

## THE STEVENSON TRAIL

### From Chasserades to Saint Jean du Gard

This journey across the Cevennes lasted 12 days for Stevenson and his donkey, Modestine. It took him from Le Monastier sur Gazeille en Haute Loire to St Jean du Gard. The journey which we offer you starts at Le Puy en Velay in the Haute Loire and ends at St Jean du Gard: 14 days of walking.

*'I have been after an adventure all my life, a pure dispassionate adventure, such as befell early and heroic voyagers; and thus to be found by morning in a random woodside nook in Gevaudan--not knowing north from south, as strange to my surroundings as the first man upon the earth, an inland castaway--was to find a fraction of my day-dreams realised.'*

Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes  
Robert Louis Stevenson  
London: Chatto & Windus, 1907

#### PROGRAMME

8 days, 7 nights, 6 days walking

#### DAY 1 : CHASSERADES 1150 m

Arrive at the hotel at the end of the afternoon. Have dinner and spend the night there..

#### DAY 2 : CHASSERADES - LE BLEYMARD 1069 m 14 km 4 to 5 hours

This is the first of two stages taking us to the highest point of the Stevenson Trail. We set off first off all to L'Estampe, at 1160 m, before arriving at Le Bleyuard.

#### DAY 3 : LE BLEYMARD - PONT DE MONTVERT 875 m 16 km 4 to 5 hours

This brings us up on to Mont Lozère, which is a ski station. After this we go down into the valley to Finiels, which is situated at 1 220 m. After this we keep going until we get to Le Pont de Montvert.

#### DAY 4 : PONT DE MONTVERT - FLORAC 546 m 26 km 7 to 8 hours

This is the longest stage of our journey and it takes us into the heart of the Cévennes. During this stage we have to cross the pass known as the Col du Sapet (1080 m), then we go down to Bédouès (560 m), before going to Florac. (This is a difficult stage with a lot of uphill and downhill walking)

*It is possible at way-mark 41 to take a short cut to Florac following another long-distance footpath: the GR 68 (see the topo-guide [guidebook] p 99). This will take 4km off the total length of this stage.*

#### DAY 5 : FLORAC - CASSAGNAS 693 m 16 km 4 to 5 hours

This is a relatively short stage but with some ups and downs. It takes us first of all to St Julien d'Arpaon, and then on to the old station of Cassagnas.



## DAY 6 : CASSAGNAS - ST ETIENNE VALLEE FRANCAISE 489 m 13km 3 hours

This short stage will enable you to rest a little. However, it is still necessary to climb over the Col de la

Pierre Plantée at 891 m, before going down into St Germain de Calberte. The hotel for this stage is at Serre de la Can, situated before le village de St Germain.

## DAY 7 : ST ETIENNE - ST JEAN DU GARD 189 m 21 km 5 to 6 hours

We have come to the last stage which takes us to where R.L.STEVENSON ended his journey and sold his donkey. We pass first through St Etienne Vallée-Française (255m) into the country of the Camisards (Protestant rebels [i.e. Huguenots] active between 1685 and 1715). Then we have to cross the Col de St Pierre (596 m), before reaching the end of the trail at St Jean du Gard.

## DAY 8 : ST JEAN DU GARD

The holiday ends after breakfast

Note: 1 – It will not be possible for us to change the hotels you stay at, or the order of the stages we do etc for obvious organisational reasons. Once the day's walk has begun you must follow the planned route unless something exceptional prevents it (e.g. dangerous weather conditions which would make it unsafe to do so).

2 – If you wish to shorten any of the stages you must tell the organisers, and pay for the taxis at the time.

## DATES

This walking holiday can be arranged between the 1<sup>st</sup> May and the beginning of November, at any time convenient to you and subject to the availability of hotels.

Please indicate on the booking sheet any other dates which would suit you (for example if you were able to change the dates of your walking holiday by one or two days either before or after your preferred date ...): this is in case one or several hotels etc are not available on your preferred date.

