SELF-GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAY · 8 DAYS

Ardèche Adventure

8 days · from £985

“Our most challenging walk: high wooded hills, views to the Alps and exceptional food along the way.”

Cassie

A walk through the quiet north of the Ardèche: high wooded hills with views to the Alps, villages more than 1,000 m (about 3,300 ft) up, and exceptional food along the way.

THE ESSENTIALS

Key facts

DURATION	8 days (7 nights)
WALKING EACH DAY	13–23.2 km (8–14 miles) An optional walk on day 6 (14.9 km (9.3 miles))
ACTIVITY LEVEL	Challenging, with some strenuous stretches
DAILY CLIMB	Up to 1,070 m (about 3,500 ft) Measured from our GPX tracks
START AND FINISH	Circular from Lamastre
OWNED AND RUN BY	Cassie at Dordogne Experience
HOLIDAY STYLE	Self-guided, inn to inn, with your luggage moved for you
SEASON AND START DAYS	April–October Start any day except Tuesday
HOTELS	Hôtel des Négociants (Lamastre, 3 nights), Hôtel des Voyageurs (Lalouvesc), Auberge des Myrtilles (St Bonnet-le-Froid) and Le Bois Sauvage (St Agrève, 2 nights)
MEALS	7 breakfasts, 7 dinners Bed & breakfast option on 3 nights
LOCATION	Ardèche, France

WHERE YOU'LL GO

The route

Drawn from our own GPX tracks (optional walks dashed). We email you these tracks as GPX files for your phone. Town positions © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Which part of the Ardèche?

Not the famous gorges in the south. This walk is in the green, hilly north of the département, close to where it meets the Loire and Haute-Loire.

PER PERSON

2027 prices

	8 DAYS 7 nights
Per person, sharing a double or twin	**£985**
Single room supplement	+£265
Travelling solo (on top of the per-person price)	+£450

Prices are per person, sharing a double/twin room. The 8-day holiday (highlighted) is the one described here.

In US dollars	about US$1,310
In Canadian dollars	about C$1,860
In Australian dollars	about A$1,910
In New Zealand dollars	about NZ$2,350
In euros	about €1,180

Approximate amounts at the 12 November 2026 exchange rate. Prices are set in pounds, and you can pay in any currency you prefer.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

What to expect

Something different if you already know France: a walk through the quiet north of the Ardèche, far from the usual tourist trail, with high wooded hills, villages more than 1,000 m up and exceptional food.

Highlights

- Superb viewpoints and, on a clear day, the Alps on the horizon
- Villages more than 1,000 m (about 3,300 ft) up, including Lalouvesc and St Agrève
- Exceptional food, with dinner included every night and the option of bed and breakfast on three nights to try the Michelin-recommended restaurants
- A picnic at one of the most beautiful picnic spots in France, and the chance of a swim in the Lac de Devesset
- Ancient paths where the old paving still shows
- A circular route from Lamastre, with the taxis on days 2 and 6 included

What we look after for you

A family business. Dordogne Experience has been creating self-guided walking and cycling holidays here for over 40 years. It's owned and run by Cassie, and every route has been walked or cycled by our family.

Hotels we know personally. Small, characterful hotels, many of them family-run and many with a pool, chosen for their welcome and their cooking. On our Dordogne and Lot holidays, Cassie knows every one of them.

Luggage moved for you. You carry only what you need for the day. Your bags are taken on each time you change hotel and are waiting when you arrive.

Easy to follow. Our own detailed route notes, plus GPX tracks for your phone, so you can explore at your own pace with confidence.

Support throughout. Cassie is a phone call or WhatsApp message away for the whole holiday, in English or French, with real local knowledge.

Flexible and private. Just you and your party, with no groups and no fixed departures. Holidays can start on most days from April to October, and we can add extra nights or rest days, upgrade hotels or make a longer version.

Every booking handled personally. Cassie books every hotel, luggage transfer and included taxi herself, and before you go you'll have a welcome letter with everything you need.

Who it suits. Fit, experienced walkers looking for a quieter, more remote France. Challenging, with climbs of up to 1,070 m (about 3,500 ft).

