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## ***MOUNT LOZERE, The National Park of Cévennes (UNESCO)***

6 Days/7 Nights

From Mende to Chateauneuf de Randon or from Chateauneuf de Randon to Mende



The ancient area of Gevaudan was established in the Occitan region of France in 1096 by Celtic Gauls. Later conquered by the Romans, the area eventually became inhabited by the Huegonots at the start of the Renaissance period. It is situated within the borders of Massif Central where Mount Lozere is the highest peak of this mountain range in south central France. The Tarn River carves a gorge between the Sauveterre and Mejean limestone plateaus creating a stunning natural vista described by many as one of the most impressive canyons in Europe.

Further north, the valley of Le Lot separates the “causses”, or limestone plateaus of Sauveterre and Margueride. This area is rich in the history and culture of the Camisards, rebellious French Protestants comprised of peasants, craftsmen, and wool trade workers. The dramatic rock formations, deep canyons, and rivers of the Cévennes attract outdoor enthusiasts for rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, horseback riding, and caving.

### **Program**

*Arrival: Riders who have their own transportation are welcome to arrive by late afternoon at Châteauneuf-de-Randon or Mende. Riders arriving by train will be picked up at the station of Mende.*

### **Day 1**



After breakfast, riders will be introduced to their horses. The ride begins by heading south along the limestone plateau of Montbel marked by pastures and precisely transplanted conifers. The trail joins the valley of the Lot and crosses to Chadenet. A picnic lunch is enjoyed in the small village of Allenc. The trail then leads to Bagnols-les-Bain where guests and horses spend the night. Guests spend the night in guest houses or a hotel.

### **Day 2**

#### **Horseriding the morning – Afternoon free**

The next stage of the journey leads through Mount Lozere and its granite summits via the Etang de Barrandon, a historic site set in a severe yet grand landscape. Guests stay overnight in guest houses or hotel.



### Day 3



This morning a long trail takes the riders southward through vast pastures by the pass of Finiels at 1541 meters high. A lunch picnic is arranged near Mas Camargue, a farmhouse that has been restored and houses an ecomuseum. After lunch, the trail descends to the base of Bouges Mountain and ends for the day in a bastide, or fortified village. Guests stay overnight in guest houses or hotel.

### Day 4

On this day riders travel through the national forest of Bouges which is filled with impressive panoramas. A variety of natural trees grow on the mountain crests including conifer, beech groves, sweet chestnut, and mixed forests. The more rugged areas consist of heather-covered moors, with the contrast between the fern filled slate of the south and the broom weed covered granite of the north. Clear skies allow for a view of Les Causses, the limestone plateaus and Mount Aigoual. Guests stay overnight in guest houses or hotel.



### Day 5



Today the riders leave Florac to explore Mejean Causse. The picnic is set at the edge of the Tarn River in the village of Castelbouc, one of the most famous sites in the Tarn Gorge. The high ruins of the feudal castle dominate the village. In the afternoon, the trail leads back toward the Sauveterre Causse to the hamlet of Nissoulougres. Guests stay overnight in guest houses or hotel.

### Day 6

In the morning, riders resume the path northward by crossing limestone fields of Sauveterre Causse, the domain of sheep breeding. A picnic is served high above the valley of the Lot, which will be crossed that afternoon to arrive at the last destination near Mende. Guests stay overnight in guest houses or hotel.



### Day 7

After enjoying a hearty breakfast, riders may depart by car or will be taken to the Mende 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

*Accommodations (depending availability)*



- **Night 1 L'hôtel de la poste** à Châteauneuf de Randon

[www.hoteldelaposte48.com/home/fr/](http://www.hoteldelaposte48.com/home/fr/)



- **Night 2 l'Atelier S** in Bagnols les Bains [lateliers.monsite-orange.fr](http://lateliers.monsite-orange.fr)



- **Night 3 Le Chalet** in Mont Lozère <https://www.lechaletdumontlozere.net/>



- **Night 4 Auberge des Cévennes** in Pont de Monvert [auberge-des-cevennes.com/pont-de-montvert.htm](http://auberge-des-cevennes.com/pont-de-montvert.htm)



- **Night 5 Hôtel Gorges du Tarn** in Florac [www.hotel-gorgesdutarn.com](http://www.hotel-gorgesdutarn.com)



- **Night 6 Auberge du Moulin** in Saint Enemie <http://www.relaisducausse.fr/>



- **Night 7 Hôtel Urbain V** in Mende [www.urbain5.com](http://www.urbain5.com)

Or **another hotel** in Mende