

# Arles, France

## Art Retreat

### 8-16 September 2026



- + Live in stunning surroundings with a huge garden, pool and your own en-suite.
- + Visit Arles, Roussillon and Carrières des Lumières with me on an investigative and immersive trail of Van Gogh, Derain, Gauguin, Pissarro, Matisse and Cezanne.
- + Paint and create Post – Impressionist inspired art.



## Arles

Arles is a dream for anyone who loves its luminous landscapes and rich artistic history. It's where you can walk through the actual scenes of Van Gogh's most famous works and feel the same golden "Provençal light" that defined his genius.

## Art

Spend inspiring art sessions painting and drawing in oils, pastels and mixed media. All materials are supplied.

## Markets

Wander through vibrant open-air markets to truly absorb the soul of Provence. Fragrances of fresh lavender and sun-ripened produce, you'll experience an authentic slice of French culture that tastes as rich as it looks.

# Arles

- a sun-drenched sanctuary where the vibrant soul of Provence is best captured through its legendary open-air markets. It is a place where you don't just shop; you absorb centuries of French tradition through your senses.

Arles offers an immersive cultural experience centered around its bustling market days, particularly the massive Saturday market which is one of the largest in the region.

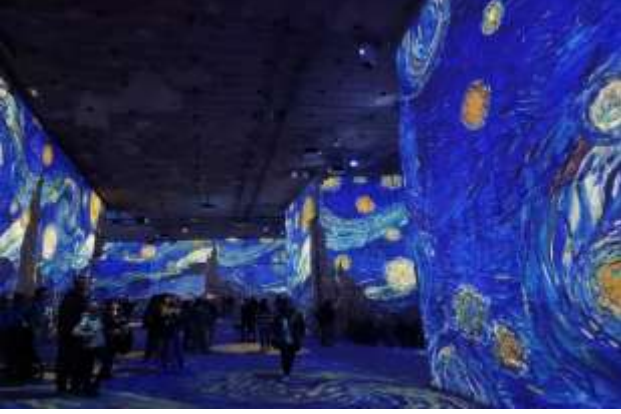
- **Sensory Abundance:** Stalls overflow with sun-ripened produce, wheels of artisanal Herbes de Provence cheese, and fragrant heaps of local lavender.
- **Authentic "Art de Vivre":** Experience the genuine rhythm of French life as locals gather to socialize over colorful textiles and fresh olives.
- **Visual Inspiration:** The same golden, luminous light that captivated Van Gogh still illuminates the vibrant displays of yellow sunflowers and deep green Mediterranean herbs.



# Roussillon

A breathtaking hilltop village in the Luberon region of Provence, famously known as the "Village of Ochre." It is a living palette of color, where every building is painted in vibrant shades of red, orange, and gold, derived from the world's largest natural ochre deposits surrounding the town. The Ochre Trail is a must-visit path through former quarries that look like a "Provençal Colorado," featuring dramatic cliffs and alien-like rock formations in 17 different shades of earth. The town is a magnet for artists; you'll find numerous galleries and studios tucked into winding, sun-drenched alleys. From the highest point (the Castrum), you get a sweeping 360-degree view of the Luberon valley, lavender fields, and distant mountains.





# The Carrières des Lumières

A world-renowned digital art center located in an ancient limestone quarry at the foot of the village of Les Baux-de-Provence. It offers a unique sensory experience where art is brought to life through large-scale multimedia projections. It was a highlight of my trip when I last visited.

## Places you can visit:

### Avignon

The "City of Popes," famous for its massive Gothic palace, medieval bridge, and vibrant annual theater festival within its 14th-century walls.



### Nîmes

Often called the "French Rome," it boasts exceptionally preserved Roman monuments, including a world-class arena and the Maison Carrée temple.



