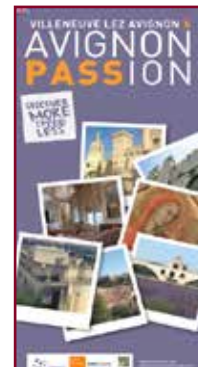


AVIGNON, VISIT MORE, SPEND LESS !

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.

www.avignon-tourisme.com



THEMATIC VISITS OF THE CITY

All year round, our guides-interpreters offer thematic guided visits. More information on:

www.avignon-tourisme.com

MOBILE APPS

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.

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



DIFFERENT WAYS TO VISIT THE CITY

Avignon Calèches

Discover Avignon in a period horse-drawn coach. Tour through the historical city centre: the Popes' Palace square, the old winding streets, the charming Place Crillon and Place Saint-Pierre, and atop the Rocher des Doms with the magnificent views over the Rhône River Valley.

June 1st to September 15th.

www.facebook.com/AvignonCaleches

Avignon on the tourist train

Discover the main sites from the Popes' Palace, classified at the worldwide heritage of the Unesco, the "Rocher des Doms", the old medieval streets of trade and crafts, and last but not least, the famous "Pont d'Avignon".

www.petittrainavignon.fr

Avignon Gourmet Tour

A gastronomic and cultural tour of the centre city of Avignon along a unique gourmand path. Visit the indoor market Les Halles, taste 7 to 8 local products at the various stalls in Les Halles, and local AOC wines, learn the secrets of Lavender...

www.avignongourmetours.com

Daytour App - 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 tastings 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

Mobilboard

Explore Avignon on a Gyropode Segway®, discover the historic city centre alongside certified instructors: the Palace of the Popes, the Rocher des Doms gardens and panoramic views, and of course the Pont d'Avignon. Possibility of outings on Barthelasse Island to take in the beautiful view from the other side of the Rhône.

www.mobilboard.com/avignon

Provence Tuk Tuk Tour

Take an original trip in a tuk tuk (for 1 to 3 persons). Several ways to do it. Try the City tuk tuk which takes you on a touring itinerary in and around Avignon. Or a Holiday tuk tuk.

Reservations required.

www.provencetuktuktour.fr

South Spirit Tours / E-bike Rental

E-bikes available for rental to discover Provence. Ideal for wonderful and simplicity. Guided tours of the history and heritage of Avignon and the surrounding area on electric bikes. Several themes are offered, with tastings of regional products and wine tastings.

www.southspiritbike.com

Vélo cité

Tours lasting an hour or half-an-day. A fun and different way to discover the city. We also pick up and drop off in our pedal-powered rickshaws for transportation in the centre city of Avignon and the close outskirts.

+33 (0)6 37 36 48 89

velociteavignon@gmail.com



Find more excursions on www.avignon-tourisme.com

avignon

History



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 Venaisin 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 Venaisin 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.

avignon

an exceptional heritage



WORLD HERITAGE FOR HUMANITY

Capital of the Christianity in the 14th century, Avignon is famous all over the world for its historical treasures: the Palace of the Popes, Avignon's bridge, the Petit Palais museum, the Palace's square and a part of the ramparts are classified world heritage site by the UNESCO since 1995.

THE POPES PALACE

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 €).



New! Histopad for all at the Palace of the Popes

Starting with the next French Heritage Days, visitors to the Palace of the Popes are invited to experience a unique journey into the past in the heart of the biggest Gothic palace in Europe.

You are the actor of your visit. Using 3-D technologies and augmented reality, you can activate a door into the past whenever you want.

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Restoration of Saint-Martial Chapel



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".

Following preventive conservation work done in 2016, a glazed door will be installed at the entrance to the Chapel in early 2017. This transparent protection will allow the public to admire the totally restored frescoes during the visit.

www.avignon-tourisme.com

THE PONT ST BENEZET: 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 22 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.

www.avignon-pont.com



Avignon's Bridge
accessible to persons with
impaired mobility

New! The Avignon Bridge - Pont Saint-Bénézet – the first fully-accessible site from the Middle Ages, has been awarded the “Tourism and Handicap” label for access to persons with mental and motor handicaps.

