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The papal city basks in a warm climate all year round on the edge of Provence, between Italy and Spain.



# AN EXCEPTIONAL HERITAGE

The city's best-known landmark is the Palais des Papes, the biggest Gothic palace and home to the popes in the 14th century.

A stone's throw from the Palais, Pont d'Avignon (or Pont Saint Bénezet) is another medieval landmark whose famous song has put it on the world map.

Both sites are part of a group of monuments listed as UNESCO World Heritage since 1995.

# THE ART OF LIVING

The historic centre is surrounded by the original city walls and is the perfect place for a stroll. The shady little squares and terraces buzz with life and are the perfect place for a glass of Côtes du Rhône, craft ale or Provence's very own lemon cordial (ask for a «pac à l'eau»)!



# FREE **MUSEUMS**

Art is everywhere: Avignon is an open-air museum playing host to an incredible array of collections.

Visitors can explore Avignon's 5 council museums for free all year round!

Art is everywhere: Avignon is a true open-air museum offering an incredible variety collections.



# A FESTIVAL KNOWN THE WORLD OVER

Avignon Festival was founded in 1947 by Jean Vilar and hosts the best in contemporary performing arts every July.

Its support act, the Off Festival, turns the city into a huge joyful stage with over 1500 plays.

Watch performances at the opera, national orchestra, theatres, associations, galleries and third places to experience all forms of art throughout the year.



**AVIGNON TOURISME - PRESS KIT 2025** 

TTTTTTT bistttttee



Major events bring the seasons to life including Cheval Passion in winter, Printemps des Créateurs in spring, Tremplin Jazz and the Grande Exposition at the Palais des Papes in summer. Parcours de l'Art art trail in autumn.

# AVIGNON, A GASTRONOMIC DESTINATION

Avignon is a hotspot for food, drink and wine tourism. The city is jam-packed with secret spots and Michelin-starred extravaganzas where chefs showcase their talent and celebrate their trade.

# AVIGNON deep in provence

You can take a high-speed TGV train from Paris to Avignon in 2 hr 40 or from Roissy Charles de Gaulle in 3 hours. There are daily train services between Avignon and the biggest European cities such as London with connections in Lille and Paris. Frankfurt, Madrid and Barcelona (on Renfe AVE high-speed trains), Geneva and Lausanne (Lyria TGV high-speed trains) are also within easy reach.





The PEM (multimodal transport hub): view regional bus services to neighbouring towns on: www.pemavignon.fr All transport methods in the city and Greater Avignon on:

www.orizo.fr



Palais des Papes, Halles and Gare Centre car parks: great deals for everyone whether you're a local, visitor or work in the city centre. Open 24/7

## https://avignon-parkings.com

### Browse all Avignon's car parks on:



Close to the city centre 2 free car parks are served by shuttle buses: Parking de l'île Piot and parking des Italiens. 2 park-and-ride facilities P+R Saint-Chamand et P+R Agroparc;





ViaRhôna For more information, visit www.avignon-tourisme.com or www.viarhona.com

New! Since June 2024, Greater Avignon's self-service bicycles (Vélopop') have been electric. For more information, visit the Maison du vélo. https://velo-grandavignon. fr/fr/maison-du-velo



Marseille-Provence airport is a 45-minute drive away, connecting 121 destinations in summer and 100 in winter, i.e. some 30 countries and domestic flights operated by some 30 airlines. Direct TER train connections: Vitrolles (Marseille airport and MP2) to Avignon center. Shuttle service between Marseille-Provence airport and the TER station Vitrolles-Aéroport Marseille Provence. www.marseille.aeroport.fr





Compagnie des Grands Bateaux de Provence operates the Halte Nautique harbour at the foot of Rocher des Doms, on Quai de la Ligne.

The Halte Nautique is open from April 1st to October 31st: for further information: +33 (0)7 60 71 82 15 www.bateauxprovence.com

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## **2 STATIONS**

The TGV station puts Avignon within 2 hr 40 of Paris, 3 hr of Roissy Charles de Gaulle and 1 hr of Lyon on the TGV Méditerranée high-speed train (30 min from Marseille).

Connections to Madrid, Barcelona, Frankfurt, Geneva, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Gare Centre station: full Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur regional train timetables available to view at www.sncfconnect.com **GOOD TO KNOW** Several daily train services to the city centre.

6 VALLON-PONT-D'ARC A7 VALRÉAS 🔵 NYONS PARC NATUREL LES GORGES RÉGIONAL DE L'ARDÈCHE DES BARONNIES PROVENÇALES BOLLÈNE PONT-SAINT-ESPRIT VAISON-LA ROMAINE PARC NATIONAL LES DENTELLES DE MONTMIRAIL DES CÉVENNES MORNAS Œ SÉGURET BAGNOLS-SUR-CÈZE GIGONDAS LE MONT VENTOUX **VACQUEYRAS** MALAUCÈNE 77 ORANGE ALÈS MIR BEAUMES-DE-VENISE SAINT SAULT LAURENT-DES-ARBRES RÉDOIN HÂTEAUNEU ANDUZE LIRAC ● CARPENTRAS DU PAPE TAVEL VILLENEUVE LEZ AVIGNON UZÈS LE PONT DU GARD PERNES-LES-FONTAINES June ( A9 LES MONTS DE VAUCLUSE AVIGNON LE GARD LE THOR FONTAINE DE-VAUCLUSE REMOULINS RUSTREL GORDES ISLE ROUSSILLON SUR-LA-SORGUE A7 LACOSTE CAVAILLON BONNIEUX NÎMES 🖶 BEAUCAIRE TARASCON SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL DU LUBERON LOURMARIN PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL A54 LES BAUX-DE-PROVENCE FONTVIEILLE PERTUIS A9 **DES ALPILLES** 5 SALON ARLES DE-PROVENCE A51 A54 MONTPELLIER PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL DE MIRAMAS A7 CAMARGUE LE GRAU-DU-ROI A8 AIX-EN-PROVENCE ISTRES SAINTES MARIE DE LA MER VITROLLES A55 MARTIGUES

MARSEILLE

# OUR TOP PICKS

New addresses and unmissable events!

# THE GREAT EXHIBITION AT THE PALAIS DES PAPES

The Grand Chapel has hosted major contemporary art exhibitions every year since the landmark opened to visitors. Some artists bring several pieces to the visitor experience to make it their own, and the latest offering is no exception. In 2024, the Palais hosted the very first posthumous monographic exhibition by the stencil artist Miss.Tic.

