



The ASS-ential Family Stevenson

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

Fact File

- ☞ A World's top Travel Adventure [Forbes] with a twist.
- ☞ **Our tour is recommended by The Times: see on-site tour page**
- ☞ Three fine days of light-to-moderate walking and donkey-trekking for a family of four.
- ☞ Start any day from mid-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 132 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 cité of Pradelles, from where your onward or return journey is easy. If you are looking for a family adventure in the scenic French countryside, 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.** [6.5 miles-9.5 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.** [8.5 miles-12.5 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 12½ miles today.
Then you bid fond farewell to your four-legged companion in Pradelles.
- Day 5** **End of Tour.** Breakfast, transfer to Langogne Gare SNCF or back to Le Puy for onward journey. Bon voyage et bon retour!





What's Included

- 4 nights bed and breakfast in a comfortable mix of hotels, walkers' inns and auberges: family rooms or adjacent twin/double rooms are the norm².
- 3 evening meals, leaving you free to choose dinner in Le Puy and packed lunches can be purchased en route: options listed in tour dossier and walking notes.
- Transfer from Le Puy to Monastier at the start of the tour, and from Pradelles to Langogne gare SNCF at the end.
- Donkey hire and pre-tour induction session in donkey handling.
- Up to 30 kgs transported by your donkey³.
- Overnight nourishment and accommodation for the donkey.
- Comprehensive walking dossier, 1:50,000 maps & Hiking Insight Notes™.
- 7/7 telephone help-line service with local British backup.
- 7/7 Emergency assistance in respect of the donkey.

Prices 2024

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®.

Consumer beware: This insurance is only valid for passengers who book and pay directly with/to The Enlightened Traveller® and not via intermediaries. Please see our website for full details.

Package cost based on four persons* sharing and a max. of two adults:

**€2395.00 Euros or
£1995.00 Pounds Sterling**



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 Excess luggage can be stored and delivered to your final hotel. One child can ride up on the donkey at a time within the weight limits; and two extra cases weighing up to 13 kgs each are part of the package and are transferred from hotel to hotel. Please ask for details.

* Two adults and two children staying in a family room or two twin-bedded rooms.

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