



Doesn't everyone who comes to Provence want to find the *real* Provence?

For Alfonse Daudet, Tarascon was the quintessence of Provence and home to [Tartarin](#) - the eponymous hero of his novels. Wandering around the place with narrow cobbled streets, shaded walkways, a castle and a [legendary monster](#), maybe you might be tempted to make it your home too.

But Tarascon has a mirror - a town over the other side of the Rhône and for some (including the hero Tartarin) is another world - the Languedoc town of Beaucaire. Both places are well connected with trains to/from Avignon, Nimes, Arles, Marseille, Narbonne and Portbou in Spain.



## Strolls

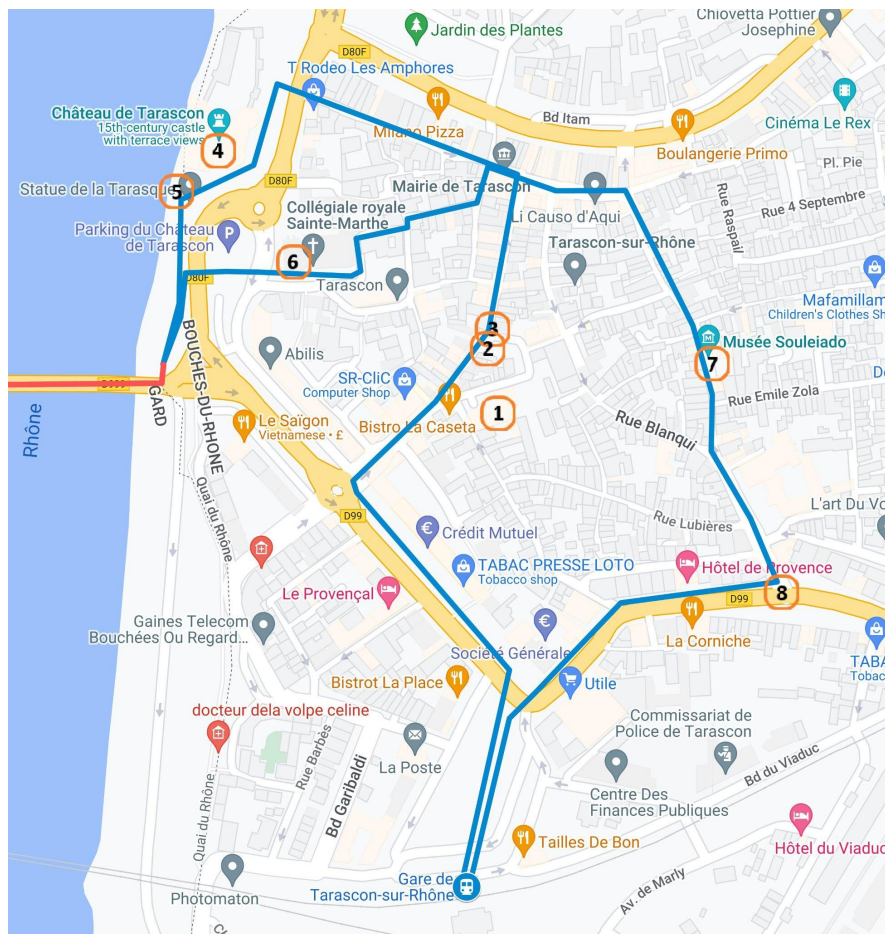
- [A wander around town \(2km blue\)](#)
- [From Provence to Occitan - Beaucaire \(3km extension red\)](#)
- [The road to Brexit \(2km purple\)](#)

## Interactive Map

Here is a [link to a map](#) that can help you find your bearings.

## A wander around town (2km blue)

This little stroll takes in the sights of the town from the small scale shady streets to the grandeur of the chateau by the mighty Rhône.



- 1 Musée d'Art et d'Histoire
- 2 Statue of Tartarin
- 3 Rue des Halles
- 4 Tarascon Castle
- 5 Tarasque
- 6 Église Sainte-Marthe
- 7 Souleiado
- 8 Porte Saint-Jean

Leave the station and walk across the square. At the end turn left onto Cours Aristide Briand and then right at the roundabout onto Rue des Halles. Along Rue des Halles on the right is the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire.