## OTHONIEL COSMOS ou les Fantômes de l'Amour

28 JUNE 2025 - 4 JANUARY 2026 The city of Avignon, which will be Terre de culture 2025', has chosen to invite Jean-Michel Othoniel to create a large-scale artistic project for the city and its heritage. 220 works including 160 neverbefore-seen works are expected. This remarkable project will be accompanied by a documentary film, a book and a multidisciplinary performance to be staged at the end of the next Festival d'Avignon in the Cour d'Honneur of the Palais des Papes.

www.palais-des-papes.com



## NEW ? CURIOSITÉ(S) TERRE DE CULTURE 2025

Avignon is set to host an exceptional cultural season in 2025: a whole programme of popular and artistic festivities and events by everyone and for everyone, to celebrate Avignon's 25th anniversary as European Capital of Culture!





The year will be filled with a number of highlights, **starting** with the grand inaugural weekend on 11 and 12 January 2025, followed by exceptional 'carte blanche' exhibitions by the FRAC and MIAM at the Cloître Saint Louis and the Eglise des Célestins (transformed for the occasion into the 'Musées des Curiosités' from 17 January), and the opening of the Bains Pommer in the spring, the inauguration of the Grand Exhibition at the Palais des Papes in June, a giant 'curious banquet' in September, the creation of Maisons Folie supported and developed by local artistic and cultural collectives, the route of 6 lines of the 'Europa Metro' (inspired by Bourges 2028) punctuated by animated and furnished stations called the 'Impromptus'...

A year of cultural whirlwinds that will culminate in a spectacular December to celebrate the 30th anniversary of UNESCO's World Heritage status.

Each project supported by Terre de Culture 2025 has a specific theme:

- La Culture est une fête / Culture is a celebration

- La Culture, c'est nous / Culture is us

 Fils rouges – la curieuse saison culturelle / Red Threads - the curious cultural season

- Insolites / Unusuals
- Les Tribus / The Tribes

- Avignon, ville Monde / Avignon, world city

Discover the full programme at: www.avignon2025.fr



# NEW KOUK

This local canteen is open all day for home-made pastries, carefully selected matcha, gourmet dishes of the day and a variety of vegetarian and gluten-free options in a cosy atmosphere.

1, rue Henri Fabre 84000 Avignon 06 35 39 62 09

www.instagram.com/kouk.avignon

# LE QUAI DES SAVEURS

Managed by the Vaucluse Chamber of Commerce and Industry and located on the forecourt of the main railway station, Le Quai des Saveurs is a real showcase for the Avignon hotel school, offering a hybrid concept that is open all day, every day: breakfasts, takeaway snacks, lunch formulas, tearoom, afterworks. Open in December 2024. www.paca.cci.fr/actualite/ le-quai-des-saveurs-vitrine-delecole-hoteliere-en-garedavignon

# THE FORECOURT AT CENTRAL STATION HAS BEEN GIVEN A MAKEOVER!

Built around a large landscaped garden, entirely dedicated to pedestrians and soft mobility, the new forecourt at the central station is designed to improve access and intermodality while blending in with the urban fabric. The station facade has also been completely renovated, restoring the building to its former glory. www.avignon.fr/avignonse-reinvente/grands-projets/ parvis-de-la-gare-centre

# LA COMPAGNIE DES GRANDS BATEAUX DE PROVENCE

Spurred on by a new era (new management, redecoration of the boats, new proposals, new events, a new stage for the Festival Off), the Compagnie des Grands Bateaux de Provence is heading for a promising future. Departing from Avignon, it offers passengers an unforgettable experience as they discover the most beautiful sites in Avignon and Provence. www.bateauxprovence.com

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# AVIGNON unesco world heritage

Avignon has been listed as UNESCO World Heritage since 1995 and attracts visitors from all over the world to experience centuries of unspoilt heritage. The city of Avignon is the owner of 49 listed historic buildings, and boasts a rich heritage. www.avignon-monuments.com



# THE PALAIS DES PAPES

Nine popes lived in Avignon between 1305 and 1429. The city was the Capital of Christianity. Both a colossal fortress and opulent palace, its contemporaries described it as «the most beautiful and strongest house in the world» (Froissart).

With 15,000m<sup>2</sup> of flooring and the size of 5 cathedrals, it took 20 years to build the Palais, between 1335 and 1352. Two popes were the driving forces behind it: Benedict XII, who had an extravagant and impressive papal palace built (Palais Vieux or Old Palace), and Clement VI, who had the Opus Novum built (Palais Neuf or New Palace). 25 rooms are open to visitors: large staterooms, treasuries, chapels, private apartments and their fabulous fresco interiors by Italian artist Matteo Giovannetti.

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## PONT D'AVIGNON (SAINT-BÉNEZET)

The bridge was originally 920m long with 22 arches (there are only four left now).

Building work began in the late 12th century and it was a construction site for hundreds of years. At the time it was the biggest structure on the Rhône and the only bridge across the river between Lyon and Mediterranean. It was damaged several times and rebuilt until the 17th century.

A walk on the bridge gives you incredible views of Tour Philippe le Bel, Fort Saint-André (Villeneuve lez Avignon), Palais des Papes, city walls and Petit Palais.



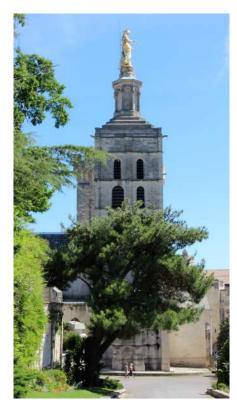


**GOOD TO KNOW** Pont d'Avignon is the first and only medieval site with disabled access!

## AVIGNON CATHEDRAL

It was built to the north of the Palais des Papes in a Romanesque Provençal style in 1150.

The great Italian artist Simone Martini painted the entrance hall murals in 1343. You can now see them at the Palais des Papes.



## PLACE DU PALAIS DES PAPES

From Place du Palais, you get a view of the Palais des Papes, Avignon Cathedral, Petit Palais Museum and Hôtel des Monnaies' baroque façade.

# RAMPARTS

Among the best preserved and largest in France, they encircle the old town. They are 4.3km long and were built in 1355 during Innocent VI's time as pope to withstand attacks from the free companies. Building was completed in 1370 by Urban V. The listed section leads to the Doms Garden through the Pont d'Avignon entrance via a wall walk.



