

Approaching the heights of Mont Lozere

Stevenson Trail Walk the World's Original Recreational Hike

Tour Highlights

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- A World's top Travel Adventure Forbes Traveler
- రా Cross four historic natural regions
- රී Enjoy sub-alpine to Mediterranean flora
- ظ Hike volcanic plateau, schist valley and the best of Cévennes' hillcrests
- الله Marvel at the lunar-like landscape of Pic Finiels [1699 m/5573 ft]
- Stay in the best accommodation at every stage.

Fact File

- \checkmark Twelve-night, self-guided, inn-to-inn tour in rural France
- ✓ Graded moderate you average ||½ miles a day
- ✓ Our tour is recommended by The Times: see on-site tour page
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout, up to 13 kgs per person
- ✓ Most convenient access from Lyon by train
- ✓ Start any day from mid-April to mid-October
- ✓ Welcoming mix of '2-star standard' hotels, auberges and guest houses.



Stevenson Trail [GR 70] is not only a modern classic, but the benchmark for recreational hikes. You walk from Le Monastier, near Puy-en-Velay in Haute Loire, to St Jean-du-Gard in Cévennes, a distance of 125-miles/201 kms. Walked by Robert Louis Stevenson in 1878, the route inspired him to write 'Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes' (1879), a ground-breaking novel and classic of outdoor literature that set the standard for travelogues thereafter.

Stevenson was, in many ways, the pioneer of the modern hiking movement, as the book presents hiking and camping outdoors as a recreational activity. RLS was also keen to explore the theme of the Religious Wars and the trail takes you through the heart of Huguenot and 'Camisard' country. Other Cévenol themes to explore can be found on our website.

Stevenson Trail sees you walking what's now considered one of the top-ten trails in France, increasingly popular with hikers wishing to retrace RLS's footsteps. If you enjoy inn-to-inn trails, then this hike across volcanic upland and through schist valley is guaranteed to delight.

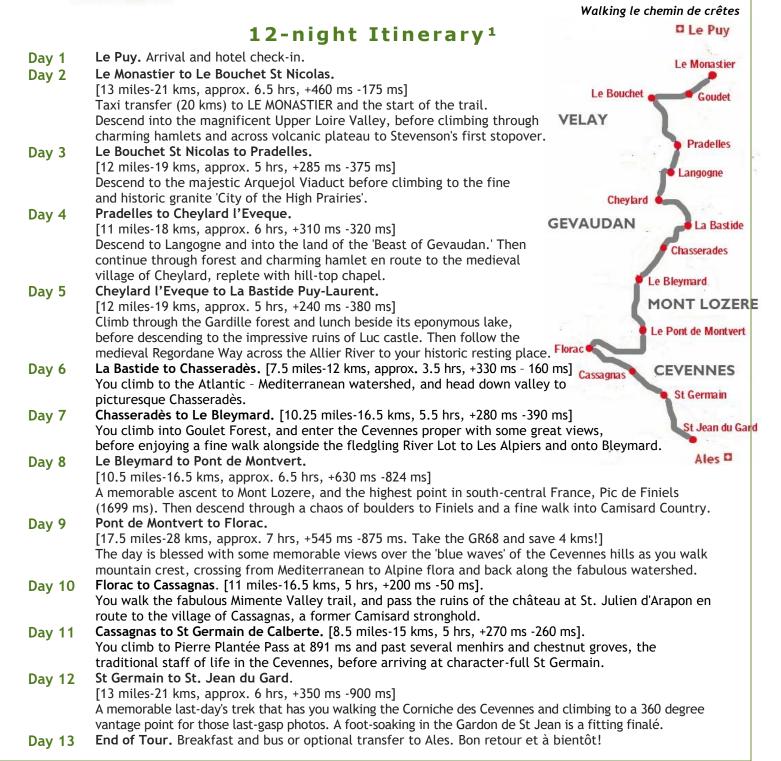
Stevenson often slept out under trees in a prototype sleeping bag. You enjoy wholesome food in welcoming, en-suite accommodation as you trek across southern Auvergne and northern Languedoc with just your light backpack.

If you only ever experience one hotel-to-hotel hike, this is arguably the one to do; and if that's not enough, Causses & Cévennes has recently gained UNESCO World heritage status, so there's never been a better time to savour the delights of France's last frontier region.













The Mimente Valley trail along the former Florac to St Cecile railway line closed in the 1960s

What's Included

- ✓ 12 nights B & B in comfortable, '2-star standard' accommodation - see below
- ☑ 10 evening meals & all local hotel taxes
- ☑ Transfer from Le Puy to Le Monastier on Day Two
- ☑ Hiking notes, maps and themed dossier
- ☑ All luggage transfers²
- ☑ 7/7 and 8am till 7 pm telephone/SMS help-line service with local native English support.



