

GETTING TO UZES by TRAIN, CAR OR HIRE VEHICLE



From Paris

Train (TGV)

Leaving from **Gare de Lyon**, this takes about 2 hours 40 mins to reach **Avignon** and costs between 39 and 130 euros per person one way depending on the class of travel, type of ticket and time of day.

From Avignon you can reach Uzès by **hire car** (depots at the station), **bus** (STD Gard – see below) or **taxi** (available at station and costs about 60 euros).

Now that the SNCF (French National Railway Company) has sorted out their previously terrible website, you may book your tickets in advance here:

<http://www.voyages-sncf.com>



This website is in French and requires some ability to read French as well as a certain confidence navigating websites.

There is a version of this site in English, but it has many pitfalls and is **not recommended** (for example: it only allows payment using an English or American credit card, not Australian!)

There is also an Australian website which is fairly easy to use but does not **offer** quite the same deals you might be offered on the SNCF's website.

But it is worth the little extra you pay to avoid the pitfalls of the other sites mentioned above.

<http://www.raileurope.com.au/australia/rail/tqv/index.htm>

Is it necessary, or even advisable, to book the TGV in advance?

Excepting peak periods and national holidays, you shouldn't have any trouble purchasing your tickets at the station when you arrive. Services are fairly frequent. By doing this you can avoid the difficulties of navigating the SNCF's rather tricky sites or, worse still, **losing your money if your plane is delayed and you have purchased cheaper non-transferable tickets. This has happened to us!**



Car

This takes about 6 hours 30 mins plus stops – you probably need to allow a total of **8 hours or more** if you stop frequently.

The drive is straightforward once you are outside the Paris region.

Warning: the French autoroutes used to accept all Visa and Mastercards, but we are finding an increasing number that **don't**, even though their signs indicate that they **do**. So be prepared and carry some Euro cash on you.

FOR A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO DOING THIS DRIVE IN AS SHORT A TIME AS POSSIBLE, SEE THE DRIVING FROM PARIS SECTION ON PAGE 12



Directly from Paris Airport Charles de Gaulle

Train

There is a **DIRECT service** from Charles de Gaulle Airport Terminal 2.

If your plane arrives in terminal 1 or 3, you can catch the SKY TRAIN shuttle to terminal 2 where you can purchase your TGV tickets (or tickets to central Paris) and catch the train directly to Provence from there.

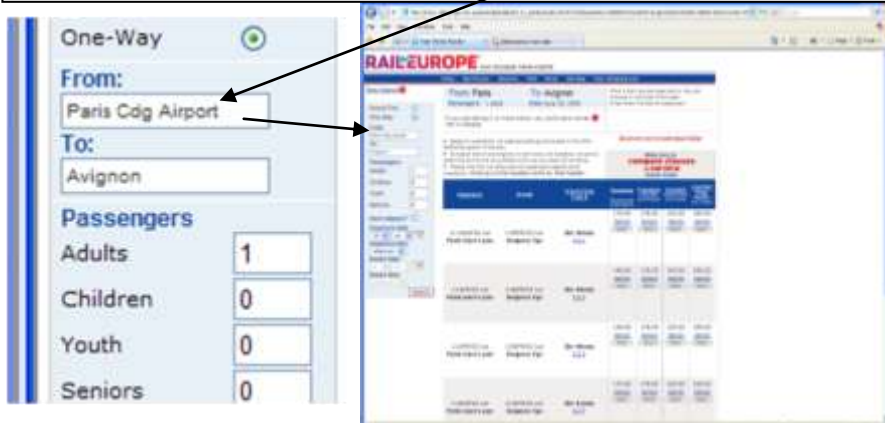
The trip is usually direct to Avignon and takes between **2 hrs 55 mins** and **4 hrs 42 mins** depending on the service chosen (time of day). **Normally it is a 3 hour trip.**

If longer, it may mean a change at Lyons, so select another service.

The fare varies from 60 euros and 130 euros per person one way, depending on ticket type, class of travel and time of day.

See the section above “From Paris” for further information.

