

# EUROPE 2023

4 months | 6 countries | 8 house swaps | 10 journey legs | 2 grand-boys +1

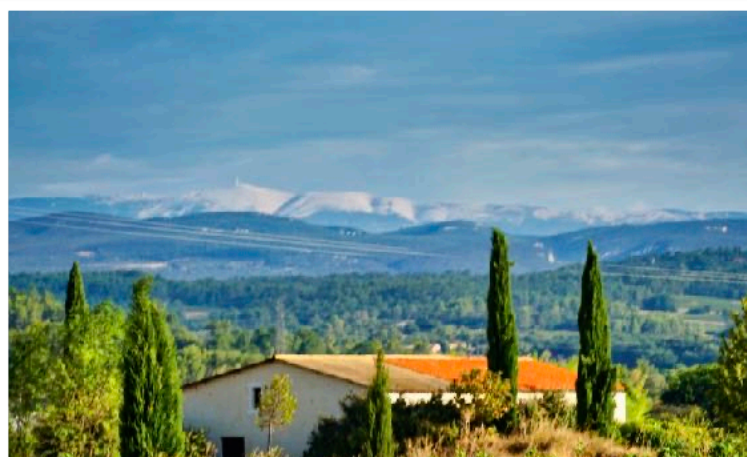
## Only in France

Watching TV. Saw an advertisement about a well known manual hair shaver and that it was smooth enough to shave the hairy scrotum of a transvestite!! Charming!!

Driving along tortuously winding mountainous road this morning we were suddenly hit by an extremely loud explosive noise. Scared both of us to the core!! I thought our car engine had blown up. Heather thought a massive rock had hit the roof. Then above us two extremely low and extremely fast flying F-16 jets roared by.

There are no Subaru cars in France. I have looked and looked. None. Period.

We are amused at finding so many Australian based shows on TV - all with French commentary. Difficult to watch. House renovations, opal mining, health and wellbeing advice and cooking shows.



## North West to Vaucluse

Today's trip took us to two villages. The first, Cabrieres d'Avignon, was a very quiet spot that was special for the quality of the stone work on the many walls that lined the streets. Artisans have surely been at work here as the walls are straight as a dye and often topped by massive stones. Truly beautiful work.

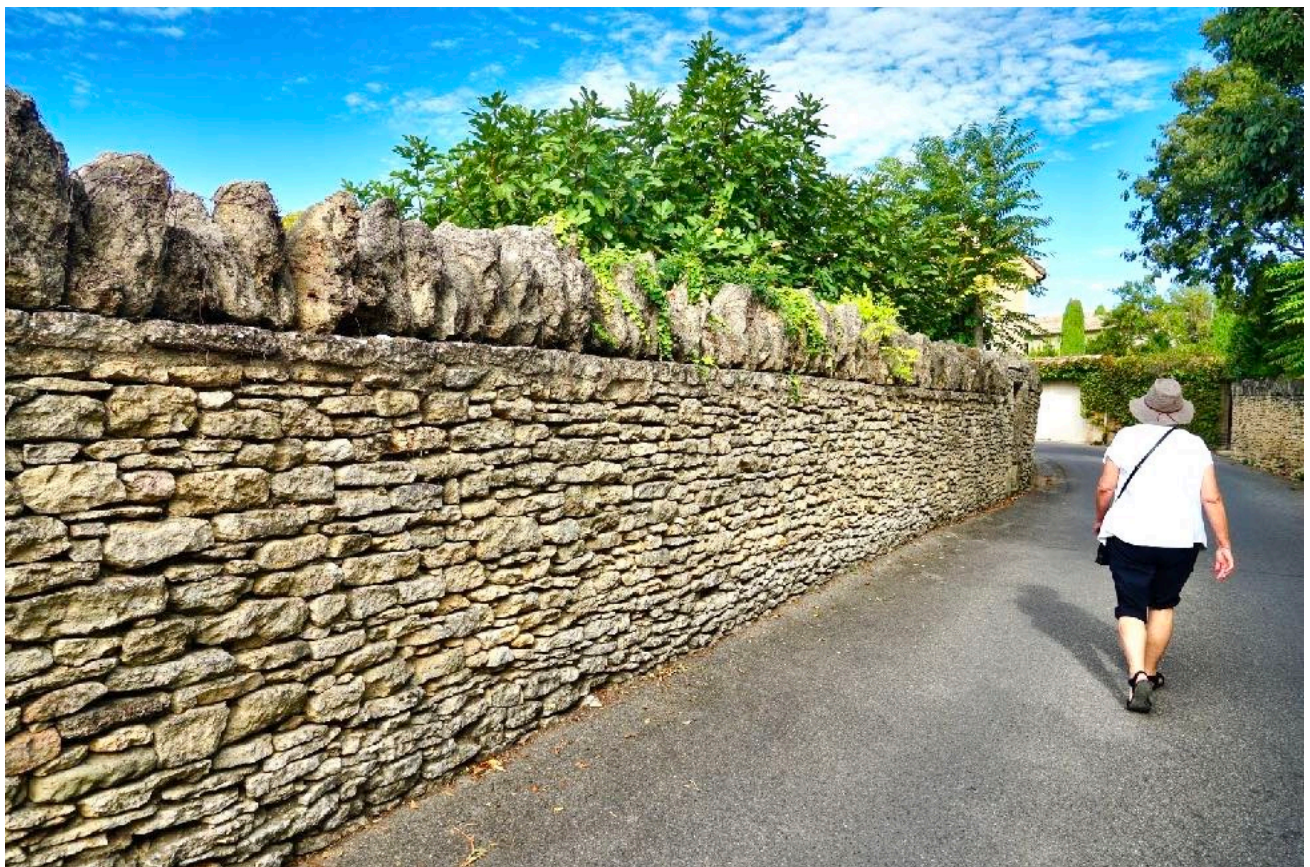
Then, after some effort, we finally found Fontaine de Vaucluse. It is a little commune (village) that has grown up at the base of very high cliffs that have been sculptured by erosion. The erosion is the consequence of a spring that emerges from the base of the cliff a few hundred metres from the village. This spring then creates the river Sorgue. The spring has been investigated recently by a submarine device that found the hole to be 308 metres deep. The water apparently comes from ground water fed by snow melt in the Vaucluse Mountains behind. The spring is the largest in France and one of the most powerful in terms of output.

