

## **REV DE PROVENCE POINTS OF INTEREST**

The purpose of this document is to provide information about Pierrelatte and the surrounding area, to help you plan your visit.

### **Useful Web Sites**

[www.office-tourisme-pierrelatte.com](http://www.office-tourisme-pierrelatte.com) – our home town web site

[www.provence-hideaway.com](http://www.provence-hideaway.com)

[www.viamichelin.com](http://www.viamichelin.com) – the Map quest of Europe

[www.drome-tourism.com](http://www.drome-tourism.com) -

### **Day Trip Useful Tips**

- Plan your day trips around lunch, seating starts around 11:30 and stops around 1:00, you can easily spend 1 ½ hours for lunch.
- Most of these day trips are long days and can be split into two day trips.
- Use the viamichelin web site above to view the places suggested, this will help you plan your route.
- Go to the web sites for the places you plan to visit to get a map showing parking.
- Most parking has meters in which you insert an amount of money based on how long you will stay and place a printed ticket on your dash.

### **Day Trip Suggestions**

#### **Wine Routes**

Pierrelatte is in the heart of the Cotes du Rhone wine region. Names such as Chateauneuf Du Pape, Lirac, Tavel, Crozes Hermitage, Beauges De Venise, Gigondas, and Vacqueyras; just to name a few, are all a short drive away. The web sites below have a lot of information on well marked wine routes and suggested caves to visit for tasting and purchasing. At most caves the proprietors speak English, so communication is not a problem.

[www.vins-rhone.com](http://www.vins-rhone.com) – look in “download” for route maps and information

[www.vins-rhone-tourisme.com](http://www.vins-rhone-tourisme.com)

The near by village of Suze la Rousse has the University du Vin, that offers wine educational classes, some are in English.

[www.universite-du-vin.com](http://www.universite-du-vin.com) [www.mairie-suze-la-rousse.fr](http://www.mairie-suze-la-rousse.fr)

A two hour drive to the north will put you in the heart of Bourgogne country.

The city of Beaune has a large selection of hotels that helps this be a good place to spend the night, especially after a day of wine tasting!

[www.beaune-burgundy.com](http://www.beaune-burgundy.com)



### **Orange, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, and Avignon**

This suggestion packs a lot into one day. You could easily split it into two trips and spend a day in Avignon, and a day in Orange and Chateauneuf-du-Pape.

Pierrelatte to Orange – 30 minute drive

Orange – 2 hour visit

Orange to Chateauneuf-du-Pape – 15 minute drive

Chateauneuf-du-Pape – 1 hour visit

Chateauneuf-du-Pape to Avignon – 30 minute drive

Avignon visit – 3 hour visit

Avignon to Pierrelatte – 45 minute drive

**Orange** has two main attractions; the Roman Theatre and the Roman Triumphal Arch. The Arch will be the first thing you visit as you enter Orange. There is an old town area across the street from the Theatre with shopping, restaurants, and historic buildings. During the summer months there are musical performances in the Theatre. Orange is a 30 minute drive from Pierrelatte, so you can visit the Arch, Theatre, old town, and have lunch in 4 hours. These web sites will help you plan your visit to Orange.

[www.otorange.fr](http://www.otorange.fr) [www.provence-hideaway.com/210.html](http://www.provence-hideaway.com/210.html)

The Roman Theatre of Orange is the best preserved Roman theatre in the western world and has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. An audio-guided tour and film will enable you to discover the history of the theatre and its place in antiquity.



The Roman Theater of Orange is extraordinary in that it has retained its magnificent stage wall. Because the wall still has wonderful acoustics it still draws huge audiences to musical events. See these web sites for more details. [www.theatre-antique.com](http://www.theatre-antique.com) , [www.choregies.asso.fr](http://www.choregies.asso.fr)



The Triumphal Arch of Orange is a memorial erected to commemorate the foundation of Orange by the Romans and to demonstrate their power to the people they conquered. It was Napoleons inspiration for the Arch de Triumph in Paris.

### **Chateauneuf-du-Pape**



Located between Avignon and Orange, Châteauneuf-du-Pape spreads out at the foot of the remains of its fortress castle. The village overlooks the plain of Comtat and 3 000 hectares of vine fields. The village is almost completely dedicated to its world famous wine "Châteauneuf-du-Pape" which is also part of the similarly famous [Côtes du Rhône](#).

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century Pope John XXII, chose Châteauneuf as the location for his summer residence, and then decided to plant vines on the stony land which surrounded his landholdings. For a long time wine production remained little known, but started to become recognized in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, it was only in 1929 that it was officially recognized and

granted it's own appellation, Châteauneuf-du-Pape. This appellation means that the wine production in Chateauneuf-du-Pape is subject to strict controls to ensure that the 55 vineyards produce an extremely fine wine.

