

Capitelle and Mont Bouquet

Trails of the French Garrigues

Scenic southern landscapes

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Enjoy the countryside, stay close to civilization.
- ☞ Gentle walks across undulating and picturesque terrain.
- ☞ Explore hill-top villages & hamlets in Camisard Country
- ☞ Get closely acquainted with the unspoiled bijou village of Vézénobres.
- ☞ Savour the local Mediterranean cuisine.

Fact File

- ✓ Self-guided, light, 4-night hiking tour.
- ✓ Average 4 hours and 8 miles/13 kms a day.
- ✓ Departures any day all year round.
- ✓ Start in Ales, finish in Moussac, with convenient access and departure.
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout, with flexible trail lengths & transfers.
- ✓ 3-star hotel in Alès followed by three nights in your fine 'single centre', Vézénobres - so no need to change hotels each night. Choose between a chambres d'hotels or a 2-star hotel.



Theme

Immerse yourself in the life and times of one of southern France's most enduring attractions: the Mediterranean lowland or Garrigues. It is a journey across undulating and picturesque terrain from Ales, at the foothills of the Cevennes mountains, to Moussac, a typical hill-top village over-looking the Gardon River, half-way between 'Cevenol Ales' and Gallo-Roman Nimes.



Trails of the French Garrigues is ideal for lovers of light, bucolic hikes in picturesque, Mediterranean settings. The accommodation is very much complementary as you experience 'la vraie pierre,' enjoy the culinary delights of the region's cuisine and savour its vastly-underrated wines.

The terrain is rolling lowland without muscle-wrenching ascents and knee-breaking descents. You hike a Roman trail linking a series of fascinating hill-top villages stretched out along the Gardon Valley; past the olives and vines that so characterize Mediterranean culture. Local history is replete with tales of medieval pilgrimages, religious rebellion and war-time refuge. It is an essentially human environment, perfect for short walks over long weekends alone or with family and friends.

*A view of
Vezenobres*



4-night Itinerary¹

Day 1 **Arrival Day in Alès**
[40-minute train journey from Nimes],
a busy market-town un-reliant on tourism,
gateway to Cevennes and cradle of
Protestantism. Night in Ales.

Day 2 **Alès to Vezenobres.**
[2½ to 4 hrs walking, options from 2½ miles-4
kms to 7½ miles-11 kms, + 105 ms, -140 ms]

Walk the banks of The Gardon to connect with the
Roman trail at St Hilaire. Then commence a bucolic
saunter to venerable Vezenobres, fig capital and
medieval watering-hole. Enjoy a stroll around its
narrow 'ruelles' and immediate hinterland.
Night in Vezenobres.

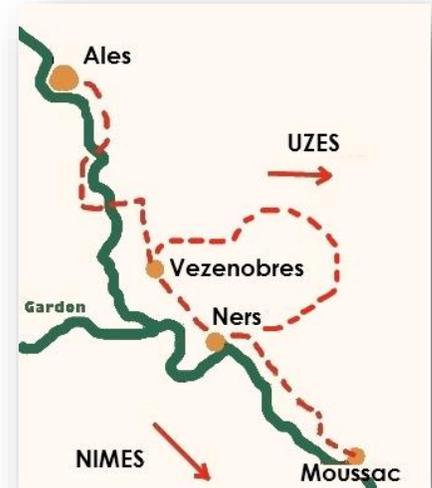
Day 3 **La Garrigue profonde.**
[4½ hrs walking, 9½ miles-14½ kms, + /- 95 ms].

A fine circular walk to the site of a famous Camisard victory and the chance to visit two fine
villages en route amidst vine, capitelles and cactus.
Second night in Vezenobres.

Day 4 **Vezenobres to Moussac**
[4 hrs walking, 7½ miles-11 kms, + 60 ms, - 85 ms].

The Roman trail laces together four fine villages and a remarkable fortified hamlet along this
section of The Gardonnenque. Each oozes character and history as you enjoy the peaceful,
scenic garrigues at its best. Collection and short transfer back to your fine overnight
'watering hole.' Third night in Vezenobres.

Day 5 **End of Tour - Transfer to Ales after breakfast.**



The ubiquitous olive groves





Camisard Country

What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights B & B [incl. local taxes] in high standard accommodation - see below
- ✓ 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.



Not included

- ⊗ Remaining meals and all drinks and extras - lunches and dinners can be bought according to budget and taste - information is provided in your dossier.
- ⊗ 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 Alès, the tour start and finish.



Two fine chambres d'hotes & one nice hotel

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

Accommodation is of a high standard. You stay:

- One night in Ales - 3-star hotel, and
- Three nights in Vezénobres

You can choose between two options for the three nights in Vézénobres:

- i. a fine stone chambres d'hotes, or
- ii. a 2-star hotel in an ancient coaching house.

Both offer home comforts and a fine welcome, with en suite facilities and outdoor swimming pools.

Evening meals are either taken in the hotel or in one of the three local village restaurants. Lunches can be enjoyed en route or the contents of a packed lunch purchased before you commence each day's walking in the village store. Relevant details are in the tour dossier and walking notes.



Access & Departure

How to get to Alès

Due to the popularity of Nimes, the options for getting to the City are plentiful. Once there, Ales is just a short onward regional train journey of 40 minutes away.

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. Avignon International Airport, with onward connections by train [30 mins] to Nimes.
5. Marseille International Airport, with onward connections by train to Nimes.
6. Clermont-Ferrand Airport, with onward connections direct to Ales by regional [TER] train on 'Le Cevenol'.



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 Clermont-Ferrand.

Our customers recommend RailEurope.com for research and ticketing.

Ten reasons to book with The Enlightened Traveller®



- ① Best accommodation, better service
- ② Benefit from French-based expertise and our total focus on France
- ③ Buy direct from us, the tour provider, and get great value for money
- ④ Personalise your trip to suit your requirements
- ⑤ Industry-leading walking notes make orientation easy
- ⑥ 1:25 000 full scale maps & insightful dossier
- ⑦ 7/7 telephone support in native English
- ⑧ 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.
- ⑨ 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.
- ⑩ Anglo-French family business that tries harder: become one of the family!



Across the Garrigues - Mt Bouquet in the background

2019 prices:

Per person in double or twin-bedded room:

£455.00 Pounds Sterling #
or €515.00 Euros

Booking

Email, phone, LiveChat 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. Accommodation may be slightly different than indicated above, but the general standard will be respected.

² This covers an unspecified quantity of luggage per person, but no single case should exceed 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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