



# PROVENÇAL DISCOVERY

TOUR ITINERARY



**CYCLING**  
*for* **SOFTIES**



# PROVENÇAL DISCOVERY OVERVIEW

Provence is as beautiful as it is iconic. This romantic landscape of rugged hills, rich lavender fields, and charming towns is one of our favourite regions to cycle. Our Provençal Discovery tour is one of the best ways to fully experience Provence. With the help of e-bikes, you can explore like never before, gliding up to hilltop towns such as Gordes and Roussillon. On this tour, experience the beauty of the Luberon Valley and Côtes du Ventoux, enjoying the beautiful countryside and charming culture. Staying in boutique hotels, explore the best of Provence.



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"The lavender blooms of Provence are famous for good reason.

Cycling past violet fields en-route to exciting towns is what makes the region so special. Don't forget to taste the local rosé wine made here."

**GEORGE, CYCLING EXPERT**



FRANCE

# ITINERARY

**DURATION: 8 DAYS**

**EASE:** 

A predominantly flat route with a few small ascents each day, using cycle paths and low-traffic roads where possible



## DAY 1

### Head to St-Rémy-de-Provence

Head to your hotel and take a stroll around this classy town. Vincent van Gogh spent his later years here.

*We love*

Visiting the sites where Van Gogh created some of his most revered work



St-Rémy-de-Provence



Baux-de-Provence

## DAY 2

### Optional Round Trip: Baux-de-Provence & Eygalières

**Distance** 40 miles (64km)

Your first ride takes you up to the picturesque Baux-de-Provence, a hilltop fort and a great vantage point over the Rhône Valley. On the descent, enjoy gorgeous Provençal countryside and olive groves on the way to the village of Eygalières. Return to St-Rémy-de-Provence via the Roman ruins at Glanum.

*We love*

The views from the beautiful village of Eygalières

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## DAY 3

### St-Rémy-de-Provence to Roussillon

**Distance** 41 miles (67km)

Today you cycle east, passing through the market town of Cavaillon, famous for its melons. Following the edge of the Luberon Valley, cycle past the hilltop villages of Ménerbes, Lacoste and Bonnieux. Crossing the Roman bridge of Pont Julien, you journey through lavender fields and hills of ochre towards Roussillon.

*We love*

Catching the lavender fields when they're in full, vibrant bloom in the Luberon Valley



Roussillon



Provence Cycling

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## DAY 4

### Optional Round Trip: Route d'Ocres

**Distance** 31 miles (51km)

Taking a day off the bike and exploring Roussillon is a very popular choice for today. If you want to hop back on the saddle, then we have a lovely ride to the ochre mines and quaint villages to the east. The main attraction is Apt, a 'town of wonderful tastes' as it's known. Take your time to explore all there is to enjoy here before cycling back to Roussillon.

*We love*

Tasting the crystallised fruit made in Apt

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## DAY 5

### Roussillon to Mazan

**Distance** 23 miles (37km)

Travel towards the Côtes du Rhône wine region today, heading for the town of Mazan. The route makes a visit to the picturesque hilltop town of Gordes as well as the famous Abbey of Sénanque before arriving in Mazan.

*We love*

Taking photos of the impossibly photogenic Abbey with its lavender fields



Vineyards



Bédoin

## DAY 6

### Optional Round Trip: Bédoin & Malaucène

**Distance** 27 miles (44km)

Today you can either relax by the enticing pool, or explore two gorgeous towns. This route visits Bédoin and Malaucène, both famed as starting points for cycling up Mont Ventoux. Full of cafes and boutiques, there's always a fun buzz here.

*We love*

The views atop the Calvaire in Malaucène

## DAY 7

### Mazan to St-Rémy-de-Provence

**Distance** 45 miles (72km)

Turning south, the route today winds through Pernes-les-Fontaines, l'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, and Fontaine-de-Vaucluse. Each situated on crystal clear springs and rivers, the atmosphere is enchanting. Stop for lunch on the waterside as you gaze out over emerald streams. Continuing on to Cavaillon, you'll finally arrive in St-Rémy-de-Provence for your last night of the tour.

*We love*

Taking in the atmosphere of each of these 'water-towns' and their beautiful architecture



Fontaine-de-Vaucluse

## DAY 8

We say au revoir today as you head home.



Provence Cycling



Château de Mazan

# OUR FAVOURITE HOTELS ON THE ROUTE

## CHÂTEAU DE MAZAN

In the heart of Mazan lies this beautiful four-star property. Grand and elegant, it was once the home of the Marquis de Sade and showcases a grandeur befitting them. An outstanding restaurant and enticing pool are just two of the reasons why a stay here is indulgent.



