



# A CYCLING ROUTE ALONG THE RHÔNE RIVER



# BIKE TOURISM IN FRANCE: A FULL-GROWTH ACTIVITY



## FRANCE: 2ND DESTINATION OF BIKE TOURISM

- 21 million French people cycle during their holidays
- 5% of them travel cycling



## THE BIKE TRIP, FOR RESPONSIBLE AND HUMAN TOURISM...



- Cycling is an opportunity to practice eco-tourism.
- It contributes to reducing the carbon footprint.
- It allows you to admire and discover the landscapes crossed at your own pace.
- It encourages people to go and meet the local population.
- Cycling trips have a positive effect on fitness and health.



# FEATURES AND KEY FIGURES OF THE VIARHÔNA

The entire route alternates two modes of traffic:

- on a **secure greenway**, dedicated only to cyclists and non-motorised modes of travel,
- on a **shared lane** on secondary roads shared with car drivers, but mostly little used.

**815 kilometres from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean Sea,**

**65% of the route in the immediate vicinity of the Rhône river**

**Flat route - No more than 3% elevation gain\***

**Continuous road markings**

**More than 30 stations along the route**



\* (except for the first 120 Km  
between Saint-Gingolph and Seyssel - more athletic)

## **3 REGIONS CROSSED:**

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes - 556 Km,  
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur - 114 Km,  
Occitanie - 145 Km

## **12 COUNTIES:**

Haute-Savoie, Savoie, Ain, Rhône, Isère, Loire, Drôme, Ardèche,  
Vaucluse, Bouches-du-Rhône, Gard, Hérault.

## **77 PROTECTED NATURAL SITES**

## **3 REGIONAL NATURAL PARKS:**

le Haut-Jura, le Pilat and la Camargue.

## **3 UNESCO-CLASSIFIED CITIES:**

Lyon, Avignon, Arles, as well as prestigious monuments including,  
among others, the triumphal arch and the Roman theatre of Orange.

## **APPROXIMATELY 40 RESTAURANTS WITH MICHELIN STAR**

# VIARHÔNA, AN ACHIEVEMENT AT THREE REGIONS

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The ViaRhôna project, that was imagined at the end of the 1990s, really began to materialise from 2004/2005, when the Rhône-Alpes Region and the Compagnie Nationale du Rhône (CNR) formalised their financial participation and their partnership for its implementation.

In 2013/2014, the partnership was strengthened around an itinerary committee bringing together in particular the CNR, as well as the three regions concerned: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Région Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur and Occitanie. The actors then set themselves the ambition of making ViaRhôna a large-scale project by 2023 and then initiate the process to make the route a tourism destination.



Since then, the route has been building up gradually, supported by the financial support of the CNR (65% of the shelf space being located in the area granted to it), the various communities concerned as well as European funds, and by the investment of the various building owners and project leaders.

**ViaRhôna is also included in the national scheme of greenway cycle routes.**

It is part of the EuroVelo network under the name EuroVelo17. The route continues in Switzerland as the Rhône road N1. Thus, 1,115 km are practised across the entire course of the Rhône river.

*\* Network of European cycle routes, supported by the European Cyclists Federation (ECF), currently comprising 16 cross-border cycle routes spread across the continent.*

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



# VIARHÔNA, THEY TALK ABOUT IT



**Yves Ronot, ViaRhôna project manager for the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region**

## Who is behind the project?

The origin of the project dates back to the period 2000-2002 when the Rhône Saône interdepartmental "Territoire Rhône" in 2001, carried out a preliminary study of what could be a cycle route along the Rhône river. This project could not be developed until 2005, when the Rhône-Alpes Region and the Compagnie nationale du Rhône positioned themselves.



## How was the route determined?

The Rhône territory study was a basis, but the route was completely rediscussed locally with the communities likely to carry the project (Departments and communities of municipalities as the case may be). The Region and the CNR have never imposed a route. It was systematically defined in consultation with local actors.

## How long does it take from the idea of a cycle route section to the completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> km?

When a community wishes to complete a section of the ViaRhôna route, several stages follow one another, which take a little time. Depending on the length of the section and the difficulties to be solved, and therefore the cost which may require intervening in several stages, the time between the intention to carry out and the delivery of the latter is often about 2 to 5 years.