In the center of the village there are a number of wine tasting cellars from the different domains. The cellar facades are all different from each other. Some seem luxurious, even pretentious, others are extremely simple. Some are on the ground floor of a village house, others you need to go through a small doorway or down a narrow passageway. Whatever, here all the roads lead to the altar of good fine wine.

Look for Domaine Du Pegau, he sells a wine called "Plan Pegau", it is from vineyards just outside the Châteauneuf-du-Pape boundaries so can not be labeled as Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It sell for around 8 Euros, so is a great value.

### **Avignon**

These are useful web sites, download and print the city map, it will help you locate parking.

[www.ot-avignon.fr](http://www.ot-avignon.fr) [www.avignon-tourisme.com](http://www.avignon-tourisme.com)

One of the largest buildings of its time (2.6 acres), the palace is a veritable fortress where nine popes ruled the Roman Catholic World from 1309 to 1403. In viewing the magnificent princely residence's maze of corridors, chambers, chapels, richly decorated with frescoes and tapestries, one can easily imagine the sumptuous way of life led by the popes and their entourage. You might also want to explore the Petit Palais, a museum with exceptional Medieval and Renaissance sculptures and paintings. Another museum, the Musée Angladon, has a fine collection of Degas, Picasso, Cézanne, Modigliani, and the only painting by Van Gogh to be found in Provence.



Consider taking the "little train" for a sight-seeing tour throughout the city. It is a great way to get oriented to the city.



The ancient streets, the courtyards of the private mansions, the renovated facades are all fascinating. One of the most elegant streets is the rue Joseph Vernet, adjacent to the Calvet museum and the Requien Museum. Other sites are the Antiquaire quarter, the Place de l'Horloge or the Chemin de Ronde, which will take you to the Rocher des Doms. From the top of the ramparts you can understand why the site was chosen for a fort: Avignon stands high above the immense plains of the Rhône River and is the strategic point of the whole valley.

The theater festival has made Avignon important in modern times. Started in 1947, every year between July 10th and August 5th nearly 120,000 spectators come to discover new talent or admire actors already known. These shows (dance, theater or music) are enhanced by the historical background and often appear renewed or refreshed in this environment.

The *Off Festival* is a series of street theater set up by would-be actors and is considered to be an excellent work lab for these aspiring young people. Late at night when the shows are over the terraces fill up with actors and spectators alike, creating a unique atmosphere found only in Avignon in the summer.



### Shopping in Avignon:

Chic boutiques line rue Joseph-Vernet, which runs east off rue de la République, opposite the main tourist office. Rue St Agricole is lined with various little boutiques, including designer outlets *Christian Lacroix Boutique*, 10 rue St Agricole, and *Donna*, 35 rue St Agricole. The pedestrianized area (rue des Fourbisseurs, rue des Marchands, rue du Vieux Sextier and rue de la Bonneterie) allows for a leisurely, traffic-free shopping experience.

Avignon is an ideal town for buying presents. Provençal specialties include olive oil, lavender, brightly printed fabrics, sugared fruits, chocolate and fig or melon jam. Lovers of the mustard yellow and olive green Provençal pottery will be spoilt for choice at *Terre et Art*, 29 rue des Fourbisseurs, or *Terre et Provence*, 26 rue de la République. A good selection of regional wines can be found at *La Cave du Bouffart*, 14 rue des Fourbisseurs, and *Le Coin Gourmand*, Les Halles d'Avignon, place Pie. The latter also boasts a range of gastronomic specialties. For a

souvenir in silver or gold, shoppers should head for *Vincent Joaillier*, 12 place du Change, a jewelry design shop founded in 1897.

In addition to the Tuesday to Sunday morning covered market at Les Halles, south of Place Pie, there are colorful outdoor markets at the Rampart St Michel (a food market on Saturday and Sunday) and place des Carmes (a flower market on Saturday and flea market on Sunday).

Department stores are open Monday to Saturday 0900-1900, while smaller shops close between noon and 2 PM and Monday morning. Sales tax varies between 5.5% (food) to 19.6% (luxury goods). Visitors from outside the European Union can claim a tax refund upon departure for each purchase over €175.

*Global Refund* (tel: (01) 4161 5151; fax: (01) 4834 6020; e-mail: [taxfree@fr.globalrefund.com](mailto:taxfree@fr.globalrefund.com); website: [www.globalrefund.com](http://www.globalrefund.com) ) can provide further information.

