



Spectacular formations

Tarn Gorge Walking

UNESCO World Heritage that exceeds expectations!

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Discover menhirs, chateaux and proto-historic villages
- ☞ Experience the contrast between limestone plateau and deeply incised gorge
- ☞ Explore troglodyte ruins and lost villages
- ☞ Marvel at the colossal rock formations of the 'balcon du vertige'
- ☞ Stay in memorable over-night locations
- ☞ The very best of UNESCO's Causses-Cevennes, with flexible walk options to suit you on two days.



Fact File

- ✓ Self-guided, inn-to-inn tour across Causse Mejean and along the Tarn Gorge
- ✓ 9-night moderate challenge, starting and finishing in Meyrueis
- ✓ Average 5 hours and 9 miles/14½ kms a day
- ✓ Best access and departure via Millau
- ✓ Start any day from early-April to late October
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout
- ✓ Comfortable and welcoming 2-star accommodation.



Theme

Tarn Gorge walking welcomes you to Lozère, the 'rooftop of France', and its grandiose limestone table-tops, Causse Mejean and Causse Sauveterre. Haute Savoie may be home to the highest mountain range in Europe, but Lozère has the highest average altitude of any department in France, thanks largely to its magnificent limestone plateaux. Two rivers define and delineate south-western Lozère, and the Tarn and Jonte have gauged deep gorges into the plateau - some of the deepest in Europe.



Tarn Gorge Walking finds you exploring both the remote uplands and the fine canyons. It's an eight-day hiking extravaganza that takes you clockwise from majestic Meyrueis and back via sumptuous Ste-Enimie and Le Rozier, Les Vignes, La Malène, St Chely-du-Tarn and Nivoliers. You walk some of France's most picturesque trails and explore arguably the most remarkable rock formations to be seen anywhere in The Hexagon. The accommodation is very much complementary and great care has been taken in finding the most comfortable around.



Walk the Jonte Gorge

Tarn Gorge Walking offers the ultimate insight into the region that has become known as ‘Les Gorges du Tarn.’ You walk paths that are as spectacular as the TMBs ‘Balcon du Sud’ minus the snow; you visit early human settlements and deserted troglodyte ruins that will stretch your imagination exponentially; and whilst the flora is critically acclaimed, befitting of the Parc National des Cévennes, the presence of avifauna, principally raptors, is second to none.

You also have time to enjoy an optional one-hour trip through the narrowest section of the Gorge du Tarn on board a small raft in the safe company of the boatmen or “Bataliers” of La Malène - not to be missed!

This part of France was opened up to tourism by the construction of the D907 [bis] that runs from Ste-Enimie south west to Les Roziers along the right bank of The Tarn. The good news is that you can enjoy your perambulations in blissful isolation from the motoring and camping car community, and avoid the tarmac in the process. You may cross paths in a restaurant or hotel, but otherwise your experience and perambulations are very much distinct.

Your first three days follow a common trail, with an option to shorten the first on demand. The middle-section allows for options according to your personal preferences and desired level of challenge: stay low and hug the river or climb high, enjoy the Causses, and return to river-level late afternoon. If you are looking for some extremely flexible and varied walking in France’s most remote region, then the Gorge du Tarn is a must.



The Gorge bottom

Nine-night Itinerary¹

Day 1 Arrival Day in Meyrueis.

Free transfer from either Millau or Alès, near Nîmes. Check into your hotel with pool, spa and enjoy the ambiance of this fine canal-lined village. Night in Meyrueis.



Day 2 Meyrueis to St Pierre-des-Tripiers.

[12 miles/19 kms, 6½ hrs, +455 ms ascent, - 265 ms descent, with lighter option.]

Climb out of Meyrueis and enjoy views over the Jonte gorges. Then walk the expansive trails of Causse Mejean. Late afternoon collection from St Pierre and second night in your 3-star Meyrueis hotel.

Day 3 St Pierre to Le Rozier.

[7½ miles/12 kms, 5hrs, +55 ms ascent, - 575 ms descent]

Short after-breakfast transfer back to St Pierre. Explore grottos and the remains of a pre-historic village before walking the 'Balcon du Vertige' and its colossal rock forms. Night in Le Rozier.

Day 4 Le Rozier to Les Vignes.

[9 miles/14.25 kms, 5 hrs, +500 ms ascent, -90 ms descent]

You cross the Tarn and walk a narrow ridge to troglodyte ruins, the Cirque de St Marcellin and its eponymous chapel. Collection from St Rome and night in Les Vignes.

