

# **Provence:** 10 Not-To-Miss Villages of the Luberon

Welcome to the picturesque and idyllic region of Luberon in the heart of Provence, France. Nestled amidst rolling hills, vineyards, and fragrant lavender fields, the Luberon is a treasure trove of charming villages that seem to have stepped out of a storybook. Each with its unique allure and timeless beauty, these ten villages—Ansouis, Bonnieux, Cucuron, Fontaine-de-Vaucluse, Gordes, Lacoste, Lourmarin, Ménerbes, Oppède-le-Vieux, and Roussillon—are destined to capture your heart and ignite your sense of wanderlust.

Prepare to be transported to a bygone era, where the pace of life slows, and simple pleasures take centre stage. In this ebook, we invite you on a virtual journey through the cobbled streets, the vine-covered houses, and the lively squares of Luberon's most enchanting settlements. Whether you're an avid traveller seeking new adventures or a dreamer yearning for the romance of the French countryside, these ten villages offer an escape to a world of serenity, culture, and natural beauty.

Each chapter of this book is dedicated to exploring a different village, unravelling its unique history, local traditions, and cultural heritage. Wander with us through centuries-old architecture, stunning viewpoints, and bustling local markets. Discover the rustic charm of stone-built houses, colourful shutters, and blooming flower pots adorning every corner. Allow yourself to be enchanted by the warm hospitality of the locals who take immense pride in their heritage.

Venture into the heart of Bonnieux, perched atop a hill, offering breathtaking panoramas of vineyards and valleys below. Stroll through the enchanting streets of Gordes, famous for its ochre-coloured buildings and panoramic views that have inspired artists for generations. Be captivated by the tranquillity of Lourmarin, a village that has lured numerous writers, artists, and musicians with its undeniable allure.

Each village is a treasure trove of unique experiences—exploring historical landmarks, savouring delectable Provençal cuisine, or simply basking in the region's ethereal beauty. Whether you are a culture enthusiast, an avid hiker, or a gourmet explorer, the Luberon offers something unique to every visitor.

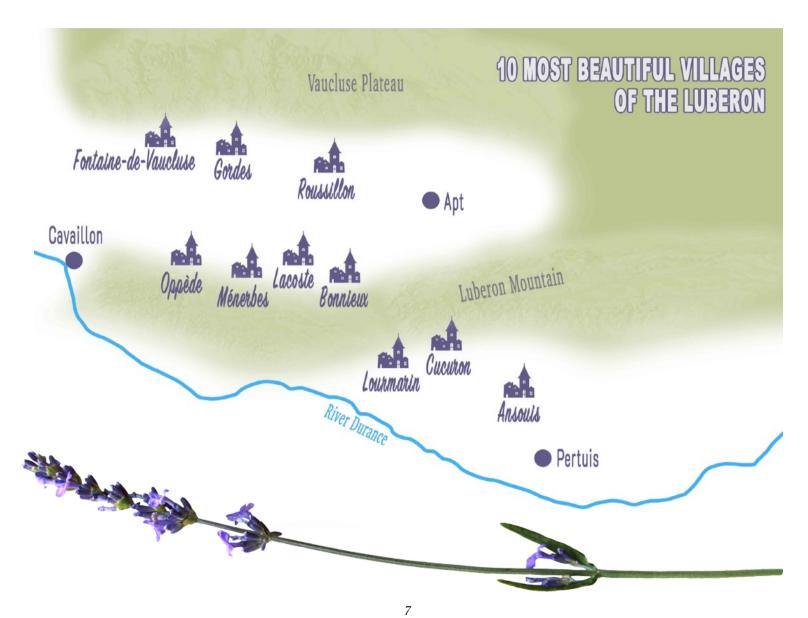
As you turn the pages of this ebook, immerse yourself in the magic of the Luberon and allow its timeless charm to weave its spell on you. Through these vivid descriptions and captivating narratives, you will gain insight into the cultural tapestry of these villages and be inspired to embark on your own journey of discovery.

So, come with us on this enchanting voyage through Luberon's ten charming villages. Whether you're an armchair traveller or have plans to visit Provence in person, this ebook will be your perfect companion to savour the essence of these breathtaking places. Open your heart to the Luberon's beauty and let its allure whisk you to a world of wonder and delight.