### **Uzes and the Pont Du Gard**

[www.uzes-tourisme.com](http://www.uzes-tourisme.com)

Pierrelatte to Uzes - 45 minutes drive

Uzes – 3 hour visit

Uzes to Pont Du Gard - 15 minute drive

Pont Du Gard – 1 to 2 hour visit

Pont Du Gard to Pierrelatte - 45 minute drive.

Take the route to Uzes that goes through the villages of Pont-St-Esprit, Bagnols-s-Ceze, Pouzilhac, and St-Hippolyte-de-Montaigu. Along the route you will go through unspoiled countryside, vineyards, and numerous scenic overviews.

Uzes is a great place for a leisurely lunch.



## Castle at Uzès

Located in the region of Languedoc-Roussillon, **Uzès** is classed as an historic town, and its center is particularly well preserved. Numerous pedestrian-only streets, narrow and cobble-stoned, lead you back to the Middle Ages. Its "Place aux Herbes", a charming town square, is the site of a well-known weekly market every Saturday morning. There are medieval stone arcades which flank the square, with cafés and gift shops in good supply. The castle in the center of the town, known as The Duchy, is built on an old Roman "Castrum" (camp) which became the residence of the Governor in the first millennium.



Images of Uzès



The Pont Du Gard is the most spectacular part of the aqueduct built by the Romans in the first century AD to bring fresh water to the city of Nîmes. A utilities work, le Pont du Gard is also a work of prestige, intended to show the superiority of the Roman civilization, then at the pinnacle of its power and glory. This is the web site [www.pontdugard.fr](http://www.pontdugard.fr)



## Arles

[www.tourisme.ville-arles.fr](http://www.tourisme.ville-arles.fr)

This is an excellent web site to help plan your visit.

Arles is a bit of a drive and has a lot to see so plan on spending an entire day on this trip.

Pierrelatte to Arles – 1 ½ hour drive

Arles – 4 to 5 hour visit

Arles to Pierrelatte - 1 ½ hour drive

Arles has a lot of Roman history and a lot of Van Goth history.

You can visit the sanitarium where Van Goth stayed, it looks just like his painting, the room in the village he stayed in, and the bridge he painted.



There is a new exhibit of Roman artifacts, featuring some recently discovered busts of Julius Ceasar, see web site for details.

[www.arles-antique.cg13.fr](http://www.arles-antique.cg13.fr)

## The Gorges of the Ardeche

This is the Grand canyon of France – this trip is for lovers of natural beauty, with a wonderful medieval town thrown in

Depart from Pierrtelatte and drive through Bourg-St-Andeol , St-Remeze , and Vallon-Pont-D'Arc; this will take you to the start of the gorges.

The drive follows the gorge with numerous stops and breathtaking views.

Make sure to pack some cheese, bread, and wine for a picnic along the way.



Along the way there are several Grottes (underground caves) that are a great place to visit in the summer when the outside temperature is hot and the underground temp is cool.

[www.avignon-et-provence.com/ardeche-holidays/ardeche/gorges-of-ardeche.htm](http://www.avignon-et-provence.com/ardeche-holidays/ardeche/gorges-of-ardeche.htm)

There is also kayak/canoe rental on the river. Here are two websites that are useful. [www.ardeche-canoe.com/hiring.com](http://www.ardeche-canoe.com/hiring.com) , [www.abc-canoe.com](http://www.abc-canoe.com)

As you descend towards the Rhone you will come to a village called St-Martin-d'Ardeche. There is a single lane suspension bridge that leads to a village called Aigueze, perched on the cliffs overlooking the river below. It has a wonderful church, shops with local produce, and a nice selection of restaurants featuring regional delicacies.



<http://www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org/en/aigueze-0>

### **LINKS TO LOCAL VILLAGES AND SITES**

Pierrelatte – [www.office-tourisme-pierrelatte.com](http://www.office-tourisme-pierrelatte.com)

152 beautiful villages - [www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org](http://www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org)

Aigueze http - [www.france-for-visitors.com/provence/orange/index.html](http://www.france-for-visitors.com/provence/orange/index.html)

Ardeche Gorge - [www.experienceardeche.com](http://www.experienceardeche.com)

[www.experienceardeche.com](http://www.experienceardeche.com) [www.ardeche-guide.com](http://www.ardeche-guide.com)

Arles – [www.tourisme.ville-arles.fr](http://www.tourisme.ville-arles.fr)

Avignon- [www.ot-avignon.fr](http://www.ot-avignon.fr) [www.avignon-tourisme.com](http://www.avignon-tourisme.com)