# THE UNESCO **PROVENCE SITES**

In Provence, history and culture intertwine in a fascinating way, offering visitors a real journey through time. Just 150 kilometres separate such iconic sites as the 36,000-year-old Grotte Chauvet and Le Corbusier's Cité Radieuse in Marseille! Two monuments from radically different eras and styles, but united by the same excellence.

Other jewels of the region also deserve your attention: the Théâtre Antique and the Arc de Triomphe in Orange, the Historic Centre of Avignon (with the Palais des Papes, the Pont Saint-Bénézet, the ramparts, the Basilique Notre-Dame des Doms and the Musée du Petit Palais), the Pont du Gard, the Roman monuments of Arles, as well as the Abbey Church of Saint-Gilles-du-Gard and the Maison Carrée in Nîmes.

All these sites are listed as **UNESCO World Heritage Sites,** a symbol of international recognition and inestimable value.

## A unique collaboration to promote heritage.

In February 2019, 7 sites signed an agreement to work together to promote their cultural heritage, not only to French visitors, but also to international tourists. In 2024, the Maison Carrée (Nîmes), registered in 2023, has joined the group. This partnership is unprecedented in its form, uniting sites spread across three regions and four départements. It's a pioneering initiative that demonstrates a shared commitment to promoting and preserving these treasures.



Cloitre Arles - A.Cartelli

Abbatiale de Saint-Gilles - Nimes Tourisme



Cite Radieuse - Marseille Tourisme



NEW !

## **A UNESCO CIRCUIT TO DISCOVER!**

These seven exceptional sites, located less than 2 hours' drive from each other, naturally form a unique circuit: the "Unesco Circuit of Provence".

This route invites you to discover monuments that bear witness to the region's thousand-year-old history, and which together illustrate the rich cultural and architectural heritage of Provence.

A unique journey to discover on unesco-provence.com



Here are 3 great ways to squeeze every last drop out of your trip to your papal city.

# ON YOUR BIKE!

Avignon is a city that's firmly committed to the use of soft mobility. The best way to discover the whole of Avignon is by bike. Our partners South Spirit Bike and Provence Bike offer a wide choice of bikes for hire, so you can explore the city and its signposted routes.





# MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR STAY

With the City Pass Whether you choose 24 or 48 hours, with or without transport, the pass provides free or discounted admission to the must-see landmarks and sites in Avignon and Villeneuve lez Avignon plus reduced rates at the Palais des Papes car park! There are several routes available with a map/guide available in 5 languages from Tourist Information







# IN AN ORIGINAL WAY

Whether you take a double decker bus, canoe or boat and join us on a foodie tour or party, our partners introduce you to another side of Avignon

The 10km city walk. This heart-thumping hike covers the entire city, from the best-known landmarks to the secret spots only the locals know about.

Find out more about visiting Avignon on your own or with a group at www.avignon-tourisme.com

AVIGNON TOURISME - PRESS KIT 2025



# FAMILY-FRIENDLY adventures

Avignon is jam-packed with cultural and outdoor activities for children and adults: it's the perfect place for a family holiday to remember!



Young visitors can explore the Palais on a treasure hunt using an interactive tablet called the Histopad.

## SCAVENGER HUNT - PALAIS DES PAPES MYSTERY KIT

The «Mystery in the City» kit from the Palais des Papes is a fun-filled way for everyone to explore the landmark (exc. grounds)

The museums in Avignon host workshops for children all year round.









# YEAR-ROUND PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

Countless Avignon theatres host family-friendly performances and children's events (workshops, storytelling etc.).

The HiverÔmomes (children's festival during Les Hivernales) sets the stage alight every February.

Festo Pitcho is a children's festival celebrating performing arts in spring. Le Totem is now a benchmark for performing arts, public-funded theatre, children and youth art with lots on in July and events throughout the year.

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# OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Suggestion: there are play areas for all ages in the city centre parks.

## ÎLE DE LA BARTHELASSE WITH THE FAMILY

The biggest river island in Europe is the perfect playground for families. Visitors can take a bike ride to stock up on fresh seasonal produce on the island's farms, play a round of mini golf and enjoy a picnic or snack on the towpath.

Cool off at the pool or set sail on a canoe on the Rhône in summer.

# GOOD TO KNOW

pullin

Stop at the Maison du Parc visitor centre on the Rhône riverbanks for fantastic views of the papal city, ramparts and Mont Ventoux. A free ferry takes pedestrians and cyclists across the Rhône from Pont d'Avignon to Barthelasse Island all year round (times on: www.avignon-tourisme.com)





Avignon may be small in size, but it's big on history! The monuments and museums capture the papal city's exciting history. Take a trip back in time and gaze in wonder at the showcase brought to you by the city's free museums or private collections.

# MUNICIPAL MUSEUMS

## LE MUSÉE DU PETIT PALAIS - LOUVRE IN AVIGNON

The Palais des Archevêques has been turned into a museum that host to an outstanding collection of early Italian paintings from the Louvre.

## **REQUIEN MUSEUM**

The natural history museum is named after the Avignon naturalist who founded it in 1840: Esprit Requien. Its collections present Vaucluse's geology, history and paleontology.

## **CALVET MUSEUM**

The Calvet Museum stands in a regal 18th century manor. Esprit Calvet left his collection of 15th-20th century paintings, sculptures and decorative arts to the museum in 1810.

## LAPIDAIRE MUSEUM

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The 17th century baroque-style Jesuit chapel is now the Lapidaire Museum. It exhibits archaeological items from the Esprit Calvet collection: Celtic, Greek, Etruscan, Roman and Egyptian items on a deep dive into the history of Mediterranean cultures.



# AVIGNON MUSEUMS: FREE MUSEUMS ALL YEAR ROUND!

Free admission all year round at the Calvet, Lapidaire, Petit Palais, Requien and Palais du Roure Museums!

On top of exciting permanent collections, there are joint events, trails and meet & greets to guide visitors through the history of art.



## LE PALAIS DU ROURE

Baroncelli-Javon's 15th century manor became a hotspot for Provençal culture. Jeanne de Flandreysy and Emile Espérandieu moved in and kept the legacy alive. Visitors can now experience their passion for regional culture.

