

Avignon, as capital of the Vaucluse department is something of a regional hub. But back in the day (1300's), it was more like a centre of the Western World being the seat of seven successive popes.

The legacy of that time is its rich collection of medieval buildings and sophisticated subsequent development. Personally, I could spend days walking around Avignon, but here are two routes which you can choose between depending on how much time, energy and shoe-leather you have.

Note: These are walks from Avignon Centre, if you are passing through Avignon by TGV, you will be one stop down the line.



Strolls

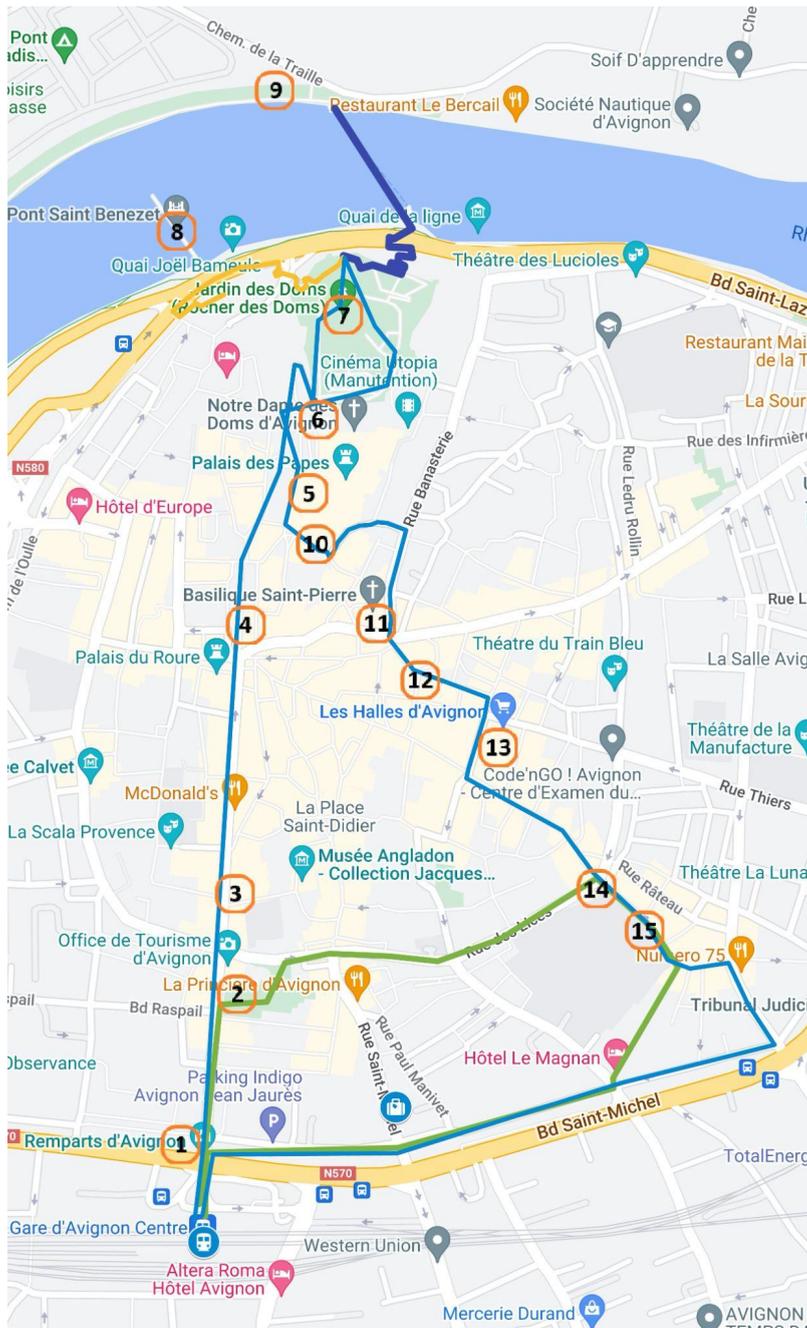
- [A grand tour of Avignon \(4km blue\)](#)
- [A Whistle stop tour \(2km green\)](#)

Interactive Map

Here is a [link to a map](#) that can help you find your bearings.

