



One of France's most beautiful villages, perched majestically on a rock...

TOURIST OFFICE
GORDES
www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com



Your Tourist Office

Le Château - 84220 GORDES
 Tél : 04 90 72 02 75
www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com
contact@luberoncoeurdeprovence.com

1 April to 30 September
 Monday to Saturday:
 9 am to 12.30 pm / 1.30 pm to 6 pm
 Sunday and bank holidays:
 10 am to 12.30 pm / 1.30 pm to 6 pm

1 October to 31 March
 Tuesday to Saturday:
 9 am to 12 pm / 1.30 pm to 6.30 pm
 Closed Sundays, Mondays, 25 December and 1 January



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1 Rocher Bel Air

Ideas for walks from Gordes

Here are 2 ideas for hiking trails. Detailed information sheets available at the Tourist Office.

1 Gordes / Sénanque Abbey:
 8 KM ROUND TRIP- EASY LEVEL
 Departure from gendarmerie carpark.

2 Gordes / Village of the Bories
 6 KM ROUND TRIP- EASY LEVEL
 Departure from place Genty Pantaly (Fountain in front of the castle).



For more hiking or biking ideas, ask at your Tourist Office...

These walks, which are not difficult, should be avoided when the weather is at its hottest. From 1 July to 15 September, access to the Vaucluse forests is regulated by prefectural decree. If you want to stroll in the forest, contact your Tourist Office in advance or call +33 (0)4 88 17 80 00 (In French only).

The markets

Tuesday mornings: on the squares around the castle and on the post office square.
 Farmers' market: Thursdays 6pm to 8pm between June and September in Les Imberts (4km from Gordes). School carpark.



1

1 Sénanque Abbey
 (4km from Gordes: in the direction of Venasque)

This 12th century Cistercian Abbey in the heart of the Sénanque Valley is still a working monastery and a place of worship, where mass is regularly celebrated.
www.senanque.fr / 04 90 72 05 86

2 Village of the Bories
 (4km from Gordes: towards Cavillon)

Village of drystone shepherds' huts which served as houses until the 19th century. The site, rehabilitated in 1968, offers an insight into the lives of the shepherds who moved to the middle of the scrubland with their flocks during grazing periods.
www.levillagedesbories.com

Open daily from 9am to sunset except 25/12 and 01/01.
 Admission charge.

3 Oil Mill and Stained Glass Museum
 (5km from Gordes: towards Cavillon, on the St Pantaléon Road)

A visit to a former oil mill listed as a historic monument, and a place that highlights 7,000 years of glassware history, from glass pearls to window panes, and from stained glass windows to fibreglass.
www.musee-verre-vitrail.com / 04 90 72 22 11

Open 1 April to 31 October. Every day except Tuesdays 10 am-midday; 2pm to 6pm. Admission charge.



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4 The Lavender Museum
 (Village of Coustellet - 9km from Gordes)

Discover the glories of fine lavender (from cultivation to harvest, and from distillation to essential oil). Take a close-up look at the many copper stills. Audioguide tours (10 foreign languages). 'Château du Bois' shop, with cosmetic products made with the estate's own lavender.
www.museedelalavande.com

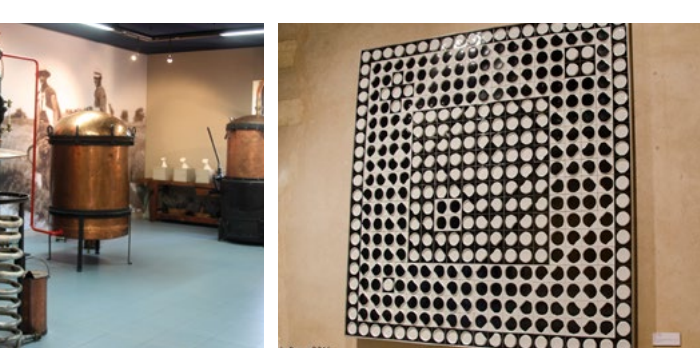
Admission charge.

A distillation demonstration in the Museum's garden recreates the festive atmosphere of yesteryear, when the stills were taken from village to village. From 1 July to 25 August at 10 am, noon, 2pm and 6pm, except Saturdays. Free: entrance to the museum is not obligatory.

The village of Gordes: a source of inspiration for so many artists...

Thanks to its ingenious use of natural elements (troglodyte caves, decorative pebbles, waterways to drive the tanneries and spinning mills) the village flourished in the 18th and 19th centuries. But an earthquake in 1909 diverted the river from the bottom of the village and the local industries were no longer able to operate. After World War II and the increasing rural exodus, the village fell into disuse. In the 50s and 60s, some greatest artists from Paris and all over Europe began to flock to the village to spend a few months each year, attracted by the light of Provence. One of the first to settle there was André Lhote, who invited many artistic friends to discover the charms of his village... including such luminaries as Marc Chagall, Jean Deyrolle and Willy Ronis. When he created his educational museum in the Castle in 1970, Victor Vasarely helped Optical Art gain worldwide recognition. From 1997 to 2011, the castle housed the Pol Mara museum, and still plays host to major exhibitions each summer.

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1 The Castle
 Listed as a historic monument in 1931, its construction took place in stages between the 11th and 16th centuries. It belonged to the Agout Simiane family, who ruled over Gordes for nearly 700 years, and turned the medieval building into an imposing Renaissance castle (1525). The original building (11th century) was modified and enlarged from the 12th to the 16th century. Its architecture combines medieval defensive art and Renaissance styles. Between 1971 and 1996, it housed the Museum of Victor Vasarely, then the works of Pol Mara from 1997 to 2011. Temporary exhibitions in season. Accessible during guided tours and exhibitions.

2 Fountain on place Genty Pantaly
 The only village water source until 1956. It was reserved for drinking purposes. Washing clothes was restricted to the lower village in the Fontaine Basse district. Place Genty-Pantaly, once virtually walled off to the west, was the heart of the mediaeval village. It was named after a local cook from the early 20th century.

3 The church of St Firmin
 Built on the site of an old Romanesque church. The bell-tower, built on the site of an old Romanesque church, served as a watchtower over the plain. Inside, in the chapel on the left as you enter, a picture depicts St Crespin and St Crespinian, the patron saint of cobblers, whose sizeable guild numbered up to a hundred members working in shoemaking in the 19th century. In the choir, there is a visible crack, due to the earthquake of June 1909.

4 The chaplaincy of St Jacques
 Once a resting place for pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela. However most of them passed through the Calavon valley along the Domitian Way linking Italy to Spain. Closed to the public.

5 La Porte de Savoie
 This door adjoining the chaplaincy was one of the main entrances to the village in the Middle Ages. Its porch is decorated with a bas-relief representing the Savoy coat-of-arms, commemorating the support lent by the Agout Simiane family to Béatrice de Savoie, Countess of Forcalquier, during the mid-13th century conflict between her and her son-in-law, Charles d'Anjou.

The village of Gordes has looked out from its towering rock over the hills and valleys of the Luberon since Neolithic times. Occupied first by the Celto-Ligurian tribe of the Vordenses, then by the Romans, this ancient settlement occupies a highly strategic location. The village itself began to develop around its fortress way back in the 11th century. It takes time to grasp the full magic of Gordes and the richness of its history. As you stroll through the streets, stop for a moment to imagine the hustle and bustle of the thriving village, from the fortress down to the lower fountain. And slowly succumb to its charms, just like so many painters and other artists since the 1950s, who have since helped spread the fame of Gordes right around the world.

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