



*The Ardèche Gorge
at Aiguèze*

Walking Provence-West

Unspoiled Gorges, Valleys and Villages

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Discover the lower reaches of the Ardèche & Cèze Valleys
- ☞ Enjoy fascinating hill-top villages
- ☞ Explore Megalithic Man's footprint: dolmen and SE France's tallest menhir
- ☞ Marvel at fine scenery and geological formations: Ardeche and Cèze gorges, The Concluses de Lussan & The Sautadet Falls
- ☞ Stay in Uzès, the First Duchy of France, and trace the source of the Pont du Gard aqueduct
- ☞ Visit the magnificent Chartreuse de Valbonne Monastery.



Fact File

- ✓ 7-night light self-guided hiking tour
- ✓ Convenient access from Avignon, with departure from Uzès (Nîmes).
- ✓ Commence any day April to June and in September.
- ✓ Luggage and people transfers throughout.
- ✓ Mix of superior Provençal hotels, a fine gîte and a guest house.



Theme

Walking Provence-West is a unique opportunity for you to get intimately acquainted with a part of Provence that is delightfully under-trodden. Whilst most visitors to 'Valcèzard' conduct a mix of rambling and touring by car, you enjoy what is arguably the best week's walking Provence has to offer.

We have succeeded in knitting together western Provence's most remarkable landscapes and geological features in a way that enables you to enjoy them during six 'day journeys' of discovery on foot. The walking is essentially light with one moderate challenge on the penultimate day. The terrain is quintessentially undulating and bucolic, with ascents and descents that are well within the capabilities of the vast majority of social hikers.

Walking Provence-West allows you to enjoy the culinary delights of Provence in a fashion that is tailored to the requirements of both your budget and diet. We include bed and breakfast, four picnics for your convenience, whilst you decide where dine out locally. Moreover, you finish up for your last two nights in enchanting Uzès, the First Duchy of France, with its renowned Saturday-morning market which you might like to visit.





The Sautadet Falls and the Martel Bridge

Tour Itinerary¹

Day 1 Arrival in Pont St Esprit.

Arrival at the starting point of your tour and check in. Early arrivals can enjoy a short urban hike around this busy town located at the confluence of the Ardèche and Rhone rivers.

Night in Pont St Esprit.

Day 2 Pont St-Esprit to Aigueze.

[7.5 miles-11 kms, approx. 4 hrs walking, +140 ms / -85 ms]

You start your week hiking The GR4 as it wends its way along the left bank of the Ardèche and up to the remarkable village of Aigueze, as if hewn out of the sides of the gorge itself.

First night in Aigueze.

Day 3 Aigueze to La Chartreuse Monastery.

[8 miles-12½ kms, approx. 4½ hrs walking, +250 ms -100 ms]

A fine bucolic hike as you meander through the Valbonne forest to a fine belvedere over the Rhone Valley en route to the impressive Chartreuse Carthusian monastery at Valbonne. Late afternoon transfer back to Aigueze.

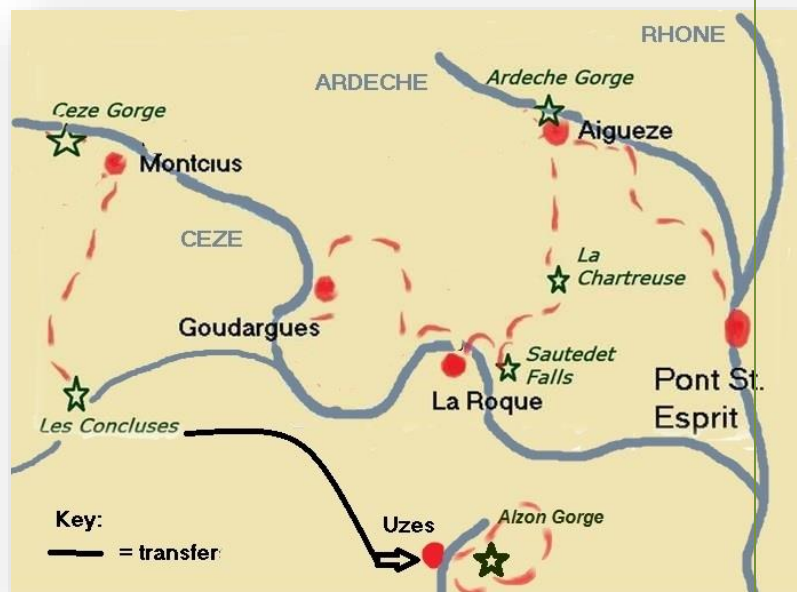
Second night in Aigueze.

Day 4 La Chartreuse Monastery to La Roque-sur-Ceze.

[8½ miles-13½ kms, approx. 5 hrs walking, +70 ms -250 ms]

After-breakfast transfer back to the Monastery from where you walk to the village of St Michel d'Euzet before descending to Martel Bridge, the fascinating Sautadet 'waterfalls' and La Roque-sur-Ceze.

Late afternoon transfer to near Goudargues for overnight stay.





The view over to Cornillon

Day 5 La Roque-sur-Ceze to Goudargues.

[9 miles/14 kms in approx. 5 hrs walking, +/-160 ms alt.]

