



# Discover 'LAND ART' in Provence



**Duration : 4 days**

**Best time : Spring and Autumn**

**Number of People (mini /max) : 8 - 12**

**"Keep your love for nature, because it is the only good way to always better understand art,"** said Vincent Van Gogh.

The Alpes de Haute Provence department has become a "spot" for internationally renowned Land Art artists: Joan Fontcuberta, Andy Goldsworthy and Herman de Vries, Paul Armand Gette.

We offer you an unusual and exclusive stay to discover the works of some of these artists in a very original way: two Art Refuges are equipped to welcome hikers for one night. The comfort is rustic but the experience of spending the night in the middle of nature, is unique!



We continue on foot in the heart of grandiose landscapes, amazing in their geology and perfection, on easy-to-walk paths.

### Strengths :

- Discover Land Art in situ.
- A leisurely walk to discover the fauna and flora.
- Nights in a charming cottage.

### **DESTINATION : Provence, Digne's country**

This stay takes place in the region of Digne-les-Bains in the heart of the Alpes de Haute Provence department (04). We are here in a typically "pre-Alpine" environment; it means gentle transitions between the Alps and Provence. The hills are still quite marked but no longer really alpine and the vegetation is already influenced by the Mediterranean: pine forests, scrublands, lavender fields and olive trees.

Bathed in the sun for most of the year, Digne is a friendly and very relaxed little town. Located in a preserved setting, it offers quality visitor facilities: the spa, a geological reserve, the Cordeliers botanical garden, Alexandra David Neel's house and of course the sites on contemporary art and land art that we visit during this stay.

### **Day : Digne les Bains**

Meeting at around 6pm at the Gite for participants and installation in the rooms.  
Evening: aperitif and information on the content of the stay.  
Dinner and Overnight stay at the gite.

#### **LAND ART**

Invented by the artist Walter de Maria, the term 'Land Art' refers to all artistic creations that use nature as a place to work and exhibit.

"Land Art, also known as Earth Works, is a trend in contemporary art using the framework and materials of nature (wood, earth, stones, sand, rock, etc..). Most often, the works are outside, exposed to the elements, and subjected to natural erosion; thus, some works have disappeared and all that remains is their photographic memory and videos. Wikipedia.

### **Day 2 : Thoard**



Departure around 9am for the village of Thoard and visit to Andy Goldsworthy's first work: the Chapelle Ste Madeleine. A magnificent loop that will take us through the old gypsum quarry.

Picnic.

In the afternoon, we invite you to discover the Gassendi Museum in Digne-les-Bains, a completely reinvented museum inspired by the old curiosity cabinets, spaces where art and science collections coexist.

We will discover Andy Goldsworthy's "Rivière d'Argile".

We will end this day by visiting the Art of Thermal Baths refuge, whose "cairn" inside, shows you the way traced by the adventure "Art Refuge of Andy Goldsworthy"...

Evening meal at the cottage.

*Distance of loop: 3.3 km*

*Height difference: 176 m*

### ART REFUGES

Currently, five Art Refuges have been created which already form a unique itinerary in the heart of nature. The Art Refuges are the world's largest collection of Andy Goldsworthy's works, created in the heart of the preserved sites of Digne-les-Bains and the Geological Reserve of Haute Provence.

Andy Goldsworthy is an artist who digs ice and snow, builds arches, uses prune branches, and creates with oak or maple leaves, dandelion flowers, or pebbles. He works with the sun, rain or sea, and uses the seasons to express his art. Goldsworthy is a composer who revisits nature, according to his fantasies. Over the years, he has become the leader in Land Art.

## Day 3 : The Forest

Breakfast at the cottage and departure for La Forest, a church restored by the artist; we are at the end of the world, the work that is here gives meaning to this place that is full of history and emotion.

Wild nature and a natural environment awaits you. "La Forest is an extraordinary village in ruins. The houses still bear witness to the beauty of the construction." [Andy Goldsworthy]

Picnic - Meal at the gîte.

*Total distance: 8 km*

*Positive altitude difference: 550 m*

*Negative altitude difference: 624 m*



## Day 4 : Hiking day

Breakfast at the cottage and departure for the Old Escanglon. We will follow the artist's path to 'feel' this work but also to 'live' it. During this easy trip, geological peculiarities will not be lacking.

Picnic. End of our services.

*Total distance: 4 km*

*Positive altitude difference: 350m*

