

THE CHEMIN DE STEVENSON ON A SELF-GUIDED HIKE: FROM LE PUY-EN-VELAY TO SAINT-JEAN-DU-GARD



The Chemin de Stevenson - Full

Set off on an adventure along the full Stevenson Trail for 15 days, from Monastier-sur-Gazeille to Saint-Jean-du-Gard, and enjoy a complete immersion in the iconic landscapes of the Massif Central. Nature Occitane ensures an unforgettable journey: move at your own pace with a detailed roadbook and carefully selected stops planned by our team. We handle all logistics to offer you a hassle-free experience: accommodation booking and selection, luggage transportation at each stage, and transfers when needed. Our phone assistance remains available throughout your trip to support you every step of the way.

Prices start at €1,280 per person.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: YOUR ARRIVAL IN LE PUY-EN-VELAY

Arrival at Le Puy en Velay

Arrive in Le Puy-en-Velay during the day and settle into your accommodation in the late afternoon.

Take the opportunity to explore the town and its heritage by visiting the Saint-Michel d'Aiguilhe Chapel, perched atop its volcanic rock. Dinner and overnight stay in Le Puy-en-Velay.

DAY 2: FROM PUY EN VELAY TO MONASTIER SUR GAZEILLE

5 hours of walking. Distance: 19 km. Elevation gain: +550m / -230m.

You begin this trail by climbing onto the plateau, offering a panoramic view of the entire Le Puy-en-Velay basin. Known for its rich terroir, you may spot fields of verbena and green lentils along the way. Before ascending to a second plateau, you can take a refreshing break in the Loire Valley.

Finally, you arrive in Monastier-sur-Gazeille, a charming historic town featuring its 11th-century abbey church. Dinner and overnight stay in Monastier-sur-Gazeille.

DAY 3: FROM MONASTIER SUR GAZEILLE TO LE BOUCHET SAINT NICOLAS

6 hours of walking. Distance: 24 km. Elevation gain: +650m / -350m.

Today, you walk once again on a plateau where you'll be able to spot the volcanic chains of Devès. You then explore the many small rustic villages along the Loire Gorge. By the end of the day, you arrive at Le Bouchet-Saint-Nicolas. We recommend visiting the village, known for its old house adorned with bas-reliefs and the former church dating back to 1586.

Dinner and overnight stay in Le Bouchet-Saint-Nicolas.

DAY 4: FROM LE BOUCHET SAINT NICOLAS TO PRADELLES

6 hours of walking. Distance: 21 km. Elevation gain: +250m / -315m.

You enter the territory of Gévaudan after crossing the Allier River. Throughout the day, you'll encounter traces of rural life from the past: old washhouses, roadside crosses, ancient ovens... You will also pass through Landos, where the Romanesque church is worth a visit. In the afternoon, you will finally arrive in Pradelles. Once a regional capital in the Middle Ages, remnants of this era can still be seen today: old ramparts, doorways, arcades, and a 17th-century castle...

Dinner and overnight stay in Pradelles.

DAY 5: FROM PRADELLES TO CHEYLARD L'EVEQUE

6 hours of walking. Distance: 22 km. Elevation gain: +390m / -420m.

Today, as you cross the Margeride, you'll notice a change in vegetation, with heathlands, small groves, and granite rocks. This is where the legend of the Beast of Gévaudan was born—a fierce creature resembling a wolf that is said to have terrorized the inhabitants for over 100

years. Don't miss the charming village of Langogne, where the old town houses a magnificent church adorned with 85 sculpted granite capitals.

Dinner and overnight stay in Cheylard-l'Évêque.

DAY 6: FROM CHEYLARD L'ÉVÊQUE TO LA BASTIDE PUylaURENT

6 to 7 hours of walking. Distance: 27 km. Elevation gain: +655m / -760m.

Following in the footsteps of Robert Stevenson, you walk along the ancient Régordane Way, which once connected Paris to the southern Languedoc through the Massif Central. You pass through various typical villages, such as Luc. Despite several wars, the village has been well protected, and to this day, remnants of the castle remain, including its keep topped with a grand statue of the Virgin.

Dinner and overnight stay in La Bastide-Puylaurent.

DAY 7: FROM LA BASTIDE PUylaURENT TO CHASSERADES

3 to 4 hours of walking. Distance: 13 km. Elevation gain: +350m / -200m.

You begin your last day of hiking with the ascent to the summit of Mourade, a climb rewarded by a panoramic view of the Gardille plateau before descending to Chasseradès through the Gardille forest. Chasseradès is a small hamlet with winding streets, crossed by a small stream. We recommend visiting the village's sturdy church, whose robust appearance will surely surprise you.

Dinner and overnight stay in Chasseradès.