The Pont d'Avignon is now entirely accessible for disabled persons.

Between November 2015 and September 2016, 1567 persons with reduced mobility visited the Pont d'Avignon. The monument is currently studying other devices in order to welcome persons with hearing and visual impairments. As part of UNESCO World Heritage since 1995, the Pont d'Avignon is proud to be able to be visited by everyone, whether in a wheelchair or not, and thus implement the principle of universality. After an in-depth study and 7 months of work on the ramp and the cobblestone paving of the bridge to adapt it to wheels, the monument is fully accessible.

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.

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

www.grandavignon.fr



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



A TOWN OF COLLECTORS

Musée du Petit Palais

The Petit Palais displays Italian paintings from the 13th to the 16th centuries from the Louvre museum: the Campana collection. Works by famous artists such as Botticelli and Carpaccio and works from many masters as well as other medieval Provençal sculptures and paintings and Italian paintings. It is one of the major European museums of medieval art. A tea salon inside the Petit Palais museum, in an interior garden, serves tea indoors and outdoors in the garden, open during museum opening hours. Musée de France Label. A Unesco World Heritage site.

www.petit-palais.org



Musée Calvet

In a 18th century magnificent private mansion, varied collections as paintings or sculptures from the 15th century to the 20th century Marcel Puech donation: furniture, decorative arts and goldsmith craft.

Modern art hall Victor Martin: Soutine, Camille Claudel, Bonnard, Utrillo and Albert Gleizes. Three permanent rooms dedicated to the Egyptian collections ranked 5th in France in quality and quantity. Saint Priest rooms: paintings and sculptures to discover the evolution of the arts in Avignon from Renaissance to Revolution.

www.musee-calvet-avignon.com

Lapidary Museum

Gallery of Ancient Art at the Calvet Museum. This archaeological museum is housed in the beautiful baroque chapel that was once part of the Jesuit college, and displays the collections of Greek, Roman, Gallo-Roman and Paleochristian archaeology. There is a rare ensemble of Greek sculpture containing beautiful funerary stelae, votive works. In 2014 this collection was enriched with two deposits from the Louvre – the Myrtia stele, and the Killaron lekythos. See the magnificent series of Attica, Corinthian and Italiote vases and Greek terracotta statuettes.

www.musee-calvet-avignon.com

Palais du Roure

Museum and Hôtel de Baroncelli-Javon. Museum and documentation centre essentially devoted to Provençal culture. This former private home is still furnished and retains its natural grace which gives it a lovely atmosphere.

www.avignon.fr/ma-ville/culture-et-tourisme/une-ville-des-musees

Requien museum

The Museum of Natural History in Avignon is named after the 19th century Avignon naturalist Esprit Requien (1788-1851), who acquired national and international fame in the field of botany. His herbarium is a world standard. His collections, which also cover geology and paleontology, alongside the collections of Esprit Calvet make this museum the 5th ranked museum of natural history outside of Paris, and contain nearly one million specimens.

The rooms open to the public retrace the geological and paleontological history of Vaucluse, the formation of the Earth and the glaciations in the Quaternary, displaying fossils, rocks and minerals...

Frequent temporary exhibits in addition to the permanent displays.

www.museum-avignon.org

Municipal Archives in Avignon The Former Pawn Shop

The municipal Archives are located in what was once a thriving pawnshop, known as the Mont-de-Piété, in Avignon.

Museum displays at the archives show objects, works and documents that tell the story of the oldest Mont-de-Piété in France (1610) and also tell of the silk-conditioning works that the administrators later created.

In the courtyard and on the outside walls there are temporary exhibitions on the history of Avignon and local people.

www.archives.avignon.fr



Collection Lambert in Avignon

This collection of contemporary art was donated to France by gallery owner Yvon Lambert. Placed permanently in Avignon, the collection reflects all the major artistic movements of our era. The Collection Lambert in Avignon.

Exhibition space has doubled in size since July 2015. Two side-by-side mansions house the collection. The Montfaucon House and the adjoining Caumont House will display temporary exhibits as well as presentation of the permanent collection.

