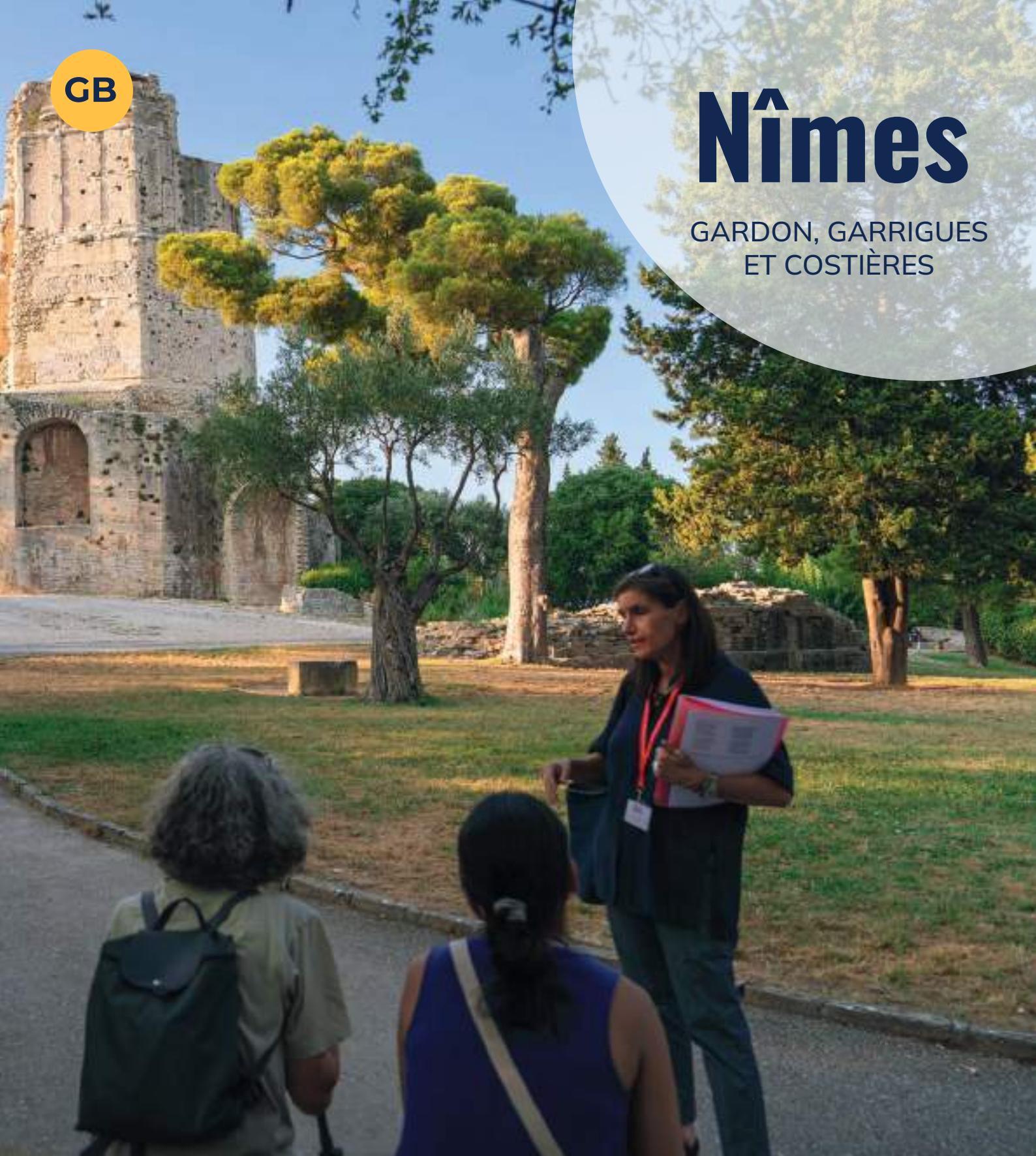




# Nîmes

GARDON, GARRIGUES  
ET COSTIÈRES



## Stays & Visits

GROUPS : 2024



WELCOME TO

# Nîmes

Between the Cévennes, the Camargue, Provence and the Languedoc, Nîmes is anchored to the South. It has been modelled century by century around its Roman monuments.

With the amphitheatre, considered as one of the best conserved in Roman world, and the Maison Carrée, one of the most ancient temples devoted to the imperial cult, the city has the status of 'French Rome'. But other surprises await you.

Private mansions, contemporary art and architecture together with the Jardins de la Fontaine express both the consistency of its history and the charm of the Mediterranean: pedestrian streets, a gourmet market, shady squares and terraces, a festive atmosphere... Nîmes cultivates its differences and, with a smile, shares its art de vivre with visitors.



## THE RECEPTION SERVICE

You are an association, a coach company, a travel agent, a works committee, a hotelier or simply a small group of friends and wish to schedule the discovery of Nîmes and the surrounding area?

Through us, gain valuable time and benefit from many advantages.

Our reception service works in close collaboration with many partners and proposes numerous stays and guided visits.

We are ready to discuss the organisation of your 'made to measure and turnkey' programmes that best match your expectations and requirements while respecting your budget. We make reservations for you: hotels, restaurants, museums, guides, treasure hunts, coach services, etc.

We place at your disposal a **GUIDE SERVICE** for visits led by guide/lecturers approved by the Ministry of Culture, working in French, German, English, Spanish and Italian.

### THE ADVANTAGES

- One contact
- In-depth knowledge of the area
- Excellent relations with our partners and negotiated rates
- Our own team of guide/lecturers approved by the Ministry of Culture
- Our estimates are free
- Designed to measure
- Our proposals are in line with sustainable tourism

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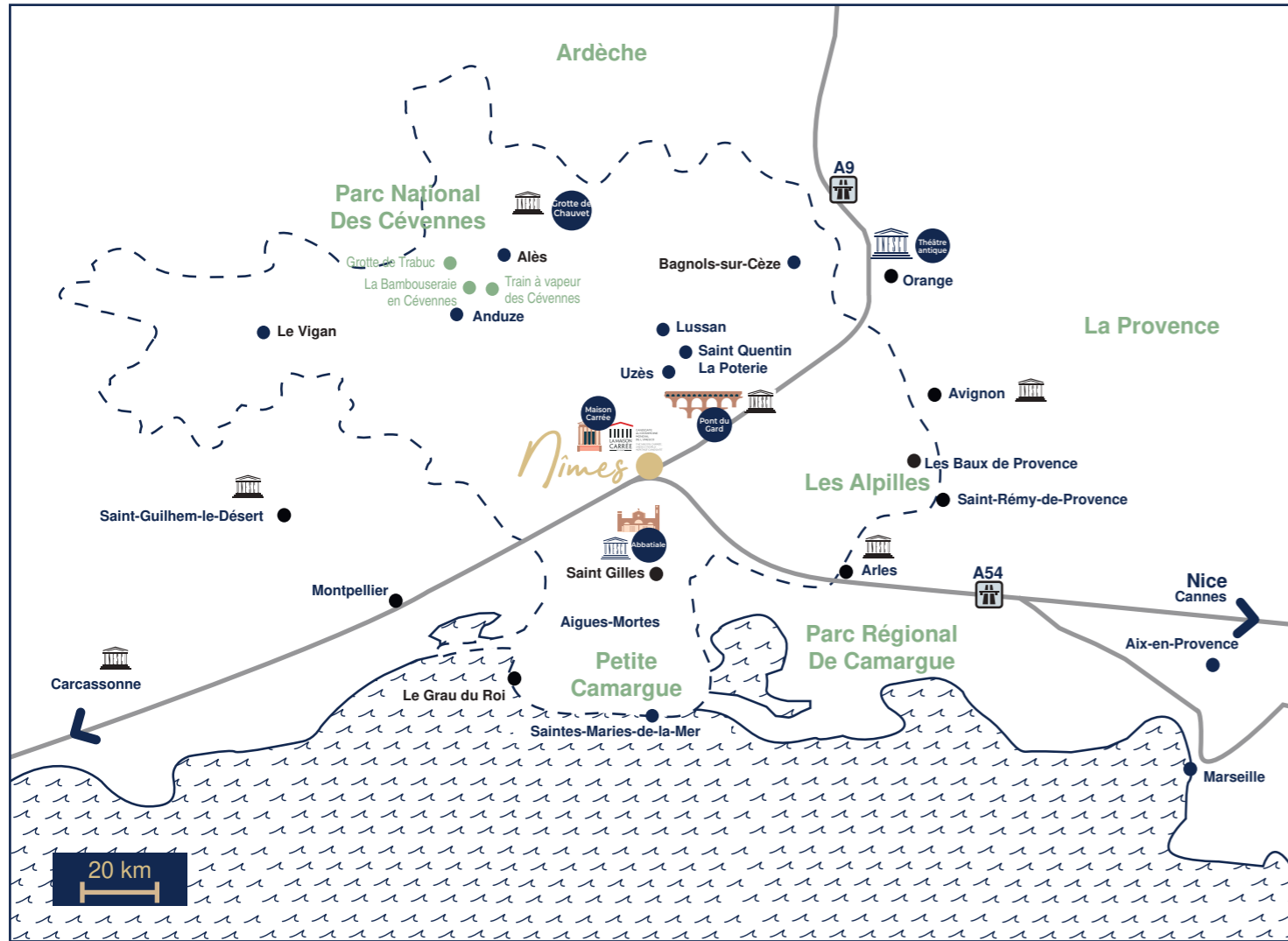
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## The Essentials



