

100 fun things to do at Les Murets:

1. Walk to the bakery in Cabrieres for fresh croissants in the morning
2. Experience a morning market in a different town each day
3. Visit the spectacular town of Gordes and have coffee in one of the outdoor cafes; don't miss the special exhibit at the new "Mairie" or the many art galleries and shops in town
4. Attend a concert in one of the many churches or parks in the area
5. Visit the Palais des Papes in Avignon and have tea at the lovely Hotel la Mirande as you leave
6. Buy pizza off the pizza truck in Coustellet
7. Hike through the dramatic Grand Canyon of Roussillon and then get ice cream at the shop next to the ochre quarry
8. Tour a few local wineries and vote on a favorite wine
9. Buy and cook only what is in season and grown locally ... and savor the flavors
10. Visit the Musee Granet in Aix and marvel at their permanent collection of Cezanne's; then go visit Cezanne's studio
11. Drive to Bonnieux on Friday morning and listen to the live band performing French standards in the market
12. Buy fresh goat cheese from the goat farmer on the hidden road above Buoux
13. Hike to Gordes and try not to get lost; hike it again and again until you get it right and feel rightfully proud
14. In June and July, follow the spectacular lavender road that crests the Luberon mountain from Bonnieux to Saignon ; take the same road any other time of year, and enjoy the open views
15. Go to St. Remy and visit the Roman ruins (or just hang out in town at all the cute shops)
16. Visit the Alpilles and hike up to Les Baux and drive home via Eygalieres; stop for a photo op at the 12th century Chapelle St. Sixte
17. Go to the Farmer's market in Coustellet on Sunday morning for a spectacle of fine food and fun people watching
18. Get a private tour of the Jardin de la Louve in Bonnieux (offered each month)
19. Buy bread from a different bakery every day and give each one a rating
20. Visit to the Corkscrew Museum at Domaine de la Bastidonne
21. Hike to the top of Menerbes and visit the gorgeous Maison de la Truffe et du Vin
22. Celebrate your wedding anniversary with lunch at Domaine de la Capelongue
23. Celebrate it again the next night with a catered meal, at home, and ask the wine merchant in Coustellet to pick out the wine for you
24. On a Sunday morning, brave the crowds, find Van Gogh's ear and then visit the second most renowned antiques capital of France , Isle sur la Sorgue
25. Drive to Cassis and hike the Calanques; have lunch in the old port then go for a boat ride in the afternoon
26. Go look at art in the galleries in Gordes, Roussillon , Menerbes and Bonnieux, among others
27. Visit the Musee de la Resistance in Fontaine de Vaucluse and then hike up to find the hidden source of the river Sorgue (hint, even Jacques Cousteau couldn't find it, but have fun looking)
28. Go Kayaking or canoing down the river Sorgue

29. Visit the queen of fine linen and good taste, the famous Edith Mezard boutique in Lumieres
30. Go to the charming little farmer's market in Petit Palais on a Saturday morning if you don't want to hear any English spoken (shhh ... don't tell anyone!)
31. Go to any Vide Grenier that you see advertised (usually on weekends, and not to be missed!)
32. Hike up the exquisite village of Lacoste to the Marquis de Sade's castle (now owned by Pierre Cardin) and have drinks or lunch at the Café de Sade, overlooking the valley
33. Have a simple, delicious lunch at the Restaurant de la Gare in Bonnieux and hang out with the locals
34. Go horseback riding
35. Test your golfing ability with the challenging Seffi Balesteros course at Port Royal
36. Walk across the top of the Pont du Gard and marvel at the beauty of this Roman aquaduct
37. Rent bikes at Les Roues du Luberon and follow all the three digit D roads (the smallest roads in the area) through the vineyards
38. Attend the Festival d'Avignon theatre in July
39. Have bouillabaisse at Fifi's in the Vieux Port of Marseille
40. Hire a driver for the day: Have lunch at l'Oustalet in Gigondas or Auberge du Beaucet, and then tour the Chateauneuf du Papes wineries
41. Drive back to Gordes in your color coordinated best , and pose for a family photograph on the rock overlooking the village, at sunset
42. Drive to the top of the Mont Ventoux and admire all the bicyclists – and the view
43. Go to the Apt market on Saturday mornings, the biggest and best market in the valley, and then visit the three Apt pottery stores, specializing in the unique marbled ceramics
44. Visit the Chateau of Ansouis when the Duke and Duchess are in town
45. Go to an outdoor film viewing in Cucuron and relive the movie, "A Good Life"; or just sit by the "Etang" for a pleasant lunch
46. Attend an outdoor opera concert in the ancient Roman theater in Orange; bring a sweater
47. Have lunch in the gorgeous outdoor garden at Le Mas de Tourteron
48. Go to the Santons fair (in the winter) in Aix and buy some of these magical little hand made clay figurines that will become instant heirlooms
49. Visit an olive oil mill and in November, watch them harvest the olives
50. Walk through the charming village of Joucas and then have an exquisite dinner at the nearby Ferme de la Huppe, enjoying one of the best (and best kept secret) meals in the region
51. Go to a super market and stock up on all the fabulous products you can't get at home, from notebooks to lingerie to salt
52. Spend an afternoon by the pool reading up on all the guidebooks in the house
53. Invite your boss to visit and then arrange for him or her to take you to l'Oustau de la Baumaniere in Les Baux, for lunch
54. Drive up to northern Provence and enjoy a different scenery and Roman ruins in Vaison la Romaine; drive home a different way
55. Play a round robin tennis match every evening before dinner

