

French Village Experience

3 Rue du vent du nord Aigues - Vives Hérault

The House



3 Rue du vent du nord

The house is a few minutes walk from the main street of the village of Aigues-Vives. It is an old villa style house, set out over three floors. The ground floor is the kitchen/dining/living area equipped with an electric stove, microwave, washing machine, bar fridge and CD player. It is tastefully furnished with a mixture of traditional and modern furnishings.

The first floor houses two bedrooms, one with a double bed and the other with a single bed. The second floor has the master bedroom with a double bed and a comfortable sitting/leisure area, with the bathroom adjacent to it.

The house has electric heating in each room.

The Village

Aigues-Vives was originally a roman village named Agua-Viva in 700 BC. The village gained its current name in 1210, after the Albergeois crusade led by Simon de Montfort and became a possession of the King of France. In 1335, Prince Edward, the English king of the time, invaded the Garonne department and then moved into Minervois.

Aigues-Vives has a rich history, some of which is merged with religious wars and royal authority. The village is historic but has maintained the elements which allow it to remain a small market town with a capacity to develop, evidenced by the surrounding vineyards and 'degustation' (wine sampling) wineries established in the 1800s.



Aigues-Vives

There are two restaurants in the village, the post office opens each week day from 9 am to 12 midday, the patisserie is open from 6 am each day except for Wednesdays, as well as the small supermarket which is a 'depot for bread' (depot du pains) on the day the patisserie is closed.

The Climate

The climate in this area is dependent on the influences of the Mediterranean or the Atlantic. Languedoc weather is typically Mediterranean, with average summer temperature of nearly 30°C or 86°F. These coastal areas rarely freeze in winter and very rarely does it snow. The area gets its fair share of rain. In general though, summers are dry with occasional heavy rainfall.

Wine and Food

The village is surrounded by vineyards that produce a mixture of red, rosés and white wines. There are two restaurants, L'Auberge de Minervois and L'Auberge des Amis. The meals are good and reasonably priced. In Aigne, you will find Lo Cagarole which is very popular especially in the summer months when outdoor dining is at its peak. Olonzac (10 minutes away) also boasts a number of excellent eating places.



Village Markets and Shopping

Many French country villages have a market at least once a week offering local farm produce often bought direct from the grower and also a wide range of more general items, including wine, live poultry, meat and fish as well as clothing, hardware and books. The closest market to Aignes-Vives is Olonzac (10 minutes away). Market day is every Tuesday starting at 9 am. The main street of Olonzac is closed off and there are a great many varied and different stalls. Be sure to make your way to the church square behind the main street where you will find more stalls and many quaint shops.

Sightseeing in the Area



Carcassonne

There are many old castles, chateaux, churches and ruins within an hour or less drive of Aignes-Vives. There are many signs advertising the Cathar Country. These include such sites as the Abbaye de Caunes-Minervois, Chateau de Saissac, the four ruined castles of Lastours and the magnificent walled city of Carcassonne.

The Canal du Midi also runs through the south and provides many picturesque towns and areas for picnics.

Getting to Aignes-Vives

There are international flights into Montpellier a number of times a day and car hire is available from the airport to drive the hour and half to the village. There are flights from Paris to a number of local airports, Carcassonne, Toulouse and Montpellier, or the TGV leaves from Paris, Charles de Gaulle, with a choice of destinations, either Montpellier or Narbonne. The trip takes approximately three hours and, again, car hire is available.

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