# THE IDEAL POINT of departure



### Distances

Nîmes - Pont-du-Gard : 26 km  
 Nîmes - Saint-Gilles : 20 km  
 Nîmes - Uzès : 30 km  
 Nîmes - Arles : 35 km  
 Nîmes - Orange : 53 km

# NÎMES, monuments

## THE MAISON CARRÉE IS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

On Monday 18 September, the members of the World Heritage Committee, meeting in plenary session in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, formally registered the Maison Carrée in Nîmes as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is the culmination of a long process to gain recognition for the outstanding universal value of one of the best-preserved Roman temples in the world.

The gavel fell at 5.18pm French time. This time it's done: the Maison Carrée has been included on UNESCO's World Heritage List! A great achievement for Nîmes and for the whole of France.

Unesco listing not only recognises the universal cultural value of a property, it also marks the town's commitment to safeguarding, promoting and managing its heritage. As part of the Maison Carrée's application, the management plan drawn up in collaboration with the French government is based on a programme of well-defined actions. These were drawn up on the basis of technical workshops held in 2013, in which all the departments of the city of Nîmes and their partners were represented.

The Maison Carrée in Nîmes is now one of the world's most outstanding sites. Inevitably, its new status will generate an increase in tourist numbers. This is a real growth driver for the city, with significant direct and indirect economic spin-offs in the hotel, restaurant and tourism sectors, which will have a wider impact on all the businesses in the city centre.



### MAISON CARRÉE



Built in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and dedicated to Caius and Lucius Caesar, the grandsons of the Emperor Augustus, the Maison Carrée is one of the best-conserved temples of the Roman world. It impresses by the harmonious proportions, elegant columns with Corinthian capitals and the finesse of the architectural decor. The first Roman temple dedicated to imperial worship, this prestigious building is now a candidate for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



### ARÈNES



Considered as being the best-conserved amphitheater of the Roman world, the Arena was built at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, shortly after the Coliseum in Rome. It had a capacity for more than 24,000 spectators who watched hunts and animal and gladiator fights.

The amphitheater is now used for bullfights, congresses, concerts and sports events.

# NÎMES, monuments



## JARDINS DE LA FONTAINE

The first inhabitants of Nîmes settled in the 6th century BC near the sacred spring. In the 1st century BC the Romans set it in the *Augusteum*, a vast sanctuary dedicated to the god Nemausus and the emperor Augustus. This monumental set of buildings was rediscovered in the 18th century and the architects Jacques-Philippe Mareschal and Pierre Dardailhon designed a magnificent formal garden that respected the layout of the archaeological remains. The upper part of the garden was developed in the early 19th century with Italian and English touches in the style of the time.



## TOUR MAGNE

The 'Big Tower' stands above the Roman sanctuary and was part of the Augustan walls that ran for more than 6 kilometres. It was 36 metres high and was built around and over a previous Celtic tower that was 18 metres high and disappeared in the 17th century. It is now reduced to 32.50 metres high. The view from the top is remarkable, running from Mont Ventoux to the Pic St Loup.



## TEMPLE DE DIANE

In the 1st century BC, this building was part of the *Augusteum* with the sacred spring, an immense portico, a small theater and a nymphaeum. Although its purpose is not clear and the origin of its name unknown, the rich ornamentation inside is well conserved. The romantic nature of the ruins has inspired many artists, such as the famous painter Hubert Robert.

## Coat of arms



In 31 BC, Octavian defeated the fleet of Mark Antony and Cleopatra at Actium and established peace in the Roman world. Octavian could then establish the empire and took the name of Augustus. A coin was struck in Nîmes to celebrate the event. On the reverse side was a crocodile chained to a palm tree surmounted by a laurel wreath, symbolizing the conquest of Egypt.

In 1535 they were authorized by King François 1 to adopt the palm tree and the crocodile as the town's coat of arms. Since then the inhabitants have been extremely proud of their crest.

Redesigned in 1986 by Philippe Starck, the coin can be found all over the town, even in the bronze studs set in the paving of the old town (on sale at the Tourist Office shop).



## CASTELLUM AQUAE

This vestige, as well as the one in Pompeii, is an extremely rare one of the Roman world. The *Castellum* is the point of arrival of the aqueduct running to Nîmes and along which the Pont du Gard is the main structure. From this circular reception basin, lead pipes carried the water to the thermal baths, the public fountains and the various districts of the city.



## PORTE AUGUSTE AND PORTE DE FRANCE

The sanctuary of the imperial cult, Porte Auguste (or Porte d'Arles) was one of the main gates of the ancient town. Coming from Beaucaire, the Via Domitia crossed the town via this gate to continue towards Spain. Dating back to the 1st century BC, the Porte de France is, together with Porte Auguste, one of the only two gates in the Augustan walls that can still be seen.



## The origins of Denim cloth

Nîmes was famous for textile manufacturing in the seventeenth century. Merchants mainly traded woollen cloth and silk. The range of textile manufactured broadened little by little. Cotton was imported and then indigo, a dye plant grown in Italy that was an economical source of a fine blue colour. *Serge de Nîmes*, a resistant fabric thanks to its oblique weaving with unbleached and indigo-dyed threads, was created. It differs from other serges by its progressive washing and its blue and white shades. At this time, commercial counters are established all around the world.

The characteristics of this *Serge de Nîmes*, exported to the United States via the ports of Genoa and Manchester, are very similar to those of denim, a fabric used by Levi Strauss in the 19th century to make his famous jeans, sturdy and cheap trousers for American gold seekers. If this garment has now conquered all continents and has become a symbol of freedom, it is possible that its origins are *Nîmoises*.

## CATHÉDRALE NOTRE-DAME-ET-SAINT-CASTOR

Consecrated in 1096, the cathedral of Notre-Dame-and-Saint-Castor has been modified on many occasions over the centuries. The upper frieze is considered to be a major example of Romanesque sculpture in the South of France. The motifs of the pediment and the cornice - acanthus leaves and lions heads - were inspired by the Maison Carrée.

# NÎMES, museums



## MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN CARRÉ D'ART

16 place de la Maison Carrée

The collection of the "Musée d'art contemporain", a building designed by Norman Foster, consists of almost 600 works from the 1960s until today. French art movements, including 'Supports-Surfaces' in particular, and important foreign artists are represented. The museum holds two temporary exhibitions of international stature every year and also shows specific projects in a Project Room.

## MUSÉE DES CULTURES TAURINES HENRIETTE ET CLAUDE VIALLAT

6 rue Alexandre Ducros

Just a stone's throw from the Amphitheater, the "Musée des Cultures Taurines" is a unique institution in France. Opened in 2002 on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Feria de Nîmes, it offers the public a chance to discover a culture that is still active, a rich and varied heritage. Here, works of Art and everyday objects bring to mind both regional and international traditions. Many temporary exhibitions feature great artists such as Picasso and Goya.



## MUSÉE DE LA ROMANITÉ

16 boulevard des Arènes

Contemporary building designed by Elizabeth de Portzamparc, this new museum with international reputation is a splendid showcase for 5,000 heritage works. An innovative museum, an archaeological garden and a living space, the building has a triple ambition: preserve heritage, share it with visitors and pass this unique heritage on to future generations. The museum also hosts temporary exhibitions.



## MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS

Rue de la Cité Foucl

With its interior redesigned by the architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte in 1987, The "Musée des Beaux-Arts" presents a rich collection of more than 3600 works characteristic of the French, Flemish, Dutch and Italian schools of painting from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

An impressive Roman mosaic, "The Wedding of Admetus", occupies the central part of the atrium. It was discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century on the site of the covered market (*les Halles*).



