

## SOUTHERN AUVERGNE

### Holiday for food-lovers

Country walks, comfort and gastronomy!!!

The river Allier rises in the Cevennes. It then carves a path between the volcanic plateaus of the Velay and the granite plateaus of the Margeride, creating the Allier Gorges. This is a land rich in history and in unspoiled landscapes: Romanesque churches, chateaus, magnificent gorges...

At every turn of the path, the countryside changes. People who love bird-watching and wild flowers will not be disappointed.

The accommodation chosen will only enhance your pleasure and comfort: every evening there will be a gourmet menu and spacious bedrooms.

### PROGRAMME

*6 days – 5 nights – 4 days' walking*

**DAY 1:** Arrive at Pont d'Alleyras, have dinner and spend the night there. You are expected to arrive from 4pm.

**DAY 2: The Orgues Circuit : 5 km**

A great warm-up for this walk from Monistrol d'Allier.

**DAY 3: Former potters' village and the Eagle's Rock ('Rocher de l'Aigle'): 12.5 Km**

You follow the road which first of all leads along the edge of the River Allier, and then goes on to Vabres, a village which used to be a centre of pottery making. After this there is a longish climb through the forest overlooking the river Allier. This brings you to Pourcheresse. Now you are up on the plateau you go through Le Mazel and the pretty village of Sanis. After this you follow a quiet road leading to the Baraque de Chaumas. Then you go down through the forest back to Pont d'Alleyras.

**ALTITUDE: Lowest: 660 m, highest: 1050 m.**

**DAY 4: The Arzac Circuit: 12 Km**

Crossing the streams of Malaval and of Gourlong, two tributaries on the right bank of the Allier which have carved out rugged and inaccessible valleys, this walk offers splendid views over Alleyras, the Barrage (reservoir) of Poutès and the railway line.

**ALTITUDE: Lowest: 660 m, highest: 1127 m.**

**DAY 5: The Estours chapel ( 9 km ) or Croix à Boules circuit (13 km )**

You will discover this day the gorges of the river Allier and its gorgeous views in the area of St Julien des Chazes.

**DAY 6:**

The holiday ends after breakfast.

### DATES



From 15 April to the end of October. Please take note that you must start this circuit on a Wednesday.

Please indicate on the booking form any alternative dates which might suit you (for example if you would be able to book the holiday for a period of time shortly before or after your preferred date). This may be useful if one or more hotels are already booked on the preferred date.

For similar reasons we ask you to **make your reservation as soon as possible**. We do not keep places reserved in the hotels and some of them can fill up with bookings several months in advance.

## THE PRICE INCLUDES

- Half board
- A guidebook (**1 guidebook for 1 to 2 people**).

## THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Transport between your home and the holiday area
- Packed lunches
- Drinks and personal expenses
- Accommodation tax.
- Insurance
- Booking fees
- The cost of sending information overseas

## BEGINNING AND END OF HOLIDAY

Reception is at the end of the afternoon on the day before your first day's walking. If you have come by car, there is a parking area in front of the hotel.

Your holiday ends after breakfast on the morning following your last day's walking.

## LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Easy to moderate. The walks are fairly short.  
From 250 m to 600 m of uphill walking each day.

## ACCOMMODATION

Hotel \*\*\*\*: Very comfortable bedrooms

Food: the cooking, by a talented chef, is recognised by the food critics: 1 star Michelin, 16/20 Gault-Millau, 2 stars Bottin gourmand, Champ  rard....

There is a health and fitness suite with a hammam (Turkish bath) and a sauna (these are available on demand between 18 h and 19 h 30), and there are several machines for developing strength/fitness.

## MIDDAY MEAL

Packed lunches are not included in our prices.

You can, however, order them directly from the hotel (to be paid for at the time: cost from 7 to 10   per person) or they can be bought in the village (there is a grocery just next to the hotel, in what used to be the railway station).

## GETTING THERE



**Train:** Railway station (Gare SNCF) at Pont d'Alleyras (on the line from Clermont Ferrand to Nîmes)  
Arriving: Every day: Leave from Clermont at 16 h 41, arrive at Alleyras at 19 h 30. The hotel is close to the station.

Return to Clermont Ferrand:

Outside July and August: leave from Monistrol d'Allier at 11 h 41 (if you ask at the hotel you can get a taxi from Alleyras to Monistrol. The train arrives at Clermont Ferrand at 13h36.

In July and August: Trains leave from Alleyras at 10 h 45, and arrive at Clermont Ferrand at 12 h 45.

These times should be checked before travelling.

**Railway information for French railways: Informations SNCF: Tel 36 35 or [www.sncf.fr](http://www.sncf.fr) or [www.db-france.fr](http://www.db-france.fr)**

**Car:** From Paris: Motorway (Autoroute) Paris Clermont, then turn off the motorway towards Le Puy en Velay (N 102), Langeac (D 56), Saugues.

### **English websites:**

French tourist office in London:

<http://uk.franceguide.com/home.html?NodeID=1>

'France and You' website:

[www.france.fr/en](http://www.france.fr/en)

## **INFORMATION PACK**

So you can follow the walking routes, we will send you, on receipt of payment, a holiday information pack and a guidebook (**1 guidebook for 1-4 people**). Copies will also be available at the hotel (where they should be left at the end of the holiday).

## **THINGS TO BRING WITH YOU**

A small rucksack for packed lunches and whatever you may need to carry with you when walking

A small individual first-aid kit, including elastoplasts (sticking plasters), 'new skin', disinfectant/antiseptic for treating blisters or small wounds etc

A pair of strong, comfortable walking shoes suitable for hilly country and stony tracks

Beware of bringing new footwear which has not been tested for comfort!

Sun-glasses, sun-cream and a sunhat

Rain-wear

Comb and sandals for the health and fitness suite

Light footwear for the evenings.

A water-bottle: you will need to drink 1.5 to 2L of water each day.

A knife

A small torch (optional)

Binoculars (optional)

Paper handkerchiefs/tissues

Needle, thread and a couple of 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/Rapatiation) 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.