A grand tour of Avignon (4km blue)

On this stroll, we're going to see the sights that earned Avignon its world heritage status.



- 1 Remparts d'Avignon
- 2 Square Agricola Perdiguer
- 3 Musée Lapidaire
- 4 Place de l'Horloge
- 5 Palais des Papes
- 6 Avignon Cathedral
- 7 Jardin des Doms
- 8 Pont d'Avignon
- 9 Barthelasse Island
- 10 Rue de la Peyrolierie
- 11 Basilique Saint-Pierre
- 12 Synagogue d'Avignon
- 13 Les Halles d'Avignon
- 14 Rue des Teinturiers
- 15 Pénitents Gris d'Avignon

Leave the station and walk through the entrance of the restored city walls (1) - I don't think they would have withstood much of a siege if they originally had a gap like this in them.



Gate to city walls



City walls

Then continue along the Cours Jean Jaurès, past the **Tourist Information office** which backs onto a nice little park, Square Agricul Perdiguier, (2) with seating and a couple of street food kiosks.

(3) Further along on the right in the old Jesuit College is the **Musée Lapidaire** which houses an assortment of archeological treasures/knick-knacks including a part of a monument depicting a woman being presented with a duck - it's anyone's guess what would have been on the missing bit, but with that mystery left unsolved, carry on down the road until you come to a large square - La Place de l'Horloge (4), which contains cafes/restaurants, the Opera House and Hotel de Ville with a diminutive clock. Go through the square and at the end take one of the roads to the right and on to the Place du Palais.



On our right is the unmissable and slightly scary **Palais des Papes** (5) or Popes' Palace.



Palais des Papes



Hôtel des Monnaie

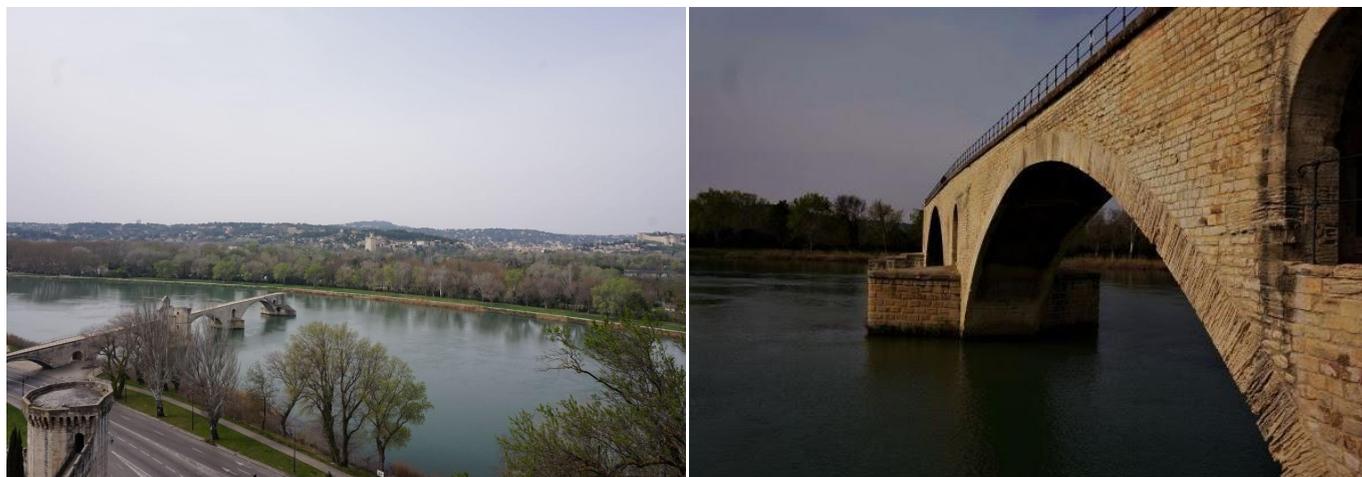
It makes the **Hôtel des Monnaies** opposite it with its fruit and veg garlanded lions seem positively fluffy.