Hills around Lamastre in autumn
Photo: Gaillard Jérôme / CC BY-SA 3.0

Lalouvesc and its basilica
Photo: Zimpalaa / CC BY-SA 3.0

Saint-Agrève below Mont Chiniac
Photo: PRA / CC BY 2.5

YOUR HOLIDAY

At a glance

DAY	ROUTE	DISTANCE	CLIMB	OVERNIGHT
1	Arrival in Lamastre	–	–	Lamastre · Hôtel des Négociants
2	Le Crestet to Lamastre	13.0 km (8.1 miles)	↑ 380 m (about 1,250 ft) ↓ 460 m (about 1,500 ft)	Lamastre · Hôtel des Négociants
3	Lamastre to Lalouvesc	22.3 km (14 miles)	↑ 1,070 m (about 3,500 ft) ↓ 360 m (about 1,200 ft)	Lalouvesc · Hôtel des Voyageurs
4	Lalouvesc to St Bonnet-le-Froid	19.7 km (12 miles)	↑ 650 m (about 2,150 ft) ↓ 600 m (about 1,950 ft)	St Bonnet-le-Froid · Auberge des Myrtilles
5	St Bonnet-le-Froid to St Agrève	22.4 km (14 miles)	↑ 260 m (about 850 ft) ↓ 330 m (about 1,100 ft)	St Agrève · Le Bois Sauvage
6	Rest day in St Agrève	Optional 14.9 km (9.3 miles)	↑ 190 m (about 600 ft) ↓ 680 m (about 2,250 ft)	St Agrève · Le Bois Sauvage
7	St Agrève to Lamastre	23.2 km (14 miles)	↑ 210 m (about 700 ft) ↓ 870 m (about 2,850 ft)	Lamastre · Hôtel des Négociants
8	Departure	–	–	–

Climbs shown where we've measured the route.

IN DETAIL

Day by day

DAY 1

Arrival in Lamastre

Dinner included

Arrive in Lamastre, a small town with ivy-clad château ruins and a bustling traditional market.

Tonight: Lamastre · Hôtel des Négociants

The ruined Château de Retourtour above Lamastre
Photo: Charcutaille / CC BY-SA 3.0

DAY 2

Le Crestet to Lamastre

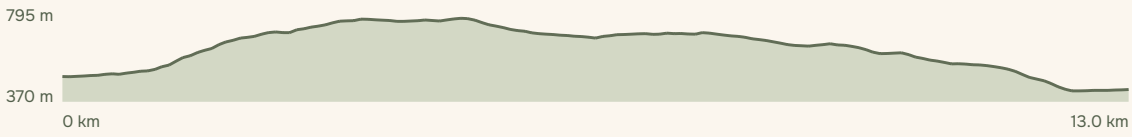
13.0 km (8.1 miles) · ↑ 380 m (about 1,250 ft) ↓ 460 m (about 1,500 ft) · Dinner included

A taxi picks you up at 9am and takes you to Le Crestet to start the walk; it's included. Le Crestet is a small village surrounded by woodland, looking out over the valley of the river Doux. An ancient shaded path climbs past terraced orchards to far-reaching views, before you drop back down into Lamastre.

Tonight: Lamastre · Hôtel des Négociants

Le Crestet, seen from the hill of the Trois Croix
Photo: FredSeiller / CC BY-SA 4.0

ELEVATION



DAY 3

Lamastre to Lalouvesc

22.3 km (14 miles) · ↑ 1,070 m (about 3,500 ft) ↓ 360 m (about 1,200 ft) · Dinner included

The big climb of the week. It's mostly uphill, but there are superb viewpoints all the way and, on a clear day, the Alps on the horizon. After a final steep pull you follow a ridge into Lalouvesc, 1,080 m (about 3,550 ft) up.

Tonight: Lalouvesc · Hôtel des Voyageurs

Lalouvesc's public garden, with the basilica behind
Photo: François Bassaget / CC BY-SA 4.0

ELEVATION

DAY 4

Lalouvesc to St Bonnet-le-Froid

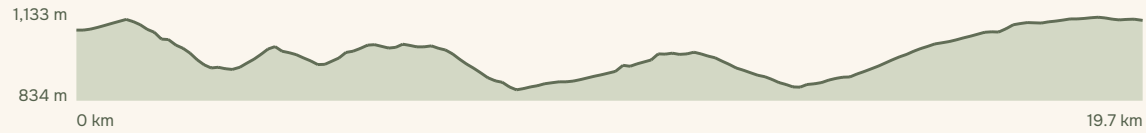
19.7 km (12 miles) · ↑ 650 m (about 2,150 ft) ↓ 600 m (about 1,950 ft) · Dinner included (bed & breakfast option)

A day through woodland. Buy a picnic in Lalouvesc before you set off, because lunch today is at one of the most beautiful picnic spots in France. St Bonnet-le-Froid has a highly regarded Michelin-recommended restaurant, so you can choose bed and breakfast tonight, or upgrade your hotel too. Your own hotel, the Auberge des Myrtilles, is a restored farmhouse just outside the village.

Tonight: St Bonnet-le-Froid · Auberge des Myrtilles

St Bonnet-le-Froid, looking towards the village centre
Photo: AirScott / CC BY-SA 4.0

ELEVATION



DAY 5

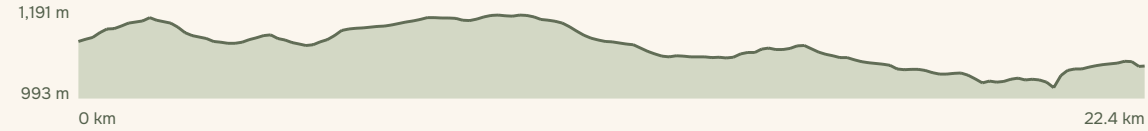
St Bonnet-le-Froid to St Agrève

22.4 km (14 miles) · ↑ 260 m (about 850 ft) ↓ 330 m (about 1,100 ft) · Dinner included

Rolling countryside again, but more open, with the chance of a swim in the beautiful Lac de Devesset. You arrive in St Agrève, 1,050 m (about 3,450 ft) up, with exceptional views on a clear day.