After-breakfast transfer back to La Roque-sur-Ceze. A memorable sweeping tour of two of the valley's finest villages, juxtaposed in contrasting fashion on either side of the Ceze. A feudal castle, an outstanding view over the lower Ceze Valley and a tree-lined canal are just some of the day's highlights. Late afternoon transfer.

Second night near Goudargues.

Day 6 Monclus to Les Concluses.

[11 miles-16 kms, approx. 6 hrs walking, +440 ms -375 ms].

Transfer to Montclus...from where you set off in search of dolmen and well-hidden menhir, despite its six-metre-high stature. The walking poses a moderate challenge but is very scenic, with the highlight being a descent into the depths of the Aiguillon gorge to its gateway and superbly-potholed limestone channel. Your collection point is nearby for your onward transfer to Uzès.

Night in Uzès.

Day 7 Uzès circular walk.

[5½ miles-8½ kms, approx. 3 hrs walking, +/-165 ms].

Enjoy a bucolic trail through the Garrigues, past water-mill, castle and the relative heights of the Alzon Gorge, with fine views over the Uzès skyline en route to the source of the Eure that fed the Roman Pont du Gard.

Second night in Uzès.

Day 8 End of your Provence walking tour.

Breakfast and onward journey. Au revoir et bon retour.



The Cèze at Montclus bridge

What's Included

- ✓ 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast, 2 dinners, 4 picnic lunches and all local taxes.
- ✓ Superior accommodation - see below.
- ✓ Industry-leading hiking notes, 1:25,000 maps and themed dossier.
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout, with no weight restrictions. ²
- ✓ Six people transfers.
- ✓ 7/7 and 8 till late native English telephone help-line service.



Not included

- ⊗ Remaining meals and all drinks and extras - lunch and dinner options are listed in your dossier and walking notes.
- ⊗ 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.





You, too, can enjoy this magnificent view down The Lower Ceze Valley

Superior Hotels, gite and guest house

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

This is not an inn-to-inn, but a multi-centre tour, i.e., you do not move on to a different hotel every night. Those opting for a light walking holiday often prefer this format.

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



Accommodation comprises two family-run ‘3-star standard’ hotels, a fine gite/glamping experience plus a charming chambre d’hôte du charme.

Two evening meals are included, allowing you greater choice and personalization according to budget and taste in the remaining locations. Pont St Esprit, Aigueze and Uzes offer restaurant options. Four Packed lunches are also included for your convenience so you focus on the walking, not shopping.

Two accommodations feature outdoor swimming pools.





Your 7-night accommodation is:

- One night in Pont St Esprit - three-star hotel
- Two nights in Aigueze - fabulous stone residence with private pool and restaurant
- Two nights near Goudargues. Your preference will likely be for the gite accommodation. However, the alternative is a 'Luxury Tent' - glamping, not camping. The 'Luxury Tents' are designed, decorated and furnished in the style of a hotel room.

[Thanks to Air B&B, there is no suitable accommodation in La Roque]

- Two nights in Uzès.

[Hotel or chambres d'hotes du charme]

Access & Departure

How to get to Pont St Esprit

Due to the popularity of both Avignon and Nimes, the options for getting to Pont St Esprit are plentiful. Pont St Esprit is just a short onward journey by taxi or bus from Avignon or Nimes.

There is a regular bus service from Avignon or Nimes city centres to Pont St Esprit. Personal collection from Avignon TGV station and transfer to Pont St Esprit costs approx. 95 Euros in normal working hours. Please ask us for further details on the above transport options.

Departure from Uzès requires a bus or taxi, either back to Avignon or onto Nimes, from where a high-speed onward rail journey to London, Marseille, Montpellier, Paris or Toulouse awaits.



Canal at Goudargues

Getting to Avignon

By Air

The airport is rather small and flights are either domestic or from the UK.
For details, see: www.avignon-airport.com

By Rail

3 hrs fast train/TGV from Paris or Lille or 45 minutes from Lyon and 30 from Nimes.

The TGV/Fast Train station is located on the periphery of the City, from where **a bus will take you direct to Pont St Esprit.**



Getting to Nimes

By Air

Getting to Nimes is relatively straightforward from the following airports:

1. Nimes airport - flights from the UK and Brussels via RyanAir.
2. Lyon International Airport, with onward connections by fast train [60 mins] to Nimes.
3. Montpellier International Airport, with onward connections by train [30 mins] to Nimes.
4. Marseille International Airport, with onward connections by train to Avignon or Nimes.

By Rail

Best access is via SNCF [TGV] railway station to Nimes [4 hrs fast train/TGV from Paris or Lille, 1½ hrs from Lyon, with options from Montpellier or Marseille]



Our customers recommend RailEurope.com for research and ticketing.



The Ardeche Gorge at Aigueze

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 better value for money
- ❹ Personalise your tour to suit 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.
- 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 look after you like one of the family!

That's Mont Ventoux in the background





The Uzès skyline

2024 prices:

Per person in a double or twin-bedded room:

£1195.00 Pounds Sterling or €1395.00 Euros

Booking

Email, phone 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.

² We accept no responsibility for lost valuables. We advise you not to bring computers and business-related equipment.

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Delighting Mind, Body and Sole!

Peace of Mind

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