## Is the success achieved?

Yes, as soon as a section of a route is put into service, it is used both by local inhabitants (home-work travels, leisure trips) and by tourists and travellers. An attendance study conducted on ViaRhôna also demonstrates this with significant economic benefits.

## When will the route be finished?

First of all, let us remember that most of the ViaRhôna route is currently practicable and that ViaRhôna offers us multiple possibilities for discoveries which we should not miss out on. The sections remaining to be realised are those which are the most complicated and therefore require time. I think I can say that a 2023 horizon is possible, but we do not yet measure the impact or other hazards that could further shift this estimate.

## AN ANECDOTE?

I remember one of the very first inaugurations of a section of ViaRhôna which took place in the Bugey. Regional, departmental and local elected officials present, representing CNR, the press, residents and local cycling associations... everyone was there. The day was organised in two stages with a cycle route between the two opening locations. On this occasion, the Region had a banner showing the progress of the route and positioned it at the place of departure. At the end of the day, when I returned to get the banner, with my manager at the time, it was gone. So even today I wonder: "Who could have won this trophy? An avid cyclist, a kleptomaniac who could not resist the temptation... And for what use? " I'll leave it to you to investigate... Perhaps, thanks to you, we will one day find this document which has since become historical, since today the ViaRhôna route has been largely completed. Any information on this subject is likely to be of interest to me. Rest assured, there is a limitation!

# DO YOU KNOW VIARHONA?

This cycle route, which was started in 2008, is unique in Europe, and it runs along the Rhône river from the Franco-Swiss border to the Camargue. Its development will end by 2023.

815 kilometers of greenway,  
from Lake Geneva to  
the Mediterranean Sea,  
along the Rhône river.  
To the delight of cyclists and hikers.

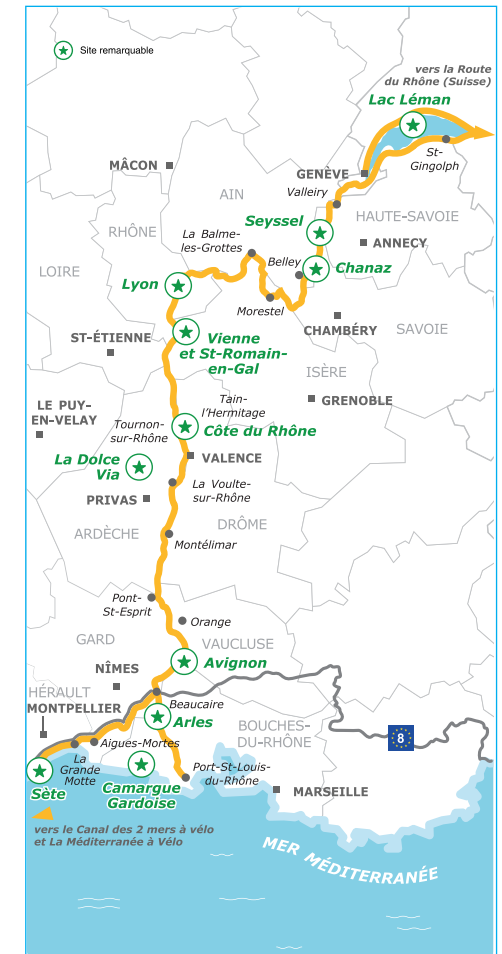
Discover it, travel it, cross it...  
it is to make it a companion of our leisure time  
that we enjoy rediscovering from time to time.

Over the years, it has become an essential cycle route. There is no monotony in travelling it as the landscapes remain so diverse and exceptional. Alpine panoramas, riverbanks, terraced vineyards, hilltop villages, fields of lavender and olive trees in Provence, crossing the Camargue, before arriving on the beaches of the Mediterranean Sea!  
It is a true "concentrate of France" which is offered to passionate pedallers.



Beyond cycling, ViaRhôna is a great opportunity to discover and enjoy many wealth of the territories crossed at your own pace. Gastronomy, oenology, culture, heritage, nature will be the main travel companions of curious tourists.

## VIARHÔNA MAP



## BECAUSE VIARHÔNA, IT IS ONLY A COLLECTION OF ATMOSPHERES

**To take ViaRhôna is to go back to the origins of Civilization, from Prehistory to the present day.**

All eras are thus represented with their heritage, art and local traditions.