Tonight: St Agrève · Le Bois Sauvage

ELEVATION



DAY 6

Rest day in St Agrève

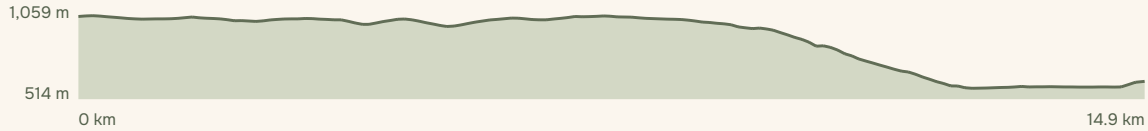
Optional 14.9 km (9.3 miles) · ↑ 190 m (about 600 ft) ↓ 680 m (about 2,250 ft) · Dinner included (bed & breakfast option)

A free day. If you'd like to stretch your legs, there's an optional walk from St Agrève down to St Martin-de-Valamas. A taxi meets you at St Martin-de-Valamas at 4pm and takes you back; it's included. Tonight you can choose bed and breakfast and eat at the Michelin-recommended restaurant at the Hôtel Faurie.

Tonight: St Agrève · Le Bois Sauvage

The view from Mont Chiniac, above St Agrève
Photo: Urbain2 / CC BY-SA 3.0

ELEVATION



DAY 7

St Agrève to Lamastre

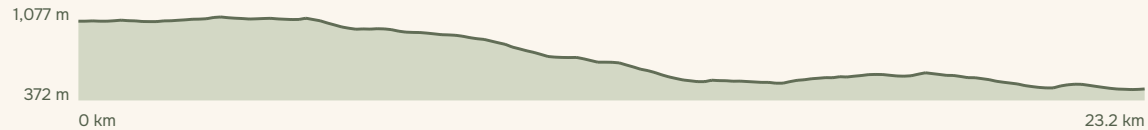
23.2 km (14 miles) · ↑ 210 m (about 700 ft) ↓ 870 m (about 2,850 ft) · Dinner included (bed & breakfast option)

A downhill day from St Agrève (1,050 m, about 3,450 ft) to Lamastre (366 m, about 1,200 ft), much of it on an ancient path where the old paving still shows in places. There's another chance tonight to switch to bed and breakfast and try the Michelin-recommended Restaurant Le Midi.

Tonight: Lamastre · Hôtel des Négociants

The ivy-clad walls of the Château de Retourtour, Lamastre
Photo: Charcutaille / CC BY-SA 3.0

ELEVATION



DAY 8

Departure

Your holiday ends after breakfast.

WALK ALL DAY, EAT VERY WELL

Food along the way

Caillette ardéchoise
Photo: Marianne Casamance / CC BY-SA 3.0

Picodon goat's cheese
Photo: Thesupermat / CC BY-SA 4.0

Ardéchois, a chestnut cream cake
Photo: stu_spivack / CC BY-SA 2.0

NO SURPRISES

What's included

Included

- ✓ 7 nights' accommodation, sharing a double or twin room
- ✓ 7 breakfasts and 7 dinners
- ✓ The taxi from Lamastre to Le Crestet on day 2
- ✓ The taxi back from St Martin-de-Valamas to St Agrève after the optional day 6 walk
- ✓ Your luggage moved on each time you change hotel
- ✓ Our detailed route notes
- ✓ GPX files by email, with simple instructions for using them on your phone
- ✓ Support by phone and WhatsApp throughout your holiday

Not included

- — Travel to and from Lamastre
- — Lunches and drinks
- — Entrance fees (châteaux, caves, gardens and museums)
- — Travel insurance (we strongly recommend it)
- — Personal expenses

Looking north from the road out of Lalouvesc
Photo: Remi Mathis / CC BY-SA 3.0

FROM KEV AND CASSIE

Welcome

Thank you for reading. We plan every holiday ourselves, from the routes to the hotels, and we'd love to help you plan yours. Send us your dates and any questions you have, and I'll be in touch within 24 hours.

Cassie
A family business, owned and run by Cassie.

Cassie plans and looks after this holiday herself, from your first email to the day you head home.

Ready when you are

Tell us when you'd like to travel and we'll check availability and send you a quote, with the full details of your holiday.

Enquire: dordogneexperience.com/book-holiday
Call or WhatsApp Cassie: +44 7476 205 325
Email: hello@dordogneexperience.com
This holiday: dordogneexperience.com/ardeche

Scan to enquire about this holiday

Booking and cancelling: A 25% deposit secures your holiday. The balance is due 8 weeks before you travel (book within 8 weeks and the full price is due when you book). Cancelling, in writing: more than 56 days before departure, 25% of the holiday price (your deposit); 56 to 29 days, 50%; 28 to 15 days, 70%; 14 days or less, 100%. Prices are set in pounds, and you can pay in any currency you prefer. Book early for May, June and September. Our hotels are small and often family-run, and they fill first in those months, so the earlier you book, the more choice of dates you'll have. Read the full Terms: dordogneexperience.com/terms-of-service.

Dordogne Experience has been organising walking and cycling holidays in the region for over 40 years.