



Hante France

July 14-August 2nd, 2019



This Hante will take the participants to the city of Paris. The group will walk the Stevenson Trail, one of the best hiking trails in France. Walked by Robert Louis Stevenson in 1878, the route inspired him to write 'Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes' (1879), a ground-breaking novel and classic of outdoor literature that set the standard for travelogues thereafter. Stevenson was, in many ways, the pioneer of the modern hiking movement, as the book presents hiking and camping outdoors as a recreational activity. Stevenson was also keen to explore the theme of the Religious Wars and the trail takes you through the heart of Huguenot and 'Camisard' country. Other themes to explore can be found along the trail. The hike crosses four historic natural regions and it is possible to enjoy sub-alpine to Mediterranean flora, hike a volcanic plateau, schist valley and the best of Cévennes' hillcrests Marvel at the lunar-like landscape of Pic Finiels.

Sunday July 14: Traveling to Paris

The Group will meet in Charlotte Airport and Fly to Paris France.

Monday July 15-Wednesday July 17

Your first 3 nights will be spent in Paris where the participants will get to know one another and familiarize themselves with the culture and history of the country.

The group will visit important sites in Paris like Louvre Museum, Eiffel Tower, etc.

Thursday July 18-Friday July 19

The group will travel to Le Puy, explore the town and be organized for the hike along The Stevenson Trail.

2 nights in Le Puy

July 20-27: Hike for 8 days (102 miles) the Stevenson Trail, considered one of the best trails in France.

Saturday July 20: Longogne to Cleylard L'Eveque . [9.8 miles-15.8 kms, approx. 4.0 hrs +915 ms +1126 ms. The trail traverses quite remote country side and the town of Saint-Flour-de-Mercoire.

Sunday July 21: Cheylard l'Eveque to La Bastide Puylaurent. [14.5 miles-23 kms, approx. 7 hrs, +1126 ms -1016 ms] On the walk across the Gevaudan between Cleylard-l'Eveque and Luc it is very easy to image the remoteness of this area of gentle, rounded wooded hills.

Monday July 22: La Bastide to Les Alpiers [16.2 miles-26.1 kms, 7.20 hrs, +1016ms-1186ms). The day begins with a walk over the high country to the north of the Allier Vally descending into the valley to meet and follow the line of the railway through the villages of Chasserades and Mirandol.

Tuesday July 23: Les Alpiers to Pont de Montvert. [13.1 miles-21.1 kms, approx. 6.5 hrs, +1186 ms - 875 ms] A memorable ascent to Mont Lozere, and the highest point in south-central France, Pic de Finiels (1699 ms). Then descend through a chaos of boulders to Finiels and a fine walk into Camisard Country.

Wednesday July 24: Pont de Montvert to Florac. [17.5 miles-28 kms, approx. 8 hrs, +875 ms -545 ms] The day is blessed with some memorable views over the 'blue waves' of the Cevennes hills as you walk mountain crest, crossing from Mediterranean to Alpine flora and back along the fabulous watershed.

Thursday July 25: Florac to the Gare de Cassagnas [10.8 miles-17.4 kms, 5 hrs, +545 ms -693 ms.] You enter the steep-sided, red-rock Mimente Valley, past the ruins of the château d'Arapon en route to Cassagnas. Then climb to Pierre Plantée Pass [891 ms] and past several menhirs and chestnut groves, the traditional staff of Cévenol life.

Friday July 26: Gare de Cassagnas to Saint Germain-de-Calberte. [8.5 miles-13.6 kms, approx. 5 hrs, +693 ms -900 ms] A short stage in most attractive country. Beginning with an pleasant and easy climb up through woodland, passing the Plan de Fontmort and reaching the Col de la Pierre Plantee where an ancient standing stone will be found.

Saturday July 27: St. Germain-de-Calberte to Saint-Jean-du-Gard [13.3 miles-21.4 km, 7 hrs, +480ms-190ms] A memorable last-day's trek that has you walking the Corniche des Cevennes and climbing to a 360 degree vantage point for those last-gasp photos. A foot-soaking in the Gardon de St Jean is a fitting finale.

Saturday July 27-Friday August 2: St. Jean-du-Gard. The group will stay at the French village of St. Jean-du-Gard. The participants will explore the area, cook French meals, visit the local market and get involve with locals . The goal is that the group develop a sense of place of the area and get immerse in the French culture.

August 2: Early departure to Marseille to take the plane to Charlotte.