



## Stevenson Trail – the Trek

*A seminal hike from the Scot's ground-breaking Travelogue*

- Tour Highlights**
- ☞ **A literary trail rated a World's top Travel Adventure by Forbes Traveler - who recommend The Enlightened Traveller as your Hosts: see website for details.**
  - ☞ **Enjoy sub-alpine to Mediterranean flora and volcanic plateau to schist valley topography.**
  - ☞ **Experience the best of the Cevennes' hill-tops and valleys.**
  - ☞ **Hike the Region's highest trail & some fascinating villages en route.**
  - ☞ **Stay in the best auberges and hotels along the trail .**
  - ☞ **Classified as a moderate inn-to-inn trek, with options for personalization on demand.**

### Theme

**Stevenson Trail - The Trek** is a memorable experience indeed. The Stevenson Trail (GR 70) links Le Monastier, near Puy en Velay in the Haute Loire, to St Jean du Gard in The Cevennes, a distance of 156-miles/252 kms. It was walked by Robert Louis Stevenson in 1878, and inspired him to write **Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes** (1879). That ground-breaking book is considered a classic of outdoor literature and set the standard for travelogues. Moreover, Stevenson was, in many ways, the pioneer of the whole modern hiking movement, as the book presents hiking and camping outdoors as a recreational activity.

**Stevenson Trail - The Trek** sees you walking the whole of the route, nowadays considered one of the top ten trails in France. The GR 70 has become increasingly popular with hikers wishing to retrace the route Stevenson took. If you are someone who loves trekking inn-to-inn trails, then this hike across volcanic upland and down steep schist valley is guaranteed to delight your senses. The tour fits comfortably into a fortnight.

Stevenson often slept out under trees in a prototype sleeping bag. You will enjoy good food in comfortable accommodation en route as part of this fascinating tour across southern Auvergne and northern Languedoc.

### 10-night Programme'

- Day 1** **Le Puy.** Arrival and hotel check-in.
- Day 2** **Le Puy en Velay to Le Bouchet St Nicolas.** [14½ miles-22 kms, approx. 5½ hrs, +460 ms -175 ms]  
A short taxi transfer to **Le Monastier**. Then descend into the fabulous Loire Valley, before climbing through charming hamlets and across volcanic plateau to Stevenson's first overnight stop.
- Day 3** **Le Bouchet St Nicolas to Pradelles.** [12½ miles-19 kms, approx. 5 hrs, +285 ms -375 ms]  
Very few climbs or descents today as you enjoy the views from the volcanic plateau en route to the 'City of High Prairies'.
- Day 4** **Pradelles to Cheylard l'Eveque.** [10½ miles-16 kms, approx. 5½ hrs, +310 ms -320 ms]  
Enjoy the gentle descent to Langogne and the land of the 'Beast of Gevaudan', through forest and charming hamlet en route to the medieval village of Cheylard, replete with church, chapel and abbey.
- Day 5** **Cheylard l'Eveque to La Bastide.** [11 miles-16½ kms. approx. 5 hrs, +240 ms -380 ms]  
Descend to your lakeside lunch-spot and onwards to Luc castle. Then head south through linear settlements and across the Allier.
- Day 6** **La Bastide to Bleynard.** [18.5 miles-28 kms, approx. 7 hrs, +610 ms -550 ms]  
Climb to the highest point of the trek so far, cross the watershed between the Atlantic and Mediterranean, and head down valley to picturesque Chasseradès and the Mirandol Viaduct. You are entering The Cevennes.
- Day 7** **Le Bleynard to Pont de Montvert.** [12 miles-18 kms. approx. 6½ hrs, +630 ms -824 ms]  
A memorable hike up Mont Lozere to Pic de Finiels (1699 ms) is rewarded by fine views over Camisard Country as you descend towards Pont de Montvert.
- Day 8** **Pont de Montvert to Florac.** [17½ miles-26 kms, approx. 7 hrs, +545 ms -875 ms]  
A sacré balade that you won't want to end is blessed with some memorable views over the heart of the Cevennes.
- Day 9** **Florac to St Germain de Calberte.** [19 miles-28.5 kms, approx. 7 hrs, +470 ms -263 ms].  
You follow a fascinating trail inside the ferrous-rock Mimente Valley en route to Cassagnas. Then climb to the site of several menhirs before descending through Pierre Plantée Pass to your welcoming overnight hotel.
- Day 10** **St Germain to St. Jean du Gard.** [14 miles-21 kms, approx. 6 hrs, +350 ms -900 ms]  
Walk the Royal Route to the Corniche des Cevennes before descending to the Gardon Valley and your haven of over-night peace.
- Day 11** **End of Tour.** A memorable trek has brought you to St Jean. Breakfast and transfer to Ales. Bon retour et à bientôt!



## What's Included

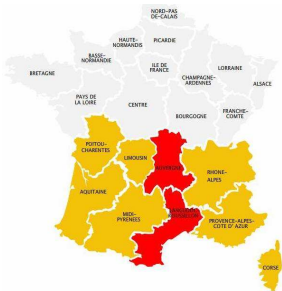
- 10 nights B & B in comfortable 2-star hotels and auberges, plus a 3-star hotel and equivalent auberge
- 8 evening meals, 8 picnic lunches & all local hotel taxes
- Transfers from Le Puy to Le Monastier (start) and from St Jean du Gard to Ales (finish)<sup>2</sup>
- Insight Notes™ that empower and facilitate orientation [Beware of notes in Franglais!], with 1:25,000 scale maps and themed holiday dossier.
- All luggage transfers integral to the programme<sup>3</sup>
- Emergency telephone help-line service with local native English-speaking support
- End-of-tour de-briefing.

## Not included

- Remaining meals and all drinks and extras
- Personal expenses
- Entrances into any optional cultural visits and venues
- Hiking, personal and travel insurance
- Single rooms – unless booked at the single-person rate.

## 2010 Price

**Per person based on two sharing a room: €1030.00 or £940.00<sup>4</sup>**  
**Single per person rate: €1295.00 or £1195.00**



<sup>1</sup> We reserve the right to alter parts of the above programme for the benefit of group safety and the quality of the overall experience.

<sup>2</sup> The St Jean du Gard to Ales transfer is subject to hotel collection no earlier than 09.30 am. No responsibility is accepted for any delays that may result in the failure to catch any connecting trains.

<sup>3</sup> This allows you to take one piece of luggage per person up to 16 kgs in weight. Supplements apply for overweight luggage.

<sup>4</sup> Your holiday takes place in the Euro zone and all costs are incurred in France. Sterling rates are subject to change according to currency fluctuations. Please see the website to check for the latest price and all prices are confirmed at the time of booking.

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