## PAWN SHOP AND SILK FACTORY MUSEUM AND COUNCIL ARCHIVE CENTRE

The museum displays items, artworks and documents detailing the history of the oldest mount of piety in France (1610) and the silk factory established in 1801. https://archives.vaucluse.fr



# UNLOCKING PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AND COLLECTIONS

## ANGLADON MUSEUM - JACQUES DOUCET COLLECTION

The haute couture pioneer's art collection. 18th, 19th and 20th century masterpieces live together in a manor: Van Gogh, Cézanne, Degas, Manet, Sisley, Picasso, Modigliani, J. Vernet, Chardin... Period salons and Orient studies. www.angladon.com

## LOUIS VOULAND MUSEUM

A beautiful manor with garden views, home to a fascinating collection of decorative arts reflecting the 17th and 18th century alongside a collection of 19th and 20th century Provençal paintings.

www.vouland.com

## LA MAISON JEAN VILAR

Exhibition and archive centre for Jean Vilar's work (1912-1971) and the history of the Avignon Festival since its foundation in 1947. With a branch of the French National Library. Free (exc. certain temporary exhibitions). https://maisonjeanvilar.org/

## LAMBERT COLLECTION

The art trader and collector Yvon Lambert donated a collection of 2000 major pieces to the French government. The museum's permanent exhibition now displays the best from his collection from the 60s to the present day. There are also original temporary exhibitions showcasing current artists. www.collectionlambert.com



**GOOD TO KNOW!** Visit our Leisure and Heritage Plan.



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# FESTIVAL(S) &



Avignon has been famous for theatre and performing arts ever since Jean Vilar founded the Avignon Festival in 1947. The city not only hosts the festival every July, but it's also home to a dozen permanent theatres, countless theatre companies, an Opéra Théâtre, Orchestre National and national stages.



## **FEST'HIVER**

Les Scènes d'Avignon sets the stage for new companies in the region with the annual winter festival. Les Scènes d'Avignon brings 6 Avignon theatres and permanent companies together: Théâtre du Balcon, Théâtre du Chêne Noir, Théâtre du Chien qui Fume, Théâtre des Carmes, Théâtre des Halles and Théâtre Transversal

www.scenesdavignon.fr

## LE CDCN LES HIVERNALES

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5 2025 | LES HIVERÔMOMES FEBRUARY 6-15 2025 | LES HIVERNALES Le CDCN-Les Hivernales puts dance culture in the spotlight with performances, artists in residence, events and classes. www.hivernales-avignon.com

### AVIGNON FESTIVAL JULY 5-26 2025

It's now one of the biggest contemporary performing arts festivals in the world. Avignon has turned into a theatre city every summer for the last 78 years www.festival-avignon.com

## **OFF FESTIVAL**

*JULY 5-26 2025* All forms of performing arts descend on Avignon at summer's must-see event: theatre, dance, music, circus and more. The Off Festival stages over 1500 shows for 3 weeks.

www.festivaloffavignon.com

## FESTIVAL a-OUT

FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST The Avignon Amateur Theatre Festival brings 3 theatres togethers. https://theatredesvents.fr

## **LE TOTEM**

# Public-funded theatre: art, childhood, youth

Alongside its year-round entertainment schedule for young audiences, Le Totem runs theatrical expression workshops and children's festivals: Festo Pitcho in April, Théâtr'enfants Festival at La Maison pour Tous Monclar in July. www.le-totem.com

## OPÉRA GRAND AVIGNON

The Opéra Grand Avignon hosts a wide range of performances to suit any audience: opera, dance, theatre and music. It also gives contemporary pieces pride of place. Its ballet, choir and choirmasters contribute to its reputation and make it a dynamic venue throughout the year.

It hosts artists in residence, free cultural events at lunchtime. www.operagrandavignon.fr

## ORCHESTRE NATIONAL AVIGNON PROVENCE

The Orchestre National Avignon-Provence was founded in the late 18th century and works in partnership with Opéra Grand Avignon throughout the opera season.

The orchestra is invited to the biggest festivals all over the world. Debora Waldman was the first female conductor of a regional national orchestra in France when she was given the role in 2020.

www.orchestre-avignon.com

## AJMI

The jazz and improv association champions creative and exciting jazz and hosts a range of concerts all year round: jazz, rock, improv, variety and more. www.ajmi.fr



## THE CONFLUENCE CONCERT HALL

Opened in early 2024, right opposite Avignon TGV station in an all-wood structure, this modular venue can host up to 1,650 people in total and free parking for 400 cars. The programme is eclectic, ranging from concerts to stand-up and circus acts.

www.confluencespectacles.fr

# CREATIVE SPACES

## LE GRENIER À SEL

The listed salt mill hosts an allencompassing cultural schedule exploring art, science and technology. Exhibitions, shows, workshops, screenings, concerts, talks and more. https://legrenierasel-avignon.fr

## AVIGNON ARTS CONTEMPORAINS

The centre strives to become a contemporary art hub and set the benchmark for the subject in our region.

avignon-arts-contemporains. com

## **AVIGNON ART COLLEGE**

Ecole Supérieure d'Art d'Avignon (ESAA) is an art college with four national curation/restoration courses overseen by the Musées de France Board. esaavignon.eu

## MACA

MAC'A (Maison des Arts Contemporains d'Avignon) celebrates contemporary art and brings it to the masses. It holds a major exhibition at Saint Louis Cloister every year.

## QUARTET +

The council provides artists and cultural associations with free use of churches and chapels such as Église des Célestins, Cloître Saint-Louis, La Manutention, Chapelle Saint-Michel and Eglise des Cordeliers so anyone can experience art in all its forms. www.avignon.fr/fr/ma-ville/ culture/quartet-avignon

## THE ART TRAIL

**Ten days in October.** Around thirty contemporary artists exhibit their creations throughout the town, exchanging ideas and...

www.parcoursdelart.com





# WINTER CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AND PROVENÇAL TRADITIONS

LATE NOVEMBER-LATE DECEMBER

Christmas markets, fairytale processions and walks, elf's village, Provençal nativities... Children and adults can soak up the wonder of Christmas and experience classic Provençal traditions. Find out more in December on www.avignon-tourisme.com

# CHEVAL PASSION

IANUARY 15-19 2025 The winter horse festival. On the agenda: 1200 horses, 250 exhibitors, competitions, 90 hours of entertainment, activities and shows plus the Gala des Crinières d'Or, one of the best horse shows in Europe. www.cheval-passion.com

# **FEST'HIVER**

JANUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 2 2025 The Scenes of Avignon give to discover young companies of the region. www.scenesdavignon.fr

# SPRING

# MOTOR PASSION

MARCH 21-23 2025 Avignon Tourist Office would like to introduce you to a major new vintage car event. Over 100 clubs, 350 exhibitors and 2000 cars. motor-passion.com

# PRINTEMPS DES CRÉATEURS

2 DAYS IN MAY Designers and artisans exhibit and sell their pieces on the city's squares and streets. Stands, workshops etc. www.avignon.fr

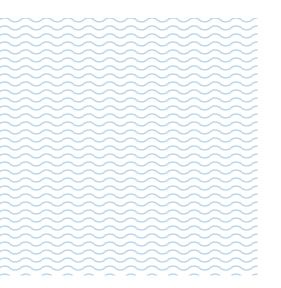
# TOUS ARTISTES !

