

WELCOME TO VIARHÔNA 2019

Get the information in detail about the cultural visits all along the trip... Let's Start !

WEEK 1 (GENEVA – VALENCE) & WEEK 4 (VALENCE – GENEVA)

From the Alps to the gates of Provence, the ViaRhôna follows the course of the Rhône in the middle of the vineyards and the cultures, in remarkable bucolic landscapes, first of low mountains (Haut and Bas Bugey) then in the valleys of the Rhone (in reverse on WEEK 4).

The small and large towns we will cross have a rich architectural, historical and religious heritage, with monuments sometimes dating back to the Gallo-Roman era...

Some examples of cultural visits and tours that are planned (in reverse on WEEK 4) :

City bike tours

- Lyon (Parc de la Tête d'Or, presqu'île between Rhône and Saône, rivers banks, Vieux Lyon, Fourviere Cathedral and its spectacular view of the city)
- Vienne (Old town, Roman Theater, cathedrals, Temple of Auguste and Livie)

Small town bike tours

- Seyssel (old town and black Virgin bridge, church)
- Belley (birthplace of the famous gourmet Brillat-Savarin, St-Jean-Baptiste cathedral, episcopal palace, distillery Kario of liqueurs made from alpine plants)
- Brangues (Paul Claudel castle, church that inspired Stendhal for his novel Le Rouge et le Noir)
- Morestel (old town, St-Symphorien church, 14th century castle)
- Sault-Brénaz (St-Christophe roman church, ND Annonciation church)
- Rhodanian corridor towns such as Ampuis, Condrieu, Sablons, Andancette, Saint-Vallier, Tournon-sur-Rhône,...

Wine tasting in cellars

- Bugey & Pays de Savoie (near Belley)
- Côtes-du-Rhône (Ampuis, Condrieu, Tain-L'Hermitage or St-Joseph)

Other visits

- Génissiat Dam
- Izieu Memorial of the 2nd World War
- Balme caves (labyrinths and natural underground basins)
- Painting and pottery workshops

WEEK 2 (VALENCE – SÈTE) & WEEK 3 (SÈTE – VALENCE)

The ViaRhôna takes us along the river and “Canal du Rhône à Sète” through sweet Provence with its lavender fields, typical farmhouses (Mas de Provence) and Mediterranean vegetation, and then the wild Camargue with its ponds, rice fields and particular flora and fauna (in reverse on WEEK 3).

The route also crosses famous cities that have marked the history of France and retain an architectural and religious heritage without equal.

The last stage by the sea (or the first on WEEK 3) is a real rejuvenation...

Some examples of cultural visits and tours that are planned (in reverse on WEEK 3) :

City bike tours

- Orange (Arc de Triomphe, Antique Theater, old town)
- Avignon (churches, monuments, Pont d'Avignon, Palace of the Popes and its perched garden dominating the city, pedestrianized city center)
- Arles (old city center, Roman arenas, Sainte-Trophime Cathedral,...)

Small town bike tours

- Drôme towns such as Soyons, Charmes-sur-Rhone, Beauchastel (famous for the fight of the Protestant Camisards or "White Shirt" against the royal power), La Voulte-sur-Rhone (magnificent suspension bridge), Le Pouzin, Baix.
- Ardèche medieval towns such as Viviers and Bourg-Saint-Andéol
- Gard medieval towns such as Pont-Saint-Esprit, Roquemaure, Aramon, Beaucaire
- Caderousse (picturesque village surrounded by a 19th century stone dike)
- Tarascon castle (imposing and very well preserved, built at the beginning of the 15th century by the Dukes of Anjou)
- Aigues-Mortes (port and ramparts built by King Louis IX on the 13th century)

Wine tasting in cellars

- Châteauneuf-du-Pape
- Languedoc-Roussillon wines in Camargue

Other visits

- Port de l'Épervière, the biggest marina of France
- Nougat manufacture in Montélimar
- Tarascon castle (imposing and very well preserved, built at the beginning of the 15th century by the Dukes of Anjou)