



Walk in France's Garrigues

A Roman trail across scenic Mediterranean landscape

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Gentle walks through undulating and picturesque terrain.
- ☞ Explore hill-top villages & hamlets in Camisard Country.
- ☞ Experience a range of fine stone chambres d'hotes and savour the local Mediterranean cuisine.
- ☞ Imbibe the aromas and flavours of the Mediterranean.
- ☞ Enjoy the countryside, stay close to civilization.



Fact File

- ✓ Self-guided, light, 6-night inn-to-inn tour.
- ✓ Average 4 hours and 8 miles/13 kms a day.
- ✓ Departures any day from April to mid-October.
- ✓ Start in Alès, finish in Roman Nîmes, with convenient and easy access.
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout, including people transfers.
- ✓ Accommodation is of a high standard throughout.



Theme

Walk in France's Garrigues takes you on a journey across undulating lowland from Alès, at the foothills of the Cevennes hills, to Nîmes, the Gallo-Roman capital of southern France. It is perfect walking for those passionate about horticulture, Mediterranean food and healthy living. You enjoy fine bucolic hikes to both work up an appetite and off-set the self-indulgence.

Walk in France's Garrigues offers manifold attractions:

I. Garrigues summers are hot and dry. Moreover, the climate is particularly amenable to hiking out-of-season, so you can enjoy the special experience when most holiday-makers are back at work. Winters are particularly mild, so whilst the rest of Europe has its skis and snow boots on, you can walk the long and fine, sunshine-drenched autumn and winter afternoons in relatively-light clothing.

II. The terrain is undulating lowland, perfect for those who enjoy a good walk without the unnecessary challenge of excess ascents and descents. You rarely get above 200 metres, but the walking is anything but flat as you hike a series of hill-top villages stretched out along the Gardon Valley.



*The view from
Vezenobres*



III. This is Huguenots territory and some of France's oldest Protestant churches are to be found here - now under the tutelage of the French state - as well as fascinating stories of local Camisard battles lost and won 300 years ago. The medieval St-Giles Way also passed along the Valley walked by pilgrims en route to the Mediterranean and The Promised Land.

IV. Garrigues is a quintessentially human environment. The landscape of the Languedoc Garrigues is agricultural-led, dominated by vines and olives, with the hillside grazing of sheep and goats to a large extent relegated to history. For lovers of aromatic shrubs, lavender, sage, rosemary, wild thyme and Artemisia are to be seen and smelt throughout your hike, as well as chamomile, cactus, myrtle and broom.

Walk in France's Garrigues is the perfect trip for those who like to enjoy the fruits of the countryside whilst remaining intimately connected to civilization.



The ubiquitous olive groves



6-night Itinerary¹

Day 1 **Arrival Day in Alès**

[40-minute train journey from Nîmes], a busy market-town un-reliant on tourism, gateway to Cevennes and cradle of Protestantism.

Day 2 **Alès to Vezenobres.**

[2½ to 4 hrs walking, options from 2½ miles-4 kms to 7½ miles-11 kms, + 105 ms, -140 ms]

Walk the banks of The Gardon to connect with the Roman trail at St Hilaire. Then commence a bucolic saunter to venerable Vezenobres, fig capital and medieval watering-hole. Enjoy a stroll around its narrow 'ruelles' and immediate hinterland. Night in Vezenobres

Day 3 **Vezenobres to Moussac**

[4 hrs walking, 7½ miles-11 kms, + 60 ms, - 85 ms].

The Roman trail laces together four fine villages and a remarkable fortified hamlet along this section of The Gardonnenque. Each oozes character and history as you enjoy the peaceful, scenic garrigues at its best. Collection and short transfer back to your hotel. Second night in Vezenobres

Day 4 **Moussac to Russan**

[5 hrs walking, 10½ miles-17 kms, + 55 ms, - 60 ms, with option to shorten first section].

Return transfer to Moussac after breakfast. Then enjoy a leisurely walk across the scenic Gardonnenque followed by a gentle climb into the dry, limestone Garrigues. Then descend to picturesque Russan, perched at the mouth of the Gorges du Gardon, with a fine vantage point over the River, which in summer is subterranean. Night in Russan.

Day 5 **Russan to La Calmette.**

[4 hrs walking, 7½ miles-11 kms, + /- 130 ms.]

The day starts with more fine views of the Gardon Gorge, which you crossing before climbing to Dions and enjoying some fine views over the garrigue, and particularly Mont Bouquet, from a relatively high vantage point. We suggest you visit the 'gouffre' before pushing onward to La Calmette. Night in La Calmette.