MAY 20-25 2025 The aim of this festival is to bring together in a joint programme the fruits of amateur work on different stages set up in public spaces. www.avignon.fr

# SOUS LA ROMA

END OF MAY OR EARLY JUNE The gardens of the Palais des Papes open their doors for a new convivial and festive rendezvous!





# YEAR-ROUND schedule



**FESTIVAL RÉSONANCE** 

# **SUMMER** LES ESTIVALES DU RHÔNE

\*please see tickle your tastebuds page compagnonscotesdurhone.fr/les-estivales-du-rhone

## **ID-ILE FESTIVAL** JUNE 6-7 2025

Contemporary music festival on île de la Barthelasse. Music, food, experiences and more on the island. www.id-ile.com

# FESTIVAL D'AVIGNON

JULY 5-26 2025 \*please see festivals page

# **OFF FESTIVAL**

JULY 5-26 2025 \*please see festivals page

# FESTIVAL RESONANCE

LATE JULY Current music from soul and electro to funk, hip hop, house, bossa, dub and more in outstanding locations such as the Pont d'Avignon. www.festival-resonance.fr

**AVIGNON TOURISME - PRESS KIT 2025** 



# AUTUMN MARCHÉ DES POTIERS ONE DAY IN OCTOBER

Thirty exhibitors showcase their pottery designs in a range of techniques: earthenware, glazed ceramics, sandstone etc.

# ART TRAIL

\*see page 19 CREATIVE SPACES.

# AVIGNON VÉLO PASSION

3 DAYS IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER On the agenda: competitions, events, an exhibitor village, introductions, conferences and an indoor BMX competition with an Open Pro attended by cyclists from all over the world. www.avignon-velopassion.com

# MILLEVIN

**3RD THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER** \*please see tickle your tastebuds page www.vins-rhone.com

# COMIC STRIP FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 29-30 2025 A weekend of signings, events and exhibitions. A dive into the world of comics.

# **ARTIST STUDIO OPEN DAY**

NOVEMBER 14-15 2025 Avignon's contemporary artists open their doors to the general public and present their work in their studios. www.avignonateliersartistes.org





**AVIGNON VÉLO PASSION** 

# **TISKE FASTEBUDS**

Avignon brings you a taste of the best in Provençal cuisine. Countless chefs here use local produce and put their talent into making real classics. Experience high standard grape varieties and a whole host of wineries in Avignon, the Côtes-du-Rhône capital.

# AVIGNON, THE CÔTES DU RHÔNE CAPITAL

Vines have been grown in the Rhône Valley since Antiquity. Vine growing boomed with the papal state in the 14th century on the left bank of the Rhône and with the French Kingdom in the 17th century on the right bank. The Côtes-du-Rhône designation first appeared in 1937. It sets out the production rules and vintages. Avignon became the capital of Côtesdu-Rhône in 1996.

**INTER RHÔNE** brings together winemakers and merchants from the Rhône Valley, hosts events, guided tastings and courses (at the Palais's Ecole des Vins).

www.vins-rhone.com

# CÔTES DU RHÔNE EVENTS

# LES ESTIVALES DES CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE

Four evenings to taste wine from the local region and meet producers as the music plays in different venues in the city centre! compagnonscotesdurhone.fr

# INTER RHÔNE CÔTES DU RHÔNE WINE BAR

7-11PM, EVERY NIGHT DURING THE FESTIVAL Rhône winemakers, cellars and wineries introduce visitors to a new selection of Côtes du Rhône and Côtes du Rhône Villages wine. cotesdurhone.com/bar-a-vins-des-cotes-du-rhone

# MILLÉVIN

*3RD THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER* A Côtes du Rhône event in Avignon to celebrate the vintage: brotherhood parade, tastings, concerts etc. www.vins-rhone.com/fr



# SHALL WE HAVE A GLASS OF CÔTES DU RHÔNE?

VINOTAGE, WINE BARGE www.vinotage-avignon.fr

LE VIN DEVANT SOI www.levindevantsoi.com

LE 17 PLACE AUX VINS www.le17avignon.fr

And many more places...





# L'ÉCOLE DES VINS AT CARRÉ DU PALAIS

Carré du Palais is devoted to Rhône Valley wine opposite the Palais des Papes.

It has something for everyone who visits with its wine school, 100% Rhône wine bar, impressive wine cellar and year-round events.

#### www.carredupalais.fr

Wine school schedule and bookings: www.vins-rhone.com/ecole-des-vins

# A DRINK IN THE GARDENS

SOME THURSDAYS IN AUGUST (re)discover the wines of the region in a musical setting in the majestic Pontifical Gardens!

# LE CLOS DE LA VIGNE DU PAPE

This 900m2 vineyard plot is listed as UNESCO World Heritage and gazes out over the Rhône and Pont d'Avignon.

It sets the stage for 500 vine stocks with a dozen Rhône Valley grape varieties.

The Compagnons des Côtes-du-Rhône association is in charge of maintaining and protecting it. This association is made up of winemakers and enthusiasts in equal measure.





Please drink responsibly.

# DOMAINE SAINT PIERRE D'ESCARVAILLAC

Château Saint-Pierre d'Escarvaillac is the only independent winery in Avignon. The 13th century estate is converting to organic farming and makes red wine, fruit juice and olive oil. Soak up a blend of art, history and vine growing on a trip to the winery. **domaine-escarvaillac.fr** 



# VISIT FARMS, MARKETS & PRODUCERS

## **LES HALLES**

The Halles is a large market hall home to forty traders selling fresh local produce. Open Tuesday-Sunday: 6am-

1.30pm www.avignon-leshalles.com

# FARMER'S MARKET

All year round on Wednesdays in Place Indochine from 5pm to 7pm, and in the Allées de l'Oulle from April to October from 5pm to 7pm. Sale of local and seasonal produce.