## MUSÉE DU VIEUX NÎMES

Place de l'Abbé Pierre

Housed in the former bishop's palace built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the "Musée du Vieux Nîmes" possesses collections illustrating life in Nîmes since the end of the Middle Ages. Exhibits range from the everyday to the extraordinary, cloth manufactured by the Nîmes textile industry are presented and a room is devoted to 'serge de Nîmes' and jeans. Visitors of the temporary exhibitions and the permanent collection can enjoy a trip back in time.



## MUSEUM - MUSÉE D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

13 boulevard Amiral Courbet

Created in 1895, the Museum has collections in the fields of natural sciences and human sciences. Themes such as prehistory, ethnography of the 1930s and zoology are presented.

The ethnography room has a presentation that has remained deliberately unchanged since the 1930s and reveals the dominant ideas of the colonial era.

# NÎMES Gardon, Garrigues et Costières



## ABBATIALE DE SAINT-GILLES



Built at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the abbey church is a real architectural jewel. In the past, this major site attracted pilgrims from all over the world. Today, the monument is listed as a World Heritage Site as part of the "Pilgrimage Route to Santiago de Compostela in France" series.

Take the time to admire its sculpted façade, an authentic masterpiece of Romanesque art. Among others, you will find a frieze with an iconography dedicated to the Passion of Christ.

Discover its monumental crypt, a full-sized lower church. Exceptional in its size and the quality of its vaults, it still contains the tomb of Saint Gilles.



## TERROIR DES COSTIÈRES

A kingdom of rolled pebbles deposited by the Rhône and the Durance, the Costières terroir will surprise you with the diversity of its landscapes! Underfoot you'll see a mosaic of different types of soil: white limestone, reddish pebbles, yellow sand or red clay, you'll be amazed by the many different colours! Now look up and contemplate the vineyards and orchards that reign supreme on the Costières plateau.



## PONT DU GARD, L'AQUEDUC DE NÎMES



Built in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, the Pont du Gard is without a doubt the most spectacular structure of the aqueduct and has been on the Unesco World Heritage List since 1985. The Romans built a bridge of exceptional dimensions to cross the Gardon valley: 275 metres long, 48 metres high (the highest of the Roman world) and three superposed tiers of arches.

# NÎMES, The Essential

## Morning

Arrival in Nîmes at about 10.00. Welcome by our guide and visits to the main monuments, starting with **Les Arènes**, the Roman amphitheatre dating back to the 1st century AD. You follow the narrow streets of the historical centre and reach the **Maison Carrée**, the main temple of the Roman city and dedicated to the grandsons of the Emperor Augustus.

The visit continues with the **Jardins de la Fontaine**. Laid out in 1745 under Louis XV, the gardens have a lower part with a former sanctuary called the Augusteum in which is found the **Temple de Diane** (Temple of Diana). In the upper part stands **La Tour Magne**, the tallest and most prestigious tower of the ramparts of the Roman town and from which there is a magnificent view of the city and the surrounding area.

**12h30-14h00**  
Lunch in the city centre.

## Afternoon

Independent visit of the permanent collections that trace 2500 years of Roman history at the **Musée de la Romanité**.

Open since 2018 and designed by Elizabeth de Portzamparc, this archeological museum is draped in a translucent undulating glass façade that is a reminder of ancient mosaic.

*End of our services*

**From 42 € inc. tax per person**

**The price covers:**

- 1 guide for 3 hours from Monday to Saturday to visit the city and the Roman monuments,
- entry to the Musée de la Romanité and the Arena,
- 1 lunch consisting of 1 starter, 1 main dish, 1 dessert, 1-quarter litre of wine and 1 coffee per person

**8h** **35 persons** **Suitable for school-children** **Access for persons with reduced mobility**

*Our guide's anecdote*

**The Maison Carrée**

The bulding has been called La Maison Carrée since the 16th century. Indeed, in old French any recangle with 4 right angles was referred to by the word 'carré' (square).



NÎMES,  
**The Little Electric Tourist Train**

**Comfortably installed on our little electric tourism train, listen to the history of Nîmes!**

## Morning

A trip with a commentary lasting about 45 minutes forming an excellent introduction to the city before leaving for a more detailed exploration of the riches of our heritage.

**Lunch in the city centre.**

*End of our services*

**From 7 € inc. tax per person** Available from April to November. Capacity maximum 60 persons

**The price includes :**

- A trip in a small electrical tourist train (minimum 20 persons)

**WITH LUNCH AS AN OPTION.**

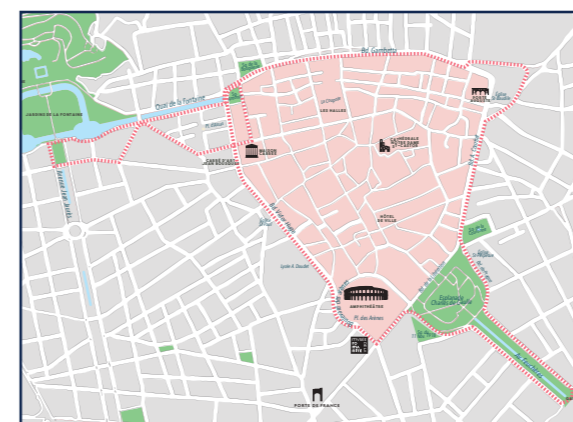
**From 38 € inc. tax per person**

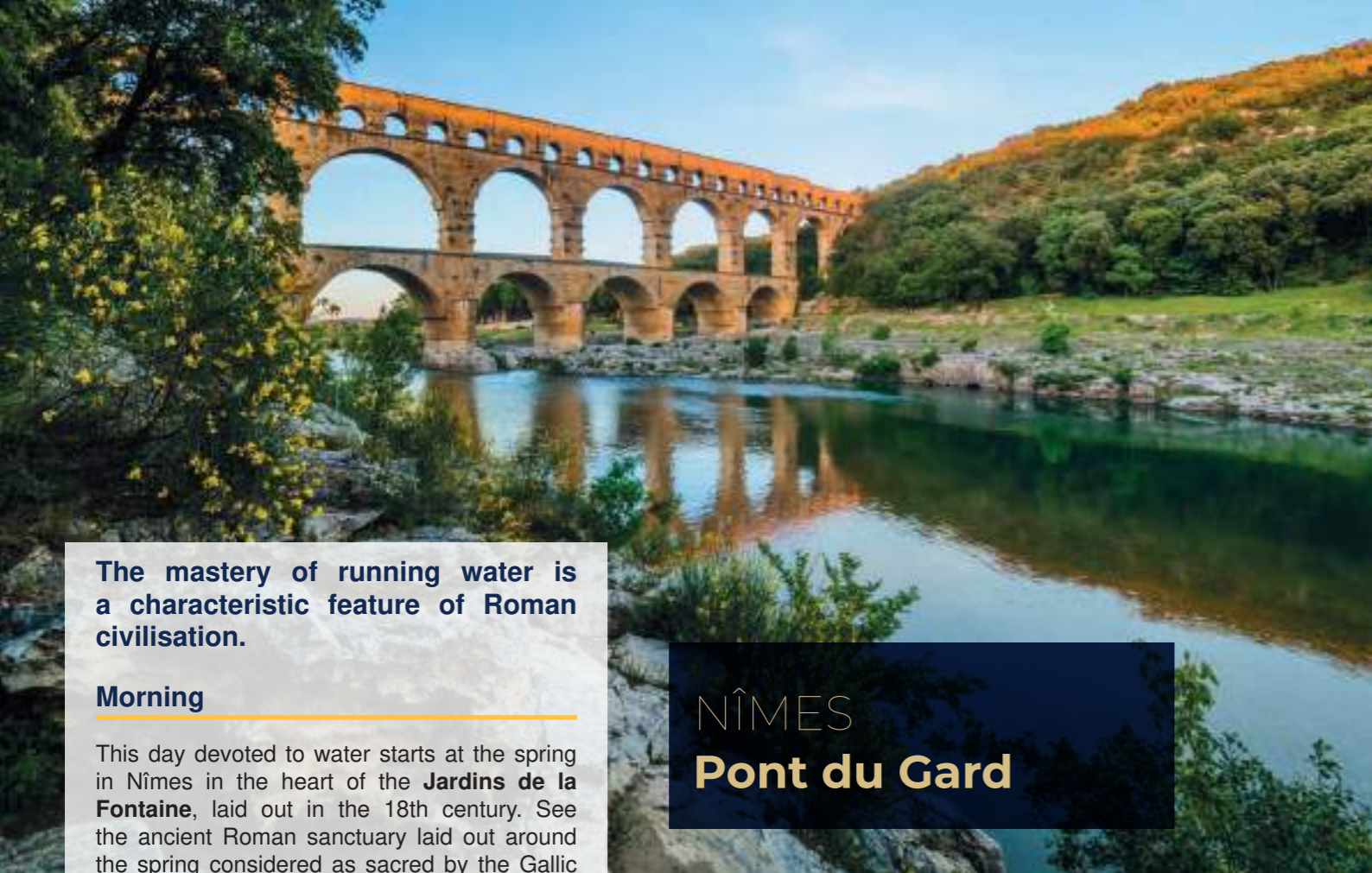
**The price covers :**

- the trip in the small electrical tourist train
- 1 lunch consisting of 1 starter, 1 main course, 1 dessert, and 1 coffee per person

**A small electrical train** **For up to 55/60 persons** **Access for persons with reduced mobility** **Suitable for schoolchildren**

**English** **French** **German** **Spanish** **Italian**





The mastery of running water is a characteristic feature of Roman civilisation.

