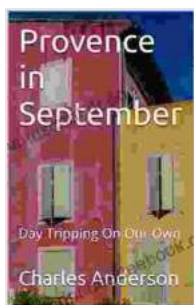


Provence in September: Day-Tripping on Our Own

With its rolling hills, vibrant lavender fields, and charming villages, Provence is a region of France that is simply breathtaking. And while it's a popular destination year-round, September is an especially magical time to visit. The lavender has been harvested, the crowds have thinned, and the weather is still warm and sunny.



Provence in September: Day Tripping On Our Own

by Wolfgang Daunicht

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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If you're planning a trip to Provence in September, consider renting a car and exploring the region on your own. This will give you the flexibility to visit the places that interest you most at your own pace. Here are a few suggestions for day trips from Avignon, one of the most popular cities in Provence.

Must-Visit Villages

- **Gordes:** This hilltop village is one of the most photographed in Provence. It's perched on the edge of a cliff and offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside. Be sure to visit the village's castle, which dates back to the 11th century.
- **Roussillon:** This village is known for its ochre cliffs, which give it a unique and colorful appearance. There are several hiking trails in the area, so you can explore the cliffs up close. You can also visit the village's ochre museum to learn more about the history of ochre mining in the region.
- **Saint-Rémy-de-Provence:** This village is best known as the place where Vincent van Gogh spent the last year of his life. You can visit the Saint-Paul-de-Mausole asylum, where van Gogh was treated, and see some of his paintings at the Musée des Alpilles.

Lavender Fields

No trip to Provence would be complete without a visit to a lavender field. In September, the lavender has been harvested, but you can still see the fields and enjoy the fragrant aroma. Here are a few of the most popular lavender fields in Provence:

- **Sénanque Abbey:** This 12th-century abbey is surrounded by fields of lavender. You can take a guided tour of the abbey and then explore the lavender fields on your own.
- **Valensole Plateau:** This plateau is home to some of the largest lavender fields in Provence. You can drive through the fields and stop to take photos.

- **Luberon Valley:** This valley is known for its beautiful lavender fields and charming villages. You can hike or bike through the valley and stop to visit the villages along the way.

Other Attractions

In addition to villages and lavender fields, there are many other attractions in Provence that are worth visiting. Here are a few suggestions:

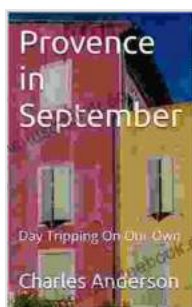
- **Pont du Gard:** This Roman aqueduct is one of the most impressive Roman structures in France. You can walk across the aqueduct or take a boat tour underneath it.
- **Camargue:** This natural park is home to a variety of wildlife, including flamingos, wild horses, and bulls. You can take a boat tour of the park or go on a horseback riding excursion.
- **Verdon Gorge:** This gorge is one of the most popular hiking destinations in France. There are several hiking trails along the gorge, ranging from easy to difficult.

Practical Tips

- **Book your car rental in advance.** September is a popular time to visit Provence, so it's important to book your car rental as early as possible.
- **Drive on the right-hand side of the road.** This can be a bit confusing at first, but you'll get used to it quickly.
- **Be prepared for crowds.** September is a popular time to visit Provence, so be prepared for crowds, especially in the more popular tourist destinations.

- **Bring comfortable shoes.** You'll be ng a lot of walking, so make sure to wear comfortable shoes.
- **Bring Sunscreen and a hat.** The sun can be strong in Provence, so be sure to protect yourself from the sun.
- **Have fun!** Provence is a beautiful region with a lot to offer visitors. So relax, enjoy the scenery, and have fun.

Renting a car and day-tripping on your own is a great way to experience Provence. You'll have the flexibility to visit the places that interest you most at your own pace. And with so much to see and do, you're sure to have an unforgettable trip.



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