



We carry your luggage

Best of Walking in Auvergne The Heights of Cantal

Tour Highlights

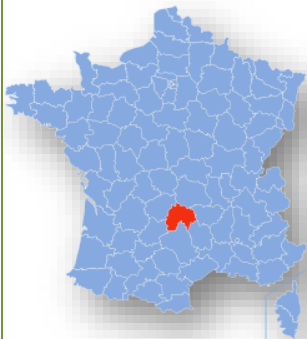
- ☞ Explore three peaks over 5000' [1500 ms], incl. Auvergne's highest, Plomb du Cantal (6084').
- ☞ Marvel at the view from atop Puy Mary (5848'), Cantal's emblematic 'mont.'
- ☞ Hike a magnificent Roman trail.
- ☞ Fine Cantal villages & breath-taking glacial valleys.
- ☞ *All meals included:* enjoy fine cuisine, incl. Cantal cheese, alligot and pounti.

Fact File

- ✓ 4-night, self-guided, inn-to-inn tour.
- ✓ Graded quite challenging due to notable elevation gain/loss.
- ✓ Start and finish in picturesque Murat.
- ✓ Average 5½ hours and 12 miles/17½ kms a day.
- ✓ Convenient access by train from Paris via Clermont-Ferrand or Lyon.
- ✓ Departures any day from mid-May to mid-October.
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout.
- ✓ Fine hotels: 3 nights in 3-star hotels, one in 2-star.



Theme



Best of Walking in Auvergne takes you to the heart of the Massif Central. You walk Europe's largest extinct volcano and the enchanting summits, ridges and valleys that constitute this walkers' paradise. In the process you climb the region's highest peaks or 'puys', the original 'chimneys' of the volcano, which include Plomb du Cantal (at 6084 feet/1855 metres) and the emblematic Puy Mary.

This tour is classified as quite challenging due to some notable ascents and descents rather than long distances, although the whole tour is well within the capabilities of all fit individuals who walk regularly.

Your tour starts and finishes in the fine Cantalian town of Murat. You walk some carefully-selected stretches of the ubiquitous GR400, whilst the final day's 'sacré balade circulaire' takes in the heavenly trilogy of Brèche de Rolland, Puy Chavaroche and Puy Mary itself.

By the tour's end, you will feel an eternal bond with the extraordinary beauty of this corner of Auvergne and recognize from afar the key 'Puy' with which you have had the privilege to become acquainted.



The Roman trail

Best of Walking in Auvergne may not help you with your French, but it should re-fresh your knowledge of physical geography that you felt you would never get the chance to use in practice. In addition, you can feast on some of the region's culinary delights such as alligot, pounti and the renowned Bleu d'Auvergne and Cantal cheeses.

4-night Itinerary¹

Day 1 **Arrival in Murat.**

Check into your comfortable 3-star hotel and explore the sloping streets of this picturesque market town. Night in Murat.

Day 2 **Lioran to Thiézac via Plomb du Cantal.**

[Full option, 22.5 kms, with 750 m altitude gain of & very gradual 1000 m descent; shorter option, using the cable car, is 16 kms, without an ascent.]

Transfer to Lioran after breakfast. The proud will wish to brave the climb, whilst the hedonists enjoy the pleasure minus the pain of Cantal's highest peak. The Roman trail that descends to Thiezac is a multi-faceted joy to behold. Night in Thiézac.

Day 3 **Thiézac to Mandailles.**

[8 miles-13 kms, 5 hrs, + 750ms -600ms.]
Climb out of the the Cère valley and enjoy some fine countryside towards Puy de la Poche and l'Elanceze and an impressive Belvedere over the Cantalian Massif. First night in Mandailles.

Day 4 **Circular walk to Puy Mary.**

[12½ miles-20 kms, 7 hrs, + / - 1000 ms.]
The piece de resistance and exquisite day's hiking comprises arguably the top-three features of the Cantal Massif. Morning transfer option shaves 5 kms off the distance - book in advance!
Second night in Mandailles.

Day 5 **End of your tour.**

Transfer to Murat after breakfast and onward journey by train. Au revoir et bon retour.





Heavenly uplands

What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights in carefully-selected and comfortable accommodation - see below.
- ✓ 4 evening meals that showcase local delicacies.
- ✓ 4 breakfasts and 3 packed lunches.
- ✓ Industry-leading hiking notes, 1:25,000 maps
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout.²
- ✓ Collection from and return to Murat at end of tour.
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 7/7 native English and French-based support.



Not included

- i. Drinks and extras.
- ii. Personal expenses.
- iii. Entrances into any optional cultural visits and venues.
- iv. Hiking, personal and travel insurances.
- v. Single rooms - unless booked at the single-person rate.
- vi. Travel to and from the tour start and finish points.



The picturesque Cantalian village of Murat



En route from Mandailles

Hotels of a high standard

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

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

Your accommodation comprises one 2-star hotel and two 3-star standard hotels.

Evening meals are included throughout, as too are wholesome packed lunches.





Access & Departure

Your tour commences from the delightful Cantalian town of Murat. Best access is by train from the north via Claremont-Ferrand, although access from the south is an alternative option via Aurillac.

Please see the tour page on our website for full details, links and timetable downloads.

By Rail

- i. From Paris via Claremont-Ferrand to Murat, or
- ii. From Toulouse, train to Aurillac, where you change for Neussargues. We will collect you from the station and transfer you to Murat.

Alternatives to consider are:

- iii. From Lyon, train to Claremont-Ferrand, then as 1. above.
- iv. From Nimes on 'Le Cevenol' mountain railway [Claremont-Ferrand to Marseille train via Nimes] to Arvant. Then change for Murat.
- v. From Montpellier/Beziers to Neussargues. Change train at Neussargues for Murat [1 stop] or ask us to transfer you.
- vi. From Rodez, train to St Denis-pres-Martel, where you change for Murat; or Severac-le-Chateau, where you change for Neussargues.

Our customers recommend www.RailEurope.com for research and ticketing.

By Air

Nearest airport is Claremont-Ferrand, with international flights from Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva and Milan, and internal flights from most major French airports.

See the tour page on our website for more details.

By Car - ask us about the options for parking your car for those who wish to drive to Murat.





Spectacular countryside

Ten reasons to book with The Enlightened Traveller®



- ❶ Best accommodation, better service and recommended by The Times
- 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 own 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 one of the family!

Meet the locals





Puy Mary - the sacred pyramid

2023 prices:

Per person in a double or
twin-bedded room:

**£610.00 Pounds Sterling
or €740.00 Euros**

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 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®.*

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.

The Enlightened Traveller®

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Delighting Mind, Body and Sole!