In 2017: Les Combas de Lambert
Up to June 5th

www.collectionlambert.com



Angladon museum

Private mansion in the centre of the old Avignon. Discover the art collection of the great couturier and connoisseur Jacques Doucet: European and far eastern decorative arts, Lawrence, Chardin, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Sisley, Degas, Modigliani, Picasso...



Exhibition 2017: La Légèreté Raoul Dufy
From April 7 to 27 August

www.angladon.com

Fondation Louis Vouland

The museum is named for its founder, Louis Vouland, a magnate who was active in the food industry. The museum displays an outstanding collection of Decorative Arts from the 17th and 18th centuries, with furnishings, ceramics, tapestries and other works. Just as Louis Vouland had wanted, the spirit of the museum is one of an 18th century mansion. It opens onto a lovely garden on the southern side. It is also home to a collection of the late 19th-century and 20th-century Provençal painting and shows different works each year, between the temporary exhibitions which feature monographic or thematic collections. Shop and bookshop.

www.vouland.com



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 - 71st edition

July 6th to 26th

The Avignon Festival means 71 years of universal thought at the service of cultural heritage and contemporary creation. 71 years of placing art in perspective with the reality of society. 71 years of aesthetic and political projects that observe the major metamorphoses of the performing arts and the complexity of mankind. In 2014, Olivier Py was the first director to run the Festival since it was founded by Jean Vilar. In keeping with his ideas, Py has reconnected to the militant spirit and offers theatre-goers "a different relation to the world, one in which politics are not isolated from both thinking, and hope".

www.festival-avignon.com

THE FESTIVAL OFF - 52nd edition

July 7th to 30th

The Off, a vast fair of live performances and cultural events on an international scale, offers over 1300 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.

www.festival-avignon.com

THE OPERA HOUSE

The Opera-Theatre for Avignon and the Vaucluse offers a wide range of shows achieving great for all types of audiences – opera, dance, theatre and music. It reserves time and space for contemporary performances, young actors, singers and musicians.

June 2017: renovation work gets underway, scheduled to last 2 seasons. Performances will be held in a pop-up theatre with 850 seats, in Courtine.

operagrandavignon.fr

MAISON JEAN VILAR

Exhibitions, meetings, conferences and publications are all part of the rich offerings the Maison Jean Vilar contributes to the cultural scene in Avignon. The Maison Jean Vilar is a resource centre on the performing arts, with a rich library and videotheque. It is the living memory of the Avignon Festival, with outstanding collections from the inception of the Festival to the present day, and is also home to the archives of Jean Vilar.

www.maisonjeanvilar.org/news

LES SCENES 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.

Fest’Hiver

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

LE CDC - LES HIVERNALES

All year long, Les Hivernales Choreographic Development Centre programmes activities furthering choreographic culture, and hosts performances and choreographers in residence. It organises classes and events in its theatre. Among the highlights each year – Les Hivernales Festival in February with performances and classes in and around Avignon, a festival which has been ongoing for more than 35 years. There is also a summer festival in July – L’été au CDC.

www.hivernales-avignon.com

A.J.M.I.

Improvisational and jazz music, classes, conferences... Great program from October to June, a summer festival and on request for groups and individuals. Occasional rental of the room and the equipment.

www.jazzalajmi.com

avignon events 2017



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 - 32nd 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!

January 18th to 22nd

www.cheval-passion.com

39^e Hivernales d'Avignon

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

February 18th to 25th

www.hivernales-avignon.com

Humour Festival

7th edition of the Festival of Comedy in le Paris theater.

February 27th to March 7th

www.leparisavignon.com

Rencontres Cinématographiques du Sud

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

March 14th to 18th

www.lesrencontresdusud.fr

The « Globe-Trotteurs » festival

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

March 24th to 26th

<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 24th to 26th

www.avignon-motor-festival.com



Festo Pitcho - 11th edition

Performing Arts Festival for young audiences.

March 25th to 9th April

www.festopitcho.com

Spring fair - 95th edition

400 exhibitors, 45,000 m², renewable energy, sustainable development, environment...

