



Tarn Gorge Walks EXTRA

World Heritage with superior comfort & convenience

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Discover troglodyte ruins and proto-historic settlements
- ☞ Contrast the limestone plateau and deeply-incised gorge
- ☞ Marvel at the colossal rock formations of the 'balcon du vertige' and the indigenous griffin vultures
- ☞ The very best of UNESCO's Causses-Cevennes, with flexible walk options to suit you on two days.



Fact File

- ✓ Self-guided, inn-to-inn tour around the Jonte and Tarn Gorges
- ✓ 7-night moderate challenge, starting in Meyrueis, finishing in Ste-Enimie
- ✓ Average 5 hours and 9 miles/14½ kms a day
- ✓ **Express access and departure transfers included in fees** from either Alès [near Nimes] or Millau. Conditions apply.
- ✓ Departures any day from early-April to late-September
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout
- ✓ Superior accommodation including a chateau stay.



Theme

Tarn Gorge Walks EXTRA welcomes you to Lozère, the 'rooftop of France', and its grandiose limestone table-tops, Causse Mejean and Causse Sauveterre. Haute Savoie may be home to the highest mountain range in Europe, but Lozère has the highest average altitude of any department in France, thanks largely to its magnificent limestone plateaux. Two rivers define and delineate south-western Lozère, and the Tarn and Jonte have gauged deep gorges into the plateau - some of the deepest in Europe.



Tarn Gorge Walks EXTRA finds you exploring both the remote uplands and the fine canyons. It's a six-day hiking extravaganza that takes you clockwise from majestic Meyrueis to sumptuous Ste-Enimie via Le Rozier, Les Vignes, La Malène and St Chely-du-Tarn. In between, you walk some of France's finest trails and explore arguably the most remarkable rock formations to be seen anywhere in The Hexagon. The accommodation is of a superior standard and great care has been taken in finding the most comfortable around.



Walk the Jonte Gorge

Tarn Gorge Walks EXTRA offers the ultimate insight into the region that has become known as 'Les Gorges du Tarn.' You walk paths that are as spectacular as the TMB's 'Balcon du Sud' minus the snow; you visit early human settlements and deserted troglodyte ruins that will stretch your imagination exponentially; and whilst the flora is critically acclaimed, befitting of the Parc National des Cévennes, the presence of avifauna, principally raptors, is second to none.

You also have time to enjoy an optional one-hour trip through the narrowest section of the Gorge du Tarn on board a small raft in the safe company of the boatmen or "Bataliers" of La Malène - not to be missed!

This part of France was opened up to tourism by the construction of the D907 [bis] that runs from Ste-Enimie south-west to Les Roziers along the right bank of The Tarn. The good news is that you can enjoy your perambulations in blissful isolation from the motoring and camping car community, and avoid the tarmac in the process. You may cross paths in a restaurant or hotel, but otherwise your experience and perambulations are very much distinct.

You first three days follow a common trail. The second half allows for options according to your personal preferences and desired level of challenge: stay low and hug the river; or climb high, enjoy the Causses, and return to river-level late afternoon. If you are looking for some extremely flexible and varied walking in France's most remote region, then the Gorges du Tarn is a must.



The Gorge bottom

7-night Itinerary¹

Day 1 Arrival Day in Meyrueis.

Free transfer from either Millau or Alès, near Nîmes. Check into your hotel with pool, spa and enjoy the ambiance of this fine canal-lined village. Night in Meyrueis.



Day 2 Meyrueis to St Pierre-des-Tripiers.

[12 miles/19 kms, 6½ hrs, +455 ms ascent, - 265 ms descent, with lighter option.]

Climb out of Meyrueis and enjoy views over the Jonte gorges. Then walk the expansive trails of the Causse Mejean, past megaliths and through isolated hamlets. Night in St Pierre.

Day 3 St Pierre to Le Rozier.

[7½ miles/12 kms, 5hrs, +55 ms ascent, - 575 ms descent]

Explore grottos and the remains of a pre-historic village before walking the 'Balcon du Vertige' and its colossal rock forms. Night in Le Rozier.