# THE SUMMER NIGHT MARKET

Three weeks in August, from 5pm to 10pm on the Place du Palais des Papes. Local products and specialities.

## THE CITY CENTRE MARKET

2:

Every Saturday from 8am to 1pm, from Place des Carmes to Place Carnot.

# BIENVENUE À LA FERME FOODIE WEEKEND

*One weekend in November* Farmers in the Bienvenue à la Ferme network introduce their produce in a warm and social atmosphere.

### www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com

# LE TIPI

This is an energy transition hotspot, a pioneering centre and the first of its kind in our region that gives children and adults an all-encompassing insight into permaculture and farming with a whole host of events. https://lesitedutipi.fr

# FERME LA REBOULE

Reboule is a family-run farm selling fruit and vegetables. It stands on Barthelasse Island. The three brothers have been growing and selling their fruit and vegetables for 3 generations on a 14ha farm and Provençal country house.

www.facebook.com/p/ Ferme-la-Reboule-100064489910292/?locale=fr FR

## Meet the local producers:



# AVIGNON AND PROVENCE SPECIALITIES

**Papalines:** chocolate sweet treat with a Comtat oregano liquor centre and Ventoux herbs. The classic confectionery dates back to 1960 when the Vaucluse master pastry chef union invented it.

You can pick some up from bakeries and sweet shops all over Avignon including **Aline Géhant** and La Tropézienne.

**Daube Avignonnaise** is the city's take on a classic stew. Lamb shoulder or mutton replaces beef and it's all marinated in white wine.

Other regional specialities include Apt candied fruit, Carpentras strawberries and truffle, Sault nougat and spelt, Cavaillon melon, Camargue rice, Aix calissons (almond biscuits), olives, fougasse bread, herbes de Provence, pastis, PAC à l'eau (lemon cordial) and countless craft ales! Local dishes stand out for their garlic, olive oil, tomato sauces and lots of aromats: thyme, basil, onion, rosemary, savory, bay leaf and more.



Avignon is a breeding ground for craftsmen and local talents to showcase their expertise.



## LES FABRICATEURS

Les Fabricateurs are a group of twenty-odd artistic, creative and artisan sites in Avignon providing a visitor trail in the city. www.fabricateurs.com

# ALINE GÉHANT CHOCOLATERIE

Artisan chocolatier based in Avignon for over a decade. She makes her Les Balades en Provence chocolate bars with an illustrator, Lululanantaise, and local artisan printer.

www.aline-gehant-chocolatier. com

## LES VERRIERS DU PALAIS

Glass decoration workshop at the foot of the Palais des Papes. Specialising in the creation and design of glass objects, Anne-Claire and Emma work using traditional sandblasting, silvering and Tiffany stained glass techniques.

www.lesverriersdupalais.fr

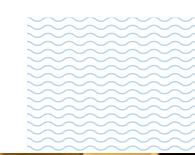
# GLACIER LA PRINCIÈRE

La Princière makes homemade artisan ice cream in unique flavours without colourants or flavour enhancers.

www.facebook.com/LaPrinciere

# DISTILLERIE MANGUIN

Maison Manguin has been showcasing its expertise and passion for fruit brandy for 60 years on Barthelasse Island. Emmanuel and Béatrice Hanquiez have concocted premium spirits. www.manguin.com





# THE BEATING HEART OF STREET ART

Avignon is alive with a hotbed of talent: painters, street artists, graphic artists, screen printers and more. Feast your eyes as you wander around town, spot artwork on street corners or visit the artists in their studios.

# «TROMPE L'OEIL» PAINTED WINDOWS

Artist Marion Pochy worked with the painter Dominique Durand to create painted windows in Avignon as part of a project that began in 1986. Each of the 70 trompe-l'œil windows depict an Avignon Festival milestone since it was founded by Jean Vilar in 1947.

# **CURRENT ARTISTS**

Fifteen artists have made their mark on the papal city streets: Invader, the street artist with mosaics all over the world who took over the city when it was the European Capital of Culture in 2000; **Zorm** and his street sculptures including his signature monkey heads; **Mifamosa**, the brains behind over 300 mosaic street signs in over 20 French towns and cities; **Reano Feros** and his own «Calligraffiti» alphabet; **Arkane** who painted a giant mural on the Cowool wall; **Damien Mauro** (**Goddog**) whose murals reach out to a wider audience to bring art to the masses; **Pablito Zago**, a self-taught and multi-talented artist with a passion for large installations and colour (see his events at the Shed workshop in December with Artyshop and the Cartel association); **Russ**, a painter and graffiti artist with a love for graphic art, fashion and design; **Densoner** who specialises in graphic art and murals; **Andrea Ravo Mattoni**, an Italian artist who crafted a Pierrot based on Antoine Watteau's famous painting.

**Ben Sanair** is an artist and screen printer influenced by modern literature and art. He now runs La Générale Minérale printing company and co-manages the Turboformat gallery with with Damien Mauro and shop where he handles print runs.





Pablito Zago at Atelier Shed

# ARTIST STUDIOS

# AVIGNON ARTS CONTEMPORAINS :

The Avignon Ateliers d'Artistes (AAA) association aims to promote the arts and contemporary artists, and to democratise artistic creation as a factor in social cohesion through events. https://avignon-artscontemporains.com/aaa/

# TURBOFORMAT

Turboformat is a creative space run by La Générale Minérale association since 2018. It promotes art in all its forms in Avignon with a screen print, paint studio, a gallery and shop and events throughout the yeaR; facebook.com/turboformat









# AVIGNON

Aside from the green lungs that are Barthelasse and the Green Belt, the city is home to 60 parks, squares and gardens plus a sprawling network of bike paths where you can blow away the cobwebs. Our green areas are also social hubs with bars, sports facilities, play areas and bike hire

# ILE DE LA BARTHELASSE

Barthelasse Island is next door to the city.

You can walk or catch the free water taxi to the island where you can unwind, walk, go on a family bike ride, run or have a sunset picnic with your friends.