Day 5 Les Vignes to La Malène.

- a) Light Route [7½ miles/12 kms, 4½ hrs, +135 ms ascent, -100 ms descent] or
- b) Moderate Route [8 miles/13½ kms, 6 hrs, +500 ms ascent, - 475 ms descent]

Choose the light or moderate option according to taste and either follow the riverside or climb back up to Causse Mejean. Then enjoy an optional one-hour boat trip in the company of the 'bataliers' or defer this till the 'morrow. Night in La Malène.



Day 6 La Malène to St-Chely du Tarn - two options again:

a) Light or Low Route

[5½ miles/9 kms, 3 hrs, +60 ms ascent, -30 ms descent.]

The gentle, undulating and bucolic valley trail, with plenty to enjoy on route as well as in ethereal St-Chely itself, incl. your hotel's heated out-door pool.

Or

b) Moderate or High Route

[11½ miles/18½ kms, 6 hrs, +690 ms ascent, - 560 ms descent.]

Return to the Causse and enjoy some more superb trails and views from up high, including a memorable path to some impressive castle ruins. Night in St-Chely.

Day 7 St-Chely to Ste-Enimie [3½ miles/6 kms, 2 hrs, +120 ms ascent, - 90 ms descent.]

A gentle and short rest day leaves ample time to enjoy lunch and a ramble round the historic centre of the bijou village of Ste-Enimie with its cliff-side chapel.

Day 8 Ste-Enimie to Nivolières [9.5 miles/15 kms, 4.5 hrs, +570ms/-90ms.]

A morning climb gives up some glorious views back down to the village and along the Gorge. Take your time and take it all in! The tree-covered western Causse Mejean is a delight to hike and we prefer the wilder GR60 crossing favoured by transhumance. The village of Nivolières is a peach, and the auberge comfortable and with great food. Night in Nivolières.

Day 9 Nivoliers to Meyrueis [8.5 miles/13.5 kms, 4 hrs, +200ms/-450ms.]

Another reason we favour the GR60 is that we couldn't bear the thought of you missing this day's walking - short but very, very sweet. Unforgettable countryside, a lost hamlet and the GRP with jaw-dropping views of the Jonte Gorge and eventually of Meyrueis itself. Enjoy the descent and your evening canalside.

Final night in Meyrueis.

Day 10 End of Tour - Breakfast and onward journey by taxi transfer. Bon retour et à la prochaine!

*The beach at
St Chely*



**What's
Included**

- ✓ 9 nights' B & B [incl. local taxes] in carefully-selected and comfortable accommodation
- ✓ 4 picnic lunches and 7 evening meals - leaving you free to choose where to eat dinner in Meyrueis (final night only) and Ste-Enimie: options abound
- ✓ Industry-leading hiking notes, 1:25,000 maps and themed dossier
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout ²
- ✓ People transfers relevant to the tour - see itinerary above
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 7/7 native English support from 8 'til late.



**Not
included**

- ⊗ Remaining 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 or from Meyrueis.



The limestone table-top of Causse Mejean

**Comfort-
able
hotels,
plus two
auberges
and
guest
house**

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

As always, and subject to availability, our commitment is to offer the best accommodation in every stage along the trail. You stay in comfortable accommodation of a good standard, with private rooms and en suite facilities throughout, that has been carefully selected on the basis of comfort, location, service and welcome.

Accommodation comprises 2 and 3-star hotels complemented by a charming chambres d’hotes [guest house] and two character-full auberges. All offer home comforts and a fine welcome.

All evening meals bar two are included as well as four packed lunches for your convenience. The contents of other packed lunches can be purchased before you commence each day’s walking. Relevant details are in the tour dossier and walking notes.

The superior accommodation option comprises two upgrades to three-star hotels, superior rooms where available and a night in an exclusive river-side chateau.



*The view from
on high*



Access & Departure

The Tarn Gorge is located in Lozère, France's most remote department. However, customers who opt for this tour consistently state that the extra effort is handsomely rewarded: the tour consistently gets the highest customer feedback ratings in our post-tour evaluations and on-site reviews.

Access is from Millau Gare SNCF or bus station [gare routiere].

From Millau to Meyrueis - Taxis are in plentiful supply at the Gare SNCF, which is next to the bus station, and take 60-minute to get to to Meyrueis.

