



France on Foot & by Rail

Light or moderate hikes laced together via a fascinating mountain railway.

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Access remoter parts of Ardèche, Lozère & Gard with ease.
- ☞ Enjoy welcoming countryside accommodation, including a night on the banks of Lake Villefort.
- ☞ Explore the fine medieval villages of Langogne & Pradelles.
- ☞ Stroll the banks of Lake Villefort - with Lake Naussac option.
- ☞ Visit the Notres Dames des Neiges abbey.



Fact File

- ✓ 4-night, self-guided tour featuring circular hikes.
- ✓ Personalise the walks to make them light or moderate to suit you on the day.
- ✓ Commence any day from early April to late-October. * See Access below.
- ✓ Tour starts in Villefort and finishes in Langogne, with convenient access from Lyon or Nimes via Ales and Paris via Clermont-Ferrand.
- ✓ Comfortable and welcoming hotels, all en suite.



Theme

France on Foot and by Rail is one of our eco-friendly walking tours by train. A journey that sees you hiking near, and riding on, the Cevennes railway line, Le Cévenol. This is your chance to enjoy stimulating hikes laced together by short train-rides. It is a fascinating criss-cross journey across valleys and over viaducts on the Cevennes railway known as the "line of 100 tunnels."



France on Foot and by Rail is a special experience indeed. So climb aboard and enjoy a varied array of circular day walks in two separate French departments. The experience will exceed your expectations and have you discussing it with your friends for years to come.

This is an eco-friendly walking tour by train, featuring the one and only 'Cévenol': a railway-line linking Nîmes to Clermont-Ferrand. For those of you that enjoy walking but want to get away from the car, there isn't a better way to do it than taking your walking holiday by rail. It's a trip of a lifetime, featuring tailored day hikes complemented by short train rides. Enjoy the picturesque scenery from your modern and comfortable SNCF seat, delight in the changing landscapes of Ardeche, Cevennes and Lozere, and get a sense of what you are about to experience upon arrival at your next destination.

Built over a century-and-a-half ago to facilitate the transport of wine and coal to Paris, the line bears testimony to man's engineering ingenuity as it wends its way along a geological fault-line from Alès to Villefort to La Bastide, through innumerable tunnels and across some breathtaking viaducts.

France on Foot and by Rail is a unique opportunity to walk France by train. Enjoy a memorable short hike at each programmed stop that serves to bring to life the land linked together by Le Cévenol. Comfortable accommodation awaits you and all three hikes are flexible, with light or moderate options to suit how you feel on the day.

4-night Itinerary¹

- Day 1** **Arrival and first night on the banks of Lake Villefort**
Take Le Cevenol from Nimes via Ales, or Paris via Clermont-Ferrand - see train ideas under Access below. You are collected from the station and taken to your hotel.
- Day 2** **Lake Villefort**
[options from 7 kms-4½ miles, +/- 50ms, to 14 kms-9½ miles, +/- 170ms.]
Today you enjoy a 4-mile hike round the lake with optional extensions to Castanet castle or via the Mont Lozere trail. Second night in Villefort.
- Day 3** **Notre Dame de Neige Abbey**
[7½ miles-12 kms, +/- 250 ms] with two shorter options. 15-minute train journey to La Bastide. Check in and hike to Notre Dame de Neige Abbey, celebrated for its liquor and where RL Stevenson stayed whilst hiking Cevennes in 1879. Night in La Bastide.
- Day 3** **The Road to Pradelles** [9 miles-15kms, +/- 270ms] or **Lake Naussac**. [5 miles-8½ kms, +/- 45ms].
Short morning train-ride to Langogne. Check in and enjoy an historic hike to the fascinating medieval fortified town of Pradelles, via the medieval and 18th C versions of The Regordane, or a gentler hike to the banks of Lake Naussac. Night in Langogne.
- Day 4** **End of your hiking tour.** Breakfast followed by transfer to SNCF station and onward train: south to Nimes via Ales or north to Clermont-Ferrand and change for Paris.



Lake Villefort

The view from Pradelles



What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights' bed and breakfast/B & B [incl. local taxes] in '2-star standard' accommodation with en-suite facilities - see below.
- ✓ 4 evening meals
- ✓ Industry-leading hiking notes, 1:25,000 maps and themed dossier
- ✓ Train tickets integral to the tour, from starting to finishing point.
- ✓ Collection from and return to Villefort station².
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 7/7 native English and locally-based support



Not included

- ⊗ Any other meals and all drinks and extras
- ⊗ Personal expenses
- ⊗ Entrances into any optional cultural visits and venues
- ⊗ Hiking, personal and travel insurances
- ⊗ Single rooms - unless booked at the single-person rate
- ⊗ Travel to and from the tour start and finish points.



