



[Home](#)

[About](#)

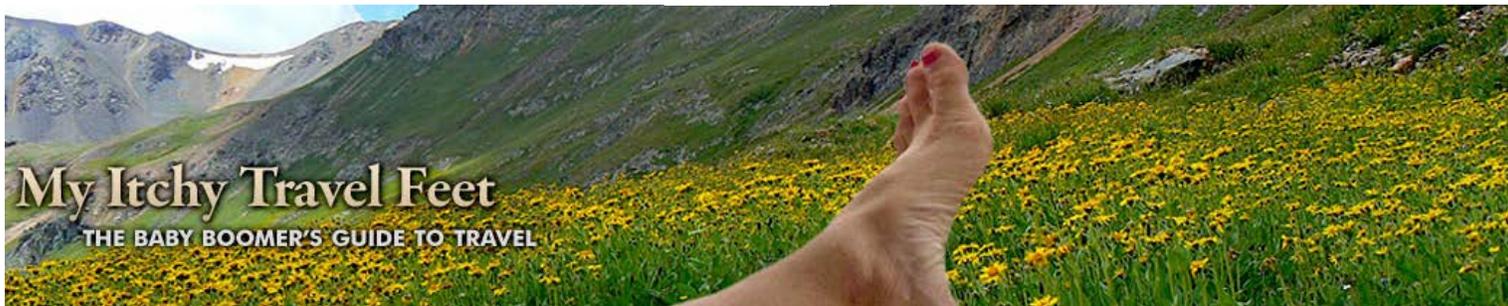
[Themed Trips](#)

[Destinations](#)

[Boomer Travel Resources](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Contact Us](#)



A Weekend in Charming Avignon

2015/06/02 by [Jan Ross](#)



Although Paris is clearly the undisputed star of French tourism, [exploring the many French towns](#) that are scattered throughout the country is a must for any true Francophile. Of course, even if you're just a simple traveler looking for relaxing strolls and warm crossiants, French towns like Avignon are the place to go. Thankfully, today's guest writer [Jan Ross](#), from [Wanderlust Wonder](#), is here to tell us the best way to spend a weekend in charming Avignon.



Palais Papes from a distance

My husband and I could not have chosen a better hotel for our weekend in charming Avignon, even if we had spent days researching the different locations and their amenities. Fortuitously, the lovely boutique [Hotel de L'Horloge](#) was interested in working with us and provided us with a two night stay for our introduction to this lovely, medieval, walled city, and we were also provided with complimentary access to the area tourist attractions. After a quick train ride from Marseilles to Avignon, we headed up the cobblestone streets to our hotel dragging our wheeled luggage in company with other tourists disembarking the train. There are taxis available right outside the train station, but don't bother to pay for a ride as the hotel is just a short walk away.

We walked into the small lobby with hardwood floors and a small sitting area with freshly baked cinnamon rolls displayed on a plate, and were welcomed by the friendly staff who spoke fluent English. An elevator took us to our floor although we did have to navigate a few stairs to access our room so be aware you might have to carry your luggage a short distance.



We're Donna and Alan Hull.
We **KNOW** boomer travel.



Since 2008, we've published articles and photographs focusing solely on travel for boomers: where to go, what to do and how to do it. To learn more about us, read [Our story](#).



Monthly tips in your inbox

Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter for the latest boomer travel tips, news and subscriber-only specials

Name:

Email:

Monthly Newsletter
Weekly Updates



Our double room was quite roomy with a king sized bed, nice sitting area with desk, and a bathroom with tub and shower. There are rooms available with small terraces as well as suites and many face the Place de l'Horloge where the hotel is located. If you want quiet, as we did, I suggest you request a room that does not face this area as it is a very busy place at all hours. The hotel has several quiet nooks with comfortable furniture for reading or just relaxing and also provides free Wi-Fi.

After settling in, we headed out to explore the city. Just a few steps from the hotel is the Place de l'Horloge which could not possibly look more French or more inviting. A large stone plaza surrounded by dozens of restaurants all offering outdoor seating, a unique two-tiered merry-go-round, and plenty of both locals and tourists strolling around, it provided the perfect introduction to Avignon.

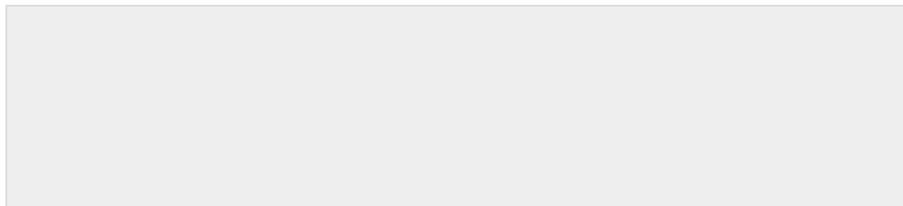


Palais de Papes

What to See in Avignon

[Avignon is a UNESCO World Heritage site](#) located in south eastern France on the left bank of the Rhone River, and is well known for two major tourist attractions – the [Pont d'Avignon](#), a bridge built in the 12th century and made famous by the children's song "Sur le Pont d'Avignon" and the [Palais de Papes](#) or Pope's Palace which was home to several popes and is one of the most visited monuments in France.

These two sites are fascinating but one of the most interesting things about Avignon is the ancient wall and medieval ramparts which still surround the city so be sure to stroll around outside the city centre. Originally a Roman city (the Place de l'Horloge actually houses the remains of the Roman forum), the walls were built in the early 1300's by the popes who resided in the city and, surprisingly, made Avignon the seat of the Papacy rather than Rome for over 70 years. A walk outside the still standing stone walls and ramparts makes one appreciate the time and effort taken to fortify the city.