From the Roman theater of Vienne or Orange to the Musée des Confluences in Lyon, passing through Viviers and Mornas, little gems from the medieval period, including the Avignon bridge, the Provençal hilltop villages and the medieval city of Aigues-Mortes, all these remains of history justify the name of River of Civilizations given to the Rhône. You will also discover the cities of Lyon, capital of the Gauls, Orange, the city of the Princes, Arles la Romaine, Saint-Gilles, stage of the way of Saint-James.

**From spring on, festivals enchant the evenings,** such as the Nuits Sonores in Lyon, Jazz in Vienne, the Avignon Festival, International Meetings of Photography in Arles and many others.



**Taking ViaRhôna is to smell the scent of vineyards clinging to the sides of the mountains and along the terraced hillsides.**

Along the route, you will find no less than 10 "Vineyards and Discoveries" labelled destinations: Bugey, Condrieu, Côte-Rôtie, Côtes du Rhône Gardoises. There is also a collection of wines of Controlled Designation of Origin (AOC, Appellation d'origine Contrôlée): wines from Savoie, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Vineyards of the Arles region....

**ViaRhôna is also a parade of local products and specialties that invite to gourmet stops:**

brioche from Saint-Genix, fruits from the Rhône Valley, Valrhôna chocolate, rice and salt from Camargue, oysters from Bouzigues... And many other flavours set to music by the 40 Michelin-starred chefs that line ViaRhôna. Among them, there is also the only woman to have 3 Michelin stars, Anne-Sophie Pic in Valence.

**To take ViaRhôna, it is finally to cross unceasingly revisited landscapes:**

hills of the Geneva region, poplar grove of Chautagne, hills of Dauphiné, orchards and vineyards of the Rhône valley, Provence landscapes and their mythical lavender. And finally, the Camargue and the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Some islands and meanders of the river have become natural reserves equipped with educational trails and observatories.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**« Un PAC à l'eau » please.**

The Blachère distillery, the oldest in Provence, was founded in 1835 in Avignon. Thyme, Rosemary, Marjoram, Lemon balm, Lavender ... These plants are used in the production of the first liqueurs, in particular «La Magistrale», «Elixir du Mont Ventoux», «la Comtadine».

According to tradition, they age in oak barrels for two years.

In 1882, during the Cholera epidemic, «Organ du Comtat» brought relief to sick people. Rhum Zoulla was used to rub the bodies of people in pain.

To pay homage to it, the city of Avignon has sealed large ceramic bas-reliefs on the three gates of its walls. In 1960, the distillery launched the "PAC Citron", a syrup made from sugar and lemon, without colourings. It is a success. It becomes its flagship product.

In Provence, we "order" a «PAC à l'eau».

The distillery is now located in Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

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

# VIARHÔNA, BICYCLE RIDES FOR ALL

FOR THE MOST  
ACTIVE ONES



## From Léman to Lyon 322 km

Set off from the shores of superb Lake Geneva, wind through the mountains and valleys of the Haut-Rhône and end your journey in the elegant city of Gaul.

Along the route, you will encounter breathtaking landscapes, on the borders of Deux Savoies and Bugey, alternating gorges, lakes and marshes, punctuated by authentic villages and discover Lyon through its most famous places and most emblematic monuments, such as the Hôtel Dieu, recently renovated.



## From Lyon to Avignon 298 km

After a break in the capital of the Gauls, this stage leads to Avignon, the famous city of the Popes. A wide variety of landscapes are available to you.

From Vienne, the former capital of Roman Gaul, to the Ile du Beurre natural reserve, passing through terraced vineyards and the first orchards of the Rhône valley. Arrival in Valence with its colourful markets and welcoming pedestrian streets announces Provence. ViaRhôna continues its route in Ardèche. Between caves and archaeological sites, picturesque villages, natural reserve, to enter an Ardèche more in the heart, from the Dolce Via.

You will then head due south, towards Viviers and Bourg-Saint-Andéol, stages with a strong emphasis on the heritage. Then you will enter the Vaucluse and its many links to the medieval villages of Mondragon, Mornas and Piolenc, as well as to the Roman city of Orange. After Caderousse, you will set off to explore the Châteauneuf-du-Pape vineyard. The section offers beautiful views of the Rhône valley. Finally, you arrive in Avignon passing through the green path of the canals.