We don't advise you to take photos like this one!



Your lunch spot on the shores of Lake Naussac



Three comfortable hotels

“Carefully-selected accommodation based on knowing our partners well.”

You stay in comfortable, family-run hotels of ‘2-star standard’, with private rooms and en suite facilities throughout. They have been carefully selected on the basis of comfort and character, location, service and welcome.

You stay two nights in Villefort, one in La Bastide, and one in Langogne.

Evening meals are included for your convenience, allowing you enjoy your tour to the full without distractions, while packed lunches can either be purchased from your hosts or in each village before commencing your hike - details are in your dossier and detailed walking notes.



Castanet and its castle, near Villefort

Access & Departure

How to get to Villefort

Access to this village in Eastern Cevennes is made easy by the existence of The Cevenol train. You have two options: from the south and Nimes via Ales in 100 minutes*, or from Paris via Clermont-Ferrand, which is a full day's travel.

* Limited options apply from Nimes on Saturday

Getting to Claremont-Ferrand

By Air

There are flights between Clermont-Ferrand and Southampton [UK] with Flybe from May to October and with Ryanair from Charleroi [Brussels] from April.

Air France has flights (some seasonal and through a subsidiary) to Amsterdam, Biarritz, Brussels, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Nice, Paris-CDG and Paris-Orly, Strasbourg and Toulouse.



By Rail

Regional trains from Paris Bercy take from 3½ to 4½ hours, with onward train to Villefort taking approx. a further 3¾ hours.

Regional trains from Lyon take about 4 hours with connections.

Getting to Nimes

By Air

Getting to Nimes is relatively straightforward from the following airports:

1. Nimes airport - flights from the UK and Brussels via RyanAir.
2. Lyon International Airport, with onward connections by fast train [60 mins] to Nimes.
3. Montpellier International Airport, with onward connections by train [30 mins] to Nimes.
4. Marseille International Airport, with onward connections by train to Avignon or Nimes.



By Rail

Best access is via SNCF [TGV] railway station to Nimes [4 hrs fast train/TGV from Paris or Lille, 1½ hrs from Lyon]

Alternative regional [TER] train ['Le Cevenol'] direct to Ales from Paris, with change at Claremont-Ferrand.



Our customers recommend RailEurope.com for research and ticketing.



Your train is likely to be more modern than this one

Ten reasons to book with The Enlightened Traveller®



- ❶ Best accommodation, better service
- ❷ Benefit from French-based expertise and our total focus on France
- ❸ Buy direct from us, the tour provider, and get great value for money
- ❹ Personalise your tour as you go to suit your requirements
- ❺ Industry-leading walking notes make orientation easy
- ❻ 1:25 000 full scale maps & insightful dossier
- ❼ 7/7 telephone support in native English
- ❽ We transport your luggage from hotel to hotel. Option to travel along with your luggage if you need a rest day: subject to availability, places are limited³.
- ❾ Peace of mind: your money is safe when booking with us - all passengers are fully insured for the initial deposit and balance, irrespective of the means of payment, in the unlikely event of insolvency.
- ❿ Anglo-French family business that tries harder: We'll look after you like family!



*Notre Dame des Neiges
Abbey in Ardèche*

*The viaduct near
Chamborigaud*



2017 prices:

Per person in double or
twin-bedded room:

£395.00 Pounds Sterling #
or €455.00 Euros

Single person rate:
Please ask us for details

Booking

Email, phone or Skype us and we
will email you everything you need
to reserve your tour.

Notes

¹ We reserve the right to alter parts of the above programme for the benefit of safety and the quality of the overall experience. Moreover, the exact order of the walks/over-night stops may change, but the walks remain a constant. Your 2-night stay may be in any of the three locations you visit.

² You take your luggage with you on the train and check it in at each hotel. Your hotels in La Bastide and Langogne are 3 and 4 minutes easy walk, respectively, from the train station, whilst you are collected from, and returned to, Villefort station by your hosts.

Please contact us to check for the latest Sterling prices. Sterling prices are confirmed at the time of booking.



*Langogne
Cathedral*

The Enlightened Traveller®

Walking Holidays in France Ltd.

Equity House,
4-6 School Road, Tilehurst,
READING, RG31 5AL
England

UK: (0800) 4488 404

USA: (401) 234-0101

Australia: (02) 8005 5908

Email: info@walking-holidays-france.com

Internet: www.walking-holidays-france.com

Skype: [theenlightenedtraveller](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/theenlightenedtraveller)

Facebook.com/TheEnlightenedTraveller

Google Plus: [google.com/+Enlightened-travellerCoUk](https://plus.google.com/+Enlightened-travellerCoUk)

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Delighting Mind, Body and Sole!

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