

YOUR TRIP PROPOSAL TO OCCITANIE AND ECRINS



Hortus and Pic Saint-Loup



*Better
Places*

Bourg d'Oisans

ROAD TRIP TO OCCITANIE AND ECRINS



Les Calanques



Vieux Port Marseille

Your 2-weeks Trip

Itinerary: <https://tinyurl.com/3u5hw3ds>

DAY 1-4 : Marseille to Montpellier

Day 1: 11/09/2026 - Scenic Transfer to Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone via Pont du Gard & Estézargues

Accommodation: BnB between lagoon and sea - 4 nights

You will be leaving Marseille to make your way to Montpellier. On your way, we suggest that you head to the charming typical southern French village of Estézargues for lunch at a new off-the-beaten-path "bistro" offering seasonal cuisine based on fresh local ingredients, with excellent vegetarian options. You can also enjoy a visit at the local natural wine cellar or the olive oil mill run by your local expert's family, before heading to the Pont du Gard, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located 10min away.

It is one of the most impressive Roman aqueducts in existence !

Then, continue to Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone and check-in at your peaceful -converted wine cellar- guesthouse located between lagoons, vineyards, and the Mediterranean coast. At your leisure, you may also enjoy a massage on site, depending on availability

Day 2: 12/09/2026 - Maguelone Cathedral and Beaches

Today we suggest that you explore the surrounding natural areas by bike, following scenic cycling paths through lagoons, vineyards, and protected coastal environments.

Visit the beautiful Maguelone Cathedral, located on a narrow strip of land between sea and lagoon. Here you can lunch, while supporting a local social reintegration initiative. Continue toward wild and protected Mediterranean beaches where you can relax, swim, and observe local birdlife, including flamingos.



Pont du Gard



Estézargues



Maguelone Cathedral

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Your BnB in Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone



Wine estate in Montpellier

Day 3: 13/09/2026 - Montpellier Discovery & Wine, Castle and Mushroom Experience

Today you can drive or cycle up to Montpellier and discover a vibrant Mediterranean city combining historic charm and contemporary culture. Park your car or the bikes in the latest underground bike park under the famous Place de la Comédie and explore its elegant historic center, lively squares, and pedestrian streets.

In the afternoon, enjoy a unique experience with Alice, at a historic wine estate with a permaculture farm. Discover the vineyards –a true slice of nature within the city– and visit a fascinating underground mushroom farm located in a former WWII bunker. And conclude with a tasting of local wines and beer produced on site.

Day 4: 14/09/2026 - Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert & Hérault Valley

Discover Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, one of France's most beautiful villages, located in the stunning Hérault Valley.

Explore medieval streets, visit the historic abbey, and enjoy nature walks along the river or hikes across local hills. Swimming and relaxation in preserved natural areas is also possible if you wish. Farewell dinner suggestion at a local restaurant featuring fresh seasonal cuisine with vegetarian options.

DAY 5-9 Pic Saint-Loup

Day 5: 15/09/2026 - Transfer to Pic Saint-Loup

Accommodation: villa in a sustainable horse estate - 4 nights

Today you drive to your next accommodation, at the foot of the iconic Pic Saint-Loup, facing the impressive Hortus plateau. You will stay in a sustainable horse estate hosting a comfortable private villa, featuring two large bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, and a spacious terrace overlooking a private swimming pool.

From every window, enjoy breathtaking views of Pic Saint-Loup and Hortus, inviting you to slow down and reconnect with nature. Optional: vegetarian meals can be arranged with a local caterer. Spend the afternoon settling in and soaking up the peaceful surroundings before exploring further in the coming days.

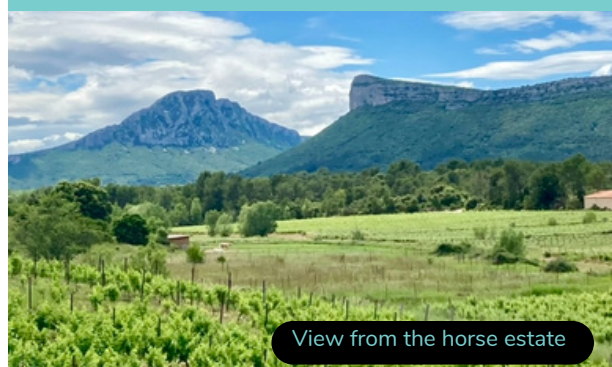
LOCATIONS



Experience with Alice



Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert



View from the horse estate

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Villa in Pic Saint-Loup



Villa in Pic Saint-Loup

LOCATIONS



Wine experience with a 2CV



Terrasse overlooking the pool



Horse estate

Day 6: 16/09/2026 – Hike Up Pic Saint-Loup

Here is a natural viewing point with a 360 degree panoramic view across the Cévennes, the Mediterranean, and even the Pyrenees on a clear day. The hike takes you through fragrant “garrigue” landscapes, the typical scented shrubland of southern France, with thyme, rosemary and limestone cliffs shaping the scenery. It’s also a site of intense geological and botanical interest!

Reaching a height of 658 metres, the Pic Saint-Loup is the distinctive 4 km limestone ridge peak. The Causse de l’Hortus (Hortus plateau) is right next to it, gaping like a vast abyss, as if the earth had opened up to create a huge valley. A central landmark for the area, the Pic Saint-Loup lies amongst the vineyards and “garrigue”.

Day 7: 17/09/2026: Pic Saint-Loup in a 2CV

Today you’ll enjoy a truly unique and exclusive experience in the Pic Saint-Loup region with a colleague of Alice, Karine. This expert wine guide and driver will collect you from your accommodation in a 2CV and accompany you throughout a 3.5-hour private tour, answering any questions you may have about the terroirs and wines of the Languedoc. Enjoy the landscapes with the roof open as you explore vineyards and back roads. You will visit and taste wines at two carefully selected local wineries, learning about the terroir and winemaking traditions of the Languedoc.

