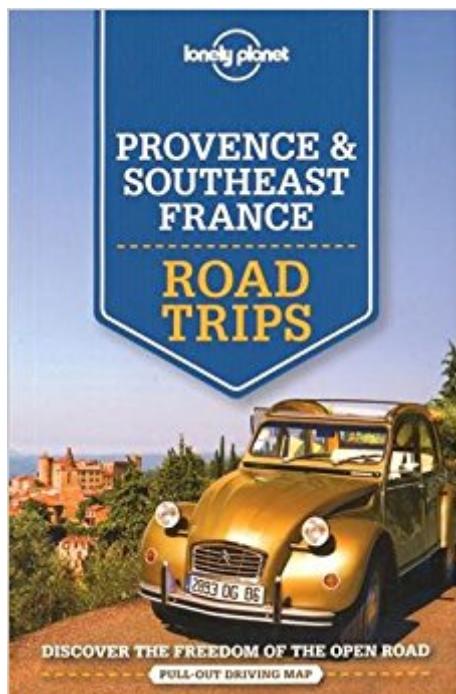


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Lonely Planet Provence & Southeast France Road Trips (Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher Discover the freedom of open roads with Lonely Planet Provence & Southeast France Road Trips, your passport to uniquely encountering this region by car. Featuring four amazing road trips, plus up-to-date advice on the destinations you'll visit along the way, explore the Mediterranean south's shimmering coast and rustic heart with your trusted travel companion. Get to France, rent a car, and hit the road! Inside Lonely Planet Provence & Southeast France Road Trips : Lavish colour and gorgeous photography throughout Itineraries and planning advice to pick the right tailored routes for your needs and interests Get around easily - easy-to-read, full-colour route maps, detailed directions Insider tips to get around like a local, avoid trouble spots and be safe on the road - local driving rules, parking, toll roads Essential info at your fingertips - hours of operation, phone numbers, websites, prices Honest reviews for all budgets - eating, sleeping, sight-seeing, hidden gems that most guidebooks miss Useful features - including Detours, Walking Tours and Link Your Trip Covers Nîmes, Nice, Provence, French Riviera and more The Perfect Choice: Lonely Planet Provence & Southeast France Road Trips is perfect for exploring Provence and Southeast France via the road and discovering sights that are more accessible by car. Planning a Provence trip sans a car? Lonely Planet Provence & the Côte d'Azur, our most comprehensive guide to Provence, is perfect for exploring both top sights and lesser-known gems. Looking for more extensive coverage? Lonely Planet France's Best Trips covers road trip itineraries for the whole country, Lonely Planet France, our most comprehensive guide to France, is perfect for exploring both top sights and lesser-known gems, or check out Discover France, a photo-rich guide to the country's most popular attractions. Also looking for a guide focused on Paris? Check out Lonely Planet Paris for a comprehensive look at all the city has to offer, or Pocket Paris, a handy-sized guide focused on the can't-miss sights for a quick trip. There's More in Store for You: See more of Europe's picturesque country sides and have a richer, more authentic experience by exploring Europe by car with Lonely Planet's Road Trips guides to Châteaux of the Loire Valley and Normandy & D-Day Beaches or Lonely Planet's Best Trips guides to France, Italy and Ireland. Or start with our FREE SAMPLER '3 of France's Best Road Trips,' with excerpts from each Road Trips guide to help you pick which French region to explore first. Authors: Written and researched by Lonely Planet About Lonely Planet: Since 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel media company with guidebooks to every destination, an award-winning website, mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet covers must-see spots but also enables curious travelers to get off beaten paths to understand more of the culture of the places in which they find themselves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ok guide book for the region.

Ok

GREAT!

great item

PROMPT MAILING, FAIR PRICE

I drove around Provence and southeast France for a couple of weeks several years ago (and had an unforgettable time!), so I was excited to have the chance to review this book. As I started to read this guide book, I started nodding and thinking "ok, not great, but not bad either" ... but then I had to stop myself and say: if I was writing a guide book for a road trip around the south of France from scratch, would I write it this way? The answer is no, not at all. Not to be cynical, but it's as if Lonely Planet thought "ok, how can we take our existing guide books and re-package them for a specialized audience with a minimum amount of effort?" Most of the information in this book is in identical or near-identical form in their regular guide books. I appreciate that they added a little bit