Borg St Andeol - [www.france-for-visitors.com/provence/orange/index.html](http://www.france-for-visitors.com/provence/orange/index.html)

Cassis - [www.beyond.fr/villages/cassis.html](http://www.beyond.fr/villages/cassis.html)

Chateaufort de Pape - [www.provence-hideaway.com/242.html](http://www.provence-hideaway.com/242.html)

Dieulefit - [www.provenceweb.fr/e/drome-provencale/dieulefit/dieulefit.htm](http://www.provenceweb.fr/e/drome-provencale/dieulefit/dieulefit.htm)

Grignon - [www.provenceweb.fr/e/drome-provencale/grignan/grignan.htm](http://www.provenceweb.fr/e/drome-provencale/grignan/grignan.htm)

Gordes – [www.gordes-village.com](http://www.gordes-village.com)

Les Baux de Provence – [www.chateau-baux-provence.com](http://www.chateau-baux-provence.com)

L'Isle sur la Sorgue - [www.provence-hideaway.com/242.html](http://www.provence-hideaway.com/242.html)

La Garde Adhemar [www.la-garde-adhemar-ot.com](http://www.la-garde-adhemar-ot.com)

Le Poet-Leval - [www.provenceweb.fr/e/drome-provencale/poet-laval/poet-laval.htm](http://www.provenceweb.fr/e/drome-provencale/poet-laval/poet-laval.htm)

Nimes – [www.nimes-romaine.com](http://www.nimes-romaine.com)

Orange - [www.otorange.fr](http://www.otorange.fr)

Pont du Gard – [www.pontdugard.fr](http://www.pontdugard.fr)

St Paul Trois Chateaux [www.france-voyage.com/towns/saint-paul-trois-chateaux-7550.htm](http://www.france-voyage.com/towns/saint-paul-trois-chateaux-7550.htm)

St Remy de Provence – [www.saintremy-de-provence.com](http://www.saintremy-de-provence.com)

Suze la Rousse – [www.mairie-suze-la-rousse.fr](http://www.mairie-suze-la-rousse.fr)

Uzes – [www.uzes-tourisme.com](http://www.uzes-tourisme.com)

Vaison la Romaine [www.france-for-visitors.com/provence/orange/index.html](http://www.france-for-visitors.com/provence/orange/index.html)

## **MARKET DAYS NEAR PIERRELATTE**

Market days are one of the great experiences of France.

### **Monday**

Ales – 1h10, 75km

Nimes – 1h01, 88km

### **Tuesday**

Avignon – 0h49, 60km

Vaison la Romaine – 0h45, 42km

Fontaine de Vaucluse – 1h07, 86km

Aix en Provence – 1h23, 131km, 9am to 12:30, Place de Verdun

Nimes – 1h01, 88km

Gordes – 1h10, 89km

Tarascon – 1h09, 82km

### **Wednesday**

Avignon – 0h49m, 60km

Valres – 0h30m, 30km

Arles – 1h15m, 115km

Salon de Provence – 1h06, 97km

St Remy de Provence – 1h08, 89km

Nimes – 1h01, 88km

Bagnols sur Ceze – 0h27, 28km

### **Thursday**

Avignon – 0h49, 60km

Fontaine de Vaucluse – 1h07, 86km

L Isle sur la Sorgue – 0h59, 78km

Mirabeau – 1h47, 164km

Orange – 0h30, 33km

Roussillon – 1h16, 99km

Vacqueyras – 0h48, 55km

Beaucaire – 1h03, 79km

Villeneuve las Avignon – 0h50, 60km

Nyons – 0h45, 45km

Aix – 9am – 12:30, place de Verdun

### **Friday**

Avignon – 0h49, 60km

Bonnieux – 1h15, 98km

Carpentras – 0h50, 55km

Cavaillon – 0h53, 77km

Chateauneuf du Pape – 0h43, 46km

Salon de Provence – 1h06, 97km

Nimes – 1h01, 88km

Remoulins – 0h46, 63km

Pierrelatte –

**Saturday**

Avignon – 0h49, 60km

Mornas – 0h18, 20km

Pernes les Fontaines – 0h59, 63km

Ste Cecile les Vignes – 0h30, 29km

Aix en Provence – 1h23, 131km, 9am – 12:30 am, Place de Verdun

Arles – 1h15m, 115km

Pont St Esprit – 0h15, 16km

Uzes – 0h55, 56km

Villeneuve las Avignon – 0h50, 60km

Donzere – 0h10, 9km

Cave de Cairanne – 4pm to 9pm

**Sunday**

Avignon – 0h49, 60km

L Isle sur la Sorgue – 0h59, 78km

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