It covers 700ha, 400 of which are farmed, making it the biggest river island in Europe. It's surrounded by two arms of the Rhône: the «grand Rhône» by Villeneuve and «petit Rhône» by Avignon. The islands went with the Rhône's ebbs and flows, with some ending up on the Gard bank and others on the Vaucluse bank. Some of the islands came together to form an archipelago.

Footpaths have now been laid on the Rhône riverbanks. The towpath has fantastic views of the Palais des Papes and Pont d'Avignon.

# MAISON DU PARC

The Maison du Parc visitor centre opened on Barthelasse Island in 2023. The visitor centre on the banks of the Rhône has a tourist information point and views of Pont d'Avignon. Open April-September.

# WATER TAXI

Cross the Rhône for free from the Halte Nautique on Pont d'Avignon to the towpath on Ile de la Barthelasse.

Timetable on avignon-tourisme.com/commerces/navette-fluvialebac-a-traille

# FOOTPATHS & BIKE PATHS

## «Rampart Tour» Heritage trail

4.3km, approx. 45 mins

## Towpath greenway,

A family outing to Parc Chico Mendès 8km return, approx. 30 mins each way.

## Île de la Barthelasse

A leisurely ride in a leafy haven near the old town. approx. 13km, 1.5 hour

For further information about our bike rides, pick up our booklet at Tourist Information or online at

# WHERE TO HIRE BIKES?

South spirit bike www.southspiritbike.com

www.provence-bike.com

# Vélopop

NEW !

Since June 2024, 300 electric bikes available 24/7 from 30 stations. https://velo-grandavignon.fr/fr/

# PASSERELLE DE L'OISELAY

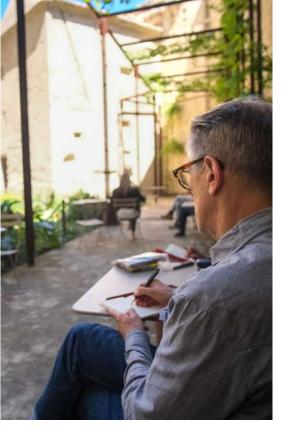
Cycling tourists can hook up with the ViaRhôna from the Maison du Parc visitor centre and ride across the latest suspension bridge for walkers and cyclists which opened in October 2023: Passerelle de L'Oiselay. The 200m long bridge connects the Gard and Vaucluse regions.



AVIGNON TOURISME - PRESS KIT 2025

**Provence Bike** 





# VIARHÔNA

The 815km ViaRhôna starts at Lake Geneva, ends at the Mediterranean and runs through Avignon where two stages meet. It's the first major city it reaches after Lyon and puts you on the home stretch to the sea. Visit www.avignon-tourisme.com or www.viarhona.com for further information

# PARKS

## ROCHER DES DOMS GARDEN

The 29,000m<sup>2</sup> park is a lovely place to visit with fabulous views of the river and region as well as a large pond bustling with swans, ducks, geese and carp.

You can pick up snacks and drinks from the little café. **Important information: garden closed for restoration until Spring 2027.** 

## **URBAN V GARDEN**

Pope Urban V had it built behind the Palais des Papes in the 14th century and it was restored in 2017. It now has a play area, fountain and shaded orchard terrace.



## SQUARE AGRICOL PERDIGUIER

The so-called «Little Garden» has a play area and small café that opens in mid and high season

## PALACE GARDENS

The grounds are an integral part of any tour of the monument and have lots of places to relax in. The papal gardens (the 1250m2 Benedict XII Garden and 662m2 Pope's Garden) were renovated in 2018 and won the city gold in the Remarkable Gardens category at the Victoires du Paysage landscaping awards.

# GREEN TRANSPORT

## ORIZO -GREATER AVIGNON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Orizo is the Greater Avignon public transport network run by TCRA which is still Greater Avignon's transport operator. www.orizo.fr

## LA BALADINE - FREE

A 100% electric and silent bus with a capacity for 4 seated and 8 standing passengers. Just put your hand out to stop it as it drives around the city centre.

## **CHRON'HOP**

Chron'hop, simpler and faster bus routes.

5 articulated hybrid buses provide the two Chron'hop services: 18m long with a capacity for 155 users.

## TRAM

Greater Avignon plays host to a 5.2km tram line.

A tram extension was approved on March 9th 2018 with research into engineering and traffic still ongoing.

www.grandavignon.fr/fr/ le-tramway-avignon-des-railsverts-comme-fil-rouge

# THE PALAIS' BEES

The Car Elles Butinent association has been looking after bee hives at Rocher des Doms since April 2021. The project is sponsored and funded by MELVITA which has been battling to protect bees and biodiversity for over a decade.

The Palais des Papes grounds play host to an educational hive. The honey produced by the hives is available to buy at the Palais des Papes gift shop.

Further information: www. avignon-tourisme.com

# **SEEANF**

The Papal City has a whole host of sports facilities suitable for all abilities. Its mild year-round climate makes it the perfect place for outdoor activities too.

# STREET SPORTS

# **OLD SKULLZ**

Skateboard school for all ages. The club hosts sports and cultural events showcasing street culture. www.oldskullzskateboard.fr

# ILE PIOT SKATE PARK

The skate park is easy to reach on foot or by bus and you can skateboard, rollerskate or BMX here all year. The Old Skullz club runs the skateboarding classes.

# **URBAN WAKE PARK**

Water sports centre for wakeboarders of all abilities, beginner or expert. Soak up the warm summer evenings at the restaurant area www.urban-wakepark.fr

# AVIGNON ROLLER DERBY

This American roller skating sport is fast-paced and full-contact. Avignon's all-female Rabbit Skulls team plays in the first French championship run by the French Roller Sports Federation. www.myrollerderby.com/ avignon-roller-derby







# SPORTS FACILITIES

# LA PLAINE DES SPORTS

The leafy 7ha site is devoted to sports and leisure. It's home to a whole host of leisure and sports facilities: BMX track, skate park, fitness trail, city stadium, football and rugby pitch, climbing wall, play area and more. avignon-tourisme.com/ activites/la-plaine-des-sports

# HALLES SPORTIVES GENICOUD

The gym has been renovated, extended and connected to its neighbourhood to become a temple of gymnastics, circus arts in partnership with Cirque du Soleil, parkour and intergenerational sports.