*Musée d'Art et d'Histoire*

Just before you get to the narrow covered walkways, there's a statue on your right. (2)

When [Tartarin de Tarascon](#) was released in 1877, the author Alfonse Daudet was warned that if he ever stepped foot in the town, he would probably get lynched. Now, the Tarasconnais have taken Tartarin (and maybe Alfonse as well) as one of their own. Now, there's even a Tartarin festival every June.



*Tartarin*

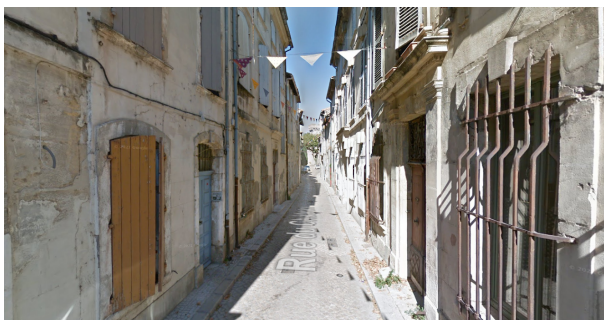


*Tartarin festival - by Gérard Marin*

Then you get onto cobbles - from here on, the place will get older, narrower and more wiggly and on a hot day, you can take to the shaded walkways or *halles*. (3)



*Les Halles -google*



*Rue du Chateau - google*

At the end of Rue des Halles, turn left onto Rue du Chateau. Walk to the end of this street, which used to be known as the Droite des Juifs and leads to the Chateau (4). On the right/north side are some remains of its battlements and moat.



*Chateau de Tarascon*

Go around the left/south side and take a look at the river Rhône, not forgetting to say hello to the Tarasque (5), who according to legend, used to terrorise the locals, but now they are all good friends.



Tarasque - By Daniel71953

The bridge over the river goes to Beaucaire, which is a similar sized town with a castle and pretty little streets - *almost* a mirror image of Tarascon. If you would like to explore Tarascon's Occitan twin, you could cross here and follow the detour details below (red route on map).

Otherwise, using the crossing, head for the passageway, the Place de la Concorde, on the right hand side of Sainte-Marthe church. (6)



Follow the passage round the church leading onto the Rue de la Liberté, then wiggle left and right to stay on the same road. At the end turn left onto Rue de la Poissonerie. Then turn right onto Rue de la Mairie. Walk through the Place du Marché and then turn right onto Rue Proudhon and continue all the way to the end.



*Rue Proudhon - google*

The boutique [Souleido](#) is up ahead selling clothes and accessories (7). Former customers seem to have included Princess Diana.