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### THE VILLAGE OF ANSOUIS

Ansouis is a hilltop village in the southern Luberon massif and a member of the association Les Plus Beaux Villages de France. As soon as you arrive, you'll be immediately captivated by its narrow cobbled streets, honey-coloured stone houses and blue shutters opening onto lush gardens.

The jewel in Ansouis' crown is undoubtedly its majestic medieval castle, which overlooks the village from the top of the hill. This remarkably well-preserved 12th-century castle offers uninterrupted views over the verdant surroundings, making it the focal point of the panoramic view.

Stroll along the winding streets, admire the ancient architecture and feel the enchanting atmosphere of this picturesque village.

Ansouis' medieval character is also reflected in its 13th-century parish church, l'église Saint-Martin, which was enclosed within the medieval ramparts.

But there's more to this charming village than its history. the village is also renowned for its quality wine. Ansouis produces top-quality red, rosé and white wines thanks to its Mediterranean climate and terroir. To fully appreciate the flavours of these wines, there's nothing like tasting them on the spot in the village cellars.

Ansouis is a haven of peace, offering you an unforgettable experience in the hinterland of Provence. This beautiful village will charm you and remain etched in your travel memories, whether for its rich history, exquisite wine, enchanting scenery or peaceful atmosphere.

#### **FIND OUT MORE!**

Discovery article on the blog Official Tourist Office























## THE VILLAGE OF BONNIEUX

Nestling on a majestic hill in the Luberon, the village of Bonnieux emerges as a true Provençal gem, luring visitors with its picturesque charm and captivating history. As soon as you approach this perched village, you'll be amazed by the breathtaking views over the surrounding valley, with its rows of vineyards, olive groves, and fascinating lavender fields.

Bonnieux's cobbled streets wind through beautifully restored stone buildings, each telling a part of the village's history. Houses with colourful shutters and flower-filled facades add a touch of cheerfulness, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for visitors.

At the top of the hill stands the 12th-century church of Saint-Sauveur. Its imposing silhouette offers breathtaking views of the surrounding area, rewarding those who climb its steps with a breathtaking panorama. From up there, you can see the majestic Mont Ventoux on the horizon and the neighbouring villages that dot the landscape.

Life in Bonnieux is imbued with a friendly, authentic atmosphere. As you stroll through the winding streets, you'll discover local craft shops, art galleries, lively cafés, and restaurants. Take a break to sample the region's culinary delights, such as fresh goat's cheeses, olives from the valley, and wines produced carefully in the surrounding vineyards.

Bonnieux's weekly market is a not-to-be-missed event where locals and visitors gather to discover local produce and traditional crafts. The lively atmosphere, brightly-coloured stalls and intoxicating aromas of fresh produce create a unique sensory experience that perfectly embodies the spirit of Provence.

For nature lovers and hikers, Bonnieux also offers magnificent trails winding through the surrounding hills. You can explore the diverse landscapes from here, from vineyards and lavender fields to spectacular limestone cliffs.

Bonnieux embodies the very essence of Provence, with its authentic charm, natural beauty and historical heritage.

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<u>Discovery article on the blog</u> <u>Official Tourist Office</u>

















### THE VILLAGE OF CUCURON

Nestling in the southern Luberon, the village of Cucuron is an oasis of serenity that immediately captivates visitors with its authentic Provencal charm. This unspoilt medieval village is set amid lush green landscapes, olive groves and vineyards, creating a peaceful and enchanting atmosphere that seems straight out of a painting.

When you arrive in Cucuron, the first thing that catches your eye is the imposing basin in the centre of the village. Dating back to the 14th century, this vast rectangular pool surrounded by majestic plane trees provides a refreshing atmosphere and a lively gathering place for locals and visitors alike. The terraces of the cafés and restaurants lining the basin are perfect places to soak up Cucuron's relaxed atmosphere while sipping a coffee or glass of wine.

The narrow, winding streets of Cucuron invite you to explore, and every corner reveals new wonders. Carefully restored stone houses with colourful facades and wooden shutters add a touch of picturesque charm to the village. Take your time wandering through the peaceful streets, admiring the ancient fountains and enjoying the peace of this unspoilt setting.

The 12th-century church of Saint-Michel stands proudly above the village, offering spectacular panoramic views of the tiled roofs, surrounding hills and lavender fields that colour the landscape in summer.