New Mexico Backroads
Weekend Adventure

A Road Trip for Boomers

Donna L. Hull

Our Favorite Travel Planning Resources



Active Travel Ideas for Boomers



Travel Gear for Boomers



Travel Planning Guides for Boomers

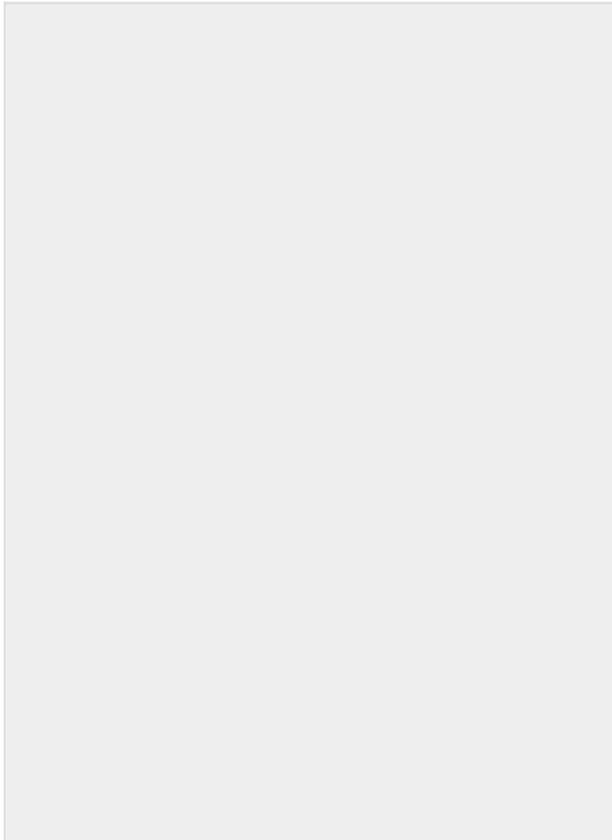


Place de l'Horloge

The beautiful Pont d'Avignon is well worth an afternoon visit and is an easy stroll from the Place de l'Horloge. Built in the late 1100's, the bridge stretched completely across the Rhone and had 22 arches but was dismantled and rebuilt several times due to flooding by the Rhone. It is now only a tourist destination which reaches half way across the river. Under the bridge is a museum which shows a movie and explains the history of the bridge via several multimedia presentations. You can purchase a ticket for the bridge alone or one which also included the Palais des Papes.

The walk to the bridge is along streets lined with shops and you will want to purchase some traditional items from Provence, the French region where Avignon is located, and where lavender is the main export. Small sachet bags, lotion and other bath products, and tablecloths are pretty and practical gifts which are easy to pack.

The smell of lavender will always remind you of your visit to this beautiful and unique city!





Glassed Conservatory at the Hotel de L'Horloge

Where to Eat in Avignon

A daily, hot, buffet breakfast was provided at the Hotel de L'Horloge which was fresh and delicious – I suggest you try to get a seat in the charming, glassed conservatory which overlooks the street. For lunch and dinner, you just need to stroll out into the Place de l'Horloge where dozens of restaurants offer everything from a traditional Croque Monsieur (hot, grilled ham and cheese sandwich) to pizza to a variety of pasta dishes and other hot meals. Order a cold bottle or Orangina, a tart drink which tastes like a combination of orange juice and seltzer, but don't expect a lot of ice as it is not traditional in France. For a relaxing night in, a [Carrefour](#) grocery is located just a block away from the hotel, and you can purchase delicious sandwiches, cookies, chips, and drinks to take back to the hotel.



Planning a European road trip? Start with our recommended [European Road Trip Travel Resources](#).

Have you experienced a weekend in charming Avignon or are you planning a trip? Join the conversation at the [My Itchy Travel Feet page on Facebook](#) or [send us an email](#) to ask a question or share your experience.

Disclosure: The Hotel de L'Horloge provided accomodation for Jan's stay.

What's the #1 hotel in Avignon?

Hotels from A\$65.00 Plan and Book Your Perfect Trip
TripAdvisor

Related Posts:



Take a walking tour in Schwerin



Day Trip To Segovia



Luxury In Vienna: The Pamper Guide



Finding Romance in Poland



Author Bio



Jan Ross is a travel writer with over 200 articles in a variety of venues, both print and online. She travels often with her photographer husband who is tasked with documenting their trips with photos. Together, they manage a travel blog called Wanderlustwonder.com.

1
 2
 5

 1

PREVIOUS POST: News for the Week

NEXT POST: Five Best Apps for Hiking Around the World

About Us

We're Donna & Alan Hull. We **KNOW** boomer travel.



Since 2008, we've published articles and photographs focusing solely on boomer travel: where to go, what to do and how to do it.

- To learn more about us, read [Our story](#).
- Do you have a question about boomer travel? [Send us an email](#).
- And don't forget to [Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

Partner with us

Did you know that baby boomers purchase 80% of luxury vacations and adults aged 55 + account for one-third of all trips in the U.S.? We can help you to reach an audience of active boomer travelers.

Learn more:

- PR and Advertising information
- Media kit
- Media mentions and interviews

Have questions? [Get in touch](#).

The fine print:

- Contest rules
- Privacy policy and terms of use

Media Mentions

We're the undeniable experts on boomer travel.



Need a boomer expert for your publication? [Get in touch](#).