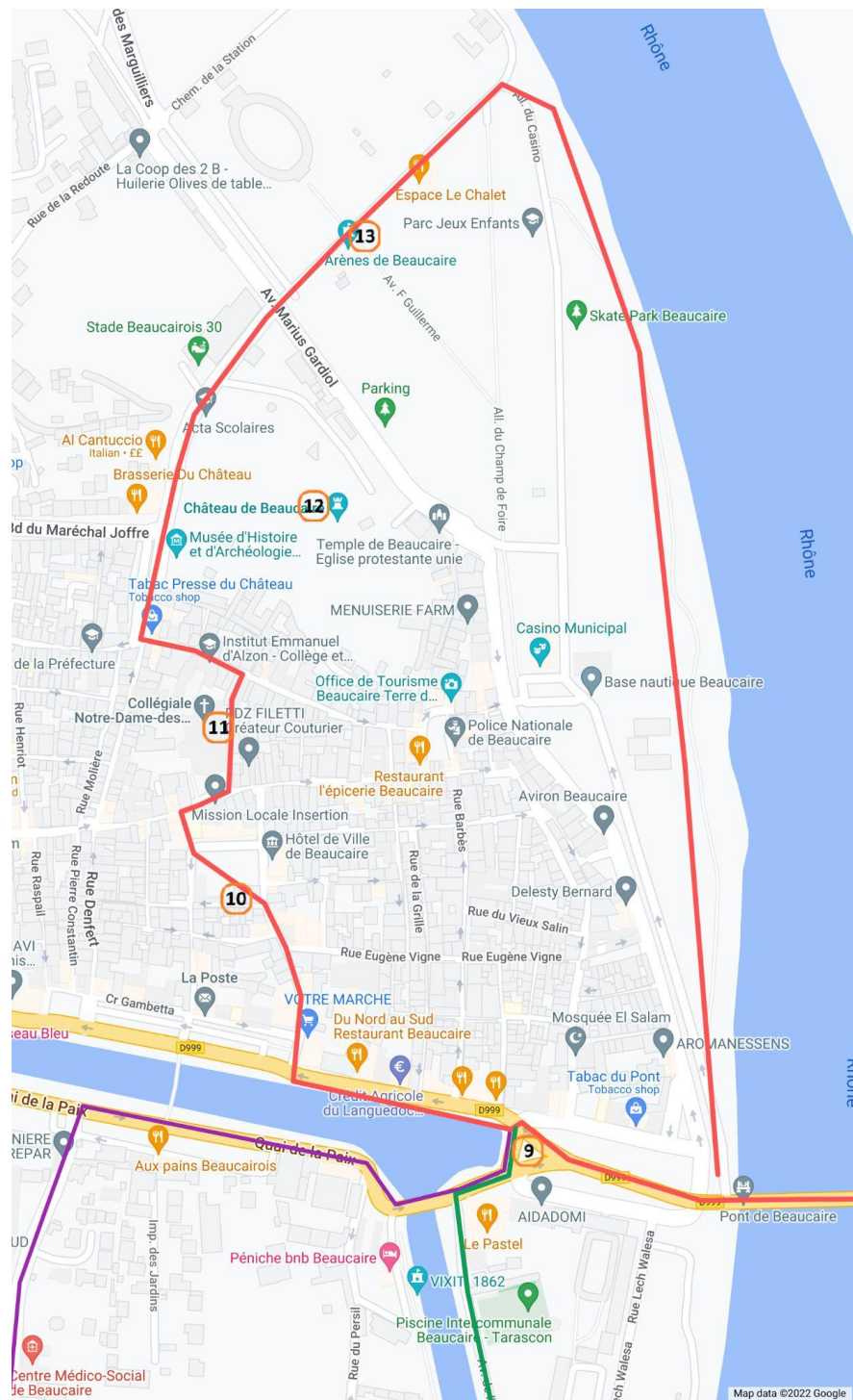
Keep going straight on until you get to Porte Saint-Jean (8)



Go through and turn right and go down Boulevard Victor Hugo all the way back to the station.

## From Provence to Occitan - Beaucaire (3km extension red)

If your time in Provence has given you the desire to wander to other lands, why not cross the bridge and head for Beaucaire in Occitan?



- 9 bull statue
- 10 Conservatoire
- 11 Notre Dame des Pommiers
- 12 Château de Beaucaire
- 13 Arenes de Beaucaire
- 14 Rue Robert Schuman
- 15 Rue du Brexit

In the middle of the river is Barthelasse Island - which might remind you of something similar in **Avignon**. When you reach the other side, you are met by the statue of a Camargue bull (9) - a reminder you are now in Occitanie - people of the Langue d'Oc who are fiercely proud of their 'bovine heritage' and hold an annual bull running festival here.

The road is spliced in two by the Canal du Rhône à Sète, which unsurprisingly takes you all the way to **Sète**



Wander down the right hand side of the quay, past the moored up boats to where the pavement widens out (Cours Gambetta). There's a market here on Thursdays and Sundays that trails through to Place Georges Clémenceau. Take the first alley on the right, Rue de l'Hôtel de Ville then continue down the street and through to Place Georges Clémenceau which contains the [Conservatoire](#) (10).



You could take either passage out of the Place, but let's go out via the narrow passage in the far corner. Turn right and then up the little alley running to the right of the church of [Notre Dame des Pommiers](#). (11)



You'll emerge onto Rue de la République where you turn left and then right to go along Place Raymond VII which leads us to [Château de Beaucaire](#) which is open to the public (12). Follow the road around the Château, which leads to parkland by the river and the Bullfighting Arena (13).



