



*The heights of Mont Lozere late March*

## **Stevenson Trail Part Two**

### **Walk the southern half of RLS's literary trail**

#### **Tour Highlights**

- ☞ **A World's top Travel Adventure - Forbes Traveler**
- ☞ **Our tour is recommended by The Times: see site tour page**
- ☞ **Enjoy sub-alpine to Mediterranean flora**
- ☞ **Hike volcanic plateau, schist valley and the best of Cévennes' hillcrests**
- ☞ **Marvel at the lunar-like landscape of Pic Finiels [1699 m/5573 ft]**
- ☞ **Stay in the best mix of accommodation en route.**



#### **Fact File**

- ✓ **7-night, self-guided, inn-to-inn tour through rural France**
- ✓ **Graded moderate - you average 11½ miles/17 kms a day**
- ✓ **Luggage transfers throughout, up to 13 kgs per person**
- ✓ **Convenient access from Lyon or Paris via Nimes or Claremont-Ferrand respectively**
- ✓ **Start any day from mid-April to mid-October**
- ✓ **Welcoming '2-star standard' hotels, auberges and guest houses.**



#### **Theme**

Stevenson Trail [GR 70] is not only a modern classic, but the benchmark for recreational hikes. Part Two of the classic tour sees you walking from Chasseradès [near La Bastide Puy-Laurent in Lozere] to St Jean-du-Gard in Cévennes, a distance of 112 kilometres or around 69 miles. 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 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 your senses.

Stevenson often slept out under trees in a prototype sleeping bag. You enjoy wholesome food in welcoming, en-suite accommodation as you trek across central Lozere and into western Gard with just your light backpack.

If you only ever experience one inn-to-inn 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.



*Walking le chemin de crêtes*

## 7-night Itinerary<sup>1</sup>

- Day 1** **Chasseradès.** Arrival in Gare SNCF La Bastide Puylaurent by the Cévenol mountain railway and change for Chasseradès.
- Day 2** **Chasseradès to Bleymard.**  
[10.25 miles-16.5 kms, approx. 5 hrs, +400 m, -450 m.]  
You climb into Goulet Forest, before following the Lot from near its source to Les Alpiers and onto Bleymard, where you enter the Cevennes.
- Day 3** **Le Bleymard to Pont de Montvert.**  
[10.5 miles-16.5 kms, approx. 6.5 hrs, +630 ms -824 ms]  
A memorable ascent to Mont Lozere, and the highest point in south-central France, Pic de Finiels (1699 ms). Then descend through a chaos of boulders to Finiels and a fine walk into Camisard Country.
- Day 4** **Pont de Montvert to Florac.**  
[17.5 miles-28 kms, approx. 7 hrs, +545 ms -875 ms.  
Take the GR68 and save 4 kms!]  
The day is blessed with some memorable views over the 'blue waves' of the Cevennes hills as you walk mountain crest, crossing from Mediterranean to Alpine flora and back along the fabulous watershed.
- Day 5** **Florac to Cassagnas.**  
[11 miles-16.5 kms, approx. 5 hrs +200m, -50m.]  
You walk the fabulous Mimente Valley trail, and pass the ruins of the château at St. Julien d'Araon en route to the village of Cassagnas, a Camisard stronghold.
- Day 6** **Cassagnas to St Germain de Calberte.**  
[8 miles-12 kms, approx. 4 hrs, +220m, -270m.]  
You climb out of the valley to 1000 metres through chestnut groves, past menhirs & dolmen to Pierre Plantée pass.
- Day 7** **St Germain to St. Jean du Gard.**  
[13 miles-21 kms, approx. 6 hrs, +350 ms -900 ms]  
The final day's trek has you walking the Corniche des Cevennes and climbing to a 360 degree vantage point for those last-gasp photos.
- Day 8** **End of Tour.** Breakfast and departure. By bus (not on Sundays) or transfer to Alès. Not included in your fees. Bon retour et à bientôt!







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

## What's Included

- ✓ 7 nights B & B in comfortable, '2-star standard' accommodation or higher - see below
- ✓ 6 evening meals & all local hotel taxes
- ✓ Hiking notes™, 1:25,000 maps and themed dossier
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 7/7 native English support from 8 'till 8.



## Not included

- ⊗ Remaining meals and all drinks and extras
- ⊗ Personal expenses
- ⊗ Entrances into any optional cultural visits and venues
- ⊗ Hiking, health, personal and travel insurances
- ⊗ Single rooms - unless booked at the single-person rate
- ⊗ Travel to and from the tour start and finish points.



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

## Auberges, Chambres d'hotes & Hotels.



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.

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 reviews were long overdue, but expensive and individual hotels were expected to pay. Many didn't bother and simply chose to remain 'starless' out of choice. Why? Because the costs would simply be passed onto their traditional customer base, who may not be prepared to pay the extra. This does not mean that these hotels have suddenly become inferior, and ultimately badly-run and maintained accommodation goes out of business. However, knowing one's accommodation suppliers intimately is now more important than ever!

## Access & Departure

- **By air:** to Lyon, Nimes, Clermont-Ferrand or Paris
- **By rail:**  
From UK, Eurostar to Lille and change for Nimes  
From Paris to Nimes in 4½ hours  
From Nimes, change for regional [TER] train to La Bastide Puy-Laurent via Ales in 2½ hours  
From Paris to Clermont-Ferrand and onto La Bastide in 2¾ hours
- **Departure from St Jean:** by bus or transfer to Alès or Nimes - please ask us for details
- **Departure by rail:** is from Alès [10 miles from St Jean] to Nimes in 35 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 daily.



**2024  
price:**

**Per person in double/twin-bedded room:  
£795.00 Pounds Sterling# or €925.00 Euros**

**Booking**

Email, phone, LiveChat 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®



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- ⑥ 1:50, 000 full scale maps & insightful dossier
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- 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 limited<sup>2</sup>.
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- ⑩ Anglo-French family business that tries harder: We'll look after you like one of the family!



### Notes

<sup>1</sup> We reserve the right to alter parts of the above programme for the benefit of group safety and the quality of the overall experience.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

### The Enlightened Traveller®

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