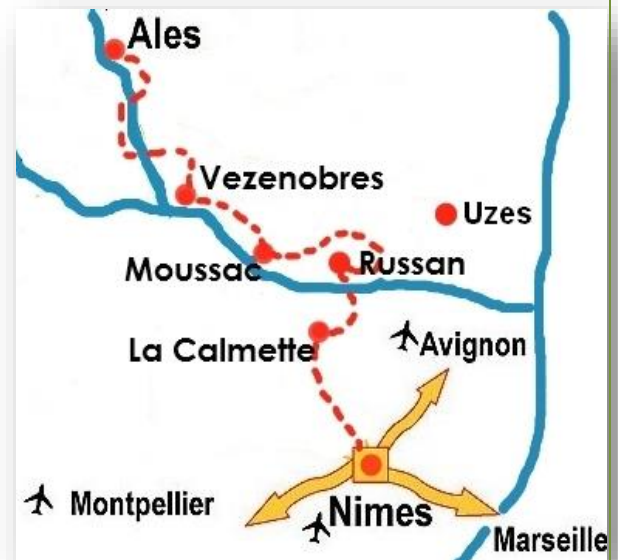
Day 6 **La Calmette to Nîmes.**

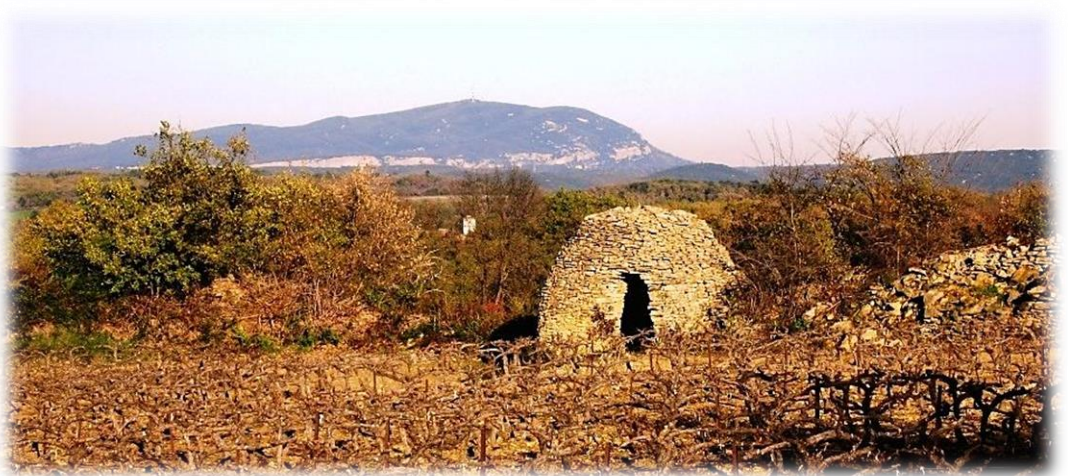
[10½ miles-16 kms, +85 ms, -130 ms, approx. 5½ hours.]

You climb and cross a fine bucolic Garrigues trail before wending your way through the Bois des Espesses en route to the Roman Tour Magna, the splendours of Les Jardins de la Fontaines and the fine historic centre.

Night in Nîmes.

Day 7 End of Tour - Breakfast and onward train. Although there's plenty to enjoy if you want to stay for an extra day/night. Please ask us for details.





Capitelle and Mont Bouquet

What's Included

- ✓ 6 nights Bed & Breakfast [incl. local taxes] in high standard accommodation - see below.
- ✓ Four evening meals
- ✓ Industry-leading hiking notes, 1:25,000 maps and themed dossier
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout ²
- ✓ All people transfers relevant to the tour - see itinerary above.
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 7/7 and 8 till late native English and French-based support.



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 and from the tour start and finish points.



A mix of fine chambres d'hotes & welcoming hotels

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

Accommodation is of a high standard and comprises a range of carefully-selected, charming and characterful chambres d'hotes [guest houses] backed up by comfortable 3-star hotels in Alès and Nîmes. You will also stay in an excellent 2-star hotel in Vézénobres. All offer a fine welcome and en suite facilities.

Evening meals are either in the your chambres d'hotes [i.e., enjoyed in the company of your hosts as 'tables d'hotes'] or in your hotel restaurant. Options abound in Alès and Nîmes, so you choose where to dine out according to budget and taste. 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.



Access & Departure

How to get to Alès

Due to the popularity of Nîmes, the options for getting to the City are plentiful. Once there, Alès is just a short onward regional train journey of 40 minutes away.

Your hiking commences in Alès, Gateway to Cevennes and located in the Cevenol foothills.

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 [60 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

Best access is via SNCF [TGV] railway station to Nîmes [4 hrs fast train/TGV from Paris or Lille, 1½ hrs from Lyon]

Alternative regional [TER] train ['Le Cevenol'] direct to Alès from Paris, with change at Clermont-Ferrand.

Our customers recommend RailEurope.com for research and ticketing.



Across the Garrigues - Mt Bouquet in the background



The Gardon, one Autumn morning

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 great value for money
- ❹ Personalise your trip to meet your own requirements
- ❺ Industry-leading walking notes make orientation easy
- ❻ 1:25 000 full scale maps & insightful dossier
- ❼ 7/7 and 8 till late 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!



Mas d'Arnet

Camisard Country



2024 prices:

Per person in double or
twin-bedded room:
£920.00 Pounds Sterling or €1050.00 Euros



Booking

Email, phone, LiveChat or Skype us and we will email you everything you need to reserve your tour.

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. Accommodation may be slightly different than indicated above, but the general standard will be respected.

² This covers your luggage irrespective of weight and quantity. We accept no responsibility for lost valuables. We advise you not to bring computers and business-related equipment.

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