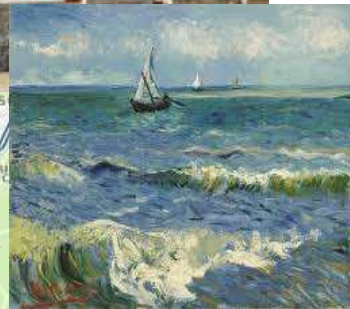
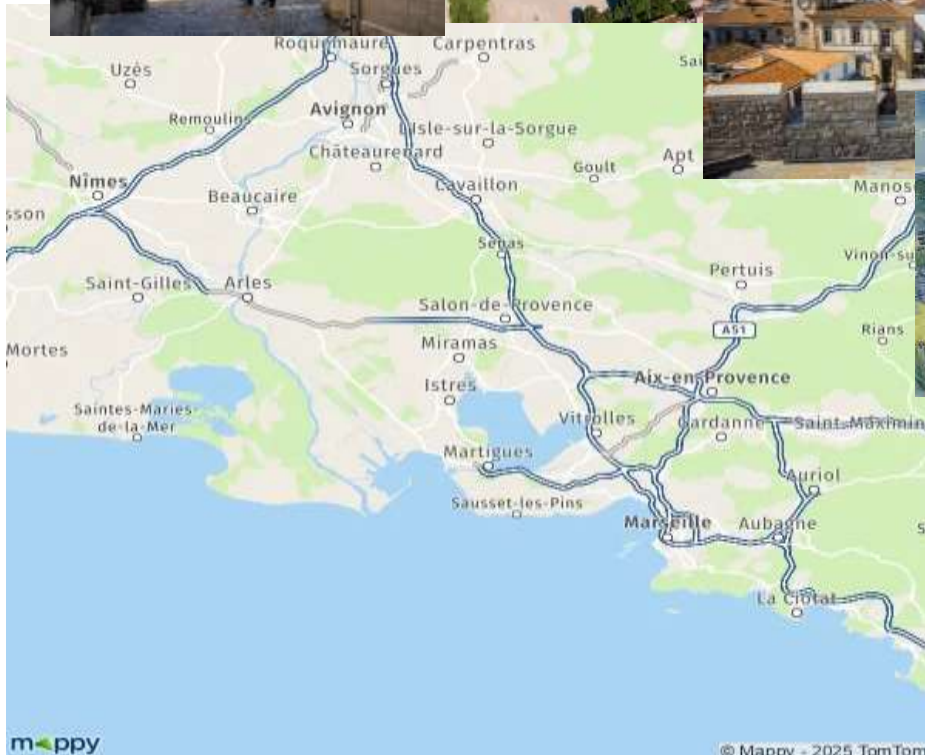
### Saintes-Maries-de-la-mer

A seaside pilgrimage town and the "capital" of the Camargue, known for its fortified church, sandy beaches, and Roman traditions.



### Camargue

A wild, marshy delta region famous for its white horses, pink flamingos, black bulls, and vast salt flats located between the sea and the Rhône.



# Accommodation:

## The Space:

I have not booked this place at time of this documents, and will only do so when bookings are done.

The house is huge and located just outside Arles  
At the foot of the Alpilles and at the gates of the Camargue, the farmhouse is located on a private property of 90 hectares of meadows. Garden area: 2600 square meters

## Room layout:

- Ground floor:

- 1 kitchen / dining room (1 overall room)
- 1 TV lounge
- 1 laundry
- 1 separate toilet
- 1 double bedroom with integrated bathroom (shower, sink)
- 1 dormitory sleeps 6 (3 bunk beds)
- 1 bathroom (1 shower, sink, toilet)
- 1 double bedroom with integrated bathtub and sink and a toilet
- 1 double bedroom with integrated bathroom (bathtub, sink, toilet)

- Upstairs:

- 1 double bedroom with integrated bathroom (shower, sink, toilet)
- 1 double bedroom with integrated bathroom (shower, sink, toilet)
- 1 double bedroom with integrated bathroom (shower, sink, toilet)
- 1 double bedroom with integrated bathroom (shower, sink, toilet)

- Outside:

- 1 unheated whirlpool that acts as a fountain
- 10.5 X 6 pool area (approximately) secured by alarm and fenced with deckchairs and parasols
- Petanque court
- 1 Weber gas barbecue
- Several dining areas (dining table, garden furniture)

From Avignon: 35 km

From Marseille: 90 km

From Paris: 740 km

## By train:

- Arles train station: 6 km
- Avignon TGV station: 35 km
- Aix-en-Provence TGV station: 79 km

## By plane:

- Marseille Provence: 65 km
- Nîmes-Garons: 20 km

## Transport:

Flights from Jhb to Marseille will be a connecting flight. Please remember the traveling time. The earlier you book the better. Skyscanner is an app to look for possible flights – I prefer a Europe stopover rather than Dubai, but you may pay more. There are overnight flights from SA, and with half a sleeping tablet you are good to go. Please don't make a habit out of it.

If you know who is going you can book a car together – please remember luggage capacity. Unfortunately I won't be able to share a car with anyone.

The closest airport to Arles is Marseille Provence, and the drive from there to Arles is around an hour. You can also take the train, also around 1 hour to Arles train station and rent a car there.

## Living:

Lodging is self-catering.