## FOR BIKE RIDE LOVERS



### Jons to Lyon 27 km

One of the musts of the ViaRhôna, located at the gates of Lyon. A beautiful bicycle path runs along the canal to reach the heart of the Miribel-Jonage park. This true oasis offers many sports and nautical activities. It is still by continuous greenways that one crosses the urban natural park of Feyssine to reach Lyon by bike. It is then a superb urban stroll along the banks of the Rhône to meet the new futuristic district of Confluence.

### Aigues-Mortes to Palavas 28 km

This route passes near the famous Tour de Constance and joins the shipping channel. Salt marshes on one side, wild marshes on the other, with the flamingos as travel companions. After Grau-du-Roi, a few turns of the wheel, Espiguette beach, with its endless sand dunes. Then La Grande-Motte and its pyramids classified as "20<sup>th</sup> Century Heritage", Palavas-les-Flots, always with the Mediterranean Sea as its only horizon.



## FOR FAMILIES



### Vienne to Sablons "lones" passing through the île au beurre 33 km

At the foot of terraced vineyards, including the prestigious Côte-Rôtie, and the first orchards of the Rhône valley, these are beautiful greenways to appreciate the variety of Rhône landscapes. You will meet a nature shaped by the hand of man and will cross the fertile plain of Ampuis and the wild nature reserve on the Ile du Beurre punctuated with observation points that allow you to observe and listen to nature all around the year. Permanent exhibition on the European beaver (general public), aquariums showing some examples of fish from the Rhône and «lônes». After the Saint-Pierre-de-Bœuf bridge, the greenway continues to Sablons, straightly, without detour and obstacle. A variation is offered by the Platière Island reserve. Be careful, however, on the road at the entrance to Sablons and at the various crossroads.

### Arles to Mas Thibert 16 km

From the Van Gogh Bridge, it is a beautiful greenway through the reeds along a canal that will lead you to the Calada Bridge. There, you will have beautiful views of the rice fields and vineyards. In Mas-Thibert, cross the bridge to go to the Vigueirat marsh which is a national nature reserve at the junction of two ecosystems, the Camargue and the Crau (discovery walk on stilts). Be careful at the crossroads at the entrance to Mas Thibert on the D24.



# VIARHÔNA, THEY TALK ABOUT IT



**Yvann Baussanne, co-manager  
of Safranstours travel agency**

## **Tell us about your agency**

For 25 years, Safranstours has combined the travel with adventure, sharing and discovery, thanks to its non-guided journeys. The agency departs from the classic scheme of organised travel and offers everyone the experience of leaving with a free spirit thanks to:

- The selection and reservation of your accommodation,
- The edition of a detailed roadbook and maps of the journey,
- Support for logistics, baggage transport and 24/7 assistance.

**Safranstours** is a family agency run by travel and discovery enthusiasts. As an independent agency, we are inventors, creators and actors of each of our journeys. We remain the artisans from A to Z. A freedom that allows us to carefully select each trail, each partner, for the pleasure of travellers.

## **Do you feel a craze for bicycle tourism?**

Yes, in recent years, we have felt a growing interest in bicycle tourism. It is explained by:

- the development of solutions such as Vélo'v, Vélib',... in large cities,
- the popularisation of electric bikes,
- the desire to take the time to travel, to be an actor of his holidays,
- the creation of safe routes to freely indulge in the practice of two-wheelers away from motorised vehicles.

## **Are electrically assisted cycles growing more and more?**

Yes, electrically assisted cycles are more and more present in the cycling landscape. They open up new possibilities for users, but also for the journey creators that we are. They also allow the harmonisation of the level of practitioners in a group or a family.

## **The place of ViaRhôna in your catalogue?**

As the local ViaRhôna agency, we attach importance to this route. For the moment, we have two well-established journeys and we plan to create new ones.

## **The profile of the people who practice ViaRhôna?**

Most of them are couples or groups of friends. 45 to 65 years old. Not necessarily locals of the route. We also welcome foreign customers: German, Belgian, Dutch, Danish.

What are they looking for: soft tourism, proximity to the local population... The objective of travelling this route, which is growing in fame, and to say: "I did ViaRhona" or "I'm going on ViaRhôna" The idea of joining the Alps to the Mediterranean Sea.

