

THE STEVENSON TRAIL

From Le Puy en Velay to Chasserades

This journey across the Cevennes lasted 12 days for Stevenson and his donkey, Modestine. It took him from Monastier sur Gazeille in 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 realized.”

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

PROGRAMME

SL001

8 days, 7 nights and 6 days of walking.

DAY 1: LE PUY EN VELAY 613 m

Arrive at the hotel at the end of the afternoon. Have dinner and spend the night there. For those who come by car, your vehicle can be left in the underground car park.

DAY 2: LE PUY -LE MONASTIER SUR GAZEILLE 930 m

This is the first stage, which takes you to Monastier, from where R. L Stevenson began his journey. We leave the built-up area of Le Puy, passing first of all through Coubon, then continuing to Le Monastier sur Gazeille. (300m ascent in all)

Stage 19 km long; about 4 to 5 hours' walking

DAY 3: LE MONASTIER– LE BOUCHET ST NICOLAS 1220 m

This stage takes you to Goudet in the valley of the Loire (785 m) after passing first through Courmarcès (975m), and St Martin de Fugères (1000m). After this we go to Montagnac (950m) and Ussel (1025 m). Then we cross the volcanic plateaus until we arrive at Le Bouchet St Nicolas.

Stage 22 km long; about 5 to 6 hours' walking

DAY 4: LE BOUCHET ST NICOLAS – LANGOGNE 920 m

During this stage we pass through Landos (1100 m), Jagonas (1050m), Arquejol (1007m) and Pradelles (1150 m).

Stage 25 km long, about 5 to 6 hours' walking

DAY 5 : LANGOGNE – CHEYLARD L'EVEQUE 1125 m

Or LANGOGNE - CHAUDEYRAC



After passing through Langogne, we continue to St Flour de Mercoire (1049m); this is a wooded section of the trail. Then we go down into Cheylard l'Evêque. (Very little ascent)

Stage 16 km long, about 4 hours' walking

DAY 6 : CHEYLARD L'EVEQUE – LA BASTIDE PUYLAURENT 1024 m

Or CHAUDEYRAC - LA BASTIDE PUY LAURENT

When we leave Cheylard, we go to Luc (971m), then Rogleton (990m). From here we go to the abbey of « Notre Dame des Neiges » (8km off the GR) before going on to La Bastide. The abbey is home to Cistercian monks who produce wine.

Stage 26,5 km long; about 6 to 7 hours' walking (or 30,5 km if you start in Chaudeyrac)

DAY 7 : LA BASTIDE PUYLAURENT - CHASSERADES 1150 m

A relatively short stage, allowing for relaxation before your departure the following morning.

Stage 12 km long; about 3 hours' walking

DAY 8 : CHASSERADES

The holiday ends after breakfast.

DATES

This walking holiday can be arranged between the 1st 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.
- 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, with stages of 3 to 6 hours' walking per day
From 140 m to 500 m of ascent on any one day

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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

ACCESS

Train:

***OUTWARD JOURNEY:** Le Puy railway station: Gare SNCF of Le Puy en Velay (tel: 04 71 07 71 63)

There are two train services:



- Service Le Puy en Velay/St Etienne/Lyon
- Service Le Puy en Velay/St Georges d'Aurac/Clermont-Ferrand

***RETURN JOURNEY:** Chasseradès railway station (Gare SNCF de Chasseradès) and Langogne railway station (Gare SNCF de Langogne: 04 66 69 10 80).

Avoid trying to plan your departure for a weekend or public holiday. Making connections on French railways is much more difficult on these days.

Further information about trains can be obtained by telephoning 36 35 or by looking on the SNCF website: www.sncf.fr

Car:

***OUTWARD JOURNEY:**

Le Puy en Velay is in the department of Haute-Loire, 514km from Paris and 132km from Clermont-Ferrand (using the RN 102 road).

Michelin map 76; fold 7.

You can leave your car in Le Puy en Velay in the underground car park in the Place du Breuil. This is open every day except Sundays and public holidays from 6.30am to 7pm. It costs about 18€ per week, and the parking is secure.

If you need to get your car out of this underground car park on a Sunday, it is possible to do so by asking in advance for a magnetic card from the staff at the main car park check-out. (The telephone number for this car park is: **04 71 02 03 54**.)

It is getting more and more difficult to find free parking near to the hotel. However, if you do manage to find a place, there is almost no risk. Our region is relatively free of problems.

***RETURN JOURNEY:**

- Train from Chasseradès to La Bastide and then a bus from La Bastide to Langogne (Paris/Nîmes service) then finally a bus from Langogne to Puy en Velay (Autocar HUGON: 04 66 49 03 81).
(*except for Saturday afternoons, Sundays and public holidays*)

Below is the website for buses between Langogne and Le Puy
<http://www.hugon-tourisme.com/pdf/le-puy-en-velay-mende.pdf>

You can, either with our help or directly, by yourselves, book TRANSBAGAGES (tel: 04 66 65 27 75) to bring you back from Saint Jean du Gard to Le Puy en Velay

- Transport from Chasseradès to Le Puy en Velay: cost 25 € per person.

A booking for this should be made at the earliest possible opportunity. (we advise you to do it when you book your holiday or when you get confirmation of your booking, because there is a big demand for this transport and very few places. This transport is not included in the overall price for the holiday.

By air:

***OUTWARD JOURNEY:**

Le Puy airport: Aéroport HEXAIR Le Puy/Loudes tel: 04 71 08 62 28

Take a taxi from the airport to Le Puy (see details of taxis above). The distance is 14 km.

***RETURN JOURNEY:**

Aéroport HEXAIR Le Puy/Loudes tel: 04 71 08 62 28

It is possible to get a shuttle service back to the airport from Le Puy. This should be reserved when you reserve your holiday.



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

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/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.