**Itinerary** – *This is a short abbreviated itinerary. Upon enquiry you will receive a more detailed document.*

Day 1 Tuesday 8 September	Arrive at the Villa and settle in
Day 2 Wednesday 9 September	Coffee/Breakfast Receive art pack and set-up. Art Session – Basics of Post-Impressionism and techniques you will learn. Complete a small pre-drawn painting. Drive to our local Boulangerie for a quick bite. Walking tour in Arles – Amphitheatre, the Fondation Van Gogh, Espace Van Gogh, and Luma Arles. You can also do a little shopping. Return home for dinner.
Day 3 Thursday 10 September	We leave for Roussillon. There we visit the famous market for shopping and the ultimate Provence experience. Then take a scenic walking trail through former quarries where the earth glows in shades of yellow, orange, and deep red. You have the option to book a table at one of the restaurants overlooking the valley or the ochre quarry, or for a picnic option, many visitors buy fresh goat cheese, tapenade, and a baguette at the market and head to the top of the village near the church for a DIY lunch with a panoramic view.

	<p>After lunch, we drive to Carrières des Lumières, an extraordinary digital art centre located in Les Baux-de-Provence. Set within massive, ancient limestone quarries, it offers a world-renowned immersive experience where art literally covers the walls, floors, and ceilings.</p> <p>Drive home for dinner.</p>
<p>Day 4 Friday 11 September</p>	<p>After breakfast, we will have an art session - a little drawing, then on to colour mixing (the local colours of Provence). As with the post-Impressionists, we will focus mainly on landscape, still life and a portrait or two.</p> <p>Lunch, siesta, then another art session where we will focus on technique and process.</p> <p>Dinner at your discretion.</p>
<p>Day 5 Saturday 12 September</p>	<p>You will have a day off, where you can visit the Saturday Arles market or explore on your day off, including Avignon, Nimes, Camargue and so on.</p>
<p>Day 6 Sunday 13 September</p>	<p>Today we will spend most of the morning with an art session - mixed media and a little abstract session, also some charcoal exercises, also charcoal and oils.</p> <p>After a late lunch you can have a siesta, walk the grounds or visit Arles.</p>
<p>Day 7 Monday 14 September</p>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Day 7 starts off with an art session. After some warm-ups you will do some “follow the teacher” exercises, fun and very rewarding, sticking to impressionist and abstract work.</p> <p>Lunch – we will either travel to a vineyard, olive farm or venue to serve us some local delicacies. Cheese, bread, olives, yum.</p> <p>Return home or spend your time around Arles.</p>
<p>Day 8 Tuesday 15 September</p>	<p>On our last day we will have a long art session. We will finalise and pack all our work and celebrate our beautiful week with a dinner in town. We will Uber.</p>
<p>Day 9 Wednesday 16 September</p>	<p>You may leave for your next adventure. Think Nice, Cannes, St. Tropez, Monte Carlo or Paris, Barcelona – everything is connected with trains, flights or self-drive.</p>

**COST**

Room	Sharing (each)	Private
<b>Ground Floor</b>		
<b>1 double bedroom with integrated bathroom (shower, sink)</b>	R 37,000.00	R 44,000.00
<b>1 dormitory sleeps 6 (3 bunk beds), adult size. 1 bathroom (1 shower, sink, toilet) not en-suite</b>	R 34,000.00	R 40,000.00
<b>1 double bedroom with integrated bathtub and sink and a toilet</b>	R 37,000.00	R 44,000.00
<b>1 double bedroom with integrated bathroom (bathtub, sink, toilet)</b>	R 37,000.00	R 44,000.00
<b>Upstairs</b>		
<b>1 double bedroom with integrated bathroom (shower, sink, toilet)</b>	R 37,000.00	R 44,000.00
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<b>Price Includes:</b>		
	Accommodation for 8 nights in a private room with double bed and en-suit bathroom and full use of the self-catering facilities.	
	Art Sessions with a patient teacher	
	Art Materials – Including sketching book and sketching materials, oil paints and canvasses, pastels and everything you will need.	
	Parking booking fees in Arles, Day1	

	Entrance to most Museums in Arles
	Walking tour with me with a cellphone app.
	Entrance to Ochre Quarry in Roussilon
	Entrance to Carrières des Lumières
<b>Excludes:</b>	Transport
	Food, meals anywhere unless stipulated
	Airfare and Schengen Visa
	Gratuity
	Insurance and breakages
	Curtilment and cancellations
	Entitlement.....

Please let me know if you would like me to send you a booking form:

[ajay@ajaysart.co.za](mailto:ajay@ajaysart.co.za)

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