## SAFRANTOURS TRAVEL

You will be accompanied by the Rhône river and you will depart to discover the gastronomic and historical wealth of France, in the footsteps of this river, a true path of civilisations which spans over 2,000 years of history. ViaRhôna is a secure, gently sloping cycle route that has successfully completed the ambitious project to link the shores of Lake of Geneva in the heart of the Alps to the beaches of the Mediterranean Sea.

For this trip, we have selected one of the most beautiful parts for you; the route between the slopes of Condrieu and Montélimar at the gates of Provence.

At each stage, you will discover new landscapes, along the famous Côtes du Rhône vineyards which will open the doors to their homeland.

This trip will also delight your taste buds with the possibility of tasting the excellent Valrhôna chocolates, the famous Montélimar Nougats and of course the great wines of the region.

You will like to:

- Stop at a winemaker to taste a range of Hermitage wines
- A break at the Valrhôna chocolate museum (not to be missed)
- The quality of the route, designed for the practice of cycle tourism
- Arrival on the Provence alleys of Montélimar

[www.viarhona.com/la-viarhona-de-vienne-a-montelimar](http://www.viarhona.com/la-viarhona-de-vienne-a-montelimar)

**FIND OTHER JOURNEY IDEAS ON**  
[www.viarhona.com/reservez-sejour](http://www.viarhona.com/reservez-sejour)

# VIARHÔNA, THEY TALK ABOUT IT



Steve Crétiaux discovered VIARHÔNA with his family

## Tell us about your family

We are a family of 5. Our family, from Jura, started cycling trips in 2015. In 5 years, we have crossed the country from East to West and from North to South! We have travelled more than 4000 km in 5 years.

**Romeo, 12 years old.** Nicknamed Leader 1 or Le Petit, he is the youngest bike rider in the family. On the private site portions, it is often him who sets the pace.

**Timothé, 15 years old.** He is nicknamed Leader 2 or Titi. He is quiet strong, he moves forward with his nose to the wind and stays on the large plateau, even when the terrain rises; sometimes he takes several hundred meters in advance and gets the wrong route...

**Lilie-Rose, 18 years.** Or the scavenger, in reference to the Patrouille de France. She is always on the lookout to take the first place. She doesn't hesitate to take over to pull one of the convoy's trailers. She is the most independent of the group, adolescence obliges...

**Mélanie, 40 years old.** She is a bit of the team's canteen, it is in her luggage that you will find the essential pantry and the first aid kit in the event of a minor injury. She rides with style: she is the only one who does not want to equip herself with a water bag.

**Steve, 42 years old.** I am the keeper of the maps, the one who carries the necessities for the bivouac. My trusty Lapierre mountain bike has been specially equipped for cycling! I am also the official photographer of the Juracycles. Every day, the Facebook page is fed with commented photos and even some videos. I have always been mountain biking and I introduced my children and my partner to the pleasure of independent cycling. It's thanks to me that the whole family got the taste of adventure!

## Why did you choose ViaRhôna?

The temptation to leave home to reach the Mediterranean was too strong! ViaRhôna passes through very interesting regions and cities! We were able to enjoy the beautiful landscapes, but also to make beautiful visits and original activities. We took advantage of major events such as Jazz in Vienne or the Avignon Festival.

## What section in how many days?

We first cycled along the Saône to reach ViaRhôna in Lyon, which took us a week. We passed a dozen days to reach Grau-du-Roi via the Isère, Drôme, Ardèche, Provence and finally the Camargue.

## Interesting encounters?

On the Vauvert side, we took advantage of a guided carriage ride to discover the authentic Camargue. This outing was followed by a snack with local products. It was really very nice to discover the traditions of this region with a local man!

## Any visits to recommend?

The Gallo-Roman museum of Saint-Romain-en-Gal - Vienne. It is one of the most important archaeological sites in Europe.

## How did your children feel?

The children really enjoyed cycling through the immense orchards of the Rhône Valley. We were able to get fresh fruit directly from the producers. It is really appreciable when you make daily efforts!

## AN ANECDOTE ?

On 14 July, in Villeneuve-lès-Avignon, we participated in a fishing activity organised by the Guinguette du Vieux Moulin. I caught a catfish: it was a first! We will also remember our visit to Loir-sur-Rhône, where we were exceptionally able to participate in nautical games.

## YOUR FAVORITE ?

We really liked the Camargue: from the Tour Carbonnière, the panorama is magnificent. Aigues-Mortes and its surroundings offer great possibilities for discoveries between history and nature. We observed pink flamingos and several bird species!