DAY 8: FROM CHASSERADÈS TO LE BLEYMARD

5 to 6 hours of walking. Distance: 17 km. Elevation gain: +610m / -690m.

After a hearty breakfast at your accommodation, you set off on your adventure along the Stevenson Trail. Today, you cross the Goulet forest and mountain, with its summit at 1,450 meters above sea level. On the Goulet plateau, you'll be treated to a panoramic view of a new, pastoral and forested landscape, with yellow carpets of gorse blooming.

Dinner and overnight stay in Le Bleygard.

DAY 9: FROM LE BLEYMARD TO LE PONT DU MONTVERT

6 hours of walking. Distance: 19 km. Elevation gain: +820m / -1015m.

You explore the highest point of the Stevenson Trail by climbing Mont Lozère to the "Sommet de Finiels" at 1,699 meters above sea level, covered with grasslands and heath. On a clear day, you can enjoy a 360° panoramic view of the entire region, from the Tarn Gorges to the Alps. In the evening, you will arrive at Pont du Montvert, where you can visit its church and the Mont Lozère Eco-museum to learn more about the Camisards.

Dinner and overnight stay at Pont du Montvert.

DAY 10: FROM LE PONT DU MONTVERT TO FLORAC

7 hours of walking. Distance: 28.5 km. Elevation gain: +690m / -940m.

After Mont Lozère, you cross the Bougès mountain, reaching an altitude of 1,421 meters. The northern slope, covered with forests, gives way to heathlands, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes. You will also pass through the charming village of Bédouès, with its old buildings and imposing collegiate church. Your day ends in Florac, a village at the confluence of four rivers, home to the Cévennes National Park Visitor Center.

Dinner and overnight stay in Florac.

DAY 11: FROM FLORAC TO CASSAGNAS

4.5 to 5 hours of walking. Distance: 17.5 km. Elevation gain: +340m / -180m.

Today, you ascend the Mimente Valley, following the old railway line that once connected Florac to Chamborigaud. Through a chestnut forest, the path leads you to the Cévennes village of Saint-Julien-d'Arpaon, where the ruins of an impressive 13th-century castle can be found. Your final destination is Cassagnas, one of the few communes in France that has a temple rather than a church.

Dinner and overnight stay in Cassagnas.

DAY 12: FROM CASSAGNAS TO SAINT-ÉTIENNE-VALLÉE-FRANÇAISE

5 to 6 hours of walking. Distance: 24 km. Elevation gain: +350m / -450m.

The hike from Cassagnas to Saint-Étienne-Vallée-Française explores the schistous Cévennes, with their landscapes of sharp ridges and deep valleys. As you ascend toward the Plan de Fontmort, you are surrounded by shades of green and black, punctuated by the yellow of blooming gorse or the purple of heather, depending on the season. By the end of the day, you will arrive in Saint-Étienne-Vallée-Française, a former village of deserters during World War II.

Dinner and overnight stay in Saint-Étienne-Vallée-Française.

DAY 13: FROM SAINT-ÉTIENNE-VALLÉE-FRANÇAISE TO SAINT-JEAN-DU-GARD

4 to 5 hours of walking. Distance: 13 km. Elevation gain: +480m / -600m.

Capping off Robert Louis Stevenson's journey, the final stage takes you up the last pass of the trip, the Col de Saint-Pierre, before following the

Gard River through a valley covered in vineyards and mulberry trees, all the way to Saint-Jean-du-Gard. This charming village is full of historical gems, both for its past and its architecture. We recommend visiting the castle, the Gardon bridge, and the "Maison Rouge," which houses the Cévennes Valleys Museum.

Dinner and overnight stay in Saint-Jean-du-Gard.

DAY 14: END OF THE CHEMIN DE STEVENSON TO SAINT-JEAN-DU-GARD

End of your stay

End of service after your breakfast.

DATES & PRICES

We propose 2 ranges of accommodation for this stay:

Package	Double room 2 pers.	Single room 1 pers.
Essential range		
1 people 14 days / 13 nights	-	€1,950
Group of 2 people 14 days / 13 nights	€1,410	-
Comfort range		
1 people 14 days / 13 nights	-	€2,275
Group of 2 people 14 days / 13 nights	€1,645	-

NB: prices shown are per person.