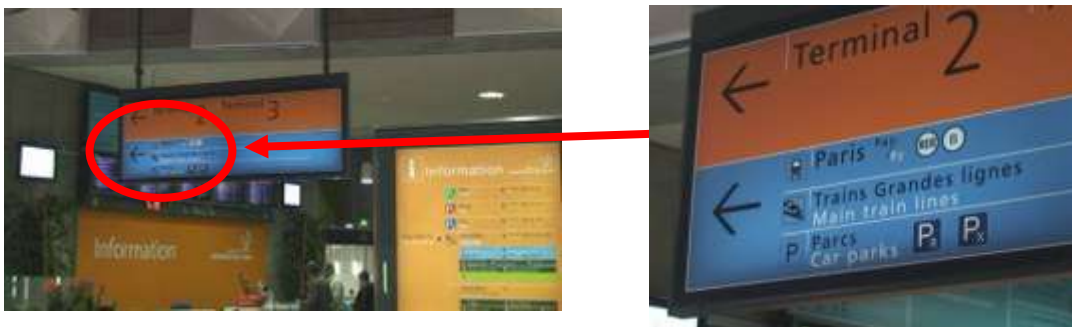
If you decide to use the Rail Europe site to book your tickets in advance for a direct service from CDG airport to Avignon, you will need to put Paris as the origin then, when the next page comes up, change it as shown here to **Paris Cdg Airport**. Hopefully they will fix this omission.



CATCHING THE TGV from THE AIRPORT

The principal TGV station (also the station for trains to Paris) is at **Terminal 2**.

If you arrive at the old round, spaceship-like Terminal 1 (most likely), you will need to make your way to Terminal 2 after collecting your luggage and clearing customs. Follow the signs till you see the ones for Terminal 2 pictured below.



Head towards the lifts and then take a lift **DOWN** one level.



You will emerge at the entrance to the **CDGVAL inter-terminal shuttle**.



Board this shuttle train and take it **right to the other end to Terminal 2**, by-passing Parking R, Parking X and Terminal 3.



Then take the lift or escalator up one level.

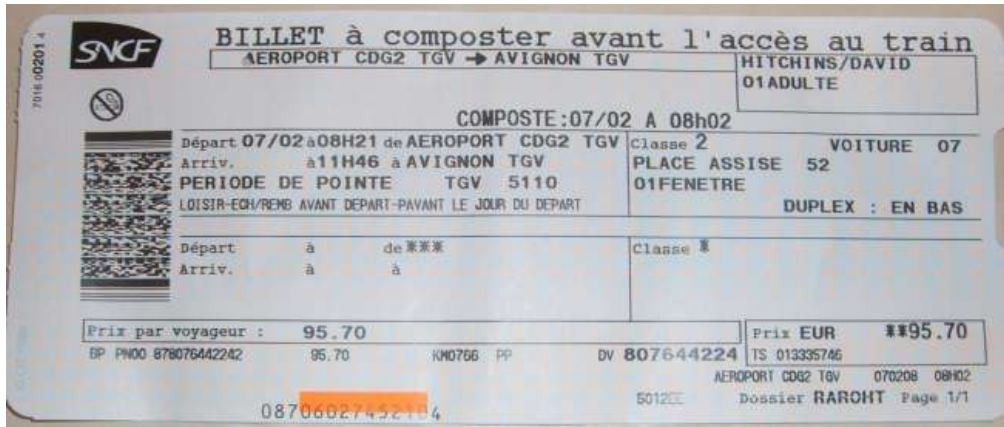


At the top turn to your right and follow the signs shown till you reach an escalator that takes you **DOWN** one level again into the station area.



The ticket office is on your **right**
as you come down the escalator.

Enter by the **left hand entrance** to buy tickets to
AVIGNON TGV



Once you have your validated ticket, find the correct place to wait on the platform by consulting your ticket carriage number and this electronic guide on the platform.

(‘COMPOSITION DES TRAINS’ example only)



Don't forget to validate your ticket at one of the machines on the platform.
If you buy this ticket on the spot, it is usually validated for you. (validate = ‘composter’)

If in doubt ask the ticket seller this: “C’est composté?”
(Pron: “say compostay?”)



From Avignon TGV you can reach Uzès by:

hire car (depots behind the station)

bus (STD Gard – see below)

taxi (available in the front of the station and costs about 60 euros to Uzès).

The following points will assist you to choose which is best and how to do it.

HIRE AND LEASE CARS

We advise you to pre-book your hire car from Australia, either through your Travel Agent or directly at a website such as

<http://www.globalcars.com.au>

Hire cars

are collected from one of the depots at the back of the station (see aerial view last page)

Lease cars are actually collected at a **Shell Service Station** near the old station in the centre of town. But a representative will **meet you at the TGV station and take you there.**

Be sure to inform them if you do not arrive at the appointed time.

They speak English and have a mobile number **06 08 41 52 25.**

I noticed that some of the contact numbers given on the official documentation are actually **wrong!** (Remember, you are in France)

So, if those official numbers don't get you in touch, try the mobile given above.



BUS, USING THE STD GARD NETWORK

Suggestion: consider taking a taxi as it is much more convenient, especially if you have heavy baggage to carry.