# VIARHÔNA, OUR FAVORITES



## A cathedral in the midst of the waters!



Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone has a 9 km long beach, without any construction. It is accessed by a footbridge that spans the Rhône canal in Sète. On foot, by bike, by little train, a path takes you to the beach, but that's not all. In a green setting, in the centre of the peninsula, the Saint-Pierre de Maguelone cathedral is a unique place where history and tradition blend. It sits on a peninsula between the sea, ponds and vineyards. This fortress church, a former Romanesque-style bishop's place, hosted popes and bishops in the Middle Ages. The site is surrounded by cultivated vines. [www.sitesdexception.fr/sites/presquile-de-maguelone/](http://www.sitesdexception.fr/sites/presquile-de-maguelone/)

## Cap sur le Rhône



The Cap sur le Rhône network promotes, through various projects, the cultural and natural heritage of the Rhône, Rhône-Saône and Léman axis, which line ViaRhône. For you who want to discover the thousand and one facets of the river, its little-known history, its emblematic places, its contemporary challenges. For you who love travel and nomadism, heritage and nature, wine and its perks, bicycle tourism and ViaRhône... Go to the Rhône actors website: [www.capsurlehone.fr](http://www.capsurlehone.fr) The site, like a magazine, offers new topics every 2 months.

## Marais de Lavours

This is the hidden part of Lac du Bourget. The filled part of the large lake resulting from the Rhône Glacier 15,000 years ago. The accumulation and transformation of plant debris in the flooded soil have given rise to peatlands. Today, a nature reserve, one of the last large continental marshes in Western Europe has become a conservatory for nearly 371 species. A path on stilts, laid out over approximately 1 km, leads to the heart of the marsh. This educational trail, which is accessible free of charge all year round and punctuated by observation posts, allows you to decipher the richness of a site classified among the sensitive natural areas of the Ain. [www.reserve-lavours.com](http://www.reserve-lavours.com)



## Barthelasse Island

It is the largest river island in Europe. Covering an area of 700 ha, it constitutes a district of Avignon. A stone's throw from the Palais des Papes and the Pont, with bicycle routes, farms, lodges... we are in the countryside! A new cycle route "Around the Barthelasse Island" allows you to discover the island by bike, from Avignon. Other river islands in the Rhône are real green lungs: Île des Papes, Île de l'Oiselay, Île des Brotteaux where you can swim! [avignon-tourisme.com](http://avignon-tourisme.com)

# VIARHÔNA, OUR FAVORITE



## Savoie Mont Blanc Outdoor activities? It's other there!

Departing from the bases of Seyssel or Chanaz, Prolynx Sports offers bicycle and electrically assisted bicycle rental and many refreshing activities near the ViaRhôna route: canoeing and kayaking on the Vieux Rhône or the Canal de Savières, stand up paddle, canyoning. Prolynx Sports has just been awarded the "Accueil Vélo" label. [www.prolynx-sports.com](http://www.prolynx-sports.com)



## The desire to desire

Near ViaRhôna, in Tain l'Hermitage, the City of Chocolate has become the most visited chocolate site in France. This site, with a visitation area and a shop, allows you to discover chocolate, from the cocoa bean to multiple uses in pastries, cooking ... Since summer 2016, Valrhona has offered a new space dedicated to chocolate trades and artisans, as well as a pastry laboratory allowing visitors to "get their hands dirty". It is also possible to taste chocolate-based dishes, prepared by Frédéric Bau, the pastry chef and director of the Ecole du Grand Chocolat Valrhona. La Cité du Chocolat has obtained the "Accueil Vélo" label. [www.citeduchocolat.com](http://www.citeduchocolat.com)

## A gem in Ardèche



The Abbey of Cruas was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries in limestone from Cruas by Benedictine monks and consecrated by Pope Urban II in 1095. The 12<sup>th</sup> century's monastic platform is one of the treasures of this church. Its architecture is rare: there are only two such stands in France. Its purpose was to separate the monks and the people. A mosaic commemorates the passage of Pope Urban II in 1095. Its history is linked to that of the fortified chapel which dominates the village. The monks took refuge there when the stream, the Crûle, which adjoined the abbey, was in flood and when there were conflicts. [www.sud-ardeche-tourisme.com](http://www.sud-ardeche-tourisme.com)