### Morning

This day devoted to water starts at the spring in Nîmes in the heart of the **Jardins de la Fontaine**, laid out in the 18th century. See the ancient Roman sanctuary laid out around the spring considered as sacred by the Gallic population.

Continue your visit with the *castellum divisorium*, the distribution tank for the water coming from Uzès by way of the famous Pont du Gard. It is a particularly rare feature in the Roman world. Then cross the former **dyers' district** and learn more about the textile industry in Nîmes—flourishing in the 17th and 18th centuries. Listen to the fantastic story of serge de Nîmes and its links with the name used by Levi Strauss to make the first jeans.

### Lunch in the city centre

### Afternoon

Departure by coach for the **Pont du Gard**, the most impressive feature of the Roman aqueduct that supplied Nîmes. Rising to 49 m, it is the tallest aqueduct in the Roman world! On the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1985, the site includes a museum and a visitors' path called 'Mémoires de Garrigues'.

End of our services

## NÎMES Pont du Gard

From 55 € inc. tax par personne

- The price covers:**
- 1 guide for 8 hours (from Monday to Saturday)
  - Entry to the **Pont du Gard** site
  - 1 lunch consisting of 1 starter, 1 main course, 1 dessert, 1 quarter litre wine and 1 coffee per person

### As an option

Bus : please contact us for all bookings



## Experience

### Tasting Roman wines

Why not take a taste trip ? Discover wines made using recipes translated from Latin and with harvesting techniques used 2000 years ago!



## NÎMES Between vineyards and olive groves

The Costières vineyard area already existed in Roman times and olive trees have always been at home in the countryside around Nîmes. This day will take you to the very heart of the Mediterranean identity of Nîmes.

### Morning

Departure for **Saint-Gilles**. See an olive grove with more than 10,000 specimens under ecological farming.

The climate and soil of a region form a biotope that is a condition for the adaptation of the vegetation. Each olive growing area has a dominant variety, where it gives its best. Picholine thus chose its territory in the Nîmes area.

Nîmes olive oil has had a Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) since 2004 and Olive de Nîmes had had this since 2006.

Your trip to olive country must include a tasting!

### Lunch nearby.

### Afternoon

Visit to a vineyard farm whose '**Costières de Nîmes**' has held an AOC since 1986. It is the southernmost of the Rhone Valley and fine 'Syrah', 'Grenache', Cinsault and Mourvèdre etc. are grown there.

Visit and tasting.

End of our services

From 48 € inc. tax per person\*

- The price covers:**
- tasting at the mill and the vineyards
  - 1 lunch consisting of a starter, 1 main course, 1 dessert, 1/4 litre wine and 1 coffee per person

\*On the basis of 35 persons who pay

### As an option

Bus : please contact us for all bookings



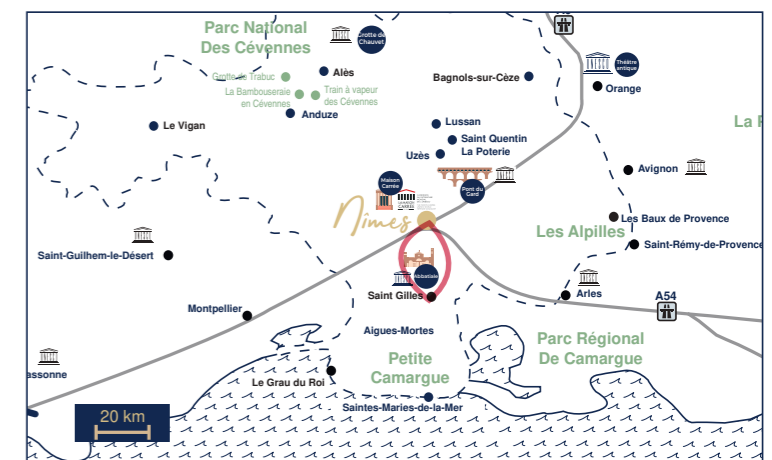
Guide : 8-hours  
Cf. table of rates on p. 28



## Experience

### The Garrigue, without any effort!

Why not explore the garrigue on an electric scooter? Fun and accessible : you can see the vineyards, river banks, heritage features, etc. in an original manner and safely!





## NÎMES, at the gates of Provence

With its traditions and colours, Provence is one of the components of the soul of Nîmes. This extra day makes it possible to see the surroundings, with the City of the Popes in Avignon and landscapes painted by Van Gogh.

### Morning

Departure for Avignon by coach. The capital of Christianity in the Middle Ages, Avignon has conserved an exceptional heritage, much of which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. You visit the **Palais des Papes** and the **Rocher des Doms**. You will then explore the rich features of the historical centre of the city.

### Lunch in the centre of Avignon.

### Afternoon

Why not complete the day by an exploration of **Les Baux-de-Provence** in the heart of the Alpilles? You can visit the château and its dungeon, a unique remnant of medieval history, with exceptional view of the Alpilles mountains, the plain of La Crau and the Camargue in the distance. A walk through the heart of the village. With traditions and colours, Provence is fully part of the identity of Nîmes.

End of our services


From **54** € Inc. tax per person\*


**The price covers:**

- entry to the Palais des Papes and the Château des Baux-de-Provence
- 1 lunch consisting of a starter, 1 main course, 1 dessert and 1/4 litre wine per person

\*On the basis of 35 persons who pay

**As an option**

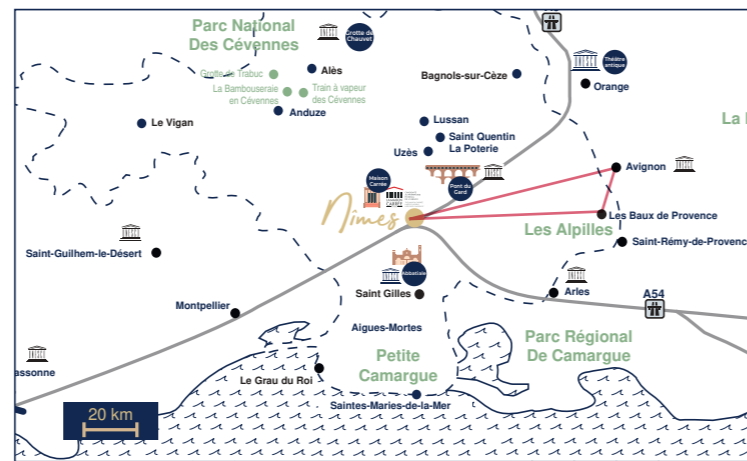
**Bus** : please contact us for all bookings 

**Guide** : 8-hours Cf. table of rates on p. 28 

## Experience

### Wine tasting at Le Carré du Palais

Le Carré du Palais is a major centre for terroir and the Provencal gastronomy: initiation in the former strong room of the Banque de France!



## NÎMES, the Camargue

Add to your visit to Nîmes a day at the end of the world, where landscapes, the sky and the sea join each other and blend. Delight guaranteed.

### Morning

Departure by coach for **Saint-Gilles**, at the gates of the Camargue. Visit the abbey church in the heart of the village. Built at the end of the 12th century, the abbey is a magnificent piece of southern French Romanesque, boasting a richly decorated façade. Thanks to our visit with a commentary, visit the crypt that houses the remains of the former hermit and, thanks to our commentary, have an exclusive view of the famous vis staircase of Saint-Gilles! Previously much frequented by pilgrims from all over the world, the monument is now listed on the World Heritage List as part of the series Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France.

Departure for **Aigues-Mortes**, a fortified town built by Louis IX who wanted the Kingdom of France to have a port on the Mediterranean.

### Lunch in the fortified town

### Afternoon

Visit to the **Tour de Constance**, built by Louis IX in 1242 and classified as a historical monument in 1903. The upper terrace is topped by a watchtower that was used as a lighthouse from the 13th to the 16th century. It then served as a prison especially for Protestants, and is now is a key marker of the struggle for the freedom of thought.

