

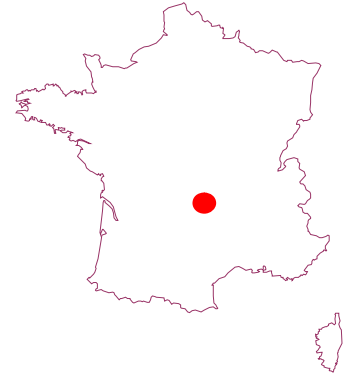
Season

From end of May to mid-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 4

You walk more than 8 hours a day in mountains. Total ascent a day could be more than 1,000 feet. It's quite challenging and you must have a high level of fitness



Itinerary

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

Day 1: Arrival at MURAT. This small city takes up a remarkable spot of beauty, with its volcanic peaks which dominate the city and on which are perched grey houses covered with Lauze (flat stone specific to this region). Visit the city of Murat, its church, Notre-Dame-de-Ohoux, its covered market (metallic, 19th century construction), and its fountains and elegant houses.

Half-board accommodation in a guesthouse in the centre of the city (with all facilities)

Day 2: MURAT - LE LIORAN (7 and a half hour walk – ascent : 850 meters). You will begin the walk by passing through Murat and climbing the Rocher de Bonnevie (Bonnevie Rock), which overlooks the city. Next, walking along the heights and passing through the picturesque hamlet of Cheyrouze, you will climb up out of the Alagnon Valley. You will make your way through the meadows and forests to reach the Roches de Vassivières (Vassivières Rocks) and the Rocher du Bec de l'Aigle (the Bec de l'Aigle Rock). You will now find yourself in a mountainous landscape of nothing by rocks. You will pass around the Teton de Venus and Le Puy Bataillouse before descending towards Super-Lioran by the Meije Costes Buron and the Lioran Forest.

Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 3: LE LIORAN - THIEZAC (8 hour walk – ascent : 750 meters). The day will begin brutally with the climbing of the Plomb du Cantal (1855 meters), from where you will look out over the whole region. The gorgeous panorama is worth the effort! You will descend slowly then, to Thiezac. After the Col de la Chèvre (the Goat Pass), you will leave the crests for the Puy Gros and Chaos de Casteltinet, and then enter into Thiezac, a pleasant summer resort. We recommend a visit of the Gothic church and the Notre-Dame-de Consolation Chapel that overlooks the village.

Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel in the village.

Day 4: THIEZAC - MANDAILLES (6 and a half hour walk – ascent : 800 meters). After leaving Thiezac and climbing on the first heights around the village, you will walk down into the admired valley of the Faillitoux Waterfall. Then, you will begin to slowly climb towards the Elanceze Summit, passing through forests and pastures, and seeing on your way the cowsheds of Braqueville and Borie Haute. You will arrive at the Col de Pertus (Pertus Pass) and begin your descent to Mandailles, by way of the Luc Waterfall and the hamlet of Liadouze.

Half-board accommodation in a charming one-star hotel (room with private facilities) in the village.

Day 5: MANDAILLES - LE CLAUX (6 and a half hour walk – ascent : 900 meters). You will leave Mandailles by the hamlets of Bardugué and Lasteyrie before climbing towards the Puy Chavaroché (1 739 meters) and arriving at the Col de Redondet (Redondet Pass). You will then walk down to the Pas de Peyrol (Peyrol Pass). You will pass around the Puy de la Tourte, climb to the Suc de la Blatte, and pass through the Chaumillous ski resort to descend to Le Claux - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel in the village.



Day 6: LE CLAux - ST JACQUES DES BLATS (8 hour walk - ascent : 950 meters). Escort by taxi to the Serre Pass. From this pass, you will climb up to the Peyrol Pass (Pas de Peyrol) and the Puy Mary (1783 meters). You will walk along the crest line, pass around the Puy de Peyre Arse, and walk down to the Passes of Cabre and Rombière towards the Puy Griou. You will skirt around the Puy Griou Pass and descend to Saint Jacques des Blats to end this stage. Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel in the village.

Day 7: ST JACQUES DES BLATS - MURAT (8 hour walk – ascent : 950 meters). You will once again climb to the Plomb du Cantal. From Saint Jacques, you will pass through the hamlet of Les Gardes, the Framadog “buron”, and under the rocky ridge of the Arpon du Diable. From Puy Burnet (1806 meters), you will arrive at the Plomb du Cantal before walking down to the Prat de Bouc Pass. Through the forest, and passing next to Les Vergnes Waterfall, you will arrive in the village of Albepierre-Bredons and the hamlet of Bredons, home to a small, fortified church that dates to the 11th century, the one and only remain of a Benedictine priory, built on a volcanic hill that dominates Murat and the Alagnon valley - Half-board accommodation in a guesthouse in the centre of the city (with all facilities)

Day 8: MURAT. Tour ends after breakfast.

Access to and from

Outward and inward journey from Paris

By train : The Murat rail station is located on the Paris-Clermont-Aurillac route. There are a few direct trains from Paris to Murat a day, otherwise change at Neussargues.

By car : Murat is accessible by A75 (Clermont Ferrand-Montpellier motorway), Exit Massiac and then N121 road to Murat or D926 road from Saint Flour

Where to park : Free unguarded car park in Murat.

Accommodation

7 overnight stops in 1 or 2 star hotel or guesthouse based on 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.

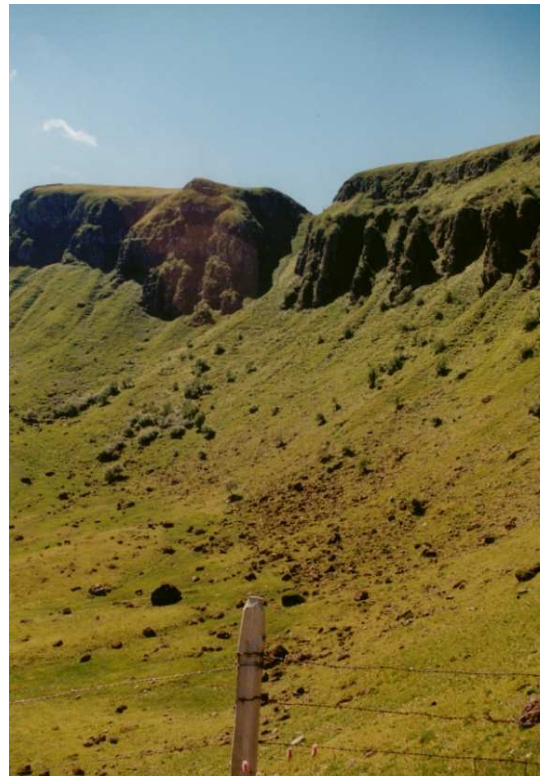
Picnic lunches are not included in the tour but are available from the hotel on request the previous evening, alternatively picnic materials can be bought at the stop village or at each of the towns and villages along the route. We indicate in the route notes where there are suitable restaurants or cafés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

Included

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

Not included

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



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