




# Gordes

**TOURIST OFFICE**

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

**LUBERON COEUR DE PROVENCE TOURISME**

[www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com](http://www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com)



**Your Tourist Office**  
Le Château - 84220 Gordes  
Tél : +33 (0)4 90 72 02 75  
[www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com](http://www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com)  
gordes@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 5.30 pm  
Bank holidays:  
10 am to 12 pm / 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm  
Closed on 25th December and 1st January

**PROVENCE**  
L'ART DE VIVRE ENSEMBLE



**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).

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

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

**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).*

**Market**  
Tuesday mornings:  
on the squares around the castle and on the post office square.

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1 Rocher Bel Air



1 Sénanque Abbey



2 Village of the Bories



3 Oil Mill and Stained Glass Museum



4 The Lavender Museum



1 Vallée de la Sénanque et Luberon

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**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](http://www.senanque.fr) / +33 (0)4 90 72 05 86  
Admission charge

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

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](http://www.levillagedesbories.com) / + 33 (0)4 90 72 03 48  
Admission charge  
Open daily from 9am to sunset except 25/12 and 01/01.

**3 Oil Mill and Stained Glass Museum**  
(5km from Gordes: towards Cavaillon, 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.litemagique.com](http://www.litemagique.com) / +33 (0)4 90 72 22 11  
Admission charge - April - october: open every day except Tuesdays 10 am-12 pm / 2 pm-6 pm. November - march: open from Monday til Friday 10 am-12 pm / 2 pm-5 pm.



**LA MAISON DU FRUIT CONFIT**

Situé à l'entrée de la ville d'Apt, La Maison du Fruit Confit est au carrefour des itinéraires du Luberon. La boutique, dans l'enceinte des ateliers de fabrication d'Aptunion, propose à la vente directe des fruits confits et spécialités provençales.

[fleurons-apt@aptunion.com](mailto:fleurons-apt@aptunion.com)  
[www.lesfleurons-apt.com](http://www.lesfleurons-apt.com)

**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](http://www.museedelalavande.com) / + 33 (0)4 90 76 91 23  
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.

**THE ORIGINALS**

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+33 (0)4 90 68 10 77  
[www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com](http://www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com)

**Have some fun visiting Gordes with this booklet with games!**

Discover the village in family, take some time to observe, guess and solve some tricky enigmas!  
Booklets in French only

Information at the tourist office: +33 (0)4 90 70 02 75

**LA ROYÈRE**

Propriété de 33 ha conduite par la famille Hugues, la gamme se compose de vins rouges, blancs et rosés en AOP Luberon et IGP Vaucluse.

**MUSÉE DE L'HUILE D'OLIVE** Visite et dégustation du lundi au samedi 9h à 18h. Groupes sur réservation.

La Royère - 375 route de la Sénanque, 84580 Oppède / 04.90.76.87.76  
[info@royere.com](mailto:info@royere.com) - [www.royere.com](http://www.royere.com)



### 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.

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.

### 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 The 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.



### 6 The wash house

This area was the economic heart of the village until the 19th century thanks to the streams which flowed at the time, with its tanneries, silk mills, artisans, merchants and cafés. To your left in the rock, note the traces of an old wine vat in which the grapes were trampled to make wine, and the cubic and rectilinear niches where racks were kept for the silkworms bred in the 19th century.

### 7 The cellars of the Palais St Firmin

Life underground was a significant factor in Gordes. Every multi-storey house in the village had troglodytic cellars on several levels underneath its foundations, where craftsmen and farmers did their work. The work now being undertaken under the palace of St Firmin gives us a glimpse into this extraordinary aspect of local life, which lasted for centuries.  
[www.caves-saint-firmin.com](http://www.caves-saint-firmin.com)  
 Admission charge  
 Open from 4th April to the 1st November, everyday from 10:30am-1pm & 2:30pm-6pm (10:30am-1:30pm & 2:30pm-6pm June to September).

**Le Miel Peyron**  
 Spécialités au Miel - Magasin de Souvenirs Provençaux  
 2 Place Genty Pantaly - 84220 GORDES - 04 90 72 00 18

**DOMAINE CHAPELLE SAINT HEYRIES**  
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[reservation@palaisdaglae.com](mailto:reservation@palaisdaglae.com) - [www.petitpalaisdaglae-gordes.com](http://www.petitpalaisdaglae-gordes.com)

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 L'ART DE LA VIERGE LAVANDE  
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**Les Caves du Palais St Firmin**  
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 GORDES - Rue du Belvédère - [www.caves-saint-firmin.com](http://www.caves-saint-firmin.com)