Day 4 Le Rozier to Les Vignes.

[9 miles/14.25 kms, 5 hrs, +500 ms ascent, -90 ms descent]

You cross the Tarn and walk a narrow ridge to troglodyte ruins, the Cirque de St Marcellin and its eponymous chapel. Collection from St Rome and night in nearby Les Vignes.

Day 5 Les Vignes to La Malène.

a) Light Route [7½ miles/12 kms, 4½ hrs, +135 ms ascent, -100 ms descent] or
b) Moderate Route [8 miles/13½ kms, 6 hrs, +500 ms ascent, - 475 ms descent]

Choose the light or moderate option according to taste and either follow the riverside or climb back up to Causse Mejean. Then enjoy an optional one-hour boat trip in the company of the 'bataliers' or defer this till the 'morrow. Night in La Malène.

Day 6 La Malène to St-Chely du Tarn - two options again:

a) Light or Low Route

[5½ miles/9 kms, 3 hrs, +60 ms ascent, -30 ms descent.]

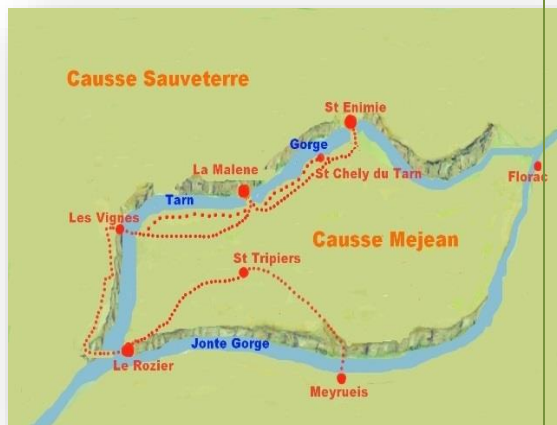
The gentle, undulating and bucolic valley trail, with plenty to enjoy on route as well as in ethereal St-Chely itself, incl. your hotel's heated out-door pool.

Or

b) Moderate or High Route

[11½ miles/18½ kms, 6 hrs, +690 ms ascent, - 560 ms descent.]

Return to the Causse and enjoy some more superb trails and views from up high, including a memorable path to some impressive castle ruins. Night in St-Chely.



Day 7 St-Chely to Ste-Enimie [3½ miles/6 kms, 2 hrs, +120 ms ascent, - 90 ms descent.]

A gentle and short final day's walk leaves ample time to enjoy lunch and a ramble round the historic centre of the bijou village of Ste-Enimie with its cliff-side chapel.

Day 8 End of Tour - Breakfast and onward journey by taxi transfer. Bon retour et à la prochaine!



The 'beach' at St Chely du Tarn

What's Included

- ✓ 7 nights' carefully-selected and comfortable accommodation
- ✓ 7 breakfasts, 4 picnic lunches and 6 evening meals - leaving you free to choose what to eat in your La Malène chateau's gourmet restaurant
- ✓ Industry-leading hiking notes, 1:25,000 maps and themed dossier
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout ²
- ✓ People transfers relevant to the tour - see itinerary above - **including express access & departure transfer from/to either Millau or Alès*.**
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 7/7 native English and French-based support from 8 'til 8.



Not included

-
- ⊗ Remaining meals and all drinks and extras - lunch and dinner options are listed in your dossier and notes
 - ⊗ 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 or from Millau or Alès.





The limestone table-top of Causse Mejean

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

Superior hotels

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

Accommodation comprises a fine chateau stay, three nights in 3-star hotels, one night in superior rooms in a 2-star hotel, a charming chambres d’hotes [guest house] and a countryside auberge.

All evening meals bar one are included as well as four packed lunches for your convenience. The contents of other packed lunches can be purchased before you commence each day’s walking. Relevant details are in the tour dossier and walking notes.





Spectacular formations

Access & Departure

The Tarn Gorge is located in Lozère, France's most remote department. However, customers who opt for this tour consistently state that the extra effort is handsomely rewarded: the tour consistently gets the highest customer feedback ratings in our post-tour evaluations and on-site reviews.