We would also ask you to **make your booking as early as possible**. We don't keep permanent reservations and certain places of accommodation can be filled up several months in advance.

## THE PRICE INCLUDES

- Half board
- the carriage of luggage
- a guidebook (one guidebook for 1-2 people)
- the tourist tax ('taxe de séjour')

## THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- The midday picnic
- Insurance
- Drinks; personal spending
- The cost of getting from your home to the starting point, or getting home again after the holiday
- Any taxis or shuttles taking you back to your car; any extra transport for shortening sections of the walk
- parking fees.
- Transport from station to hotel or airport to hotel on arrival, or similar transport back to station or airport at the end of the holiday.
- Booking fees
- Extra charge for postage outside France.



## ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

Reception for the walking tour takes place at the first hotel, the evening before your first day's walking. For those arriving by car, there is the possibility of leaving your vehicle in the underground car park.

Your walking tour ends the morning after your last day's walking, after breakfast.

## LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium; stages of 3 to 6 hours of walking each day.  
From 140 to 500 m of ascent.

## ACCOMMODATION

This will be in one and two star hotels or in bed and breakfast. Showers and WCs may be on landings or on the next floor in certain establishments.

**NB: Bedrooms will only be available after 4pm.**

**ATTENTION: When two hotels are full, we will have to arrange for you to pass two nights at the same establishment and organise transport for the walk. (This will not change the route of your day's walk.) Details of this kind will be noted on your booking confirmation, should they be necessary. You may be asked to pay a supplement.**

## FOOD

Breakfasts will be traditional (often taking the form of buffets) and are served at around 8am.

If you want an earlier breakfast than this, talk about it to the hotel-keeper the evening before to find out if it is possible.

Dinner is usually served from 7.30pm onwards. It usually consists of the meal of the day. Most hotels do not offer a choice of menu unless you pay a supplement.

## MIDDAY MEAL

Packed lunches are not included in our prices.

You can order them directly from the hotel the night before (by paying around 7-10€ for each person at the time – depending on the establishment). Alternatively you can buy food in the villages, where there are shops etc.

Listed below are places where you can find shops at which to buy food – if you prefer to buy your own picnic.

## TRANSPORT OF BAGGAGE

Your baggage will be transported between each of the places where you spend the night, **either late in the morning or during the course of the afternoon.**

NB: We ask you to put your bags in the hallway/lounge of each hotel every morning at 8am. **We also insist that each person has only one bag of belongings for transportation, and that no bag must weigh more than 14 kilos.** If you have more than one bag, or if your bag weighs more than 14kg, the transporter can either demand a supplement at the end of the walking tour, or simply refuse altogether to carry your baggage if it is too cumbersome.



You are advised to take a small day-sack or rucksack to carry your personal belongings during the day's walk.

**If you are part of a group, we require you to show clearly on your luggage labels the name of your group leader (i.e. the person who booked your walking tour).**

**!!! A supplement may be payable for carrying baggage after mid-September 2014.**

## TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE WALKING TOUR

### Train :

**\*ARRIVING :** CHASSERADES train station SNCF (Train service Mende / Chasseradès et La Bastide / Chasseradès)

**\*RETURN :** ALES train station SNCF (04 66 78 29 03)

Bus NTECC between St Jean Du Gard and Alès. Tél. 04 66 52 31 31

<http://www.ntecc.fr/exec/ligne.asp?NumRub=1066&etat=2&NumLigne=2342>

No cars on Sundays.

### Car :

**\*ARRIVING :**

Chasseradès is in Lozère.

From Mende, take the N88 following « le Puy en Velay », and then the D6, following « Chasseradès ».

From le Puy en Velay, take the N88, and then the D906 to La Bastide Puylaurent and finally the D6 to Chasseradès.

Carte Michelin N° 8.

**\*RETURN :**

You can book a transfer back to come back to Chasseradès with TRANSBAGAGES : 25 € **per person.**

## ABOUT THE WALK

To enable you to follow the route successfully we will send you, on receipt of payment for the holiday, a traveller's file containing a list of hotels and bed and breakfasts and the official guidebook: le topo guide LE CHEMIN DE STEVENSON, GR 70, Le Puy – Alès (1 topo-guide for 1 to 4 people).

