

Season

From April 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 2

This tour presents no major difficulty. You walk along the river path and there are no prolonged ascents and descents and no steep gradients.

It's easy to follow the path running along the river or on the edge of the cliffs but be careful in some places



Itinerary

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

Day 1 : Arrival at FLORAC, a small city at the foot of the Causse Méjean cliffs, and nestled in the confluence of three rivers. It is the entrance to the Gorges of the Tarn - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel

Day 2 : FLORAC - ISPAGNAC (15 km). In the morning you will have plenty of time to visit Florac, the château and the wonderful narrow roads and squares of the old quarters. After visiting the source du Pécher (spring) you start the walk in the Tarn valley passing some typical hamlets heading to the old village of Ispagnac and its Romanesque church dating of 11th and 12th C - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel in the centre of the village

Day 3 : ISPAGNAC – SAINTE ENIMIE (19 km). You will cross the old gothic bridge of Quezac, the same bridge trod by pilgrims for many years as they came to pray at the feet of the statue of the Quezac Virgin. Head to the banks of the Tarn and pass around the perimeter of the village of Montbrun, near the château de Charbonnières. You will then reach the surprising village of Castelbouc, where the houses lean against the cliffs, and gaze up to the ruins of the château perched 60 meters high on the rock surface. A resurgence of waters from the Causse Méjean gush out into the village from three different spots. You will see the Château de Prades on the opposite bank and will soon after arrive in Sainte Enimie. Half-board accommodation in a family-run hotel



Day 4 : SAINTE ENIMIE – LA MALENE (15 km) We invite you to explore the old village of Ste Enimie, clinging to the cliff's walls, to discover its picturesque, narrow streets and to climb to the cave where Sainte Enimie (Merovingian princess) lived. You will leave the village and cross the river to head to Saint Chély du Tarn, a beautiful village situated at the edge of a huge, desolate corrie and at the foot of intimidating cliffs. You will then discover the corrie of Pugnadoires and the small, cliff-side village. Further along the path, you will come across the beautiful, romantic château of La Caze, and arrive at La Malène, used as a crossing point of the Tarn and is also a place of seasonal transhumance. Have a stroll through the narrow streets towards the 12th century Romanesque church before heading to the 16th century château where you will be staying the night - Bed & Breakfast in a house located in the village

Day 5 : LA MALENE - LES VIGNES (14 km) In the morning, we invite you to take a boat trip along the straights of the Tarn. This part of the river is one of the narrowest and most beautiful of the Gorges. The cliffs rise several hundred meters, and in some places, several kilometres, above the water's surface and widen to form the fantastic cirque of Baumes. A taxi or bus will drive you to the village of La Malène (including in the boat trip fee) In the afternoon you will follow the same itinerary but on foot this time! From La Malène you will return to Les Vignes by way of a path that runs along the edge of the cliffs which overlook the straights of the Tarn. You will find here a different view of the gorges, but no less impressive! - Half-board accommodation in a family-run hotel

Day 6 : LES VIGNES – LE ROZIER (15 km) You will descend into the Gorges of Tarn by following the left bank of the river. You will pass under the ruins of the Château de Blanquefort and the impressive Rocher du Cinglegros, a huge, threatening rock separated from the cliff. You will pass through isolated hamlets, such as Sablière, provided with

supplies by a cable system from the road on the opposite river bank! You'll get into Le Rozier and Peyreleau, two villages just separated by the Jonte river - Half-board accommodation in a family-run hotel

Day 7 : LE ROZIER – an unforgettable hike (between 12 and 20 km) on the edges of Causse Méjean, above the gorges of the Tarn and the Jonte rivers. This sloping foot path leads you to the small deserted hamlet of Capluc, from where you can reach the Capluc rock. The most daring among you may choose to follow the vertical metal ladders to the Rocher de Capluc, from where an outstanding panorama of the Tarn and Jonte stretches. (This route is not recommended, though, to those suffering from vertigo.) Once you have recovered, you will climb towards the Francbouteille pass. From here, several different paths of varying difficulty – Le Vase de Sèvres (the vase of Sèvres), Le Vase de Chine (the vase of China), and Le Balcon du Vertige (Vertigo's Balcony) – offer breath-taking views as they bring you across the Causse and to the pass that will lead you back to Peyreleau.
Half-board accommodation in the same family-run hotel

Day 8 : PEYRELEAU. Tour ends after breakfast.

Access to and from

Outward journey

By train : Volvic is on the Clermont-Ferrand-Le Mont Dore regional route. Change at Clermont Ferrand from Paris Gare de Lyon (several trains per day) or Lyon station.

By car : Volvic is accessible by the A71 motorway, (exit Volvic) And then, along D986 road.

Where to park : unguarded car parks are available around the Volvic train station or in the village

Outward journey

By train : Regular trains from Le Mont Dore to Clermont-Ferrand. Connection to Paris or Lyon

By car : trains from Le Mont-Dore to Volvic

Accommodation

7 nights with accommodation in 1 or 2 star hotel or guesthouse on half-board basis

1 night in B&B basis at La Maléne

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
- 8 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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