

FRANCE – GORGES DU VERDON, PROVENCE

7-day / 6-night **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn walking holiday near Europe's Grand Canyon



The Gorges du Verdon offers one of the most striking and scenic landscapes under the Mediterranean sun. The 'grand canyon' of Europe has been carved out of the limestone plateau over millennia by the turquoise waters of the Verdon River. Nestled between Provence and the foothills of the Alps, the region offers paths lined with arid Provençal maquis and wild herbs, and green valleys covered in ferns and larch trees. The nature park is home to wildlife including chamois and wild boar, but is best known for its birds of prey, including griffon and black vultures, golden eagles, and eagle owls. For this holiday we have selected several easy to moderate walks, some offering a birds'-eye view of the gorge, and others bringing you to the banks of the picturesque river. Walks link the pretty villages of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie, Trigance and Castellane and allow plenty of time to discover the 'art of living' in authentic Provence.

Departures: Daily on demand from 1 May to 31 October, 2026

Cost from: \$1595 per person twin share

Single room supplement from \$955

Solo Traveller supplement on request

Included: 6 nights in comfortable 2-star or 3-star hotels with en-suite bathrooms; 6 continental breakfasts, 2 picnic lunches, 1 dinner; digital route book and GPX files; luggage transfers; taxi transfers as per itinerary on Day 3 and Day 5; emergency assistance hotline.

Not included: Meals not mentioned, drinks, optional sightseeing, entrance fees, personal expenses. Printed route book & maps (one set per room) available for a supplement, ask for details.

Trip grading: Easy to Moderate. Daily walking distances 10-15km per day (4-5 hours' walking), daily ascent up to 650m, mostly on good paths with some rough or steep sections and occasional scrambling. Some stages are not suitable for those who are sensitive to heights or suffer from vertigo. From mid-June to mid-September, accessible walks and trails are determined by weather conditions. If a walk is not possible (you will need to check the conditions locally each day) or for any personal reason, any extra costs due to modifications on the spot will be at own expense.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Arrive Moustiers-Sainte-Marie

Make your way to Moustiers-Sainte-Marie (ask about a taxi transfer from Aix-en-Provence at extra cost), one of the prettiest villages in France with its dramatic backdrop of limestone cliffs. The town is famous for its ceramics (faïence) and there are many artisans' workshops. You spend two nights here.

Day 2 Tréguier botanical trail

walking @ 7km

An easy, scenic walk along the limestone cliffs surrounding Moustiers, with views of the terraces planted with olive trees. The botanical trail is marked with information panels about the local flora. Be sure to take a break to scan the skies for vultures and eagles. Take a rocky path to the Belvédère du Tréguier for 360-degree views of Sainte-Croix lake and Angouire canyon. The walk allows time to relax in Moustiers, or perhaps an excursion (organised & paid locally) to the charming Sainte-Croix for an afternoon by the lake.

Day 3 La Palud to Point Sublime

walking @ 7km or 11km

A morning transfer to La Palud-sur-Verdon and a choice of walks. Walk to Point Sublime via the 'Baou' path between cliffs and ravines to Rougon. Point Sublime is just past Rougon and offers a spectacular view of the narrow entrance to the grand canyon of Verdon. Or, walk down to the entrance of the Verdon Gorge, along the Samson couloir track. For a longer walk, follow the Blanc-Martel trail alongside the river; this is a one-way track, sixteen kilometres long, so turn around and return by the same trail when you've had enough, and ascend to Point Sublime. You stay the night in a simple but comfortable and clean auberge. Dinner is included this evening.

Day 4 Point Sublime to Trigance

walking @ 10km

Collect your picnic lunch (included) then descend and cross the river via the Roman bridge. After a short meander alongside the river, ascend through forest to the hamlet of Entreverges. Follow the sometimes rocky path to the lookout atop the Belvédère of Rancoumas, with fine views of the cliffs of the Escalès and the Verdon flowing through the canyon far below. (If you are sensitive to heights ask us about alternative routes.) This is a prime spot to sight vultures soaring in the gorge. Walk along the clifftops to Trigance, a typical Provençal village dominated by a beautiful 11th century castle with four towers.

Day 5 Trigance to Castellane

walking @ 14km

A short transfer to the Carajuan Bridge, then follow the river for a short while before a gentle ascent to the mountain pass Pertuis de la Colle, an ideal spot for your picnic lunch (included). Descend to Castellane through forest. Castellane is a charming medieval village nestled at the base of an enormous limestone rock crowned with the tiny chapel of Notre Dame du Roc. You spend two nights here in a 3-star hotel.

Day 6 Notre Dame du Roc

walking @ 5km

Your final walk is short, allowing plenty of time to explore the village. If you are in Castellane on Wednesday or Saturday morning, be sure to visit the market. Walk along paths lined with the typical maquis and wild herbs of the south of France to the chapel, passing the remnants of Petra Castellane. The ascent is amply rewarded by views in every direction, of the gorges, the backwaters of the Verdon and the emerald waters of Lake Castillon. Descend back through the Jardins de la Tour to Castellane.

Day 7 Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast. Ask about transfers to Aix at extra cost.



Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations

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