56. Have lunch under pink parasols in Oppède le Vieux and then hike up to the charming 12th Century church; look directly across the valley and try to find Les Murets; picture yourself in the movie *The Swimming Pool* or *Mr. Bean's Holiday*, which were both shot in that village
57. Buy homemade salted caramel ice cream at the little bakery in Cabrières (and don't tell anyone in your family)
58. Just once, close the shutters and sleep until noon, and then hang out by the pool all day
59. In the winter, ask our caretaker to bring his dog and go truffle hunting on the property; you may not want to eat them, so put truffles in a glass jar and leave them in the freezer for your nice landlords
60. Then head up to Carpentras on a Friday, and buy your own truffles at the amazing truffle market
61. Visit the antique stores in Lourmarin and Bonnieux (they're brothers, but nobody knows this!) and then have lunch at le Fournil in Bonnieux.
62. Go back a week later, and have lunch at La Fenière, in Lourmarin. Compare and contrast
63. Hike in the footsteps of Cézanne to the top of the Mont Sainte Victoire, outside of Aix
64. Visit Picasso's home in Vauvenargues
65. Sign up for a cooking class in one of the nearby villages; or hire your own chef to come in and teach
66. Buy watercolor paints and paper at the local Auchan, and do some plein air painting on the property or nearby
67. Have dinner at Goin in Coustellet and go down to the wine cellar to pick out your own wine
68. Visit the Village of the Bories in Gordes and then dare your spouse to spend the night in one of our two bories
69. Plan a wedding at the house
70. Visit the Pierre Salinger museum in Le Thor and meet his widow, Poppy
71. Have lunch at Café de la Poste in the charming village of Goult, and then walk it off by following the footsteps to the windmill at the top of the village
72. Go for a ride in a hot air balloon
73. Throw all the leftovers in to a big pot, heated up with some wine and fresh herbs from the garden, and savor a delicious, hearty, toasty soup by the fire, with a great book
74. Go for dinner at the delightful Bistrot à Michel in Cabrières and walk home, in the moonlight
75. Run the marathon of Provence (Oct. 3, 2010). Or the semi. Or the 10K. Or do your own, any day
76. Dress up in your finest white linen and attend an evening concert in the quarry of Lacoste, where you will rub shoulders and sip champagne with Pierre Cardin and "le tout Paris."
77. Avoid the crowds and go antiquing in Isle sur la Sorgue on a Saturday; then eat lunch at the delightful and gorgeous Jardin du Quai (extremely, i.e. a little too, popular on Sundays)
78. Buy plump and juicy prunes from the market and soak them in Armagnac. Then serve them over vanilla ice cream every night and watch them get better and better as the time goes on
79. Visit the delightful medieval town of Uzès, just west of the Pont du Gard, and have lunch at one of the charming restaurants off of the Place des Herbes
80. Spend an afternoon getting pampered at one of the many hotels or spas in the area

81. Invite our caretakers up for a glass of pastis and a round of boules or petanques in the boules court
82. Go to an OM soccer game in Marseille
83. Collect local wines from 5 to 50 euros per bottle and do a blind wine tasting
84. Turn off all the lights and dance in the moonlight on the terrace
85. Spend an afternoon of pure fun and decadence shopping at your favorite boutiques in Aix, then have lunch at the 2 G's
86. Buy fresh bread, cheese, ham and tomatoes and go for a picnic in one of the fields above Gordes, singing "The Hills are Alive" at the top of your lungs
87. Start a jigsaw puzzle on the coffee table and build on it all week
88. Go out to lunch and get everyone to try something on the menu that they've never heard of before
89. Go to Gregoire's in St. Saturnin, the haven for Procencal fabrics, and shop for divine fabrics
90. Pull over next to a sunflower field for a wonderful colorful photo op
91. Divide in to teams and play a lively game of dental floss after dinner
92. Go for a midnight swim
93. Watch the movie "A Good Year" and spot all the places you've been to in the area
94. Have lunch at my favorite restaurant, the Bistrot du Paradou in le Paradou
95. Drive to the charming city of Arles and visit the remarkable and beautifully preserved Roman monuments; catch a bull run in the Coliseum or a concert at the Forum
96. Go to M Bricolage or one of the other mega stores outside of Avignon and enjoy browsing the French hardware section
97. Over Christmas, learn about the 13 desserts and sample one of each
98. Attend Vespers in the evening at the Abbaye de Senanque and marvel at how six voices can fill the entire sanctuary with rich and melodious sound
99. Do everything on this list and keep a running blog or diary so that you can savor it for years to come.

- 100. Or, if you are like my daughter Alexandra, spend a week happily at the house without ever leaving the property!**

And by the way, all of the suggestions above take place within 1 ¼ hours drive from Les Murets. Venture a little further and you can visit the wonderful beaches in the Camargue (about 1 ½ hours), rub noses with the jet set in St. Tropez (1 ¾ hours), attend the Cannes film festival (2 hours), dine among Picasso's at the renowned Colombe d'Or in St. Paul de Vence, or visit the exquisite city of Nice and its many cultural attractions. There really is too much to do, and always too little time.