Express access is either from Millau or Alès near Nîmes:

- a. Millau SNCF or bus station to Meyrueis by a 60-minute taxi transfer
- b. Alès SNCF station, followed by a 90-minute taxi transfer to Meyrueis.

These arrival and departure transfers are included in your tour fees, but conditions apply:

- i. Arrival transfer from Alès or Millau must be no later than 17.30 hrs.
- ii. Departure from Ste-Enimie must be no earlier than 08.00 hrs.
- iii. Sunday, National Holiday or out-of-hours transfers incur a 100 euro supplement.
- iv. Group members must arrive and depart together in the same vehicle.

How to get to Alès to benefit from our Express Transfer:

The options for getting to Nîmes by train are plentiful. Once there, Alès is just a short, onward regional train journey of 40 minutes.

By Air

Getting to Nîmes is relatively straightforward from the following airports:

1. Nîmes airport - flights from the UK and Brussels via RyanAir.
2. Lyon International Airport, with onward connections by fast train [90 mins] to Nîmes.
3. Montpellier International Airport, with onward connections by train [30 mins] to Nîmes.
4. Avignon International Airport, with onward connections by train [30 mins] to Nîmes.
5. Marseille International Airport, with onward connections by train to Nîmes.
6. Clermont-Ferrand Airport, with onward connections direct to Alès by regional [TER] train on 'Le Cevenol'.



By Rail

- i. Best access is via Nimes SNCF [TGV] railway station [4 hrs fast train/TGV from Paris or Lille, 1½ hrs from Lyon], or
- ii. Alternative regional [TER] train ['Le Cevenol'] direct to Alès from Paris, with change at Claremont-Ferrand.

Our customers recommend <https://www.sncf.com/en> for research and ticketing.



Troglodyte heaven

Alternative Access is from Millau Gare SNCF or bus station [gare routière].

The best way of getting to Millau is from Montpellier by bus. Details are...

1. **Buses no 381**, run by Herault transport. The 381 bus departs from 'Station Mosson' on the TaM Tramway in Montpellier. The bus stop is right next to the TaM Tramway stop.

Buy ticket as you board the bus - about €12.

2. TaM Tramway - Montpellier Trams

To connect with Bus no 381, use the TaM Tramway connection between Montpellier St Roch SNCF station and Station Mosson.

Allow approx. twenty minutes for the journey and trams run frequently. Buy tickets from machine beside the tramway stop before boarding.



The nearest airports are Montpellier, Rodez, Beziers or Nimes.

Alternative ways To Millau:

- i) From Rodez - a bus service links to Millau in under 2 hours.
- ii) **By Car** - ask us about the free, secure parking for your car for those who wish to drive to Meyrueis.
- iii) **By Rail** from Beziers.

Ten reasons to book with The Enlightened Traveller®



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- ❿ Anglo-French family business that tries harder: We'll look after you like one of the family!

En route to Le Rozier





Causse Mejean

2024 prices:

Tarn Gorge Walks EXTRA

Superior Accommodation - price per person based on 2 persons sharing a double or twin-bedded room:

£1095.00 Pounds Sterling or €1325.00 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 are fully protected for the initial deposit and subsequently the balance of all monies paid to us, arising from cancellation or curtailment of your holiday arrangements due to insolvency, irrespective of method of payment.

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 13 kgs in weight. Supplements apply for overweight luggage and we accept no responsibility for lost valuables.

Options exist to store and deliver excess luggage to the final hotel for onward travel. We advise you not to bring computers and business-related equipment.

* Arrival and Departure transfers on a Sunday, National Holiday or outside normal working hours are subject to a 100 euro supplement each way. Group members must arrive and depart together.

The Enlightened Traveller® Walking Holidays in France Ltd.

12 Park Lane
Tilehurst, READING
RG31 5DL, England
UK: (0800) 4488 404

FR: 06 95 04 12 63

Email: info@walking-holidays-france.com

Inter: <https://walking-holidays-france.com>

Skype: [theenlightenedtraveller](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/theenlightenedtraveller)

Facebook.com/TheEnlightenedTraveller

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