There are normally about five services per day: two early morning, one at lunchtime and two later in the day. The best are the two late afternoon services (about 5:30pm then 6:15pm or so - SEE TIMETABLES for exact times).

The bus only serves the TGV station in the months of July and August (approximately)



At other times of the year, you will need to take the little shuttle bus to Avignon Central to catch the bus at the Gare Routière or Bus Station. The shuttle leaves from in FRONT of the station.

Below is a copy of a recent timetable for the shuttle bus.
See aerial views (above or below) for where you catch it.



AVIGNON TGV → AVIGNON CENTRE Horaires valables tous les jours y compris les dimanches et jours fériés.
 Horaires valables du 1/12/2007 au 12/12/2008 inclus.
 Attention des modifications peuvent être apportées pendant la période estivale (jusqu'à 2008). Merci de vous renseigner auprès de notre Agence Commerciale.

	M1	M2													
Avignon TGV	06.18	06.47	07.14	07.56	08.12	08.47	09.10	09.23	09.44	10.06	10.17	10.32	10.53	11.20	11.34
Bonne Fleur	06.20	06.47	07.14	07.56	08.14	08.49	09.12	09.25	09.44	10.06	10.19	10.34	10.55	11.22	11.36
Avignon centre	06.29	06.57	07.24	08.04	08.22	08.51	09.20	09.23	09.54	10.14	10.27	10.42	11.03	11.39	11.44
Avignon TGV	11.54	12.09	12.29	12.52	13.08	13.20	13.39	13.47	14.14	14.41	14.58	15.25	15.53	16.17	16.30
Bonne Fleur	11.58	12.11	12.30	12.54	13.10	13.22	13.43	13.49	14.14	14.43	14.58	15.27	15.55	16.19	16.29
Avignon centre	12.09	12.23	12.43	13.02	13.18	13.25	13.49	13.57	14.24	14.51	15.06	15.35	16.03	16.27	16.43
Avignon TGV	16.53	17.25	17.48	18.19	18.29	19.07	19.25	19.48	20.04	20.21	20.54	21.08	21.40	21.58	22.12
Bonne Fleur	16.55	17.27	17.50	18.21	18.30	19.09	19.27	19.50	20.06	20.23	20.56	21.10	21.42	21.59	22.14
Avignon centre	17.05	17.39	18.02	18.33	18.42	19.17	19.35	19.58	20.14	20.31	21.04	21.18	21.50	22.08	22.22
Avignon TGV	22.25	23.05													
Bonne Fleur	22.27	23.07													
Avignon centre	22.35	23.15													

M1: Croquis fait le week-end.
 Aux horaires indiqués, des services sont assurés aux abords de la circulation.



The shuttle bus takes you to a stop just opposite the old SNCF station. You then need to cross the road and walk about 300 metres to your left till you reach a T intersection. There is a hotel on one corner and the bus station on the other. It is hard to see! Look for the sign **GARE ROUTIERE**.

There are STD BUS services to Uzès at 12:05pm, 3:20pm 4:30pm, 5:30pm and 6:15pm from the central bus station and one at 4:15pm from the TGV in July and August. Outside these months it only leaves from the central bus station at 12:05pm, 5:30pm and 6:30pm. These times are subject to change and are for your guidance only. Check the latest timetables carefully at: <http://www.stdgard.com>

TAXI

There are usually plenty available. The fare is fixed at around 60 euros. If you need to phone one in Uzès for returning to the station, here's a good one to try if you have some French.

TAXI, Jean-Jacques DALOZ

04 66 22 02 48

MOBILE 06 03 85 71 98

Car

This takes about 9 hours in total, including stops for meals etc. It's pretty long.

The drive is straightforward once you are outside the Paris region. You will be skirting about Paris on the ring road (péripherique) for about an hour, possibly much longer when traffic is bad.

You are **advised to take the TGV to Avignon instead** and **collect your hire/lease car from Avignon station** unless you have a special reason not to do this.

See section above about collecting your lease or hire car from Avignon TGV.

Air

Ryan Air offers flights from the UK to both Nîmes Airport (Garons), Montpellier and Marseilles.

See:

<http://www.ryanair.com>



Nîmes is the closest (45 minutes drive if you know where you are going), then **Montpellier** (60 minutes and more straightforward albeit further). **Marseilles** is 1 hr 45 minutes and is not recommended if one of the other two suits you.

You can also fly direct to Nice with Emirates then catch the TGV to Avignon, but there is no advantage over Paris unless you have a special reason to use that airline.

Car hire: do we recommend hiring in Uzès itself?