# NICE ESCAPES

Several loops and links allow you to get away from ViaRhôna to discover other territories. They include:

- **La Grande Traversée du Jura** joint Montbelliard (Doubs) to Culoz (Ain). [www.gtj.asso.fr](http://www.gtj.asso.fr)
- **The V62 and V63 cycle routes** connect Valence with Lac du Bourget and Lac d'Annecy upto ViaRhôna, passing across the Alps, and reach on both sides ViaRhôna. [www.cyclo-alpes.com](http://www.cyclo-alpes.com)
- **The Moselle Saône blue road by bike** connects ViaRhôna to Lyon [www.lavoiebleue.com](http://www.lavoiebleue.com)
- **La Via Fluvia** weaves its way between the Rhône and the Loire and must eventually connect to ViaRhôna. [www.viafluvia.fr](http://www.viafluvia.fr)
- **La Dolce Via**, departing from La Voulte-sur-Rhône, continues to Lamastre. [www.dolce-via.com](http://www.dolce-via.com)
- **La VéloDrôme links ViaRhôna to Die.** [www.ladrometourisme.com](http://www.ladrometourisme.com)
- **La Payre goes from Le Pouzin to Privas.** [www.ardeche-guide.com](http://www.ardeche-guide.com)
- **The Jabron cycle route**, connected to ViaRhôna, provides access to Montélimar from the south and goes up the Jabron towards Dieulefit. [www.ladrometourisme.com](http://www.ladrometourisme.com)
- **A signposted link connects ViaRhona to Orange and Gare**, and its UNESCO World Heritage sites (Triumphal Archt and Ancient Theater). 7 km from the centre of Caderousse. [www.provence-a-velo.com](http://www.provence-a-velo.com)
- **A connection from Palavas and one from Carnon join Montpellier.** [www.herault-tourisme.com](http://www.herault-tourisme.com)
- **The Mediterranean Sea by Bike** follows part of the ViaRhôna route from Sète to Beaucaire, where it continues towards east. [www.lamediterraneeavelo.org](http://www.lamediterraneeavelo.org)
- **Le canal des 2 mers connects to ViaRhôna in Sète.** [www.canaldes2mersavelo.com](http://www.canaldes2mersavelo.com)

In Vaucluse, the route on its own site is now extended between Piolenc and Mornas, thus extending the greenway between Caderousse and Mornas for around 15 km compared to 10.



# FOR A GOOD PREPARATION OF THE TRAVEL



## A DEDICATED WEBSITE: [WWW.VIARHONA.COM](http://WWW.VIARHONA.COM)

This platform provides all the information you need to prepare for trip. Detailed stages, maps, good addresses, ideas for bicycle rides, ideas for accommodation.

## A TOURIST MAP:

It presents the itinerary as a whole as well as ideas for bicycle rides and ideas for accommodation. It is available at the tourist offices along the route. It is published in 4 languages: French, English, German and Dutch.

## 3 TOPOGUIDES:

Ouest France; Chamina; Le Routard  
For cyclists who prefer the paper version, the topoguides provide a wealth of information: map, restaurants, accommodation, bike rental companies, favourites...



## HOW TO GET THERE FROM PARIS



Paris – Geneva, 590 km, 6h  
Paris – Lyon, 470 km, 4h30



Paris – Geneva, TGV Lyria, 3h10  
Paris – Lyon, TGV, 2h



Paris – Geneva, 1h  
Paris – Lyon, 1h



Marseille – Paris, TGV direct, 3h20  
Montpellier – Paris, TGV direct, 3h30



Marseille – Paris, 1h30  
Montpellier – Paris, 1h20

## THE «ACCUEIL VÉLO» LABEL IN FULL GROWTH

Accueil Vélo is a national brand that guarantees a welcome, services and specific equipment adapted to the needs of cycling tourists along the cycle routes in France. The small green logo makes it easy to identify the labelled structures which must be located less than 5 km from the routes. Accommodation, bicycle rental companies, tourist offices, places of visit and leisure activities: each professional responds to a standard specific to his category in order to meet the expectations and needs of cyclists. Along ViaRhôna, labelling is in full growth: today more than 120 tourist providers already hold this label and provide quality welcome and services to cycling tourists.

You will find them in each step on the site: [www.viarhona.com](http://www.viarhona.com)





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