As well as its architectural charm, Cucuron is renowned for its lively weekly market, where local produce such as fresh fruit and vegetables, goat's cheeses, olive oil and handicrafts are carefully displayed. It's the perfect opportunity to meet the friendly locals and discover the authentic flavours of Provence.

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### THE VILLAGE OF FONTAINE-DE-VAUCLUSE

Surrounded by exceptional natural beauty, the village of Fontaine-de-Vaucluse captivates visitors with its enchanting charm and legendary history. The picturesque village is famous for being home to one of the most powerful springs in France, the mysterious Fontaine de Vaucluse.

As soon as you arrive in Fontaine-de-Vaucluse, you'll be captivated by its enchanting landscape. The turquoise waters of the Sorgue that flow through the village add a touch of freshness and serenity. The lush greenery, majestic mountains and mysterious caves create a magical atmosphere that seems straight out of a fairytale.

At the heart of the village, the Fontaine de Vaucluse reveals itself with incredible power. This spectacular spring gushes out of an immense cave, propelling its emerald waters in a fascinating whirlpool. Legend has it that this fountain is fed by a vast network of underground rivers, giving it a mystical aspect that has attracted poets and writers over the centuries.

The cobbled streets of Fontaine-de-Vaucluse invite you to stroll through the village's history. Local craft shops, small cafés and cosy restaurants add to the warm atmosphere. Take a stroll along the banks of the Sorgue to relax, recharge your batteries and soak up the peaceful beauty.

The village also boasts a rich historical heritage. The 17th-century church of Notre-Dame-et-Saint-Véran is a must-see. Its elegant bell tower rises proudly into the sky, offering a panoramic view of the surrounding area.

Fontaine-de-Vaucluse is also a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. The surrounding area offers superb hiking trails, kayaking opportunities along the Sorgue River, and rock climbing for the more adventurous.

Whether you're looking for natural beauty, serenity or a romantic getaway, this enchanting village will captivate you and offer a memorable experience in the heart of Provence.

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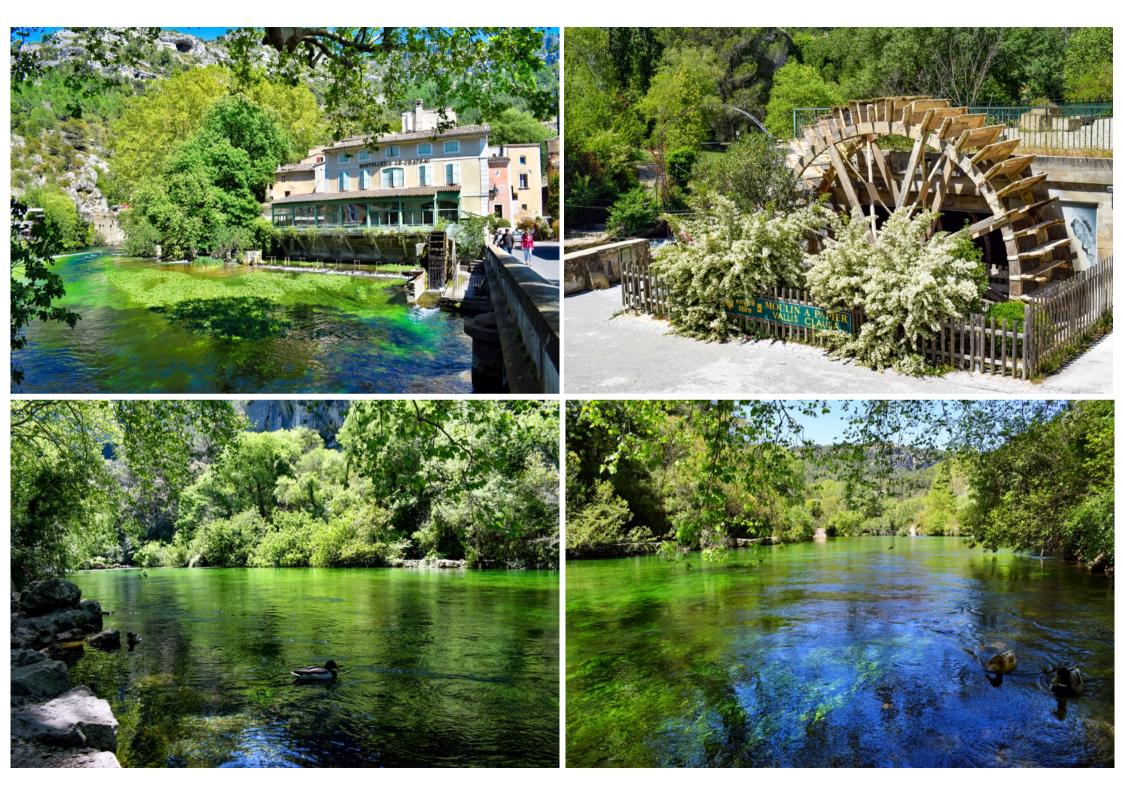