OUR PRICE INCLUDES:

Double Room Option:

- **Essentiel:** 13 nights in a double room in a gîte/hotel * or **
- **Confort:** 13 nights in a double room in a ** hotel/guesthouse

Single Room Option:

- **Essentiel:** 13 nights in a single room in a gîte/hotel * or **
- **Confort:** 13 nights in a single room in a ** hotel/guesthouse

For all options:

- Half board from breakfast on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 14
- Luggage transfer (1 bag per person)
- Topo guide (1 topo guide for 1 to 4 people)
- Tourist tax
- Registration fees

OUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Transfers from your home to the meeting point and dispersal
- Lunch picnics
- Personal expenses, drinks
- Our Europassistance cancellation/interruption/assistance & repatriation insurance (6% of the price of your stay, including COVID-19, to be taken out at the time of registration)
- In general, anything not listed in "Our price includes"

Note: Price per person for the entire trip, subject to availability at the time of booking.

Depending on availability when you register, we may need to apply supplements if an upgrade to a higher-category accommodation is required, or if we are forced to reserve multiple rooms for the same group. As the Stevenson Trail is a popular route, it is best to book at least 4 months in advance.

OPTIONS

OPTIONS, SUPPLEMENTS AND REDUCTIONS:

ESSENTIAL RANGE	
SUPPLEMENTS	
Increase July/August	€85
SUPPLEMENTARY NIGHTS AT THE BEGINNING OR END OF YOUR TRIP	
Additional night in Le Puy-en-Velay in a double room with breakfast	€50
Additional night in Le Puy-en-Velay in a single room with breakfast	€70
Additional night in Saint-Jean-du-Gard in a double room with breakfast	€70
Additional night in Saint-Jean-du-Gard in a single room with breakfast	€70
OUR SUGGESTIONS DURING YOUR HOLIDAY	
Additional night in Chasseradès in a double room with half board	€80
Additional night in Chasseradès in a single room with half board	€100
TRANSFERS	
Return shuttle from Saint-Jean-du-Gard to Le Puy-en-Velay	€80
COMFORT RANGE	
SUPPLEMENTS	
Increase July/August	€85
SUPPLEMENTARY NIGHTS AT THE BEGINNING OR END OF YOUR TRIP	
Additional night in Le Puy-en-Velay in a double room with breakfast	€70
Additional night in Le Puy-en-Velay in a single room with breakfast	€90
Additional night in Saint-Jean-du-Gard in a double room with breakfast	€130
Additional night in Saint-Jean-du-Gard in a single room with breakfast	€200
OUR SUGGESTIONS DURING YOUR HOLIDAY	
Additional night in Chasseradès in a double room with half board	€100
Additional night in Chasseradès in a single room with half board	€110
TRANSFERS	
Return shuttle from Saint-Jean-du-Gard to Le Puy-en-Velay	€80

NB: prices are per person.

HOSTS

Essential range

FORMULE ESSENTIEL

Pour cette formule, nous vous proposons une sélection d'hôtels* et de gîtes simples et confortables.



Notre hôtel partenaire au Bouchet Saint-Nicolas

NOTRE HÉBERGEMENT PARTENAIRE À MONASTIER SUR GAZELLE

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Comfort range

FORMULE CONFORT

Pour cette formule, nous vous proposons une sélection d'hôtels** et des maisons d'hôtes charmantes et confortables.



Notre hébergement partenaire à Cheylard l'Évêque

NOTRE HÉBERGEMENT PARTENAIRE À PUY EN VELAY

Charmante maison d'hôtes située au Puy-en-Velay, idéale pour les randonneurs empruntant le chemin de Stevenson. Elle offre un accès facile au départ du GR 70 et propose des chambres confortables, un grand jardin ombragé en bord de rivière, ainsi que des espaces conviviaux tels qu'une salle à manger, un salon avec bibliothèque et une cuisine d'été. Un garage est également disponible pour abriter véhicules, motos ou vélos sur réservation.



Notre hébergement partenaire à Puy En Velay

Essentiel Range:

Puy-en-Velay: Gîte la Prévoté

Monastier-sur-Gazelle: Gîte et camping l'Estela

Le Bouchet Saint-Nicolas: Gîte la Retirade

Pradelles: Aux portes des légendes

Cheylard l'Évêque: Refuge du Moure

La Bastide Puylaurent: Maison d'hôtes l'Étoile

Chasseradès: Les Airelles

Le Bleymard: Chez le Pouliou
Le Pont de Montvert: Les Gîtes du Chastel
Florac: Relais des Cévennes
Cassagnas: L'Ancienne Gare
Saint-Étienne Vallée Française: Gîte Las Catoussière
Saint-Jean-du-Gard: Le Pré de Modestine

Our Essentiel range offers simple, clean, and comfortable gîtes and guesthouses—perfect for an authentic stay without frills.