They day ends with a visit of the **Salin d'Aigues-Mortes** on a small tourist train.


End of our services


From **52** € Inc. tax per person

**The price covers:**

- Exploration of the Saint-Gilles rice fields
- Entry to Saint-Gilles Abbey Church, and the Tour de Constance and ramparts of Aigues-Mortes
- 1 lunch consisting of 1 starter, 1 main course, 1 dessert, quarter-litre wine and 1 coffee per person
- Visit to the Aigues-Mortes saltmarsh

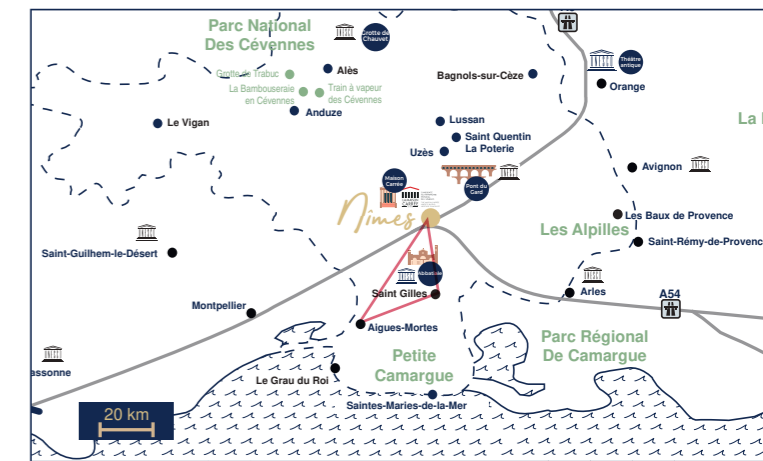
### As an option

**Bus** : please contact us for all bookings 

**Guide** : 8-hours Cf. table of rates on p. 28 

## Experience

Exploration of rice fields in the heart of the St Gilles marshes in the Petite Camargue. Organic rice is grown using an ancestral method that gives it its special taste-appreciated by both consumers and famous chefs. A singular feature of the site is that ducks handle the weeding and so no pesticides are used.





# GRAND HISTORICAL SHOW GERMANICUS ET LA COLÈRE BARBARE

**May 3, 4, and 5, 2024**

**Come travel back in time and witness unique historical shows in France, experience Nîmes in the Roman era!**

Arrival by coach in Nîmes in the morning, take a leap back in time to discover the city immersed in Antiquity. Strolls, conferences, markets, guided tours, parades, Roman ceremony, and workshops for young and old, night parades animate the city center for 3 days.

**12:30 PM - 2:00 PM:**

Lunch in a festive atmosphere.

**3:30 PM or 5:30 PM:** Show in the arenas

The story told by this show begins with the greatest tragedy that the Roman world has known: the massacre by the Germanic tribes led by Arminius, of 3 Roman legions and the civilians accompanying them, totaling about 25,000 deaths! This story begins in 9 AD under the reign of Augustus and ends in 40 AD, shortly before the end of Caligula's reign.

*End of our services.*

From **59** € Inc. tax per person\*

**The price covers:**

- 1 lunch consisting of 1 starter, 1 main course, 1 dessert, quarter litre wine and 1 coffee per
- A major historical in the Arena in Category 2

## Schedule

**Grand Historical Show:**  
**May 3, 2023, at 5:30 PM**  
**May 4 and 5 at 3:30 PM.**



## Theme STAYS





Nîmes has some of the best food in the region and this programme will delight the best-informed gourmets.

## Day 1: Nîmes

### Morning

Discovery of Nîmes starting with Les Halles, the Central Market. A true centre of life and the gastronomic heart of the city, and where more than 12 AOP products can be found on the stalls. From brandade de Nîmes to Picholine olives, from tapenade to the petit pâté nîmois, without forgetting AOC Costières de Nîmes wines, the flavours of Nîmes conquer gourmets and hearty eaters!

The morning continues with your guide who accompanies your exploration of 'gourmet' centres during a trip in the historic heart of Nîmes. Between squares and fountains, **the Arena** and the **Maison Carrée**, the **Musée de la Romanité** and **Carré d'Art**, the visit is punctuated by stops in front of the appetizing windows of the emblematic shops of the city.

Lunch of regional specialities in the centre of the city.

### Afternoon

The afternoon is devoted to **private mansions**. See the showcase façades of the mansions in the historic centre. By virtue of exclusive to private courtyards, enter by doors generally closed to the public. Be charmed by the rich decoration and by monumental staircases that reveal the art of living and building in Nîmes from the 16th to the 18th century.



## Day 2: Uzès - Pont du Gard

### Morning

Departure for **Uzès**, a Town of Art and History more than 2000 years old, accompanied by your guide. Its historical monuments, the famous Place aux Herbes, its Renaissance architecture and private mansions reveal the glorious past that made it the 1st Duchy of France.

Departure for the **Pont du Gard**

**12.30 lunch opposite the Roman monument**

### Afternoon

Go to the top of the **Pont du Gard** and admire the landscape!

To fully appreciate the richness and majesty of the monument, a witness to the genius of a civilisation, take the time for a guided visit to the third floor of the aqueduct. You will be able to see the canal that carried water at the time of the Romans.



Free time to profit from the museographic site. This interpretation centre is the largest in France and makes it possible to learn in a playful manner all the Romans' engineering skills and ingenuity thanks to models, scale reconstitutions, etc.

Return to Nîmes with a stop at an **oil mill**. How can you recognise a good olive oil? The owner/producer will tell you about his know-how: from growing the trees to producing high-quality oil by way of manufacturing methods that respect the fruits. Without forgetting a visit to the mill, the olive grove and the shop!!



# Winegrowing STAY

## Day 3: Beaucaire - Bellegarde

### Morning

Departure for **Beaucaire** and, more precisely, **Mas des Tourelles**, a very original experimental archeology initiative: the reconstitution at the real scale of an operational Gallo-Roman winery to make wine using the ancient method. Reception, visit of the installations and then the tasting, of three wines with original flavours.

### Lunch in one of the rooms at the site

### Afternoon

Departure for **Bellegarde** and **Mas de Provence**, an authentic farm, to learn about the organic growing of perfumed plants, their processing, their transformation into essential oils and finally the creation of organically certified perfumes.

All the senses are used during the guided visit—a unique and authentic experience.

### End of our services

From  
**152** € Inc. tax  
per person

\*On the basis of 35 persons who pay

#### The price covers:

- Visit and tasting at the oil mill
- Entry to the Pont du Gard site
- A mas in Provence
- Visit to Mas des Tourelles with 1 lunch: 1 starter, 1 main course, 1 dessert, quarter litre wine and 1 coffee per person

- 1 guide: 8 hours from Monday to Saturday for days 1 and 2.

#### As an option

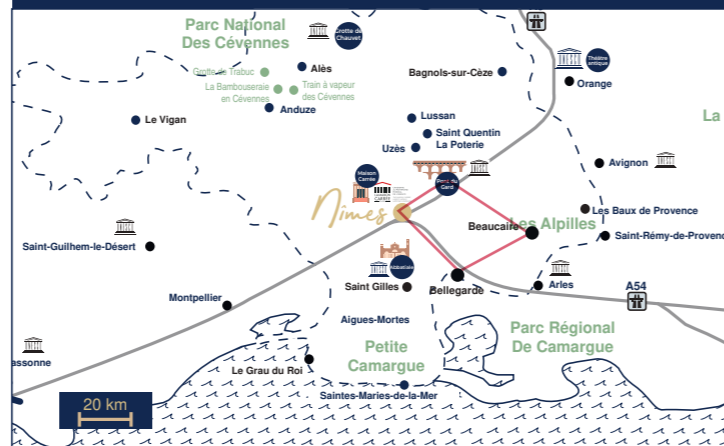
Bus : please contact us for all bookings



## Experience (Day 2)

### The truffles of Uzès

Meeting with Michel Tournayre, truffle grower and President of the French and European Truffle Federation. He welcomes you to a 15-hectare oasis devoted to truffles, 'Les Truffières d'Uzès'. A moment for friendliness and sharing centred on this jewel of French gastronomy.



## Day 1

### Morning

Departure for a wine-growing estate in the **Costières de Nîmes** wine-growing area.

In the South of the Rhône Valley, the vineyard receives the influence of the Rhone and the Mediterranean.

Its official organic farming certification in 2014 and the biodynamic management of the whole estate have enhanced the production of wines with character.

You go through vineyards, garrigue, and orchards using the signs marking the route that recount the history of the wines in relation with the territory: geology, fauna and flora, architecture, history and archaeology (archaeological digs investigating the Roman period).

