

Season

From mid-April to middle of November.

We recommend you to book this tour 3 or 4 months before the departure date if you plan to walk it in summer time. Great demand and few rooms!

Difficulty: grade 3

You walk 6 to 8 hours a day. Terrain is hilly or mountainous. Total altitude gain is about 750 m a day. These tours are for regular week-end walkers. No difficult to follow the well-waymarked trail but on the top of the Mont Lozère, the signs are very few.



Itinerary

12-day and 11-night self-guided walking holidays

Day 1: Arrival in LE MONASTIER SUR GAZEILLE. Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 2 : LE MONASTIER SUR GAZEILLE – LE BOUCHET SAINT NICOLAS (23 km – 6 and a half hour walk). Before setting out, you will visit Monastier, its abbey and château, and the old streets and homes of the village. You will cross the valleys of the Gazeille and the Loire, then a vast plateau, to arrive at Le Bouchet. Half-board accommodation in a farmhouse. All conveniences provided.

Day 3 : LE BOUCHET – LANGOGNE (25 km – 7 hour walk). You will hike the length of the plateau, passing through picturesque little villages such as Landos and Jagonas, to reach Pradelles, a medieval city worth visiting. You will then arrive in Langogne, a small city that grew up around its medieval center. Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 4 : LANGOGNE – CHEYLARD L'EVEQUE (16 km – 4 and a half hour walk). Today's hike is short, giving you time to wander around the little villages you will pass through, such as Saint Flour de Merçoire, where you will discover a Romanesque church. Your destination for the day is Cheylard l'Eveque, a picturesque village at the end of the earth, sitting quietly in the shadow of the Notre Dame de Toutes les Graces Chapel, accessible by a path which leads one through the 14 Stations of the Cross - Half-board accommodation in a guest house with all conveniences provided.

Day 5 : CHEYLARD – LA BASTIDE PUY LAURENT (19 km – 5 hour walk). You will cross through the forest and over small streams, admiring the landscape all the way to Luc, which now holds only the ruins of a château that once defended the entire Allier Valley. You will follow the river to La Bastide Puy Laurent. Half-board accommodation in a one-star hotel with all conveniences

Day 6 : LA BASTIDE – CHASSERADES with a round-trip journey to the Abbey of Notre Dame des Neiges (about an hour and a half walk) then, La Bastide – Chasseradès (12 km). In the morning you will leave for a visit of the Trappist abbey of Notre Dame des Neiges which Stevenson, though Protestant, often mentioned in his writings. The buildings were all rebuilt after a fire in 1912. You will return to La Bastide to point your route towards Chasseradès, passing through the lovely village of Chabalière, and by the Rocher de Rochoabo, which looks much like a château in ruins - Half-board accommodation in a one-star hotel.

Day 7 : CHASSERADES – LE BLEYMARD (14 km – 3 and a half hour walk). You will make your way to Mirandol and its famous viaduct and continue on to l'Estampe, at the foot of the Goulet Mountain. The path zigzags through the forest, passes through the abandoned village of Serremejean, and then heads down the southern slope to Le Bleybard - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 8 : LE BLEYMARD – LE PONT DE MONTVERT (18 km – 7 hour walk). Here starts the long climb up Mont Lozère. You will pass by Le Mazel, which holds ancient mines, and follow the long and difficult climb through the forest. When you need a rest, sit alongside one of the few waterfalls along the route. Just beyond Le Chalet du Mont Lozère, the landscape changes. The crests become covered by nothing more than a sad prairie from which rise towers of granite stone (called montjoies) marking the footpath. You will have a startling view of the Pic de Piniels at 1,699 meters. Finally your work will be rewarded with the downward conclusion of the hike, bringing you through the forest to Finiels, and then further still to Le Pont de Montvert, at the bottom of the Tarn Valley. Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 9 : LE PONT DE MONTVERT – FLORAC (28 km – 8 hour walk). You will visit the village where, in 1702, the assassination of the Abbot Chayla marked the start of the War of the Camisards. You will pick up the path again – though not that which R.L. Stevenson followed through the Tarn Valley, as it is too dangerous today, but the lovely route passing

through the Montagne de Bougès and the Col du Sapet (pass) to arrive in Florac, a magnificent little village which you simply must visit! - Half-board accommodation in a hotel with ensuite facilities.