April 14th to 17th

www.foireavignon.com

Naturavignon - 22nd edition

Organic and solidarity products, regional crafts market.

May

www.avenir84.org

Museums open at night

Saturday May 20th

www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr

Horn Festival

Concerts, masterclass, competitions.

June

Music Day

June 21st

71st 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.

July 6th to 26th

52nd 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.

July 7th to 30th

www.avignonleoff.com



Theatre festival for children

Plays, workshops, and exhibitions.

July

www.festivaltheatrenfants.com

Bastille day

July 14th

Festival Résonance - 10th edition

Electronic Music Festival in outstanding historical architecture sites.

3 days end of July

www.festival-resonance.fr

Avignon Jazz Festival

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

July 29th to August 2nd

www.trempjazz.com

New wine celebration

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

August

www.bandesvendanges.fr

Medieval Festival at Carmes square

A medieval camp, medieval market, medieval banquet.

September 9th and 10th

European Heritage Day

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

September 16th and 17th

www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr

Gastronomy Festival

Events to celebrate regional gastronomy.

September

www.fete-gastronomie.fr

Festival of the Golden Rose

Great medieval event.

October (every 2 years)

Animo & Nature

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

October

www.animo-nature.com

Dates may change.

Parcours de l'art

20 artists in different places of exhibitions in the city.

September 30th to October 22nd

www.parcoursdelart.com

Science festival

Mid-October

Avignon Blues Festival

October

www.avignonbluesfestival.com

Les Automnales de l'orgue

Organ festival. Concerts, animations, master class.

October - November

Model Show

October - November

Millévin

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

November 16th

www.millevin.fr

Foire de la Saint-André

Traditionnal commercial fair.

November 30th and December 1st

Christmas festivities

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

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.



Les Halles market

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's 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.

www.avignon-leshalles.com



AVIGNON TEMPLE OF GASTRONOMY

In the very heart of Provence, Avignon benefits from a cornucopia of gorgeous local products that are creatively put to delicious use by a great number of chefs, including young chef Mathieu Desmarets at the restaurant in the Hôtel d'Europe. Chef Desmarets has only recently returned to his native town of Avignon after a stint in the presidential kitchens at L'Elysée.

Other examples include the new chef at La Mirande, Florent Pietravalle, Guillaume Sevin who has taken over the celebrated Maison de Christian Etienne, a shrine to Provençal cuisine just next to the Palace of the Popes, Julien Gleize and his sought-after restaurant l'Agape, Gérald Azoulay at Hiely Lucullus with its Belle-Epoque decor, Laurent Chouviat and his elegant restaurant L'Essentiel, Thierry Baucher, meilleur ouvrier de France and his restaurant Les 5 Sens, and countless other reputed tables in Avignon.

All draw inspiration from food products grown locally – whether from Barthelasse Island or directly from Les Halles d'Avignon or other local farmers' markets. Growers and chefs come together to transform the fruits of the earth and delight our senses.



Ask for our guide
«Avignon Gourmand».



AVIGNON, CAPITAL OF THE CÔTES DU RHÔNE WINES

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.

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».



Nouveauté 2017 oenotourisme: the Carré du Palais

In the heart of hearts of Avignon, a gourmand palace for Côtes-du-Rhône wines and all things wine-tourism related.

Located on the square in front of the Palace of the Popes, the Carré du Palais is the place to be in Avignon. Devoted to the wines from the Rhône valley, to gastronomy and wine-tourism, the Carré du Palais is home to a school on Rhône wines and a 100% Rhône Oenotouristic Wine Bar. With an impressive cellar, fabulous rooms and patios, special events all year long, the Carré du Palais is a magnet for visitors passing through Avignon, meeting-goers, business tourism and locals.