Keep on walking past the artists painting lavender and sunflower fields for the regular flow of tourists. At the end is the **Musée Du Petit Palais**, but before you get to it go up the slope, or steps, on your right which takes you past the **Cathedral** (6) and into the Papal Gardens (7).



To Jardins des Évêques

Walk to the far end of the gardens where you can get a fab view of the Rhone and surrounding countryside. On the other side of the river is the town of Villeneuve-lès-Avignon, which was in another country. Over there is France and until the French Revolution, this side of the river was the Papal States.



Pont d'Avignon

The two used to be connected by the [Pont d'Avignon](#) (8), which after being repeatedly swept away, was left as we see it now.

You can go on the bridge and learn a bit about its history by descending a staircase from the gardens (orange route on map). If accessibility is an issue, then you can take a gentler route from the Place du Palais (signposted).



Ferry to Barthelasse Island

Also, if you want to see the bridge from the river's point of view, you can catch a (free) ferry to Barthelasse Island (purple route)(9).

Otherwise, leave the gardens the way you came in and walk past the Palace, and go down a little cut through to the side (Rue de la Peyrolierie)(10), which has probably the most impressive/imposing view of the palace and a secret entrance!



Rue de la Peyrolierie

Then wend your way through the narrow streets behind the Palace and decide which house to live in (I've already picked mine - just need to find a way of getting rid of the current occupants). There are various routes back. For this one, take the cut through to the back of the palace and then the road to the left through the Place de l'Amirande and continue along Rue du Vice L gat. At the end turn right onto Rue Banasterie.



Place de l'Amirande - Google



Rue du Vice L gat - Google

Keep going straight on and to the high gothic, Basilique Saint-Pierre with it's absorbing 16th Century wooden doors (13)



Basilique Saint-Pierre - Google



then continue straight on through Place des Châtaignes, Place Carnot to the Place Jerusalem which is in the old Jewish quarter and the Synagogue still stands.(12)



Place des Châtaignes - Google



Place Jerusalem - Google



Les Halles - Google

This opens out into the Place Pie and [Les Halles](#) - the prime place to get local produce (13). Walk down the side of Les Halles (Rue Petite Meuse) then turn left behind it and down Rue de la Bonneterie.

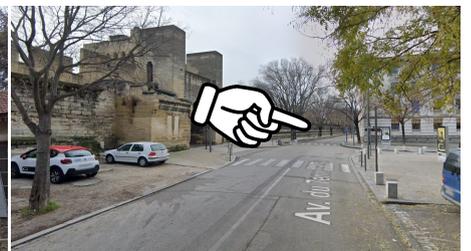
This leads to the Rue des Teinturiers (14) - named after the dyeing trade that was carried out here. Note the series of waterwheels.



