



"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF NAPOLEON." THE GATEWAY TO PROVENCE



Duration : 5 days

Best time : to April to October

Number of people (mini /max) : 20-50

All-inclusive package: drinks included and coffee with lunch. 2 evenings. Guide from the hotel every day. Access to the indoor pool.

DAY 1 : CHORGES

Arrival at the end of the day.

Welcome by our team.

Welcome drink: blueberry kir with eggplant caviar toast.

Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 2 : DIGNE LES BAINS – SISTERON – TALLARD (approx. 220 kms)



Breakfast, then drive to Provence and **Digne les Bains**. Guided tour through the old town, discovery of the ammonite slab. This walk in the city centre is an invitation to go back in time, to discover the urban environment of a great French humanist and philosopher, Pierre Gassendi (1592 - 1655).

Drive to **Malijai**, take a look at **Noguiers Castle**, which was built between 1635 and 1643. This building is best known for having sheltered Napoleon I on the night of March 4 to 5, 1815.

Lunch at a host table :

Example Menu :

*Vegetable terrine with fresh tomato sauce,
Rabbit with garlic and boulogne,
Cheese,
Seasonal tart*

In the early afternoon, take a **guided tour of a typical 17th century Provencal farmhouse**.

The “Grandes Traditions Anciennes” have left us the symbolism dedicated to the Olive Tree.

The olive tree is above all a symbol of Peace and Love: it was an olive branch that a Dove took to Noah, to announce the end of the flood. The Greek Emperors made their victories a reality by wearing an olive branch crown on their heads. Olive trees grew in abundance in the Alpes de Haute-Provence region more than 2,000 years ago.

Visit the premises from its olive press to the **authentic dovecote transformed into a museum**, passing through the "Boutique" of natural products (olive oil, soaps perfumed with Mediterranean scents, and olive wood sculptures carved by artists from the region). Continue your day to **Sisteron**. **Guided tour** of this city known for its **citadel**, classified as a historical monument.

The Citadel was not created in a day, but is made up of elements from different periods in history. The upper rampart and the round path date from the 12th century, the intermediate level dates from the 14th century and the forts on the first level were largely altered in the 19th century.

A little free time.

At the end of the day, return to your hotel for dinner. **Animation by a songwriter.**

DAY 3 : LAKE TOUR – VALLEE OF THE CHAMPSAUR (approx. 165 kms)



Breakfast, then departure for a **Lake Tour of Serre Ponçon**. Passage to Savines le Lac, road to the **Demoiselles** unusual structures with surprising shapes born from natural erosion.

Continue to Sauze du Lac, Espinasses and the Belvedere de Rousset from where you will have an unobstructed view of the Serre Ponçon dam.

Return for lunch.

Departure towards the **Champsaur valley at the gates of the Ecrins National Park**, passing through the Bayard pass like Napoleon, road to Pont du Fossé and the Champoléon valley. Visit to **the shepherd's house**. This is amazing: it is the heritage of a whole culture that is gathered in the place to discover the profession of being a shepherd. Exhibitions, a resource centre, training and a shop...

At the end of the day, return to your hotel.

Example Menu:

Candlelight dinner

Champsaur plate (green salad, turtons, ravioles...),

Alpine lamb with thyme from Provence with its accompaniment,

Cheese from the Hautes-Alpes,

Fine apple tart made with golden apples from the Alps

DAY 4 : GAP – ST VERAN (approx. 185 kms)



Breakfast, then drive to the prefecture of the department: **Gap**. Panoramic views by coach then a guided tour on foot in the city centre, passing in front of the house where Napoleon slept when he returned from the island of Elba.

Return for lunch.

Departure for the day towards **Queyras**. Passage through Guillestre, the Gorges du Guil... Road to **St Véran** : the highest municipality in Europe, nestled in the heart of the Queyras Regional Natural Park and classified among the Most Beautiful Villages in France, the country where "cockerels peck the stars". Visit the village and free time.

Stop at the **craft house** which is a showcase of Queyrassin know-how in furniture...

Return to your hotel at the end of the day for dinner.

DAY 5 : DEPARTURE

Breakfast, then departure to your region...

INFO: POSSIBILITY OF ONE MORE COMPLETE DAY ON DAY 4 (195 kms) possible from mid-May to the end of September

Breakfast, then departure for **Briançon**. **Guided tour** of this city of art and history where Vauban fortifications are classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

You will discover the collegiate church, the gargoyles and the typical alleys.

Drive to the **mythical Col de l'izoard**, which has been part of the Tour de France many times. *(depending on the weather conditions)*.

Arrival in Queyras and the village of **Arvieux**.

Lunch.



In the early afternoon, continue to **St Véran**: the highest municipality in Europe, nestled in the heart of the Queyras Regional Natural Park and classified as one of the Most Beautiful Villages in France, the country where "cockerels peck the stars"... Return to Chorges via the Gorges du Guil and Guillestre.

Return to your hotel late afternoon for dinner.