Not included

- Remaining meals and all drinks and extras options are listed in your dossier and walking notes
- Ø Personal expenses
- Entrances into any optional cultural visits and venues
- 8 Hiking, personal and travel insurances
- 8 Single rooms unless booked at the single-person rate
- 8 Travel to and from the tour start and finish points.



Auberges, Chambres d'hotes & Hotels.

"Carefully-selected accommodation based on knowing our providers intimately and matching them with your preferences."



As always, and subject to availability, our commitment to our customers is to offer the best accommodation in every stage along the trail. The RLS trail traverses France's most isolated regions, so don't expect luxury hotels to be the order of the day. However, our RLS mix comprises a range of comfortable, family-run hotels, chambres d'hotes and auberges, essentially of '2-star standard.' En-suite facilities are offered throughout with one exception, where WCs are in the corridor a few steps away from your room.



Evening meals follow a fixed menu format for all half-board guests and do not include drinks. Most hotel menus provide a meat or fish dish, plus a vegetarian option; whilst chambres d'hotes and auberges tend to function around one common meal of which all guests partake, bar vegetarians, who would have an alternative dish. All showcase 'produits du terroirs' typical of the regions through which you walk. Vegetarians are generally well catered for, vegans less so, but fruitarians need not apply!

Lunches can be enjoyed en route or the contents of a packed lunch purchased before you commence each day's walking. Relevant details are in the tour dossier and walking notes.



If you have a particular preference for any of the accommodation-types above mentioned, please let us know on your booking form and we will do our best to weight your accommodation mix in that direction. However, options are limited in some locations, and all accommodation is small-scale, so such preferences cannot be a precondition for your booking.

Finally, note that all French hotel star ratings underwent a major review by the relevant authorities in 2012/2013, as ratings had lost touch with reality. Such a review was long overdue, but expensive and individual hotels are now expected to pay the bill. Many haven't bothered, preferring to remain 'starless' out of choice. Why? Some resent state interference and profiteering; others don't want to have to increase their prices to pay for it and those in traditional stone buildings are unable to provide wheelchair access, the minimum requirement for even one star! Amidst this organized chaos, knowing one's accommodation suppliers intimately is now more important than ever!

Access & Departure

- By air: to Lyon or Paris
- By rail: From UK, Eurostar to Lille and change for Lyon From Paris, to Lyon in 3½ hours.
 From Lyon, change for regional [TER] train to Le Puy via St Etienne in 2½ hours.
- **By car**: leave your car in the central Le Puy car park or drive to Ales, leave it free of charge with us, and travel to Le Puy in one day via train and coach.



- Departure from St Jean: by bus or transfer please ask us for details
- **Departure by rail:** is from Alès [16 miles from St Jean] to Nimes in 40 minutes and onward train to Lyon [60 mins], Paris CG airport [3½ hours] or Lille [4½ hours].
- **Departure by air:** from Lyon, Paris, Montpellier or Nimes to Luton via RyanAir.
- Optional return transfer to Le Puy at tour's end please ask us for details.



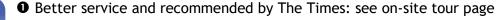
A camper leaving Pont de Montvert - you just carry a day pack!

2024 price:	Per person in double/twin-bedded room: 12-night tour: £1415.00 Pounds Sterling# or €1650.00 Euros
	• Extra nights: On request
Booking	Email, phone or Skype us and we will email you everything you need to reserve your tour.



An alternative way of walking the RLS, popular with some of our customers.

Ten reasons to book with The Enlightened Traveller®



- Benefit from French-based expertise and our total focus on France
- Buy direct from us, the tour provider, and get great value for money
- Personalise your tour to meet your own requirements
- Industry-leading walking notes make orientation easy
- Insightful dossier & 1:50,000 scale maps 1:25,000
 full scale maps are available for a supplement.
- 7/7, 8am to 7 pm telephone support in native English

We transport your luggage from hotel to hotel.
 Option to travel along with your luggage if you
 need a rest day: supplement payable,
 whigh to availability and places are limited?

subject to availability and places are limited².

• 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.

• Anglo-French family business that tries harder: join the family!

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 You are entitled to take one piece of luggage per person weighing up to 13 kgs. Supplements are payable for extra or overweight luggage.

Travelling with your luggage must be booked the evening before and is subject to availability and a fee of approx. 30.00 Euros per person.

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.



The Enlightened Traveller®

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