## THE VILLAGE OF GORDES

Perched atop a steep hill, the village of Gordes proudly dominates the Luberon landscape, offering breathtaking panoramas of the surrounding valleys. With its preserved medieval charm, Gordes is considered one of the most beautiful villages in France, attracting visitors from all over the world with its captivating allure and timeless ambience.

As you approach Gordes, you'll immediately be struck by its spectacular appearance. The dry-stone houses, carefully aligned on the cliff face, merge with the natural rock, creating a unique architectural harmony. The ochre-tiled roofs, blue-shuttered windows and flower-decked facades add a touch of colour and warmth to this picturesque vision.

At the top of the village stands the majestic Château de Gordes, an imposing fortress rebuilt in the 16th century. This castle, steeped in history, offers breathtaking panoramic views of the lavender fields, vineyards and surrounding hills. It also allows visitors to immerse themselves in the region's tumultuous past.

The cobbled streets of Gordes invite you to explore. You can wander through the narrow passages, discover shady squares and admire the ancient arcades that witness this medieval village's history. The village is renowned for its art galleries hosting exhibitions by local and international artists.

Outside the village are the bories, dry stone buildings typical of the region, which bear witness to Provence's rural and agricultural history. Once used by farmers, these stone shelters are a fascinating example of the region's traditional architecture.

Sénanque Abbey, just a few kilometres from Gordes, is a real Cistercian treasure. Founded in 1148, the abbey nestles at the bottom of a valley, surrounded by fields of lavender in bloom in summer. Its sober Romanesque architecture and peaceful gardens make it a place of contemplation and spirituality, offering visitors a unique experience.

Whether for its exceptional architecture, panoramic views, and artistic atmosphere, this charming village will surely leave you with unforgettable memories.

### **FIND OUT MORE!**

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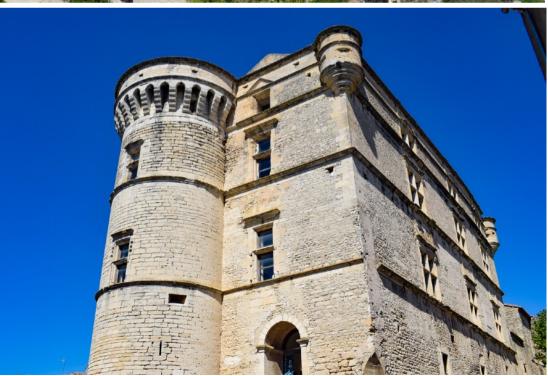






















## THE VILLAGE OF LACOSTE

Between Ménerbes and Bonnieux, the village of Lacoste delights visitors with its picturesque charm and enchanting ambience. This unspoilt medieval village is famous for its historical heritage, natural beauty and association with the famous French writer, the Marquis de Sade.

As soon as you arrive in Lacoste, you'll be seduced by the narrow, cobbled streets winding through carefully restored stone houses. Delicately weathered facades, solid wooden doors and colourful shutters create a timeless atmosphere that will transport you back to this village's rich past.

The castle of Lacoste, perched at the top of the hill, is one of the village's star attractions. Once the property of the Marquis de Sade, the château is now partly in ruins but offers breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding area.

The quiet streets of Lacoste invite you to wander around and discover its little hidden treasures. Local artisans display their creations in charming boutiques, offering unique souvenirs that reflect the region's craftsmanship.

The calm and serenity of Lacoste make it an ideal place to relax and recharge your batteries. Soak up the peaceful atmosphere, sit on a sunny terrace, and enjoy the breathtaking views over the countryside.