(An English translation of the route directions is also available on request.)

For information, here are the reference numbers for the detailed IGN maps for the route (scale 1:25000): 2735 E, 2836O, 2736 E, 2737 E, 2738 E, 2738 O, 2739 OT, 2740 ET, 2740 E et 2840 O.

## WE ADVISE YOU TO BRING WITH YOU

- a small rucksack for your packed lunch and anything else needed for the day's walk
- basic first aid – eg plasters, antiseptic fluid, alcohol for feet etc
- a good pair of walking boots or shoes, suitable for hill walking. Beware of new boots – test them or break them in first.
- sun-glasses, sun-cream and sun-hat
- waterproof garments
- light shoes for the evening
- water bottle; it is important to drink 1.5 to 2 litres per day
- a knife
- torch (optional)
- binoculars (if desired)
- paper handkerchiefs
- needle, thread, safety pins



## INSURANCE

Our insurances, Contrat Assistance Plus (Assistance étendue) and Contrat Sérénité (Premium) are individual and optional. If you sign up for them it must be **AT THE LATEST, 14 WORKING DAYS** after booking the holiday, and the insurance cannot take effect until after you have paid the full cost of the holiday. Anybody can take out one of our insurances, whatever their country of residence.

The total cost of the Contrat Assistance Plus (insurance for Assistance/Rapatration) is set at 1.70% of the cost of the holiday. It takes into account only the cost of the holiday.

The total cost of the Contrat Sérénité (insurance for Assistance/Repatriation, cancellation and interruption of the holiday) is set at 3.6 % of the price of the holiday. It takes into account the cost of the holiday and the extra charges (for individual bedrooms, for a single holidaymaker, extra nights and possible extra transportation etc).

If you cancel the holiday yourself, if you haven't taken out our insurance for cancellation, the cancellation fees will be retained by us.

The size of the cancellation fee depends on the date of cancellation:

- 1) more than 30 days before the planned departure: 50 € of administration fees per person.
- 2) between 30 days and 22 days before departure: 25% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 3) between 21 days and 15 days before departure: 50% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 4) between 14 days and 8 days before departure: 75% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 5) between 7 days and 2 days before departure: 90% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 6) less than two days before the departure date: 100% of the total cost of the holiday.

In all cases of cancellation, even if it is more than 30 days before the planned starting date of the holiday, a fee of 50 € per person will be retained by us to cover administration costs.

➤➤ If the person with whom you planned to share a bedroom cancels their holiday, you will be billed for the individual supplement for that bedroom.

If you have to cancel your holiday **before you set off**, contact La Pèlerine on +33 (0)4 71 74 47 40, and we will do whatever is necessary.

**During your holiday**, your first action in such a situation should be either to contact **ASSISTANCE MUTUAIDE** on +33 (0)1 45 16 43 47 (if you have taken out the insurance contrat assistance plus) or **SERVICE SINISTRE ASSURANCE** on +33 (0)5 32 09 21 81 (if you have taken out the insurance contrat sérénité).

If you have any questions about your insurance contract, please contact the Hot Line on **05 32 09 21 81**.

Not turning up at the beginning of the holiday, or abandoning the holiday after you have begun it with no explanation, will disqualify you from reimbursement.

An example of an insurance contract, detailing the guarantees it gives you and the procedures you have to follow to make a claim, will be sent to you either at the time you make your booking – or at any other time if you ask for it.

### CHANGING YOUR BOOKING: ATTENTION!

Administration fees (50 €) will be kept by us for **any change you make in a booking already made** (e.g. for type of bedroom, departure dates, number of people etc).

If you want to book **extra nights** at the beginning or the end of your holiday this **must** be done **at the time of booking** and be specified on the booking confirmation sheet. Once bookings have been confirmed, if you



want to arrange extra nights this must be done directly with the establishments concerned, and paid for at the time.