Day 10 : FLORAC – CASSAGNAS (17 km – 4 and a half hour walk). After leaving Florac, you will climb up the steep-sided valley of La Minente to arrive in Saint Julien d'Arpaon and the looming ruins of its medieval château. You will follow the old train tracks to Cassagnas.- Half-board accommodation in a hostel with all conveniences.

Day 11 : CASSAGNAS – SAINT GERMAIN DE CALBERTE (28 km – 8 hour walk). You will climb slowly through the forest to Le Plan de Fontmort where stands an obelisk commemorating the martyrs of the War of the Camisards. You will arrive at the Pierre Plantée Pass after you admired the dolmens, menhirs, and other roman ruins that decorate the route. The day ends above Saint Germain de Calberte, at the hamlet of La Serre de la Can, where your hotel is located - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

D12 : SAINT GERMAIN DE CALBERTE – SAINT JEAN DU GARD (21 km – 7 and a half hour walk). You will climb down into the very typical village of Saint Germain. The 12th/14th century church houses the tomb of Abbot Chayla. The path will lead you down valleys towards Saint Etienne Vallée Française, a wonderful village of narrow streets. You will then climb towards the Saint Pierre Pass for a beautiful view of the region, and descend again, this time into the Valley of Gardon Saint Jean, to reach Saint Jean du Gard - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

D13 : SAINT JEAN DU GARD. Tour ends after breakfast.

Access to and from

Outward journey from Paris

By train : The nearest rail station is Le Puy en Velay, you easily reach by the principal train stations in France, with correspondences in Lyon, Clermont-Ferrand or Saint Etienne. A bus or taxi will then bring you to Le Monastier sur Gazeille.

By car : You will arrive in Le Puy en Velay by following highway A75 to route N102 by way of Brioude, or in Saint Etienne by route N88. From Le Puy, take route D535, direction Le Monastier.

Inward journey to Paris

By train : A taxi or a bus (every day except on Sundays) will bring you from St Jean du Gard to the train station in Alès or Nîmes where you catch the TGV trains to Paris

Getting back your car: You have to come back to Monastier and it's not easy ! first, go by bus or taxi to Alès where you catch a train to Le Puy en Velay (14h32 Alès – arrival at 19h18 at Le Puy en Velay with a change at St Georges d'Aurac). Only one train per day! Taxi from le Puy to Le Monastier

Accommodation

2 overnight stops, lodging and breakfast basis, in 2 star hotel in Granville and Cancale. On these nights an evening meal can be obtained close by.

5 overnight stops in 1or 2 star hotel or guesthouse on a half-board accommodation.

Accommodation is normally in large bed or twin-bedded rooms, with en-suite facilities (at least shower, washbasin and toilet) when available, which is 95% of the time. However, you can stay in remote spots or small villages where there is little or no choice of accommodations and where facilities may be limited. In this case, you will share a bathroom or shower room and toilets with some other people on the same storey.

Picnic lunches are not included in the tour but are available from the hotel on request the previous evening, alternatively picnic materials can be bought at the stop village or at each of the towns and villages along the route. We indicate in the route notes where there are suitable restaurants or cafés for lunch stops. We recommend you to carry food and drinks if there are none convenient to the trail.

Included

- Twin share accommodation with private facilities
- Baggage transfer between hotels (except for STD option)
- Route notes and maps
- 12 dinners
- Emergency phone number (8:00am to 7:00pm every day)

Not included

- Visa fees, transportation fees to and from the walk area
- Insurance (strongly recommended on all trips)
- Transfers except those mentioned above
- Drinks
- Additional meals
- Spending of personal nature e.g. laundry, souvenirs, phone calls,...

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