Confort Range:

Puy-en-Velay: Le Jardin du Dolaizon
Monastier-sur-Gazeille: La Modestine
Le Bouchet Saint-Nicolas: Auberge du Couvige
Langogne: Hôtel le Beauséjour
Cheylard l'Évêque: Les Hauts du Cheylard
La Bastide Puylaurent: Lo Barri de Meyssouzac
Chasseradès: Hôtel Restaurant des Sources
Le Bleymard: Hôtel la Remise
Le Pont de Montvert: Le Merlet
Florac: Les Tables de la Fontaine
Cassagnas: Chambre d'Hôtes le Mimentois
Saint-Étienne Vallée Française: Château de Cambiaire
Saint-Jean-du-Gard: Hôtel les Bellugues

The Confort range offers charming guesthouses and 2-star hotels, ideal for those seeking a pleasant and well-maintained stay with a higher level of comfort.

Note: These accommodations are our preferred options. Depending on your registration date, we may reserve alternative accommodations of the same category for you.

PRACTICAL INFO

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

GETTING THERE BY TRAIN

Arrival at Puy-en-Velay train station:

- 5h19 travel time from Paris (11 trains per day on average, with a transfer at Saint-Étienne-Châteaureux).

Departure from Saint-Jean-du-Gard train station:

- Return to Nîmes by bus. Please note that buses are rare or nonexistent on weekends and public holidays. To check current schedules, visit the bus network website.

Return to Puy-en-Velay:

- You'll need to go to Alès (regular bus line, except on weekends and public holidays). You can also take a taxi (Taxi Jouanen: +33 (0)4 66 61 73 72).

- From there, take a direct train to Langogne, then an autocar (bus) to Puy-en-Velay (daily except weekends and public holidays).

For exact schedules and to book, we recommend using SNCF Connect.

GETTING THERE BY CAR

Use tools like Google Maps, Mappy, or Michelin to plan your route.

If you park your car at Puy-en-Velay, there is a shuttle service back from Saint-Jean-du-Gard to Puy-en-Velay:

- Departures from Saint-Jean-du-Gard: 8:30 AM and 1:30 PM

- Arrival at Puy-en-Velay: around 12:15 PM or 5:15 PM

LEVEL OF THE HIKE:

Medium Level (M): The hike is done in freedom (self-guided), without a guide. No transfers are included during the route, except for luggage transport. However, you have the option to take a taxi for certain stages if you need to rest.

Luggage During the Hike: No need to carry your personal belongings. Your luggage will be transported each evening to the gîte (overnight accommodation). You only carry your daily hiking bag, with approximately 30L of capacity.

Public: The hike is suitable for those who practice endurance activities (hiking or cycling) once a week, for at least two months before departure. The succession of hiking days and occasional climbs are manageable for regular hikers.

Terrain: The terrain is easy, mostly on good trails in the Cévennes and Lozère regions, suitable for those in good physical condition.

Hiking Time: These times are averages and don't include breaks.

Water: There are water points every 1.5 to 3 hours on the route. It's recommended to carry a minimum of 1.5L of water.

Weather: The climate is typical of medium-altitude mountains. It's cool in spring and autumn, warm but temperate in summer, though thunderstorms may occur in the mountains.

Environment: Part of the route lies within the Cévennes National Park. It is important to respect the park's rules, including the protection of natural and cultural heritage, natural resources (water, soil, habitats, fauna, flora, and climate).

EQUIPMENT TO BRING

On the first day, you should be "ready to hike" with your hiking boots on, a full water bottle, and your bag prepared.

The Day Pack:

- Capacity: Around 30L

- It should include: extra clothes, a warm jacket, a rain jacket, a water bottle, a first-aid kit, personal items, and part of your lunch. In addition, bring a rain cover, a trash bag, and two freezer bags to protect your belongings in case of rain.

Your Luggage:

- Your "following" luggage will be transported every evening to the gîte (maximum 12 kg). Limit the contents to only what you truly need.

Hiking Boots:

- Choose lightweight, waterproof, breathable boots that provide good ankle support. Proper footwear is essential, so don't use new shoes for the hike. Ensure your boots are well worn-in before you start.

Clothing:

- Essentials: A waterproof windbreaker (such as Gore-Tex), a fleece jacket, pants, shorts, breathable t-shirts (avoid cotton).

- Pack extra clothes, a swimsuit, and a microfiber towel (light and quick-drying).

Sleeping Gear:

- A light sleeping bag (comfort 10°C) or a "sleep sack" (blankets are available in the gîtes).

Lunch:

- Bring a hermetically sealed box (e.g., Tupperware) with your lunch, plus utensils, a plate, and a cup.

Small Gear:

- A water bottle (2L minimum)

- Hiking poles (optional)

- Sunglasses and sunscreen

- Hat or cap

- A small toiletry kit

- A flashlight or headlamp

- A pair of slippers or sandals for the evening

- Toilet paper Earplugs

- A camera

- Small personal first-aid kit (aspirin, band-aids, Compeed, etc.)