Rue des Teinturiers



Les Penitent Gris



Back along city walls - Google

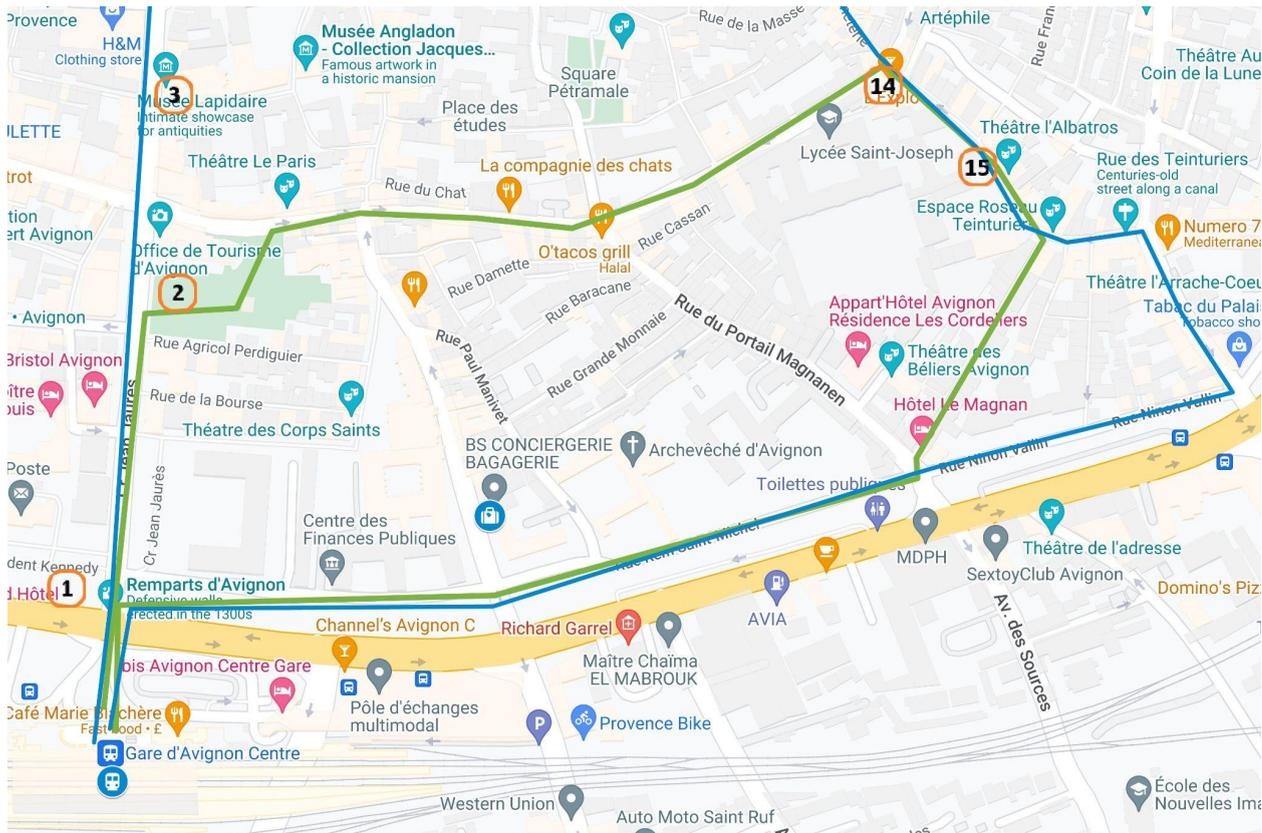
It's also home of Les Penitent Gris, founded by Louis VIII to perform penitence for sins, such as laying siege to Avignon in 1226. (15)

This is a nice place to wander and stop at one of the bars and drink to Jules François Pernod who lived in the house on the corner of Rue Guillaume Puy.

Continue along Rue Guillaume Puy which will bring you to the city walls. Go right down Rue Ninon Vallin and follow the city walls until you get back to the gap in the wall that leads to the station.

A Whistle stop tour (2K green)

If time is tight and you just fancy a nice stroll, how about this?



Leave the station and walk through the entrance of the restored city walls (1).

After about 200 metres, you'll come to a nice little park, Square Agricul Perdiguier(2), which is named after [a local joiner](#) who was elected to parliament and then exiled for suggesting that everyone should try to get on with each other. You can grab some street food here.



Square Agricul Perdiguie - Google



Rue des Lices - Google



Rue des Teinturiers

Go though it coming out at the far end onto Rue des Lices, named after what would have been the jousting area, then turn right.

Walk along it for about 500 metres until you come to the Rue des Teinturiers, named after the city's dyeing trade. Turn right and wander along this pretty little street, with plenty of places to stop and quaff an aperitif or just a coffee.

Take the first right down Rue Bon Martinet for the shortest way back, or carry on to the end of the road. Either way, turn right and walk beside the old city walls until you get back to the big gap (Porte Magnanen). Cross over and make your way back to the train station.