



*The viaduct near
Chamborigaud*

Walking Cévennes by Rail

Eco-friendly day walks via Le Cévenol Mountain Railway

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Access remoter parts of Haute Loire [Auvergne], Ardèche [Rhône-Alpes] and Lozère [Languedoc-Roussillon] with ease.
- ☞ Enjoy welcoming countryside accommodation, including three nights on the banks of Lake Villefort.
- ☞ Explore the fine medieval villages of Garde-Guerin & Pradelles plus the Chassezac Gorge.
- ☞ Hike the finest section of The Régordane Way, two segments of the Robert Louis Stevenson Trail/RLS and two Lakes: Naussac and Villefort.
- ☞ Visit the Notre Dames des Neiges abbey, where RLS stayed, renowned for its liquor.



Fact File

- ✓ 7-night, self-guided tour featuring circular hikes.
- ✓ Personalise two of the day walks and make it light or moderate to suit you on the day.
- ✓ Multi-centre tour, so you do not change hotels each night.
- ✓ Commence any day from early April to mid-October. * See Access below.
- ✓ Tour starts in Villefort and finishes in Langogne, with convenient access from Lyon or Nîmes via Alès and Paris via Clermont-Ferrand.
- ✓ Comfortable, 2-star standard hotels.



Theme



This is where hiking in France meets train tours in France - a sacré ensemble. Walking Cévennes by Rail is your chance to enjoy stimulating hiking laced together by short train-rides along the Cévennes mountain railroad. It is a fascinating zigzag journey along a geological fault, across valleys and over viaducts on the "line of 100 tunnels."

Built over 150 years ago to link Lower Languedoc to Paris, the line bears testimony to man's engineering ingenuity as it wends its way through innumerable tunnels and across some breathtaking bridges and viaducts - veritable works of industrial art.

Add to the melting pot the 'low-carbon' nature of the holiday and you see its value in setting the standard for walking holidays in the green age. Comfortable accommodations await at each programmed stop and memorable hiking trails that serve to bring to life the land linked together by Le Cévenol.



7-night tour Itinerary¹

Day 1 **Arrival and first night in Villefort**

Take Le Cevenol from Nîmes via Alès or Paris via Clermont-Ferrand - collection from station and transfer to the hotel.

Day 2 **Lake Villefort** [options from 7 kms-4½ miles, +/- 50ms, to 14 kms-9½ miles, +/- 170ms.]

To commence the fun, you enjoy a 4-mile hike round the lake with optional extensions to Castanet castle or via the Mont Lozère trail.

Second night in Villefort.

Day 3 **The Regordane Way**

[16 kms-10 miles, +170 ms, -540 ms].

Transfer to the SNCF station and hop off at La Bastide.

Then enjoy an unforgettable walk through French history, along hill crest and volcanic plateau to a medieval village on the Chaussezac gorge and then onto Lake Villefort.

Third night in Villefort.

Day 4 **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 5 **La Bastide to Chasseradès.** [7.5 miles-12 kms]

Climb 300 ms to the Plateau de Chambonnet at 1361 ms alt. as you head west into Lozère along a section of the Stevenson Trail/GR70. Cross the Atlantic-Mediterranean watershed and head down valley to picture-postcard Chasseradès. Lunch in the local hotel, a walk around the village and we'll collect and return you to La Bastide.

Second night in La Bastide.

Day 6 **Lake Naussac.** [5 miles-8½ kms, +/- 45ms].

20-minute morning train to Langogne. Check in and enjoy a gentle hike to the banks of Lake Naussac for lunch. Then return and discover the town's internal 'circulade' and inner sanctum.

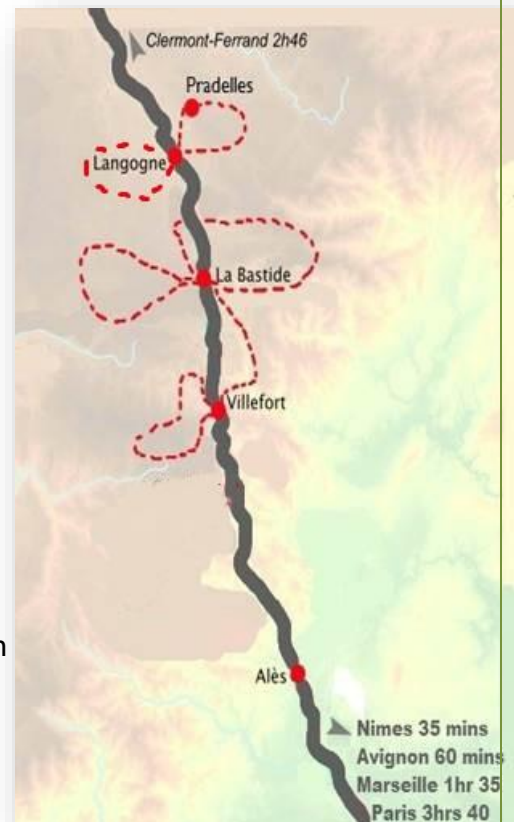
Night in Langogne.