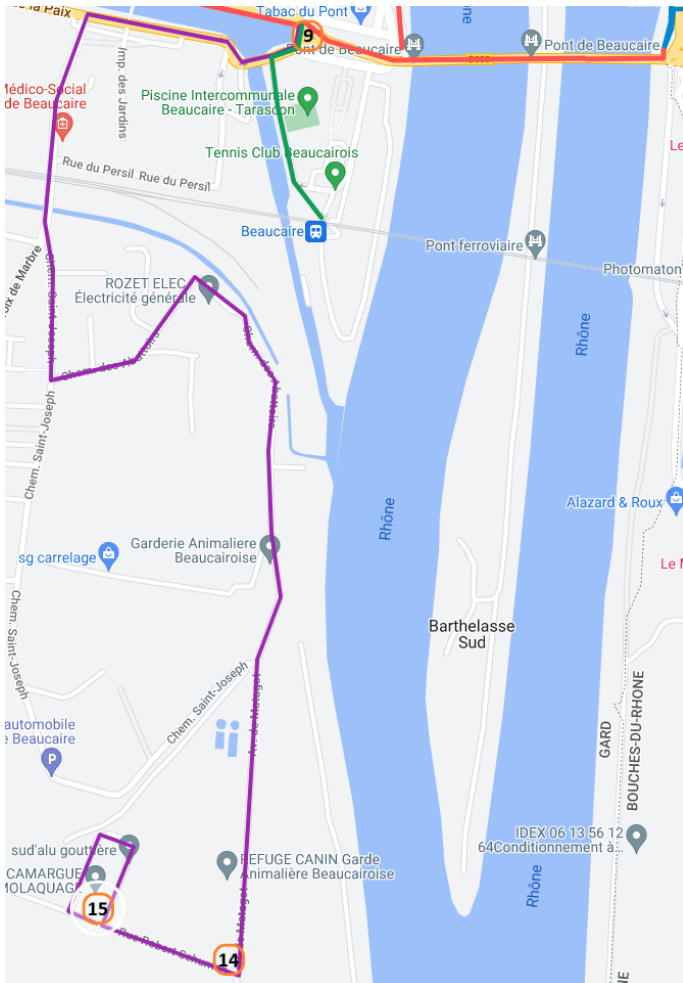
Just before the river turn right and follow the riverside path back to the bridge. If you are planning on travelling to Nimes, Narbonne or Portbou, you could catch the train from Beaucaire station, which is one stop up the line. If so, cross over the road and head onto Avenue de l'Écluse and follow it to the end (green route on map).

Otherwise, let's go back to Tarascon and continue along the blue route above.



## The road to Brexit (2km purple)

This little walk takes us off the tourist track and into a quirky little bit of recent history - a period in which France, like Britain, was riven over the question of European Union membership - this walk is strictly for socio-economic history nerds.



Once you've crossed the bridge to Beaucaire take the Quai de la Paix, which is on the left side of the Canal du Rhône à Sète and then turn down Chemin Saint Joseph.



*Chemin Saint Joseph - google*



*Avenue de Matagot - google*

Turn left down Chemin des Abattoirs and keep going until you come to a three-pronged fork in the road. Take the left road down Avenue de Matagot and continue until you've passed the sewage works - as you may notice, this is more of a 'functional' area of town. Turn right down Rue Robert Schuman (14), named after one of the founders of the European Economic Community.

Before long you'll come to the [Rue du Brexit](#) on your right (15). The local Front National mayor [Julien Sanchez](#) had this road named in honour of the 2016 Brexit referendum result. It serves as a reminder that back then, there were strong pro-Nationalist and anti-EU feelings in countries like France and Netherlands as well as England.

Hmm, is that a sunlit upland?



*Place Félix Rey - Google*



*Rue du Président Wilson - Google*

A few metres down the road, there's another junction. It's the Rue du Brexit rejoining...  
After you have finished going round in circles, retrace your steps back to where you started.