more driving-specific information, but what they have is barely sufficient. Again, if you were writing a guide from scratch, I'd expect more. For example, I like the themed itineraries and "The Drive" descriptions linking point A to point B, but they don't really give advice for how to actually execute the logistics. In other words, should I try to do a particular itinerary in a linear fashion (unlikely), or should I base myself in one or two cities and do day trips from them? Likewise, the "start" and "end" points don't make a whole lot of sense, given that most people will need to start and finish in a larger city with air or rail links. Moreover, while the itinerary themes were cute, why not include a "best of" tour that allows one to have Roman ruins, lavender, AND art rather than have to choose one theme or the other? The book doesn't help you to prioritize if you wanted to do some kind of "hybrid" trip that mixed-and-matched a few different suggested itineraries. Another major issue: the maps are few and far between, and lack the necessary detail. Most of them are too "zoomed out" (for general orientation) or too "zoomed in" (for walking around the city center) to use for driving. Again, great for a regular tour book, but not for a book specializing in road trips. Michelin maps are great, and you'll need one if you just have this LP guide (which really is inexcusable--if you're going to market this as a "road trip" guide, it should have all the maps you need to actually do the road trips!). The destination guides are a bit skimpy as well. For a book focusing on a specific region, you'd expect it to have all the detail you'd need to choose where to go. Instead, it comes up lacking. As just one example, it completely omits Avignon! Avignon's an interesting and important destination ... this is a short book as it is, so what would it have hurt to add a couple of pages here and there? If this is a guide meant to be used while driving, it doesn't need to be pocket sized--in fact, road atlas-sized might be better! In the end, I just can't recommend this guide. Instead, get the Michelin map for this region and a regular guide book--the regular LP if you must, but I'd recommend Rick Steves' guide much more highly, or the Eyewitness Guide if you'd prefer more illustrations. Try harder next time, LP!

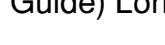
In this 126 page book, mostly lifted From France country guide and France Discover, 18 pages in the back are exactly the same as that of "Chateaux of the Loire Valley Road Trips" (Ok, so one line is off, pushing back the formatting a bit to hopefully fool you). Also a few pages in front are the same stuff you get in every LP. After an extended version of their typical itineraries section, which looks a bit like their Discover series because of the extra pictures, it just moves on to "Destinations", which is a condensed version of their regular country guide (when they were in color for a short time). Also, these few hundred km max drives don't really strike me as a road trip. "Road Trip" has me thinking exciting 6000km loops around the top half of Argentina or most of Turkey, not a spec of France. And

they have a section on "driving", which sort of makes sense, except what is there to know about driving in France? It's the same as anywhere else in the West with no particular dangers or pitfalls. Lonely Planet is no longer a couple of happy hippies, they're a giant corporation who want all your money, even if it means manufacturing an entire new line of books right from the desktop with staple footage. I'm continuously amazed how many books repackage the same material. It's really okay. It's fun to look at for a few minutes. But why bother?

I like Lonely Planet guides. Some are more informative than others, though, and this guide definitely falls in the "light" category. There is plenty here to be inspired by--and I was inspired!--but if you are looking to really flesh out the details of your trip, you will have to look elsewhere. This book is set up in typical Lonely Planet style. It begins with expert tips on when and how to travel, along with basic facts about France. Next, there are four sections for the four different road trip ideas: Roman Provence, Lavender Route, Modern Art Meander, and the Camargue. Unlike other reviewers, I actually like the way these trips are organized. I like to meander and take my time while traveling; I have no urge to see EVERYTHING at once. So I don't mind that these trips are so individually categorized, so separate from each other. The guide helps me understand where to focus my time, and I appreciate that. After the four road trips, there is a bigger "Destinations" section that highlights the best places to eat, shop, see, and sleep in Nimes, Provence, and the French Riviera (and surrounding areas). There are usually several choices given at various price points. I found this section rudimentary but still helpful. The last section is on "Driving in France." It's interesting, but basic, and mostly for rookie travelers. There is a pull-out map at the end of this section, but it will hardly provide enough detailed information to be your "go to" map while traveling. I have two complaints about this guide book. First, it is impossible to keep open, since the binding on here is oddly tight. Reading the book is a real pain. Second, why no talk about Avignon?! I wanted info about that area specifically, and there is none to be found here. Overall, though, I still like this guide book. It helped me figure out where I want to go, and I thought there were several valuable bits of advice in here that will prove genuinely helpful. The book is worth checking out if you are looking for inspiration. If you need more than that, this one is probably too basic to be useful.

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