The Carré du Palais is also devoted to the theme of fermentation in general and is a great place to explore coffee, tea, chocolate, bread, charcuteries, cheeses... with workshops and shops, classes and demonstrations for food lovers from near and far.



www.carredupalaisavignon.com



Harvest proclamation - 22nd edition

August

The "Compagnons des Côtes du Rhône" organize a series of wine-related cultural and festive events which include the "Harvest Proclamation", or "Ban des Vendanges", a traditional celebration which is held along the Rhone river. The "Côtes du Rhône Ban des 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, patronsaint of agriculture, vines and soil. The "Ban des 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 "Ban des Vendanges" was the best-tolerated of all the seigniorial obligations. Today, the famous «ban des vendanges» is a popular feast celebrated each year in September in Avignon, featuring a parade of

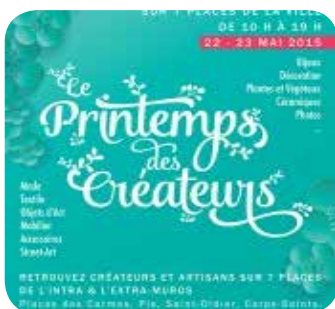
the wine-making brotherhoods, a Harvest Mass, gathering of the grapes from the papal vineyard, tasting of Côtes du Rhône wines and sales of regional products. Musical entertainment.



LES FABRICATEURS

The Fabricateurs is a collective gathering twenty art venues, artists and craftsmen from Avignon. Their guide is dedicated to creations: design, textile art, decoration, fashion, accessories, stationery, furniture and contemporary art and offers a discovery tour in the city. Available at the Tourist Office.

<https://lesfabricateurs.wordpress.com>



DESIGNER'S SPRING

Each square of the city welcomes thirty creators and artisans and some workshops (floral, makeup or street art...), free on reservation for child and / or adult.

In May



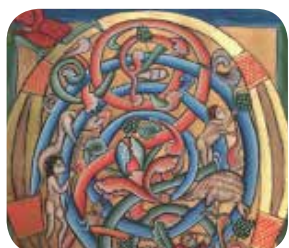
ATELIERS D'ARTISTES

40 artists open their individual or collective workshops to the public to discover all kind of visual arts.

Map available on:

<https://sites.google.com/site/aacavignon/home>

In November



LES ATELIERS D'ART DU PALAIS DES PAPES

The Association Altera Roma proposes a program of medieval art classes for adults, right in the very heart of the Popes' Palace. Classes in illuminated manuscripts, calligraphy, paper marbling, ceramics.

www.lesateliersdupalais.com

avignon

nature and environment



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).



CRUISING ON THE RHÔNE RIVER

Free shuttle boat

Now the banks of the Rhône surrounding the Pont d'Avignon have been redesigned and a free river shuttle « La Ville d'Avignon » takes you across to this bucolic retreat, the largest green space in Avignon.

Cruises

Several river cruises offer other views of the city from the Rhône river.

Dinner and lunch on the Rhône river

Have a look at the cruises on: www.mireio.net

GARDENS

For a nice break after your visit, enjoy these two public gardens in Avignon: the Rocher des Doms garden, and the square Agricol-Perdiguer, right next to the Tourist Office.

Rocher des Doms garden

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 Rhône and afford magnificent views of the entire area.

www.avignon.fr



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
- . Ansois, 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.

www.provenceguide.com



avignon and the environment



AVIGNON FOR A PRESERVED ENVIRONMENT

Vélopop

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

www.velopop.fr



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

New Greenway!

An 11-km Greenway christened the “Canal Path” or Chemin des canaux connects centre-city Avignon to Montfavet using soft transportation along the banks of the Canal de Vaucluse. This Greenway is exclusively reserved for: pedestrians, persons with reduced mobility, cyclists, and roller sports, for daily travel and outdoor leisure.

And all around the Avignon ramparts: a 4.3-km cycling itinerary has been laid out along the rampart walls.

ViaRhôna

The circuit « ViaRhôna from the Léman to the Méditerranéen » : 815 km

Ride on this path of civilization, over 2,000 years of history, between the Mediterranean and Europe.

www.viarhona.com

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.

PARKING IN AVIGNON

Outside parking with free shuttle to the city centre:

Ile Piot car park

1100 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.

Italiens car park

1430 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.