Hotel Gounod

## HOTEL GOUNOD

This charming hotel is quirky and stylish, offering everything you need for a relaxing stay. The prime location also means you are close to all the action in St-Rémy-de-Provence, with its exciting restaurants and boutique shops.



Le Clos de la Glycine

## HOTEL LE CLOS DE LA GLYCINE

Offering fabulous views of Provence, this hotel is located in the centre of Roussillon. Close to all the excitement, take on the town as you return to modern and comfortable rooms. For delicious, classically French food, visit the in-house restaurant and dine underneath the vibrant wisteria with stunning Provençal views.

# OUR CLIENTS ON TOUR

Here's what some of our Softies clients had to say about their cycling holidays with us - as well as a few happy memories captured on camera...

"The quiet countryside, the ancient villages, the crystal clear water of the Sorgue, it was all outstanding."

**JUSTIN, REVIEWED JUNE**

"Wonderful itinerary, the eBikes are great and make the whole trip very relaxing. Excellent hotels, lovely rooms, great food."

**JOHN, REVIEWED SEPTEMBER**

"Quite an adventure to move from one Provençal town to another, just on two wheels, not quite knowing what to expect on arrival! The countryside is beautiful and we really felt part of it, everyday."

**STEPHEN, REVIEWED JUNE**

"Loved the beautiful Provence countryside, cycling by vineyards and olive groves as seen from quiet back roads and byeways."

**STEVEN, REVIEWED APRIL**

"In terms of highlights of the trip, Gordes and Roussillon were incredibly beautiful."

**JANET, REVIEWED JULY**

"The route into Gordes from Roussillon although challenging was fabulous."

**TRACY, REVIEWED JUNE**

Lucy



Joanna



Tim



# WHY SOFTIES?

Our luxurious cycling holidays aren't about clocking up the miles, they're about the time in between. Welcome to life in the easy lane...

With a warm summer breeze on your skin and beautiful views in every direction, is there any better way to explore some of Europe's most beautiful countryside than by bicycle? We don't think so. Because there is so much to see and do along the way, our luxury cycling holidays are all about taking it nice and slow. Stop and explore, eat glorious meals, stay in delightful hotels, and relax knowing everything else has been taken care of.

## CYCLE LIKE A SOFTIE, SLEEP LIKE A KING

Whether you take it exceptionally easy in the saddle every day or decide to push yourself a bit, everyone deserves a little luxury in the evening, including fabulous cuisine and wonderful wines. We've hand-picked only the loveliest places to stay across some of the most beautiful regions in France, Italy and the UK. From rustic country inns full of charm to elegant townhouses and deluxe château hotels, you'll enjoy a warm welcome and indulgent food and drink wherever you go.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Tailor-made as standard
- Freedom to cycle at your own pace
- Delicious evening meals (as per quote)
- Bed & breakfast in almost exclusively three, four and five star hotels
- Expert on-the-spot support
- Your luggage carried to the next hotel
- Itinerary with maps and notes (including GPS navigation on selected tours), suggested routes and places to see
- Fully serviced touring bikes with water bottles, panniers and puncture repair kits
- E-bikes also available for booking, as well as children's tag-alongs
- Flights, trains and transfers on request





# WE'RE KEEPING IT GREEN

## SUSTAINABILITY

Cycling for Softies has been committed to providing eco-friendly and sustainable cycling holidays for over 35 years. We keep this environmentally friendly activity at the heart of what we do, offering advice and resources for our clients to ensure a sustainable future for travel.

Where possible, we encourage our guests to travel via train instead of flying, with over 30% choosing to do so. Many tours are easily accessed via rail or even car.



Working with Mossy Earth, we are committed to offsetting all staff travel through planting trees. Every little helps and you can do your bit by planting a tree at one of Mossy Earth's current projects in either Ireland or Romania. They only plant native trees and always in a rewilding or conservation project.



We have partnered with World Bicycle Relief to help provide bikes to farmers, entrepreneurs, healthcare workers and children in developing countries. More than 400,000 specially designed and durable Buffalo bikes have already been delivered, which creates an efficient mode of transport in rural areas. With every Cycling for Softies holiday booking, we donate £5 on your behalf.



**READY  
TO MAKE  
IT HAPPEN?  
GET IN  
TOUCH  
TODAY TO  
SPEAK TO  
A CYCLING  
EXPERT...**



CALL US ON  
**020 7471 7760**

OR VISIT  
**[WWW.CYCLINGFORSOFTIES.COM](http://WWW.CYCLINGFORSOFTIES.COM)**

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UNIT 3  
WALTON LODGE LAUNDRY  
374 COLDHARBOUR LANE  
LONDON, SW9 8PL

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