For nature lovers, Lacoste also offers hiking opportunities. You can explore the rolling Luberon countryside and discover lavender fields and picturesque vineyards while marvelling at the authentic landscapes of Provence.

Lacoste's medieval charm, artistic ambience and natural beauty is an ideal destination for travellers seeking authenticity and discovery in the heart of Provence.

#### **FIND OUT MORE!**

Discovery article on the blog Official Tourist Office























## THE VILLAGE OF LOURMARIN

Located south of the Luberon Massif, the village of Lourmarin exudes an enchanting atmosphere that makes it one of Provence's most charming destinations. Famous for its picturesque beauty and rich historical heritage, Lourmarin is a Provençal gem that attracts visitors worldwide with its authentic atmosphere and relaxed elegance.

As soon as you enter Lourmarin, you'll be greeted by cobbled streets lined with pastel-fronted stone houses, where colourful shutters and flower-filled windows add a touch of charm to every corner. Outside the village centre stands the château de Lourmarin, a magnificent Renaissance castle. This historic fortress, dating from the 15th century, is surrounded by lush gardens that offer a haven of peace to relax and contemplate.

The village centre is home to a lively square, where outdoor cafés and restaurants invite visitors to sit back and enjoy the warm atmosphere of Lourmarin. Here, you can sample Provençal specialities such as tapenade, pissaladière and local cheeses while taking in the peaceful village life.

Lourmarin is also renowned for its vibrant arts scene. Numerous art galleries and craft shops display the creations of local artists, adding a cultural touch to the richness of the village. Stroll through the narrow streets, and you'll discover sculptures, paintings and works of art that reflect the vibrant creativity of the region.

Lourmarin's weekly market is an authentic sensory experience. The colourful stalls are brimming with fresh produce such as local vegetables, juicy fruit, aromatic herbs and local products. It's the perfect opportunity to meet local artisans, sample the culinary delights of Provence and immerse yourself in the hustle and bustle of local life.

Lourmarin, a true jewel of Provence, is a village where time seems to pass peacefully. Whether you're strolling through its charming streets, visiting its historic château or enjoying the Provençal way of life, this enchanting village offers a memorable and authentic experience in the south of the Luberon region.

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# THE VILLAGE OF MÉNERBES

Perched on a rolling hill in the heart of the Luberon, the village of Ménerbes is reminiscent of a Provencal postcard. With its medieval charm, cobbled streets and breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside, Ménerbes is a hidden treasure that's sure to enchant you.

As you approach Ménerbes, you'll immediately be seduced by the beauty of its warmly-coloured stone houses, which seem to cling to the steep hillside. Colourful shutters, weathered wooden doors and flower-filled windows add a touch of charm to the picturesque atmosphere of this Provencal village.

The fortified village at the top of a rocky spur is a historical landmark offering 360-degree panoramic views over the Luberon Valley.

During the French Wars of Religion, Ménerbes was the scene of a critical episode in this tumultuous period of history. Ménerbes, located in the Comtat Venaissin, was the site of a significant battle between Catholics and Protestants in 1573. At the time, the village was

controlled by the Protestants. However, the Catholic forces, led by the Duc de Guise, decided to end this Protestant control and laid siege to Ménerbes.

Ménerbes is also known for its literary heritage, having played host to the British writer Peter Mayle, author of the famous book "A Year in Provence". The village is steeped in a warm, authentic atmosphere that has inspired many writers and artists.

When you visit the village of Ménerbes, you'll find yourself immersed in the very essence of Provence, with its medieval charm, artistic atmosphere and rural landscapes. Whether you want to explore its rich historical heritage, stroll through its picturesque streets or enjoy the tranquillity of the Provençal countryside, Ménerbes will charm you and leave you with unforgettable memories of your stay in Provence.

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## THE VILLAGE OF OPPÈDE-LE-VIEUX

Nestling atop a steep hill, the village of Oppède-le-Vieux is a medieval treasure trove that dazzles visitors with its picturesque charm and authentic atmosphere. This perched village offers a journey back in time, taking visitors back to medieval times with its cobbled streets, stone houses and historic ruins.

As you approach Oppède-le-Vieux, you'll be instantly captivated by the impressive appearance of the village, which seems to blend harmoniously into the rocky hillside. The carefully restored stone houses, with their ochre-tiled roofs and pretty windows adorned with colourful shutters, give this Provencal village a picturesque atmosphere.