Cityz Avignon - car sharing

Car renting 24/7. Six stations are available through the city.

www.avignon-autopartage.org

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, videosurveillance... 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.

www.pemavignon.fr

Tram Construction

Work has been underway on the new Tram lines since October 2016. The future tramway for the Greater Avignon area is scheduled to start operations in 2019 with 5.2 km of tram lines and 10 stops.

www.grandavignon.fr



avignon high tech



Digital Avignon, the French Tech label

In 2015 Avignon has been awarded of 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 will help the city develop its digital economy.

www.lafrenchtech.com



Technopôle Pégase Avignon

The Pegasus cluster was created in May 2006 by a group of 14 people from industry, education and research area, with a request to build an ambitious development plan for the aerospace industry in the region of Provence Alpes Côte d’Azur.

It brings together more than 300 actors motivated by the development of a new generation of aircraft (drones, airships, light aircraft, helicopters, new concepts and stratospheric aircraft).

www.pole-pegase.com www.avignon.aeroport.fr



Avignon’s bridge in 3D

The Pont d’Avignon, a real feat of technical prowess in its time, once connected the two banks of the Rhône river. The bridge has always been a vector of legends and a powerful symbol of the area. Since the year 2010, interdisciplinary research has been conducted on the bridge under the auspices of the Grand Avignon metropolitan area and the CNRS French research institute. New museum space and devices present the results of this unprecedented research.

The apps are available on smart phone or tablets on the websites:

www.palais-des-papes.com et www.grandavignon.fr



avignon groups and conventions



CONVENTION CENTRE IN THE PALACE OF THE POPES The outstanding theatre for all of your events

The Convention Centre in the Palace of the Popes offers a unified venue with 16 different character-filled rooms for the organisation of your meetings, congresses, special events and gala evenings, for 20 to 536 persons in meeting style, 700 persons in reception mode. There are 1800 m² of exhibition space, in two private wings of the palace, in the very heart of the historical city centre and accessible on foot to the hotel infrastructures.

PARC EXPO

The strategic crossroads for your events.

The Parc Expo or Avignon Fairgrounds is a multi-purpose, modular site with 27,500 m² of single-level, roofed space including 7 exhibition halls ranging from 930 to 6,000 m² and a plenary hall with 930 places. The Fairgrounds are located just next to the airport and the Agroparc cluster park, a pole of excellence located in Avignon – the biggest business incubator in the PACA region. The Agroparc cluster has long been dedicated to food intelligence and now also turns to other sectors including the digital sector, where Avignon won the French Tech label in 2015. Two other clusters are located by the Fairgrounds: TERRALIA for the food industry, and PEGASE, an Aeronautics cluster.

www.avignon-expo.com

For more information about groups reception and venues, ask for our Group Guide or on:

www.avignon-tourisme.com



getting to 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).

Avignon-London in Eurostar all year round.

New direct connection with Barcelona, Madrid, Frankfurt, Geneva and Amsterdam.

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

Train connection to city centre "la Virgule", 35 returns a day.

www.ter-sncf.com

BY PLANE

The **Avignon airport** provides direct flights to **Southampton, Birmingham and London city** and many more with connections from these airports to Ireland, Scotland... .

www.avignon.aeroport.fr

Bus line n°30 from city centre to the airport.

www.tcra.fr

The **Marseille – Provence airport** is only a 45mn drive and provides direct flights for 140 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

avignon key figures



Tourism Office services in 2016

Personal reception	195 693 visitors
Leading foreign clientele	Great-Britain Germany USA Spain - Portugal Italy
Mail and telephone service	9898 requests (mail, e-mail) and 24 068 phone calls.
Guide Service	
All sort of guided tours (City, Popes Palace, thematic tours...)	City tours: 4501 persons guided (individuals) et 6499 guided in groups.
Avignon Tourisme website	1 403 407 visitors

2016 Attendance at the Popes' palace and Avignon's bridge*

Monument / museum	Nombre de visiteurs
Palace of the Popes	595 865
Avignon's bridge	393 487

*paid entrances

Festival 2016

Avignon Festival	Each year between 35 and 50 shows, French and foreign, for about 300 performances, in about twenty venues and delivers between 120,000 and 140,000 paying tickets.
Festival off	1416 plays for 1092 theatre troupes in 2016.