Finish the morning with flavours by tasting—in the shade or in the vineyard—the richness of Provencal cuisine: try brandade de Nîmes, anchoïade and tapenade and delicious products—bull terrine with olives, goat cheese, olive oil and fruits from the farm according to the season.

### Afternoon

The visit of the winery and wine tasting continue this atmosphere of exchange until the return to Nîmes at the end of the day.

Return to Nîmes for dinner and accommodation.



## Experience

### Abbaye de Saint-Roman

Leave for a magic walk and see the incredible Abbaye de Saint-Roman! Magic tricks, stories, the discovery of edible plants and a visit of the Abbey (from May onwards).



Open air STAY

## Day 2

### Morning

Exploration of **Nîmes and its historical centre** that is so rich in heritage and anecdotes !

The everyday life of the city is still marked by its heritage. The décors, colonnades or arches borrowed from Roman architecture, the layouts and urban landscapes designed according to the perfectly conserved monuments make Nîmes a city of exceptional character.

**Lunch in the city centre with wine to match the food.**

### Afternoon

Departure towards Aigues-Mortes for a tasting of the renowned AOP Sables wines at the Domaine Royal de Jarras. This vineyard rooted in sand was planted on an island that used to be called Isle de Stel, charged with history and inhabited by the murmurs of the knights that followed Louis IX in the Crusades.

From  
**195** € Inc. tax  
per person

#### The price covers:

- Visits and tasting in vineyard estates
  - Winegrowers' lunch
  - 1 lunch with matching food and wines
  - 1 guide to explore Nîmes (from Monday to Saturday)
- Option

#### As an option

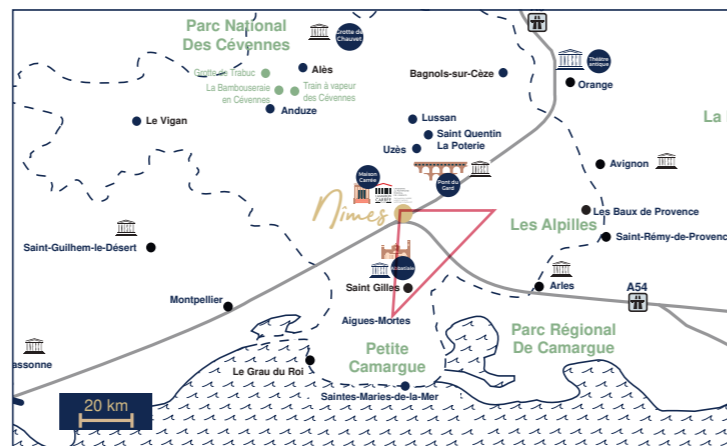
Bus : please contact us for all bookings



Comfortably installed in a little train, explore the most unusual parts of the estate.

And then taste local products at the estate.

#### End of our services



## Day 1

### Morning

Exploration of the **Jardins de la Fontaine**, a substantial area of greenery laid out in the XVIIIth century by Jacques Philippe Maréchal, a fortifications engineer, around the sacred spring dedicated to Nemausus and the origin of the town.

Named 'A remarkable garden' by the Ministry of Culture, it is above all a treasure of refinement and quiet in the heart of the city.

The **Temple de Diane**, whose precise function is not known, is in the lower part. It is both the most romantic and also the most enigmatic monument in Nîmes and certainly associated with the **imperial sanctuary** called the *Augusteum*.

At the top of the gardens, the **Tour Magne** is the only tower left of the Augustean ramparts. It stands at the highest point of the city and gives courageous visitors an exceptional view of Nîmes.

Your guide will then take you to the **castellum**, the point of arrival of water from the Nîmes aqueduct that carried water from Fontaine d'Eure near Uzès to Nîmes.

The castellum is a very rare vestige as only two are left in the world!

**Lunch (consisting of local products) in the heart of the Jardins de la Fontaine.**

### Afternoon

Departure for **Uzès**, an episcopal and ducal town, and its charming **medieval garden**.

A guided exploration of the plants that have accompanied humans during history: medicinal and food plants but also domestic and industrial dyes.

At the end of the visit, you can climb the **Tour du Roi** (100 steps) to see the view and also the former cells, the chapel, the first floor of the bishop's tower and exhibition rooms.

An infusion will be offered at the end of the visit.

Return to Nîmes for dinner and accommodation.



## Day 2

### Morning

Departure to north of Nîmes in the direction of the Cévennes for an exotic day with heights.

Visit to the **Bambouseraie de Prafrance**, one of the finest gardens in France, for a moment of complicity with nature. This unique and singular botanical garden shows more than 1000 varieties of bamboos, rare flowers and remarkable trees and plants—making a magical and totally unexpected parenthesis in this part of the Cévennes.

You will then travel in time and explore breathtaking landscapes as a passenger on the **small Cévennes steam train**.

You end the day by visiting the former spinning factory **La Maison Rouge**, now a museum. A host of objects, tools, pottery and various utensils are shown off by the furniture and lighting. The scenography gives structure to the rooms and metamorphoses the collections to show everyday rural life in the Cévennes in the last century.

Return to Nîmes for dinner and accommodation.

*Our guide's anecdote*



**The immense richness of the Bambouseraie makes it the fourth largest arboretum in France.**

The Bambouseraie gained the status of 'Remarkable gardens' in 2005 and was entered on the Supplementary List of Historical Monuments in 2008.

For several years—like other contemporary gardens—it has housed more or less perennial or ephemeral installations by artists.

## Did you know this?

**Bamboos grow at a great speed!**  
Gaining 5 to 20 cm per day, bamboo is the fastest plant in the world!

## Day 3

### Morning

Departure for **Aigues-Mortes**, a fortified town built in the Middle Ages by Louis IX, who wanted the Kingdom of France to have a port on the Mediterranean.

A walk on the medieval ramparts around the town and especially the famous **Tour de Constance**, which become a symbol of resistance for Protestants all over the world.

Free time in the town.

### Lunch in the heart of the town

### Afternoon

Board the Little Train for a trip lasting for more than an hour in the heart of the **Salin d'Aigues-Mortes**. Discover the salt tables, the fantastic Camargue salt and the pink water that makes the place magical and exceptional. The work of the salt workers, the *gardians* of this intact and wild natural area, will hold no secrets for you! You will certainly see the famous flamingoes in this protected reserve and the algae that give them their so delicate pink colour.

The day finished, with a cruise on an authentic boat on the **canal from Rhône** to see the traditions of the Camargue: the marshes, rice farms and reed beds and the fauna and flora explained by the boatman. A stop in a bull farm is planned to see the work of breeders of *Camargue* horses and bulls, of the *gardians* and Camargue traditions.

*End of our services*

From  
**184** € Inc. tax  
per person\*

\*On the basis of 35 persons who pay

#### The price covers:

- A trip on the Anduze/St Jean du Gard line by steam train
- Entry to the Bambouseraie
- A visit to the medieval garden in Uzès
- Seeing the saltmarshes from a small tourist train
- A boat trip with a stop at a manade (bull ranch)
- 1 guide to explore Nîmes on one day (from Monday to Saturday)

#### As an option

**Bus** : please contact us for all bookings

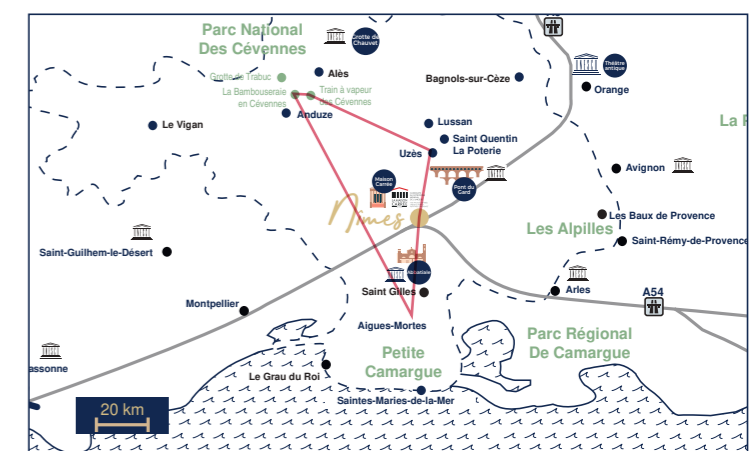


**Guide** : 8-hours  
Cf. table of rates on p. 28



## Experience

Why not finish the day with a short catamaran trip to a sandbank and enjoy an exceptional apéritif with your feet in the water ?





## Our products



# NÎMES, City Pass

Would you like a stay in the South?  
You can discover the richness and diversity of our territory in total freedom thanks to our City Pass !