# WATER SPORTS CENTRE

This iconic facility has 3 outdoor pools: an Olympic 50m pool, diving pool and paddling pool. Spa with gym, Turkish baths, saunas, jacuzzis and solarium. The building is listed as 20th century outstanding heritage.

www.avignon.fr/lesequipements/les-piscines

# LA PALMERAIE OLYMPIC POOL

Cool off in the heart of the Papal City with views of Pont d'Avignon. An outdoor Olympic pool, 3m and 5m diving boards, paddling pool with water fun for little ones. Enjoy a snack break at La Magie des Pains all year round. www.piscine-avignon.net

# View all the local swimming pools on





# AVIGNON conference and group destination

Avignon provides facilities and infrastructures to host our business visitors and groups with our comfortable hotel capacity, easy access by road, train or plane, an all-encompassing variety of restaurants and a wide range of things to do.



# AVIGNON CONGRÈS EXPO !

## 2 event venues:

The Convention Centre, located in the Palais des Papes, benefits from special facilities that are fully integrated into the building.

It offers 16 conference and committee rooms for 20 to 536 people and 8 reception areas for up to 700 guests. It offers free hotel management, prestige evenings,

private tours, wine tastings and team-building activities.

The Convention Centre is in the process of obtaining ISO 20121 certification.

For large-scale events, the Exhibition Centre is just 2 minutes from the A7 motorway exit. It is a multi-purpose, modular exhibition centre covering 15,000 sq. m. on one level, with a 920-seat amphitheatre and 7 halls ranging from 1,000 to 6,000 sq. m. in size. It has 5,000 free parking spaces.

## Contacts

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**Nicolas TOULOUZAN – Business development for conferences and trade fairs / Business Club Manager** Tél +33 (0)4 90 27 50 52 / n.toulouzan@avignon-tourisme.com

**Céline SALIBA-GOMEZ – Corporate and Agency Business Development** Tél +33 (0) 04.90.27.50.58 / c.saliba-gomez@avignon-tourisme.com

# The guide and ticket department provides guided tours all year round.

A regular year-round tour schedule explores a range of themes to introduce visitors to all the papal city has to offer, its outstanding sites and monuments.

Guides & tickets department : reservation@avignon-tourisme.com

**The incoming department** offers tourism professionals and groups the chance to organise a complete stay, by creating a package with all the services they want in Avignon and Provence.

#### Incoming department :

56

incoming@avignon-tourisme.com One number : +33 (0)4 90 27 50 50









Avignon is constantly changing and major projects pop up to give locals and visitors alike an even better experience..

# HÔTEL DES MONNAIES ET CLOÎTRE DES CELESTINS

These two heritage buildings will be home to a boutique hotel and luxury hotel

# LES BAINS POMMER

The 520m<sup>2</sup> building was listed as a Monument Historique in 1992. Currently under renovation, it will regain its splendour and reopen its doors to visitors in Spring 2025.

## Check out the council's major projects on: www.avignon.fr/avignon-se-

reinvente/grands-projets



# LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

# AVIGNON FILM

# LOCATION

Vaucluse Council and Vaucluse Provence Attractivité unveiled a cinema plan just over a year ago to put Vaucluse in the spotlight. Three animation studios have opened in Vaucluse within a year: Station animation, Circus and Duetto.

In 2023, 56 film productions were hosted in the Vaucluse, representing a total of 288 filming days. Avignon was honoured to host Claude Lelouch in July 2023 to shoot his 51st film named «Finalement», released in November,, with some scenes shot at the Palais des Papes.

A sound and image college by the 3IS Group opened in 2024 at Agroparc. https://3is-education.fr/ campus/ecole-cinema-son-avignon

Avignon Council has had a cinema department for years and receives a hundred shooting requests every year in collaboration with Avignon Tourisme and the Vaucluse Film Commission..



## AVIGNON TOURISME - PRESS KIT 2025



Avignon has implemented several urban planning projects that have transformed the city and earned it a whole host of accolades, awards and labels that reflect its commitment to the environment.

# LABELS

View full information about these accolades on https://www.avignon.fr/ma-ville/labels-et-reconnaissances





erre saine

Communes sans pesticides

Ville Nature



développement durable LE SPORT S'ENGAGE





# AVIGNON TOURIST OFFICE COMMITMENT TO HIGH STANDARD SERVICES

The Tourist Office puts its all into making its visitors happy by welcoming their thoughts, suggestions and complaints to constantly improve the standard of our services and the destination. The Tourist Office is also integrating sustainable development into its operations, from the planning stage through to the implementation of its missions and actions. Webpage about Avignon Tourist Office's quality procedure : avignon-tourisme.com/demarche-qualite



**TOURISME & HANDICAP!** The state's Tourisme et Handicap accreditation acknowledges a business's commitment to inclusion and guarantees appropriate disabled facilities. Tourist Information is approved for 4 disabilities: mobility, visual, hearing, learning.



**CATEGORY 1 (TI rating)** The Tourist Information rating scheme is by prefectoral decree and applies for 5 years. The Category 1 rating enables the area to rank as a Tourism Resort, a sign of first class hospitality.



Accueil Vélo is a French brand that guarantees hospitality and first class services along bike paths for cyclists on holiday. The label is renewed every 3 years.



Link to the accessibility and comfort guide :



Cycling guide : Avignon by bike



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ice

Are you planning a press trip to Avignon? Get in touch! We're here to support you, advise you, update your information and help you with your filming and photo shoot requests - in short, to make your life easier!

YOUR PRESS CONTACT



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🖂 l.lucas@avignon-tourisme.com



**@avignontourisme** #avignontourisme



## **FILMING AND PERMITS**

We are at your service for all your filming requirements in Avignon and its monuments. To facilitate the implementation of your project, we invite you to provide us with a detailed presentation and to specify: the number of participants, the proposed locations, your technical requirements and your production schedule.

IMPORTANT: drone filming is not permitted in monuments during public opening hours. Permission must be obtained from the Vaucluse Prefecture

## **PHOTO library**

If you need visuals of Avignon, the city, our monuments or anything else, visit our online photo library! http://phototheque.avignon-tourisme.com:8047/Avignon-Tourisme

# NOTES

# NOTES



AVIGNON TOURISME - PRESS KIT 2025



CRÉATEUR D'EXPÉRIENCES



# **AVIGNON TOURIST INFORMATION**

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OPEN ALL YEAR SEASONAL OPENING TIMES

# avignon-tourisme.com

(f) O @avignontourisme



**AVIGNON TOURISME - DOSSIER DE PRESSE 2025**