The village is divided into two parts: Oppède-le-Vieux and Oppède-le-Neuf. Oppède-le-Vieux is the historic part of the hill, while Oppède-le-Neuf is in the surrounding valley. Oppède-le-Vieux fascinates visitors with its narrow, winding streets, vaulted passageways and stone staircases that climb to the top.

At the top of the hill are the ruins of the 12th-century Château d'Oppède. Although mainly in ruins, the castle offers breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding area. It is a popular destination for visitors, who can explore the historic remains while enchanted by the landscape's beauty.

The village of Oppède-le-Vieux is also renowned for its peace and authenticity. The narrow streets and ancient houses create a timeless atmosphere where you can stroll peacefully and lose yourself in the meanderings of the past. The serene atmosphere of this hilltop village makes it a haven of peace and a welcome escape from the hustle and bustle of modern life.

Oppède-le-Vieux is a true treasure of Provence, offering a unique experience for visitors wishing to discover the very essence of medieval life in France. Whether for its historical heritage, peaceful atmosphere or natural beauty, this enchanting village will leave you with lasting memories

of your stay in Provence.

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# THE VILLAGE OF ROUSSILLON

One of France's Most Beautiful Villages, Roussillon is a colourful gem of Provence. Known for its magnificent ochre quarries and warmly-coloured houses, Roussillon offers visitors a unique visual and sensory experience.

The charm of Roussillon lies in its narrow cobbled streets, lined with stone houses with ochre, yellow and red facades, creating a kaleidoscope of shimmering colours. This palette of hues evokes a tableau vivant in which ochre is king. Windows with coloured shutters and weathered wooden doors add a touch of authenticity to the picturesque atmosphere of the village.

The heart of the village is a lively square where you'll find cafés, craft shops and art galleries. Local artisans proudly display their creations, from paintings inspired by the surrounding landscapes to ochre stone sculptures, showcasing the region's artistic heritage.

But what makes Roussillon so unique are its ochre quarries. Just a stone's throw from the village, the old ochre quarries are breathtaking. You'll be dazzled by the vivid hues of the earthen cliffs, ranging from pale yellow to deep red, creating a spectacular contrast with the blue of the Provençal sky.

Well-marked footpaths will take you through the heart of these quarries, offering you total immersion in this astonishing landscape. You'll discover the fascinating history of ochre mining, an essential economic activity that has shaped the region for centuries.

As well as its natural beauty, Roussillon offers delicious cuisine and local specialities that will satisfy visitors' taste buds. Sample local produce such as olive oil, truffles, honey and goat's cheese at local restaurants and markets.

Roussillon is a must-see destination for nature lovers, artists searching for inspiration and travellers keen to discover the treasures of Provence.

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<u>Discovery article on the blog</u> Official Tourist Office