There is a Avis Agency in Uzès at the Garage Frères Laborie – about 10 - 15 minutes walk from our cottage – where you may collect pre-arranged hire cars or even arrange one for a few days during your stay. Their hours were last **advertised** as Monday-Friday 8:00am till midday, then 2pm till 6:30pm and Saturday mornings 8am till 12:30pm.

Their phone number is 04 66 22 59 01 (calling from France) or +33466225901 from overseas.

See the map below.

The following image shows a screen grab from the Avis Rental car website indicating that you could pick up a compact car for 65.60 euros (a bit over \$100 Australian) and use it for 24 hours.

For example you could drive from Uzès to one of our other cottages instead of catching the TGV and it would be quicker and cheaper (and more convenient on the whole).

The screenshot shows the Avis website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "Time & Place", "Discounts & Options", "Car Selection", "Confirm Rate", and "Personal Information". The "Car Selection" tab is active. Below the navigation, there is a "Car Selection" section with a "Continue" button. The "Your Base Rate is for: 1 day(s) 0 hour(s)" is displayed. A table lists various car classes and types with their base rates. The "Compact" class, Renault Clio or similar (M), is selected and highlighted in blue, with a base rate of 82.53 EUR. Other options include Subcompact (Renault Twingo, 65.60 EUR), Economy (Opel Corsa, 71.04 EUR), Economy (Citroen C3, 71.04 EUR), Intermediate (Peugeot 407, 133.97 EUR), and Intermediate (Renault Megane Scenic 1.6, 93.74 EUR). A "Convertible" option (Peugeot 307 CC) is marked as "Sold Out". To the right, the "About This Reservation" section shows pickup and return details. The pickup location is "UZ1 - Laborie Freres BP 59", which is highlighted with a red box. The pickup date is Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at 9:00 AM, and the return date is Thursday, May 29, 2008, at 9:00 AM. The return location is "Bergerac Airport".

Car Class	Car Type (click for details)	Base Rate
<input type="radio"/> Subcompact	Renault Twingo or similar (M)	65.60 EUR
<input type="radio"/> Economy	Opel Corsa or similar (M)	71.04 EUR
<input type="radio"/> Economy	Citroen C3 or similar (M)	71.04 EUR
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Compact	Renault Clio or similar (M)	82.53 EUR
<input type="radio"/> Intermediate	Peugeot 407 or similar (M)	133.97 EUR
<input type="radio"/> Intermediate	Renault Megane Scenic 1.6 or similar (M)	93.74 EUR
Convertible	Peugeot 307 CC or similar (M)	Sold Out

About This Reservation

Time & Place [Modify >](#)

Pickup Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2008
Pickup Time: 9:00 AM
Return Date: Thursday, May 29, 2008
Return Time: 9:00 AM
Pickup Location: **UZ1 - Laborie Freres BP 59**
Return Location: Bergerac Airport
Arriving Flight: N/A

Rental Options [Modify >](#)

You need to bear in mind the following points if considering hiring a car locally:

Book your car if possible from Australia as it will be cheaper and you are more likely to succeed. See <http://www.globalcars.com.au> for good deals or <http://www.avis.com>

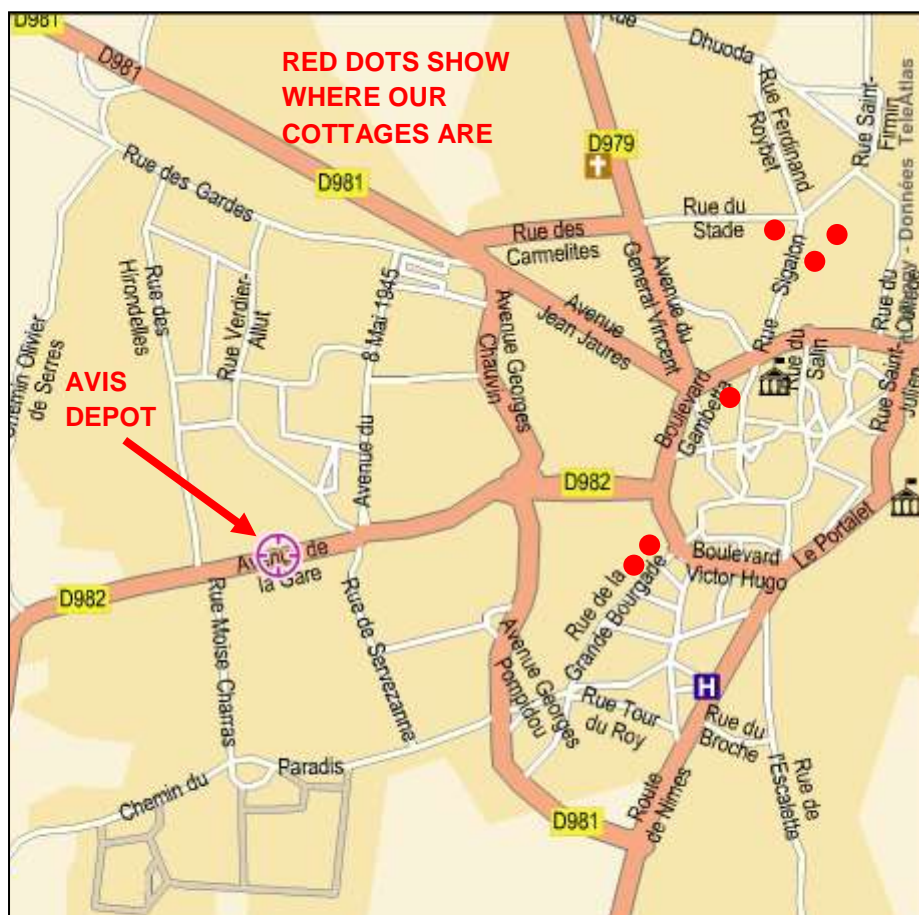
Remember that you may not receive the car you booked: one guest booked a medium sized car and was presented with a huge Mercedes. He was pleased until he realised that such a car was not very practical for parking or driving through small medieval villages in France!