Yes, and we loved it too - an awesome, tranquil place despite the constant roar of water..

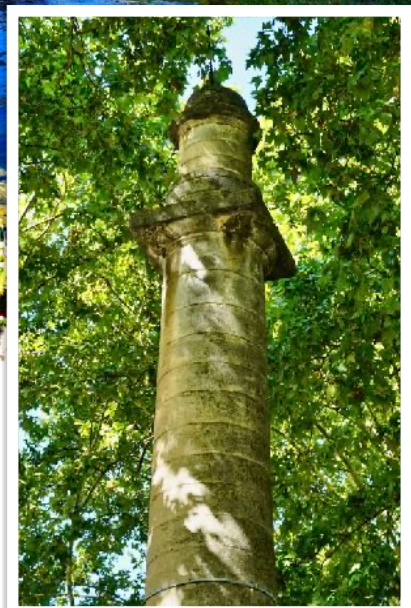
There were quite a few people around but we all peacefully gaped at the crystal clear river, the mammoth cliffs, the many water falls where weirs have been created and the time honoured buildings along the sides of the river. We walked to the source along a rough track. Because it is late summer we could not see masses of water emerging, but it is obviously running below the huge piles of rock evident in the stream bed. We also sat and sampled another pizza.

Before getting to the village we had to park some distance out. Once again we had to navigate the very perplexing French parking meters. Trying to work out the French instructions can be very annoying but this time around we did it with aplomb and even helped an elderly French couple to get their ticket. By elderly we mean, older than us.

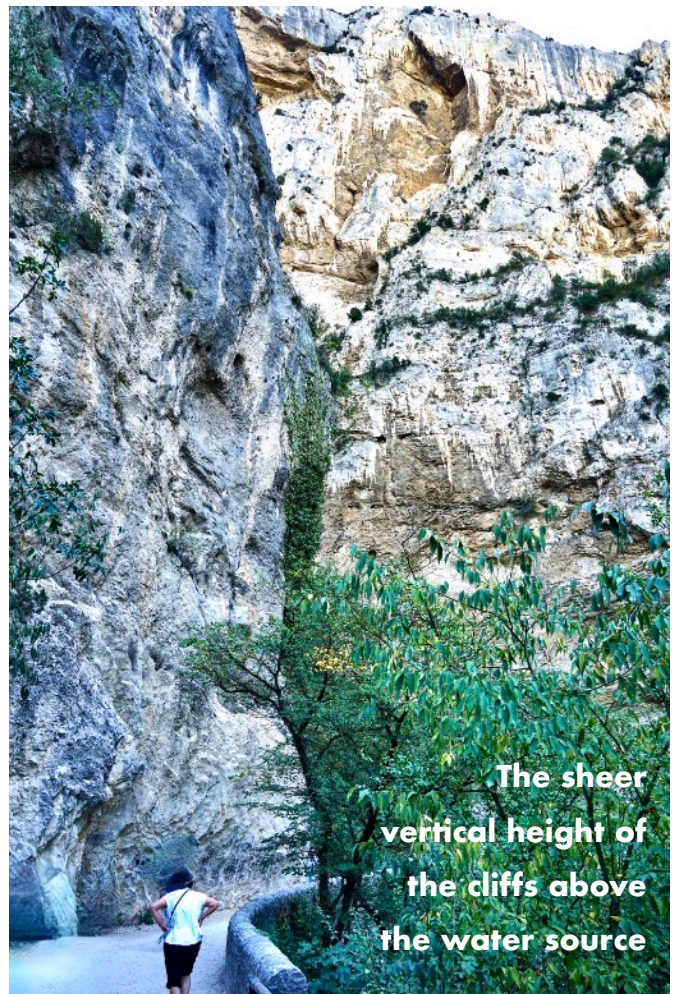












The water is crystal clear and cold

The sheer vertical height of the cliffs above the water source