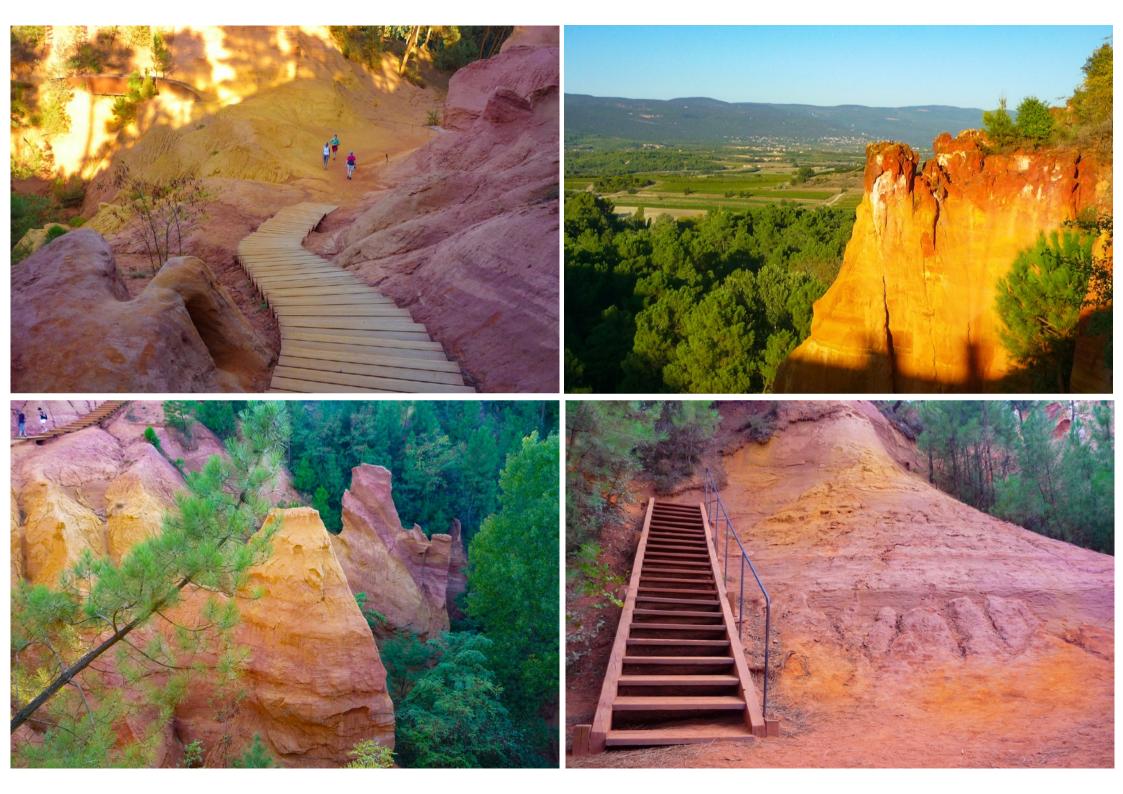














# OTHER BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN THE LUBERON

We explored in detail the charms of 10 enchanting villages in Provence's Luberon region. These picturesque medieval treasures have captured our imagination with their beauty and rich history.

But the Luberon also has many other gems to discover. Among them, five villages and one market town also deserve your attention on your journey through this authentic and enchanting region:

### Saint-Saturnin-lès-Apt

Dominated by the ruins of its castle, this hilltop village offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains. Its cobbled streets, refreshing fountains and stone houses give Saint-Saturnin-lès-Apt a peaceful, authentic atmosphere.

### Saignon

Nestling on a hill, Saignon is a haven of peace. Its Romanesque church, ramparts and narrow streets will take you back in time, while its panoramic views over the Luberon Valley will amaze you. 81

#### Goult

This well-preserved medieval village will win you over with its authenticity and tranquillity. Stroll through its narrow streets, and you'll discover ancient fountains, charming squares and a serene atmosphere.

#### Cadenet

A little nugget of Provence, Cadenet reveals its cobbled streets, stone houses and ruined 11th-century castle. Stroll through its quiet streets and soak up the peaceful atmosphere of the village.



## La Tour d'Aigues

With its rich heritage, this village offers an enchanting setting between mountains and countryside. The ruins of its majestic Renaissance château, monumental fountain and Provencal market will delight visitors searching for authenticity.

### **Apt**

The capital of Luberon is a small town full of charm. Its historic centre, lively alleyways and colourful Saturday morning market make it a must-see during your stay in the region. These villages and small towns, like the ten villages presented above, invite you to explore the hidden treasures of the Luberon. Each offers a unique atmosphere, a rich heritage and enchanting landscapes that will leave you with unforgettable memories of your trip to Provence.

I wish you beautiful discoveries in the Luberon, where each village will reveal a little piece of the soul of this authentic and fascinating region. Bon voyage and happy exploring!





## **USEFUL TRAVEL INFO**

Find the best accommodations in the Luberon on booking.com

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Get the <u>PASS CÔTE D'AZUR</u> and take your pick from more than 100 amazing experiences!

Visit the beautiful Provençal region of <u>Luberon on French Moments</u>

Join a 6-hour tour of Lourmarin, Bonnieux, Roussillon, and Gordes by airconditioned minibus

Experience a <u>black truffle hunting</u> tour in a Luberon plantation

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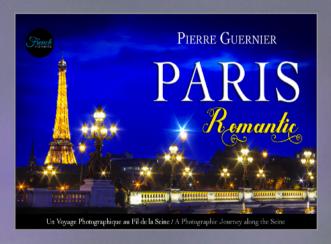


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This eBook has been made based on my travel experience in France.

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