

Day excursions in the Vallée du Tech

The Tech Valley is divided into two distinctive territories: - the Vermeille Coast and the Vallespir. The Tech River is at the heart of this bountiful valley, which produces a large quantity of delicious local vegetables, stone fruits and wines. The Vermeille Coast is interspaced with rocky coves, high cliffs, sandy beaches, fishing villages and charming ports. Its vivid colors and panoramic views inspired the Fauvist artists Matisse and Derain, while inland, Céret was a source of joy for artists like Picasso, Braque, Soutine and Dufy.

Have lunch at the famous vineyards of Chateau Valmy



EXCURSION 1: Collioure

A free day to spend wandering through Collioure, the famous fortified seaport. Stroll in the town's traditional Mediterranean market where you can buy a wide range of delicious local products. Lunch on Collioure's harbour

front. Free afternoon to visit the Chateau de Collioure.

EXCURSION 2: Banyuls-sur-Mer

In the morning, head to Banyuls-sur-Mer where an easy stroll through the vineyards with the local producer awaits you. The visit ends with a wine tasting. Visit the Aristide Maillol Museum. Lunch at Banyuls. In the afternoon, enjoy a guided tour in Collioure in the 'Footsteps of the Fauvist painters'.

EXCURSION 3: Vermeille Coast boat trip to Spain

Start early for a boat trip from Argelès to Cadaques in Spain. Admire the splendid Vermeille Coast from the boat and stop for lunch at Cadaques, Salvador Dalí's hometown where we can visit his Portlligat Museum house and enjoy the Spanish atmosphere before returning home mid-afternoon. (Plan B – in case of

bad weather: a drive to Figueres, Spain to visit the Salvador Dalí Museum.)

EXCURSION 4: Perpignan

A guided tour of Perpignan, a city rich in culture. The day will allow a visit to the major monuments and museums. Lunch and dinner in the city.

EXCURSION 5: Arles-sur-Tech and Céret

Walk through the medieval town of Arles-sur-Tech, rich in history and sunny squares. Visit the 8th century Benedict abbey. Stop for lunch in the Catalan town of Céret where we'll spend the afternoon on an English-speaking guided tour to learn about the most famous painters of the 20th century who have left their mark on Céret. Then visit the Céret Museum of Modern Art. July is the month of the Sardane dance festival, a joyous festive celebration of the Catalan spirit that lives on.

EXCURSION 6: Laroque-des-Albères, Saint-André, Valmy and Saint-Génis

Walk and discover the many aspects of the local villages of the Alberes. Visit the museum of Roman art and witness the ancient art of glass-blowing in Saint-André. Walk to the tower of Laroque-des-Albères and discover the breathtaking view over the Plain du Roussillon to the Mediterranean. Lunch at the famous vineyards of Valmy Castle. In the afternoon we'll go on a private English-speaking guided tour of Saint-Génis Monastery and its Roman church.

1: The Sardane dance festival, 2: The Salvador Dalí Theatre-Museum in Figueres, 3: The Castillet in Perpignan

