

Season

From May to end of October.

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 ascent is about 750 m a day.

These tours are for regular week-end walkers. No difficulty to follow the well-waymarked trail but on the top of the Mont Lozère, the signs are very few.

Itinerary

8-day and 7-night self-guided walking holidays

Day 1: Arrival in CHASSERADES. *A taxi will bring you from the La Bastide Puy Laurent train station to Chasseradès.* Beautiful 12th century, roman-style church with a lauze-covered roof (lauze is a stone created by lava that is specific to this region of France) - Half-board accommodation in a one-star hotel.

Day 2: 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 Bleynard. Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 3: 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 one-star hotel.

Day 4: 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 two-star hotel.

Day 5: 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 guest house

Day 6: CASSAGNAS – SAINT GERMAIN DE CALBERTE (28 km – 8 hour walk). You will climb slowly through the forest to La Plan de Fontmort where stands an obelisk commemorating the martyrs of the War of the Camisards. You will arrive at the Pierre Plantée Pass where you will admire 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 equivalent hotel.

Day 7: 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.

Day 8 : SAINT JEAN DU GARD. Tour ends after breakfast.

Access to and from

Outward journey

By train : First go to Clermont-Ferrand or Nîmes or Montpellier by TGV trains where you change to La Bastide Puy Laurent on the "Clermont Ferrand – Alès – Nîmes – Montpellier" railway route. Few trains a day. A taxi will bring you from La Bastide Puy Laurent to Chasseradès.

By car: You will take route N88 Saint Etienne – Mende to Langogne, and continue following the Allier Valley to La Bastide Puy Laurent and Chasseradès.

Where to park : car park available in the small villages of La Bastide Puy Laurent or Chasseradès

Inward journey

By train: Bus from St Jean du Gard to Alès or Nîmes rail station.

By car: Bus from St Jean du Gard to Alès where you take a train to La Bastide Puy Laurent

Accommodation

7 overnight stops on a half-board basis in small family-run hotels or guest houses with en-suite facilities

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
- 7 dinners
- transfer by taxi from La Bastide St Laurent to chasseradés (Day 1)
- 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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