



Le Tarn “The Vineyards and Medieval Fortified Village of Albi”

6 days/7 nights



Located in the transition region between the Mediterranean area of southeast France and the greener, Atlantic climate of southwest France, Le Tarn is filled with steep forested valleys and rolling fields. Montagne Noire, the Black Mountain is situated to the southeast of the Tarn region.

Programme

Riders with their own vehicles may arrive at the hotel by late afternoon. Riders arriving by train will be picked up at either the Albi or de Gaillac train station. The nearest airport is Toulouse. (45 minutes from Albi.)

Day 1



After breakfast, riders will be introduced to their horses. We will enjoy Gaillac cuisine at our picnic lunch at the Chateau de Mayragues. The chateau was built in the 13th and 16th centuries. In the afternoon, we ride through the medieval city of Castelnau de Montmiral, a site rich in history. The village was founded in 1222 by Raymond VII, Comte de Toulouse. Proudly perched on its rocky outcrop, the village is a veritable watchtower of the Middle Ages. Accommodations are at the hotel on the village square.

Day 2



In the morning, we travel the trails to the valley of the Vere and the forest of Gresigne where we enjoy a picnic lunch at the base of the village of Puycelsi, near an ancient Roman bridge. Then we ride toward Bruniquel by way of Puycelsi. Bruniquel is a medieval village whose castle, built at the edge of the cliff, overhangs l'Aveyron. This castle was the location for the movie “The Old Rifle”. Accommodations in the hotel in Bruniquel.

Day 3

After breakfast, we depart Bruniquel. We pass l'Aveyron on a small bridge to ride on the plateau which overlooks the river. We have a picnic lunch at the edge of the water near the village of Penne. Perched on its narrow rock, this medieval village dominates the countryside and forest environment. We complete our journey for the day at the medieval city of Saint-Antonin Noble Val. The village is nestled at the confluence of two rivers, in the heart of the gorges of l'Aveyron, with a natural milieu of high cliffs. Accommodations in a guesthouse in the heart of the village.



Day 4

We begin the route to the village of Verfeil sur Seye, a fortified royal town of the ancient province of Rouergue, where we have with another picnic lunch. We continue toward our evening stop by leaving Le Tarn for l'Aveyron. We travel a landscape of forests and prairies to Najac. The royal fortress of Najac, situated on a rocky ridge, was constructed in 1253 by Alphonse de Poitiers (brother of St. Louis), to dominate a hostile population. Accommodations in the hotel at the base of the village.

Day 5

We return to Le Tarn. Our lunch picnic is in the village of Laguepie at the edge of the Aveyron. We continue our ride toward the fortified village of Cordes-sur-ciel. Situated at the crossroads of Quercy, the Rouergue and the l'Albigeois, you will not fail to be impressed by the imposing presence of Cordes-sur-Ciel. Dominating the valley of Cerou, it perches proudly upon its rock peak which gives the impression of rising higher than the heavens. Accommodations in a guesthouse within the heart of the village.



Day 6



After breakfast, we depart Cordes-sur-Ciel to visit the Chateau of Cayla and its museum. Our picnic will be prepared for us alongside refreshing springs on the trail. Situated within the vineyards of Gaillac, Cayla is a writer's house set in the heart of a classy domain. The archives hold the writings of close friends, personal objects, and living spaces sure to inspire authors. Then, we gather together in the village to depart for our journey to Cahuzac sur Vere. Accommodations in guesthouses.

Day 7

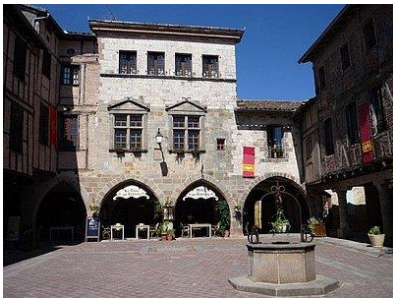
After a hearty breakfast, riders may depart by car or will be taken to the train station.

PRICING is per person in double occupancy rooms for 6 days and 7 nights. Single rooms may be possible with supplemental fee. All meals and transportation to/from accommodations are included. All riding tack is included. You must bring your own riding helmet. The tour price does not include: tourism visits, wine tastings, or drinks in restaurants or hotels. The information in this itinerary is given for information purposes. The itinerary can change as needed to accommodate logistical issues, safety concerns, weather related conditions, or any other unavoidable circumstances.

LIST OF ACCOMMODATIONS

Depending on availability

- **Nights 1,2 and 7**



Hôtel des consuls in Castelnau de Montmirail
www.hoteldesconsuls.com

- **Night 3**



l'abri-niquel in Bruniquel B&B
www.abriniquel.blogspot.com

- **Night 4**



L'auberge du Lion d'or in Saint Antonin Noble Val – B&B
www.aubergeliondor.fr

- **Night 5**



Hôtel Belle Rive in Najac – hotel/restaurant - www.le-belle-rive.fr

- **Night 6**



L'Escuelle des chevaliers in Cordes sur Ciel – B&B -
www.lescuelledeschevaliers.fr