Choose the length of your stay – **2, 4 or 7 days** - and have free access to the Roman masterpieces of Nîmes (Arena, Maison Carrée, Tour Magne), the Musée de la Romanité and all the museums of the city, the Pont du Gard site and the Abbatiale in Saint-Gilles both of which are on the UNESCO World Heritage List ... opt for a pleasant tour in the little train or a guided visit of the city!

2 days  
4 days  
7 days

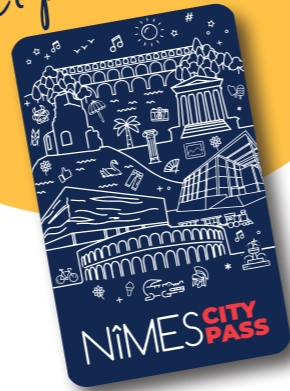
29€  
37€  
39€

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**50%**  
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ALL NÎMES  
in your pocket!



3 formulas\* that give  
you access to...

- ✓ the monuments
- ✓ the museums
- ✓ the Pont du Gard
- ✓ the Abbey of Saint-Gilles
- ✓ A guided tour or a ride on the Little Tourist Train
- ✓ -5% in the Tourist Office shop

\* Ticket office at the Tourist Office  
and on our website [www.nimes-tourisme.com](http://www.nimes-tourisme.com)

Depending on periods and availability of services

## «RENDEZ-VOUS NÎMES» visits

### NÎMES over the centuries

Take a stroll through the historic centre, which has been the subject of a policy to safeguard and enhance its architectural heritage since 1985. Discover the richness of Nîmes' heritage: the Maison Carrée opposite the Carré d'Art, the Arènes, the Notre-Dame-Saint-Castor cathedral, the Nîmes town houses... And you will finally know the true story of the Nîmes crocodile!

Available in French only.



### ROMAN Nîmes

How did the Romans build their cities? You will understand the ancient city by walking between three prestigious edifices: the solemn entrance to the city surrounded by a wall (the Augustan Gate), the places of government, meetings and worship (the Square House and the forum) and the amphitheatre, a fascinating monument for shows (the visit does not include entrance to the monuments).

**New !**

Guided Tour in English to Roman Nîmes on Wednesdays at 11am in July and August.

### PRIVATE mansions

Notice the facades of honour of the mansions in the historic centre. Push open the doors usually closed to the public thanks to an exclusive access to the private courtyards. Let yourself be charmed by the richness of the decorations and the beauty of the monumental staircases which bear witness to the art of living and building in Nîmes from the 16th to the 18th century.

Available in French only.





# «RENDEZ-VOUS NÎMES» visits



## THE ABBEY of Saint-Gilles

Discover the Abbey of Saint-Gilles, listed as a Unesco World Heritage Site ! A major place of Christian pilgrimage during the Middle Ages, the Abbey church has preserved its beautifully sculpted 12th century façade, the upper church and its reliquaries, as well as the monumental crypt which houses the tomb of Saint Gilles. At the end of the guided tour, your steps will lead you into the Old Choir, which will reveal the particularity of its famous spiral staircase.  
*Available in French only.*



## UNDER THE SKIRTS in Nîmes

The risqué side of Nîmes is revealed to you. Discover the city's former pleasure spots and the surprising names of those who frequented them. The visit also reveals the best recipes for ancient aphrodisiacs and other small curiosities. A visit for consenting adults!  
*Available in French only.*



## STREET Art

The Richelieu and Gambetta neighbourhoods are getting some colour thanks to the various editions of the «l'expo de Ouf» festival. Discover the monumental frescoes that cover the facades of the houses in this open-air museum! Learn about the vocabulary and codes of street art. Tags, graffiti, collages, or even stencils... are all techniques that will no longer hold any secrets for you! Did you say vandals? What if street art was in fact the artistic movement of the 21st century?  
*Available in French only.*



Click on this QR Code to access all our tours in the «Rendez-Vous Nîmes» guide

# NÎMES, Guided Tour : RATES 2024



	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Up to 8 hours
Group of 35 persons accompanying person included	175 €	215 €	420 €
Extra hour : 60€			
Guide's lunch to be taken over by the group or paid 20€			
25% extra charge on Sundays & 100% for public holidays			

\*including 20% VAT

Any service exceeding 4 hours in a single day is automatically included in the 8-hour package.

- Rates for a group of 35 to 40 people maximum - 9€/additional person.
- Does not apply to visits to private mansions limited to 25 people.
- Extra charge for guide's transfer if the visit doesn't start or end in Nîmes
- Cancellations should be sent by e-mail (guides@nimes-tourisme.com)
- No refunds for cancellation within 48 hours before the scheduled tour: the entire service will be due.

**PAYMENT:**  
Payment before arrival of the group.  
Payment accepted: bank transfer, international money order, euro cash, visa card at the tourist board.

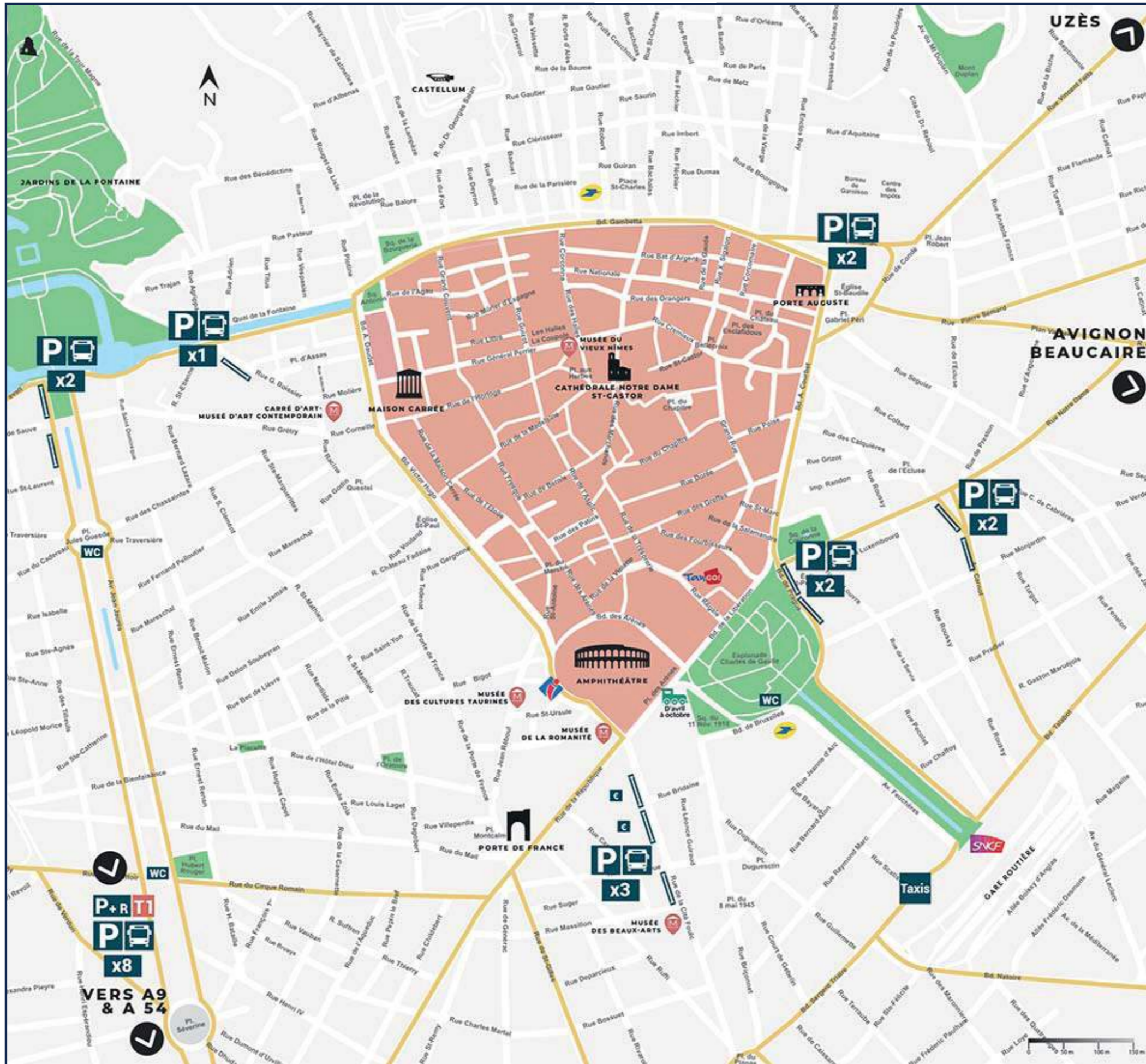




## Plan and access



# Coach parks



## and the surrounding area



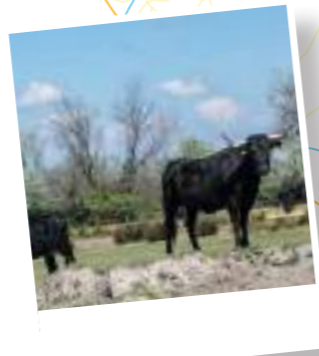
① Explore the garrigue on a scooter effortlessly thanks to 24 inch profiled tyres to go everywhere easily!