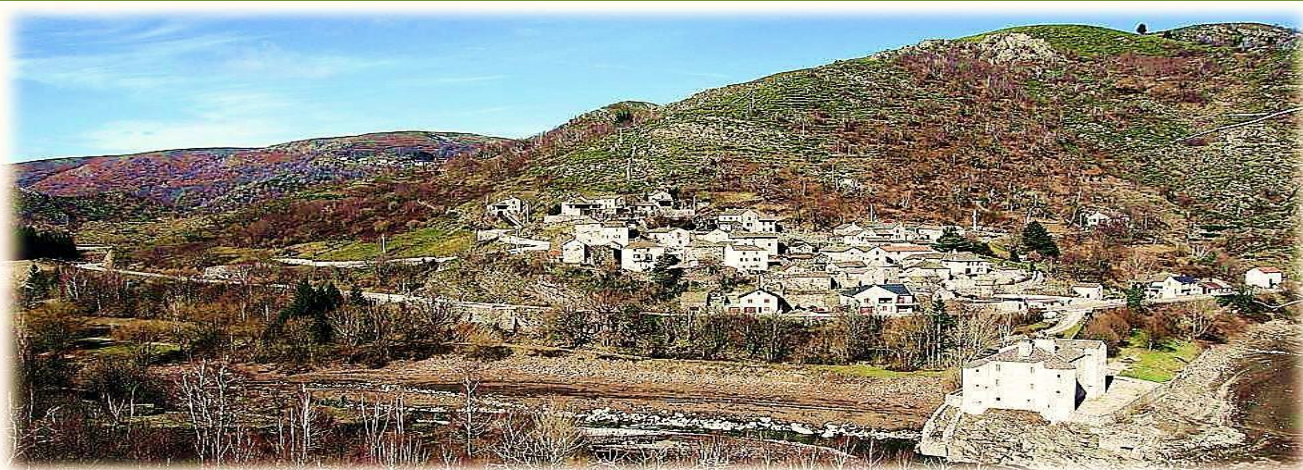
Day 7 **The Road to Pradelles** [9 miles-15kms, +/- 270ms]

Enjoy an historic hike to the fascinating medieval fortified town of Pradelles, via the medieval and 18th C versions of The Regordane Way.

Second night in Langogne.

Day 8 **End of your hiking tour.** Breakfast followed by onward train: south to Nîmes via Alès or north to Clermont-Ferrand and change for Paris.





Castanet castle from Mont Lozere

What's Included

- ✓ 7 nights' bed and breakfast/B & B [incl. local taxes] in '2-star standard' accommodation with en-suite facilities.
- ✓ 7 evening meals
- ✓ Industry-leading hiking notes, 1:25,000 maps and themed dossier
- ✓ Train tickets integral to the tour, from starting to finishing point.
- ✓ Luggage² and people transfers relevant to the tour.
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 24/7 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!





The Regordane Way

**Comfortable
and
welcoming
2-star-
standard
hotels**

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

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 and character, location, service and welcome.

Accommodation comprises a range of family-run ‘2-star standard’ hotels supplemented.

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

Evening meals are included for your convenience, allowing you enjoy your tour to the full without distractions.



North of Mont Lozere



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 120 minutes*, or from Paris via Clermont-Ferrand - a full day's travel.

* Limited options apply from Nimes on Sunday

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 3½ 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 <https://loco2.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 better value for money
- ❹ Personalise your tour to suit your requirements
- ❺ Industry-leading walking notes make orientation easy
- ❻ 1:25 000 full scale maps & insightful dossier
- ❼ 7/7 and 8 till late telephone support in native English
- ❽ We transport your luggage from hotel to hotel -
except Le Cevenol tour, where it only applies to one day of the trip.
- 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!

Garde-Guerin



Lake Villefort





The view from Pradelles

2019 prices:

Per person in double or
twin-bedded room:
£720.00 Pounds Sterling#
or **€795.00 Euros**

Booking

Email, phone, Live Chat 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 accommodation would change accordingly.

² This transfer 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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Delighting Mind, Body and Sole!

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