The best way of getting to Millau is from Montpellier by bus. Details are...

1. Bus no 381, run by Herault transport. The 381 is a regular service that departs from 'Station Mosson' on the Montpellier TaM Tramway. The bus stop is right next to the TaM Tramway stop.

Buy a ticket as you board the bus for about €12 and advance booking are not available.

2. TaM Tramway - Montpellier Trams

To connect with Bus no 381, use the TaM Tramway connection between Montpellier St Roch SNCF station and Station Mosson.

Allow approx. twenty minutes for the journey and trams run frequently. Buy tickets from the machine beside the tramway stop before boarding.

The nearest airports are Montpellier, Nimes and Rodez.

Alternative ways to Millau:

- i) Alès SNCF station (near Nimes), followed by a 90-minute taxi transfer to Meyrueis - ask for details
- ii) From Rodez - a bus service links to Millau in under 2 hours.
- iii) By Car - Safe car parking for the duration of the tour is available for those arriving by car.



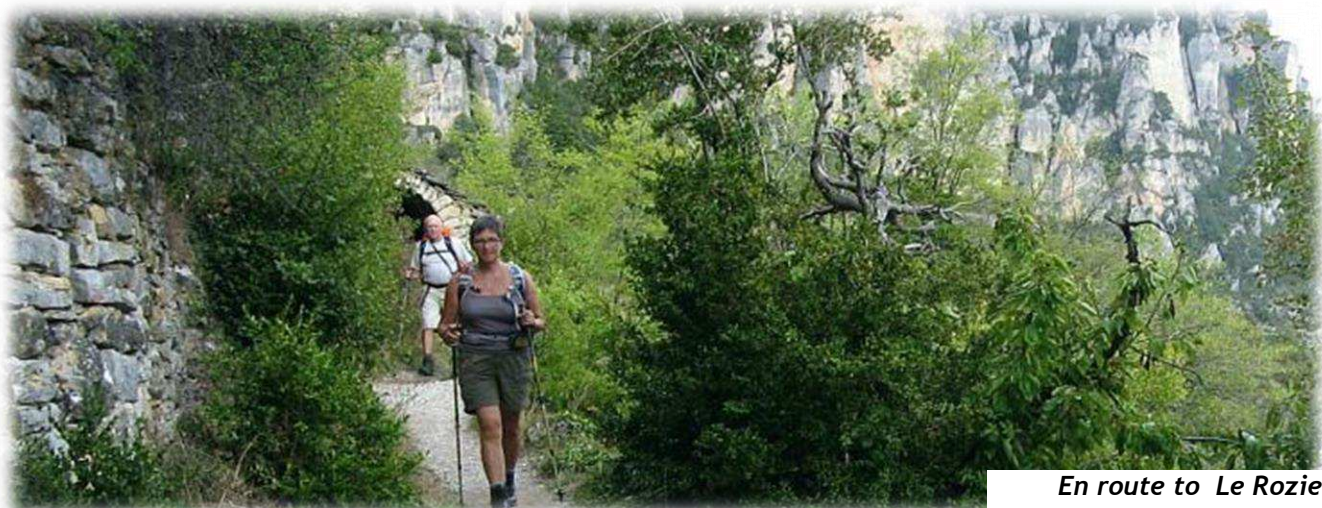


Troglodyte heaven

Ten reasons to book with The Enlightened Traveller®



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- ❹ Personalise your tour to suit your needs, with options on two days
- ❺ Industry-leading walking notes make orientation easy
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- ❼ 7/7 telephone support in native English from 8 'til late
- ❽ We transport your luggage from hotel to hotel. Option to travel along with your luggage if you need a rest day: supplement applies, 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 one of the family!



En route to Le Rozier



Causse Mejean

Tarn Gorges Walking

2019 prices:

Price per person based on 2 persons sharing a double or twin-bedded room:

9-night rate: £890.00 Pounds Sterling# or €995.00 Euros

- Single person rate: on demand - please ask!

Booking

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

Our Guarantee

In accordance with "The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992" all passengers are fully protected for the initial deposit and subsequently the balance of all monies paid to us, arising from cancellation or curtailment of your holiday arrangements due to insolvency, irrespective of method of payment.

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.

2 This covers one piece of luggage per person up to 20 kgs in weight. Supplements apply for overweight luggage and we accept no responsibility for lost valuables. We advise you not to bring computers and business-related equipment.

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

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