② An immersive adventure that plunges the player into the heart of the Templars' universe in the middle of a vineyard. The group must solve captivating puzzles, uncover secrets of the past, and discover the legendary treasure of Gauvain, the cursed Templar, not forgetting the wine tasting at the end of the game.



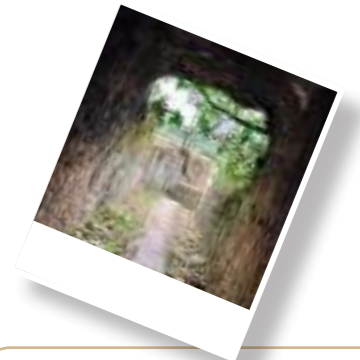
③ Visit an authentic mineral paradise, a living cave carved by water over the years



④ Why not visit an estate where bulls and horses are reared in the Camargue? The farmer (*manadier*) and the owners will be pleased to open their gate and show you traditional bull rearing run by *gardians*!



⑤ Five minutes from the city centre: an adventure trail of Tyrolean traverses for children and adults!



⑦ In the heart of the Vallon des Escaunes et Cantarelles, see two tunnels dating from the Roman period. They form the continuity of the Pont du Gard and supplied Nîmes with water from the Eure spring near Uzès. The one-hour visit with a commentary and presided by a local figure ends with a wine-tasting of AOC Costières de Nîmes and IGP Coteaux du Pont du Gard.



⑥ See the garrigue on a donkey! Half a day of immersion in a herd. An unforgettable experience!



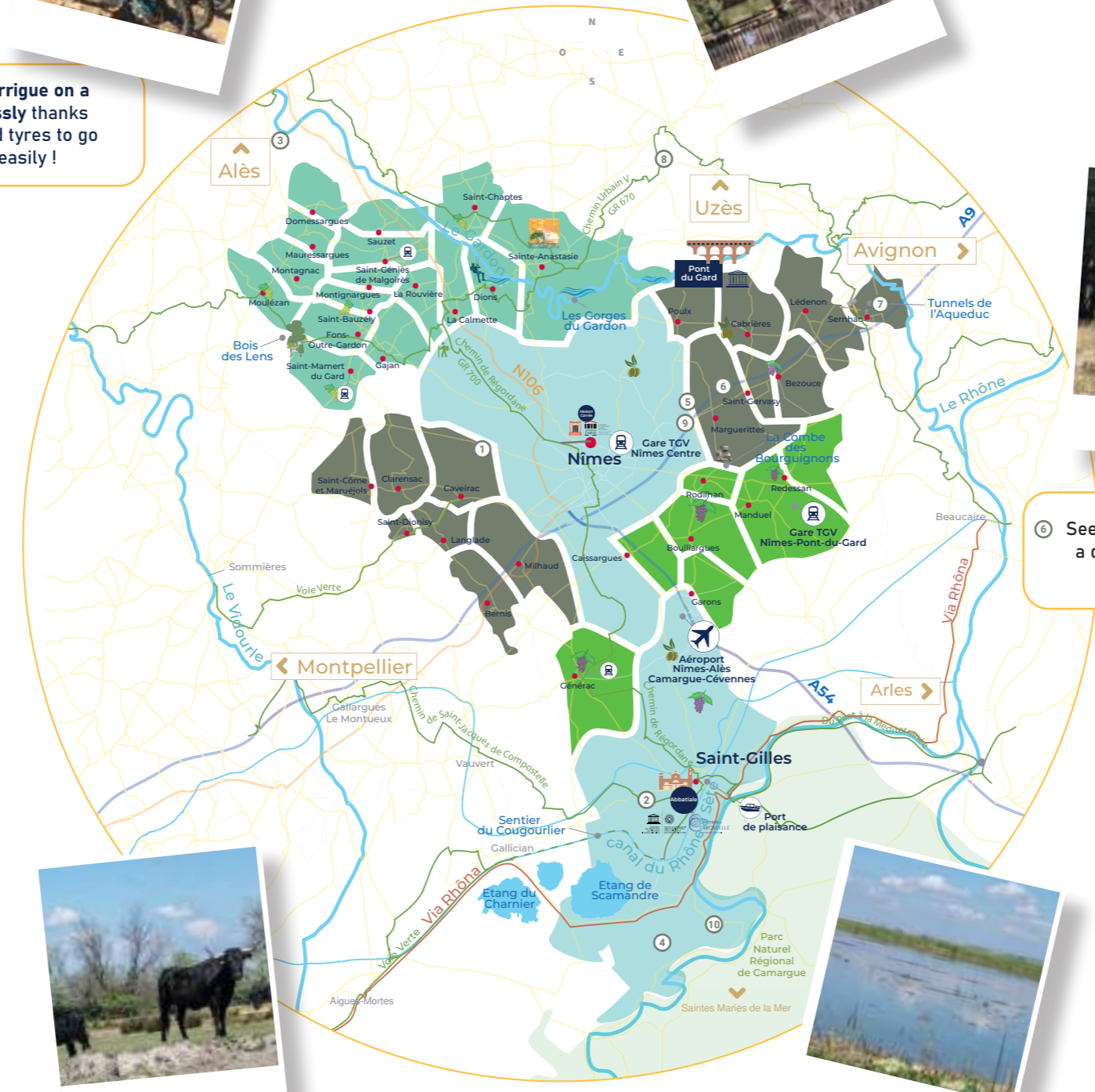
⑧ Visit the famous Musée du Bonbon (Sweet Museum), that has been open since 1996. See the manufacturing processes, the sugar and origin of the sweets, vintage advertising, models and videos!



⑨ And why not ski in Nîmes on an indoor slope? A skiing belt means that you slide on a real slope thanks to a system of inclination!



⑩ Discover Camargue rice! An ancient Japanese practice is used to protect rice shoots and prevent weed growth: duck in the rice fields! A 100% ecological ancestral Asian method.





## COMING TO NÎMES

### AIRPORT

Nîmes Alès Camargue Cévennes :  
15 km from the city centre / 15 minutes by car  
Direct flights :

- 1h35 from Brussels
- 2h00 from London
- 2h20 from Dublin
- 2h25 from Edinburgh
- 2h15 from Fez
- 2h45 from Marrakech



### MOTORWAYS

Via the A54 from Arles, Marseille, Côte d'Azur, Italy.  
By the A7 from Avignon, Valence, Lyon  
By the A9 from Montpellier, Narbonne, Perpignan, Spain.

- 2h30 from Lyon
- 1h30 from Marseille
- 40 mn from Montpellier
- 3 hours from Nice and Toulouse



### RAILWAY STATIONS

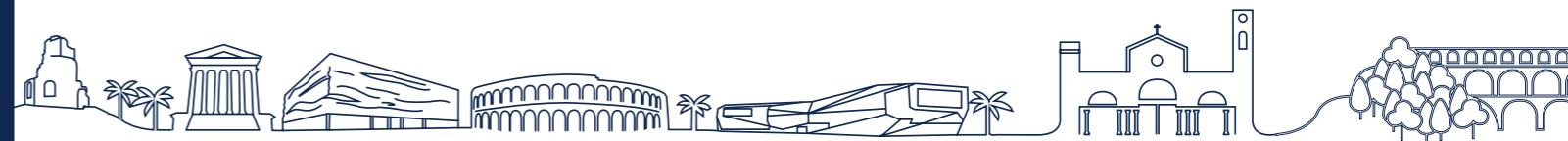
2 SNCF train stations, one of which is 5 minutes walk from the Arena.

- 2h50 from Paris by TGV (direct)
- 1h20 from Lyon by TGV (direct)
- 1 hour from Marseille
- 3h40 from Barcelona by TGV (direct)
- 5h from Brussels by TGV (direct)



### PARKING & TRANSPORT

9 underground car parks in the city centre and 2 park-and-ride facilities (exit Nîmes Centre) with Tram'Bus (10 mn from the centre)



**NÎMES**  
TOURISME  
CONGRÈS



[www.nimes-tourisme.com](http://www.nimes-tourisme.com)



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### Nîmes Convention and Visitors Bureau

#### Group Service

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[groupes@nimes-tourisme.com](mailto:groupes@nimes-tourisme.com)

#### Guide Bureau

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