

The must-see attractions of Valence!

4 km | 2h

1 Kiosque Peynet & Champ de Mars

This bandstand is the most famous of all the monuments in Valence. It was erected on the Champ de Mars in 1862, it was designed by Eugène Poitoux. The romantic story related to the kiosque Peynet took place in the summer of 1942, when the illustrator Raymond Peynet drew a cartoon of the romantic scene he saw there : a violinist playing in the bandstand under the admiring gaze of a lone girl. His illustration 'Les amoureux de Peynet' became famous.



2 Jouvét park

As one of the city's biggest urban parks, the park Jouvét is a green lung in Valence – a swathe of greenery, at a short stroll from the kiosque Peynet. Children love letting off steam at the playground here, while adults prefer strolling along the canals, wandering among the 700 trees and flowers, or just seat in the grass and relax. What's more, the park Jouvét was officially nominated a 'Jardin Remarquable' in 2006.

3 Saint-Apollinaire Cathedral

This Romanesque cathedral is one of Valence's oldest monuments. Consecrated on 5 August 1095 by Pope Urban II – while he was en route to preach the First Crusade – it served as a key stop on pilgrimage routes. Having undergone major transformations, especially during its 17th-century rebuilding after the Wars of Religion, it was listed as a Historical Monument in 1869.

4 Museum of Valence, art and archaeology

The Museum of Valence is in the former bishop's palace in the heart of the old town. The museum boasts a simple, uncluttered design and houses about 20 000 works of art and archaeology, including the outstanding collection of the artist Hubert Robert. Do not miss the unique 360-degree panorama of the Rhône Valley from the metal-and-glass rooftop belvedere.

www.musee.devalence.fr



5 Pendentif

The Pendentif is named after its stunning vault, made up of a cupola on pendentives. Built in 1548 in the cloister of the Cathedral of Saint-Apollinaire, it consists of a material found widely in Drôme : a soft rock called 'molasse'. Today it is a protected monument but it used to be in the past as a bar, a cellar, and even a cesspit at one time!

6 The slopes of Valence

These ancient steep streets, running from the lower town on the Rhône riverside up to the historic centre of Valence, are a relic from medieval times. They once had fences across them to prevent attackers and the Disease from getting through, and their magnificent stone steps have survived. Valence's geographical location made it a key centre for trading and fairs. As a result, the 'côtes' were used mainly as turnpikes, where merchants were required to pay a toll before they could sell their goods.

7 Moorish house

In 1858, the industrialist Charles Ferlin purchased land on the corner of Grande Rue to build a very unusual-looking house. He had the facade decorated with a facing of moulded cement to create a clever effect featuring a combination of Oriental influences (such as arcs and floral decorations) and medieval references, including gargoyles.

8 Saint-Jean covered market & church

The Saint-Jean district is one of the oldest parts of the city, centred on a quaint square with a lovely atmosphere. The church has a neo-Romanesque bell tower. And here you find the market hall, where weekly stands local products markets and occasional arts and crafts markets. This district is also home to a number of gourmet restaurants.



9 Maison des Têtes

This intriguing monument (House of Heads) owes its name to the many carved heads decorating its façade. Its unusual design is a sign of wealth, in the past, this house belonged to a rich consul of Valence. It marks the transition from medieval to Renaissance architecture and has a pretty internal courtyard open to the public. The carved heads on the first floor are depictions of Fortune and Time, while the ones above them represent the winds, including the famous Mistral.

10 Armenian Heritage Center

Dedicated to the history of civilisations and the exodus of the Armenian people, the center explains an important episode in the city's past when thousands of Armenians fled their homeland for Valence during the genocide in 1920. Throughout the year the CPA (Centre du Patrimoine Arménien) holds temporary exhibitions on a variety of subjects: migration, contemporary conflicts, ethnic groups, identity and living together.

www.le-cpa.com



11 The canals of Valence

The canals are a highly original part of Valence's natural and historical heritage and a treasure that must be protected. Canal du Thon, canal de la Grande Marquise: these evocative names feature among the 17 km of open-air canals around the city. They are a haven for urban plant and animal life.

