



The ASS-ential Stevenson

A 3-day green adventure, donkey trekking in the Upper Loire

Fact File

- ☞ A World's top Travel Adventure [Forbes] with our tour recommended by The Times.
- ☞ Three fine days of light-to-moderate walking and donkey-trekking.
- ☞ Start any day from April to late-October.
- ☞ Tour commences in Le Puy-en-Velay and finishes in Pradelles.
- ☞ A mix of welcoming auberges and hotels.

Theme

The Ass-ential Stevenson is your chance to enjoy an unforgettable experience along a section of what Forbes Traveler considers to be one of the world's most famous travel adventures - The Robert Louis Stevenson Trail.

This green hiking adventure is tinged with a bold hint of grey, as you enjoy a fabulous walking break in the Upper Loire Valley accompanied by a long-eared and four-hoofed companion - a donkey.

You hike approximately 27 miles/ 42 kms of the RLS trail over three days through stunning Haute Loire countryside. Accompanied by a local ass, who is well-versed in the region's geography and traditions, you thus replicate another key condition of the trek undertaken by the Scot 141 years ago. So it's quite literally following in the footsteps, and hoofs, of Robert Louis and Modestine, with the exception that you stay in welcoming accommodation en route and don't get to sleep alongside your asinine friend - who, by the way, is well-fed and cared for by each host along the way.

The Ass-ential Stevenson commences with a little training session in Le Monastier and finishes in the remarkable granite cite of Pradelles, from where your onward or return journey is easy. If you possess well-honed leadership and management skills and are looking for another domain in which to apply them, then this is the short break you have been looking for.



Model 4-night Programme¹

- Day 1** **Le Puy.**
Arrival and hotel check-in. A visit to Le Puy merits a day's stay in itself.
- Day 2** **Le Monastier to Goudet.**
[6½ miles-9½ kms, approx. 3 hrs, +190 ms -325 ms]
Taxi transfer (20 kms) to Le Monastier, where you have your short donkey induction session before you set off on the RLS trail and descend into the Upper Loire Valley.
- Day 3** **Goudet to Le Bouchet St Nicolas.**
[8½ miles-12½ kms, approx. 4 hrs, +400 ms]
You climb through charming hamlets and across volcanic plateau, before arriving at Stevenson's next charming overnight stop.
- Day 4** **Le Bouchet St Nicolas to Pradelles.** [12½ miles-19 kms, approx. 5 hrs, +285 ms -375 ms]
Very few climbs or descents today as you enjoy the views from the volcanic plateau en route to the impressive 'City of High Prairies'. As you and your long-eared friend are getting along fine now, we up the ante to 12 miles today. Then you bid fond farewell to your four-legged companion.
- Day 5** **End of Tour.** Breakfast, transfer to Langogne Gare SNCF or back to Le Puy for onward travel. Bon retour and thanks for trekking with The Enlightened Traveller.





Accommodation and What's Included



- 4 nights bed and breakfast in a welcoming mix of hotels, auberges and a walkers' inn².
- 3 evening meals, leaving you free to choose dinner in Le Puy and packed lunches en route - options are listed in your tour dossier and walking notes.
- Taxi transfer from Le Puy to Monastier at the start of the tour; and from either Pradelles to Langogne SNCF, or back to Le Puy, at the tour's end.
- Donkey hire – incl. pre-tour induction session in donkey handling & negotiation skills.
- Up to 30 kgs of luggage transported by your donkey³.
- Overnight nourishment and accommodation for the donkey.
- Comprehensive walking dossier, 1:50,000 maps & Hiking Insight Notes™ in plain English.
- 7/7 Emergency telephone help-line service with local British backup.
- 7/7 Emergency assistance in respect of the donkey.

2022 prices:

Per person in double or twin-bedded room:
£765.00 Pounds Sterling# or €890.00 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 group safety and the quality of the overall experience.

² See website for precise details on accommodation provided.

³ This allows you to take luggage up to 30 kgs in side panniers. Supplements apply for extra or overweight luggage, which we can transfer for you. Please enquire.

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

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Our Guarantee!

In accordance with "The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992" all passengers booking with The Enlightened Traveller® are fully protected for the initial deposit and subsequently the balance of all monies paid to us, including repatriation if required, arising from cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to the insolvency of The Enlightened Traveller®.

