



## Maison Felix

[www.maisonfelix.com](http://www.maisonfelix.com)

*A charming holiday cottage at the foot of Cordes sur Ciel*

## Cordes sur Ciel

From Maison Felix, the easiest way to walk into Cordes is up the road past the cemetery. Head up from the square towards the main road and the hardware shop. Cross the road and follow the lane up behind the Hostellerie du Parc.

After the cemetery, on the right, is an old monastery, and there is a tree-lined track behind this which brings you out at one of the main entrances to the old town.

The best way to see Cordes is to just wander. Guide books will explain about the history of the Cathars and the Counts of Toulouse, and describe the magnificent architecture of the merchants' houses, but the first thing to do is to just look and marvel. The top of the town, around the Church must be seen. There is a vast



covered market hall, and above that, the Place de la Bride with wonderful views of the countryside. There are many shops and restaurants, some open all year round, and many just opening when there are a lot of visitors.

The town mostly avoids the really big crowds found in some comparable tourist sites, perhaps because it requires a degree of effort to get to the top. (Sensible shoes are advised) There is limited parking higher up, and traffic is impractical and strongly discouraged in the narrow cobbled streets in the highest fortification.

You should allow at least half a day to begin absorbing this wonderful place, and if you are staying at Maison Felix, you will have the good fortune to be able to wander around the streets in the evening when most of the tourists have gone home. Watch the sun set from Le Planol, make friends with the cats, admire the ancient clock above the arch on the Rue Horologe, and eat a simple supper under the market hall at the friendly Auberge de la Halle. Walk along the Rue Chaude and imagine the ladies of the night here when Cordes was a densely populated centre for embroidery. Do look into the Church, and if you have the time during the day, the art gallery, one of the finest buildings, specialises in the surrealists, and the Charles Portal museum has artefacts back to Roman times and earlier, and the most wonderful views from its ancient fortifications.



When the sun is rising on a beautiful morning the early mist clings to the valley of the Cerou around Maison Felix, and Cordes floats in the clouds above. This is the view from your bedroom, so don't oversleep! Cordes is, quite literally, in the sky.