Optional: the tour can also include a visit to a local olive oil producer.

Day 8: 18/09/2026: Hortus

For your final day in the area, we suggest exploring the Hortus, a lesser-known but equally impressive natural site located just opposite Pic Saint-Loup.

Unlike its famous neighbour, the Hortus feels wilder, quieter and more intimate, offering a very different atmosphere.

You may enjoy a gentle hike along the base of the cliffs, through vineyards and garrigue, explore the hidden valley (Causse de l’Hortus), a vast limestone plateau shaped by time and walk among dry-stone walls, olive trees and abandoned shepherd paths.

This is a place of silence, space and raw nature, ideal for a slower day before heading to Ecrins.

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Flat in Bourg d'Oisans



Flat in Bourg d'Oisans

Day 9-14 - Adventures in Ecrins

Day 9: 19/09/2026: Bourg d'Oisans

Accommodation: flat in Bourg d'Oisans - 6 nights

Welcome to Isabelle's flat in the heart of Bourg d'Oisans, a lively mountain village surrounded by spectacular Alpine scenery. Isabelle, who has worked in tourism for over 25 years and mainly in Ecrins, has carefully designed the apartment with a strong local and eco-conscious approach, from regional products to natural toiletries.

The village (3,300 inhabitants) is an ideal base for exploring the Écrins National Park, with hiking trails starting nearby and major sites just a short drive away; including a lake, waterfalls...

Days 10-14: Explore the Ecrins at Your Own Pace

From Bourg d'Oisans, you can choose from a wide variety of activities:

- hiking to waterfalls, alpine lakes and panoramic viewpoints
- cycling legendary mountain roads
- visiting traditional alpine villages
- exploring local markets and artisan producers

This flexible part of the trip allows you to adapt each day to your energy and interests, while immersing yourself in one of France's most beautiful mountain regions.

Day 15: 25/09/2026: Time to get home!

Your journey comes to an end.

It is now time to head home, with bags filled with local produces and wonderful memories of your time in France – from Mediterranean lagoons to mountain peaks.



TOTAL FOR 2 PEOPLE €3 695
PER PERSON €1 847.50

LOCATIONS



Lake in Ecrins



Bourg d'Oisans



Bourg d'Oisans

WHAT IS OR NOT INCLUDED ? RECOMMENDATIONS



WHAT IS INCLUDED

- All our best recommendations for hikes, landmarks and local restaurants
- 14 nights accommodations ; 4 nights in a BnB in Villeneuve-Lès-Maguelone with breakfasts, 4 nights in a villa in Pic Saint-Loup and 6 nights in a flat in Bourg d'Oisans
- Your itinerary across France
- Activities :
 - A 2CV half-day private winery experience with a local guide
 - Organic wine tasting in a wine chateau and beer tasting
 - Visit of gardens and permaculture farm with Alice
 - Our best recommendations for hiking routes in Pic Saint-Loup and Ecrins
- Meals
 - 4 breakfasts for 2 people in a BnB in Villeneuve-Lès-Maguelone

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Travel insurance. We recommend that you purchase a travel insurance to cover unforeseen events, such as cancellations, medical emergencies, or lost luggage
- Transportation to and from the Netherlands, across France and in your spare time
- Meals : breakfasts, lunches, dinners and beverages not mentioned above are at the travellers' expense
- Tips for the different partners throughout your trip
- Any activities not listed as included above

RECOMMENDATIONS

Weather forecast

Southern France in September still experience warm temperatures, but it's always best to pack some warm and rain clothes.

Packing

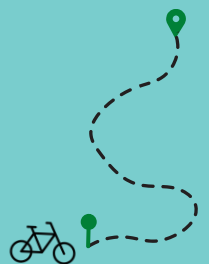
Opt for comfortable walking shoes and versatile clothing items that can be layered for changing weather conditions.

Travel Documents and Essentials

Although you will be in the EU, please make sure to carry all necessary travel documents, including ID/passports, travel insurance information, your itineraries...

Travel Security and Safety

Although we ensure that your trip is as safe as possible, please keep your belongings secure at all times. Be vigilant in crowded areas and avoid displaying valuable items openly.



WELCOME TO FRANCE

Dear members of Better Places,

We hope that this travel proposal finds you enthusiastic about your next holidays with us. On behalf of the entire team, we'd like to sincerely thank you for wanting to travel differently and support a meaningful local economy.

By booking a holiday with us, you would be contributing to the development of a more responsible and sustainable form of tourism, with a focus on preserving culture and the environment. We are honoured to accompany you on an adventure that promises to be participatory, learning and memorable.

We're delighted to offer you an exciting program for your stay, including visits, workshops and deeply cultural experiences between Marseille, Montpellier and Ecrins.

By booking with us, you will become agents of change and ambassadors for ecotourism. Your presence will have a positive impact on our terroir and local area, as each of your interactions and shared experiences helps to strengthen our local economy and maintain and develop biodiversity.

We do our utmost to make your stay unforgettable and to offer you a unique, authentic and positive experience.

Once again, thank you for choosing us for your holidays in France and if you have any questions or specific requests regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us. We'll be happy to answer any questions you may have and ensure your stay will be as enjoyable as possible.

Enjoy your trip with Better Places!

Faithfully yours,
Alice

+33(0)6 23 47 31 28
alice@betterplaces.nl





CONTACT

Alice Benisty-Triay
+33(0)6 23 47 31 28
alice@betterplaces.nl