WHEN YOU COLLECT YOUR CAR they will probably try to **'blackmail'** you into taking out an **additional daily insurance premium to reduce the excess** (in case you damage the car) from 2700 euros to 300 euros, or something of this sort. We strongly advise you to check your **TRAVEL INSURANCE policy** coverage as most of these policies actually pay your excess so that this additional payment may NOT be necessary at all. You'd be twice insured for the same thing.

In the Winter months, we definitely recommend a car if possible. There is a bus service to various local points of interest but this is much more limited at that time of year than they are in the warmer months and do not provide the freedom to explore that a car provides.

In particular, visiting intermediate destinations is the most inconvenient – too far to walk but too close for any public transport connection.

(eg: *St Quentin la Poterie* is a lovely little pottery and ceramics village 7km from Uzès and well worth visiting)



DRIVING TO UZÈS FROM PARIS AND OTHER ORIGINS

From Paris

The national auto route A6 takes you to Lyons.

From Lyons you take the A7 auto route to Orange and then switch to the A9 towards **Nîmes**, by-passing **Avignon**.

Near **Avignon** there is an **exit (number 23)** for the **Pont Du Gard** and the **Duché of Uzès** (brown sign). Exit here.



Now to get to Uzès from this point:

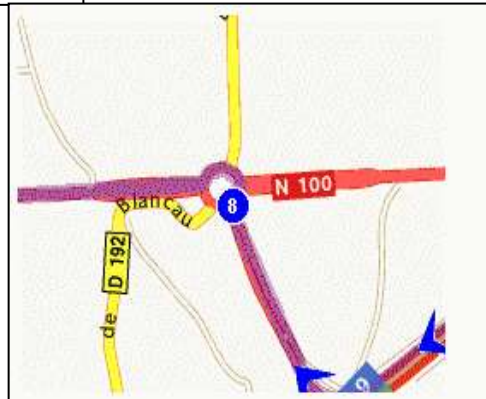
D6100 At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit Continue along:

D6100 towards:

UZÈS

REMOULINS

PONT DU GARD



Pass Remoulins

Take D6100 (0.2km)

At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit Continue along:

D6101 (0.4km)

At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit Continue along: D6086



D6086 At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit Continue along: D6086 1.3km

At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit Continue along: D19A



D19A At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit Continue along: D19A 1.2km

Now basically keep going straight ahead till you reach Uzès.

From Nice, the national autoroute A8 takes you to Aix-en-Provence.

From Aix-en-Provence you can take the A7 towards Avignon then, from Avignon make your way west towards Nîmes, crossing the Rhone at Avignon and heading towards Nîmes and Remoulins on the N100.

Then follow the instructions on the previous page.

From Toulouse, Narbonne, Montpellier on the Autoroutes.

From Toulouse take the A61 autoroute towards Narbonne via Carcassonne. Continue along the A61 to Narbonne. At Narbonne take the A9 to Beziers, Montpellier and Nîmes. It is easier to bypass Nîmes than find your way through it, but do visit Nîmes during your stay as there is much to see. Montpellier also. Shortly after Nîmes you will see brown signs for the Pont Du Gard. Turn off the autoroute at the **Pont Du Gard and the Duché of Uzès brown exit sign.**

From Remoulins take the D981 to Uzès.

Then follow the instructions on the previous page.