3 Tour departures
Maps available at our Tourist Offices

12 Park & port of Épervière

As one of the main river marina in Europe, the port of Épervière offers an exceptional setting for relaxation, just a stone's throw from the town centre. What's more, it can even be reached by the ViaRhôna. To prolong their summertime hikes, walkers can also take a break in the heart of Épervière park, a green setting spanning seven hectares (orchard and picnic areas), or take a swim in the water park, open all year round.

Highlights worth a detour !

- A** Statue of Bonaparte
- B** Valence-Ville railway station
- C** Émile Ioubet School
- D** Caretaker's house
- E** The cathedral gardens
- F** Sculpture "Le Messager" - Jaume Plensa
- G** Place de la Pierre
- H** Labour Exchange
- I** Notre-Dame de Soyons Abbey
- J** Protestant church Saint-Ruf
- K** Saint Ruf Gate
- L** Comédie de Valence
- M** Sculpture "Hubert III" - Bruno Catalano
- N** City Theatre
- O** Grande rue
- P** Place des Clercs
- Q** Courthouse
- R** Former Consular palace
- S** Monumental fountain
- T** Nouvelles Galeries

Follow the guide!

The Valence Romans Agglo territory is part of the national network of «Villes et Pays d'art et d'histoire» (Towns and Regions of Art and History). Discover the area's heritage through numerous guided tours.

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Pays d'art et d'histoire Valence Romans Agglo



New
The Cathedral Gardens
A true nod to history, the Cathedral Gardens draw inspiration from the design conceived in the 19th century by the architect Bailly during the renovation of the forecourt. At the time, he considered a monumental staircase, perfectly aligned with the bell tower of Saint-Apollinaire Cathedral.



Today, this project is coming to life and can be explored by an elegant double staircase leading to over 2,000 m² of public spaces. Work is currently underway to create landscaped terraces, hanging gardens and stunning viewpoints. A majestic site, ideal for strolling, admiring the heritage and enjoying a break in the heart of the city.

Street Art in Valence



Find all the artworks installed in various neighbourhoods and parks of Valence on the "L'art dans l'espace public à Valence"

« Comme on fait son lit on se couche »
Remy Uno • 2023 • 17 avenue du Pdt Herriot

Remy Uno enjoys expressing in his work what we tend to hide, trapped in the illusion of social media success where it's taboo to mention our laziness.

« Sans titre »
KLEMZ • 2025 • 23 boulevard d'Alsace

This wall serves as a canvas for temporary artworks throughout the festival. This year, the artists taking turns are Jerc and Fokus, Votour and Boye, Miets and Lemak, and finally Klemz.

« Rumbos »
Ana Langeheld • 2024 • Gymnase Magakian

This artist from Seville addresses the contradiction of a globalized era that still resists immigration. The piece speaks of second chances, of dreams to which everyone is entitled.

« Sans titre »
Woizo • 2024 • 105 avenue de Romans

Woizo's art is defined by his ability to play with shapes and colors. His works celebrate vitality, transformation, and evolution.

« Fleurs du futur »
Ciclopo • 2023 • 7 rue Briffaut

The mural Fleurs du futur, created by Argentine duo Ciclopo, was ranked among the ten most beautiful murals in the world by the reference site Street Art Cities.

« Sans titre »
Lucy Lucy • 2024 • 15 rue Balzac

Lucy's paintings capture the evolving folklore of femininity, exploring its energy through archetypal portraits of muses, mothers, and goddesses.

« Subtraction »
SODA • 2025 • 7, rue du Pont du Cat

In 'Subtraction', Soda has created a striking piece in which his abstract black-and-white work is superimposed onto the raw concrete façade, playing with 3D and depth effects.

« Crossing Lines »
Heng • 2023 • 48 rue Amblard

The artist's work navigates between composition and deconstruction, focusing on architectural forms and fragments of imaginary landscapes. Heng enjoys following his instincts.

