



THE EXPERT FOR THE WAYS OF ST JAMES

THE SAINT JAMES OF COMPOSTELA PILGRIMS' WAY
From Le Puy-en-Velay to Conques



The Velay, Margeride and Aubrac regions: This succession of small mountain ranges is an array of regions, from the Haute Loire to the Aveyron, via the Lozère, where the Aubrac plateau ends in the Pays d'Olt. The Pays d'Olt is characterised by its beautiful ochre-coloured ashlar houses. The region still has a few dry-stone vineyard houses, which still provide shelter for pilgrims on rainy days. From Nasbinals, a lovely crossing between Lozère and Aveyron.



12 days, 11 nights and 10 days of walking

DAY 1: LE PUY EN VELAY (alt: 625 m)

Arrive at the hotel at the end of the afternoon and overnight stay.

DAY 2: LE PUY EN VELAY - ST PRIVAT D'ALLIER (alt: 890m) D+ 660m / - 460m

From the hotel on the outskirts of Le Puy en Velay, you'll have time to walk through part of the old town, and why not extend your walk a little by taking the grand staircases leading up to the cathedral (dating from the 11th and 12th centuries). Leaving Le Puy, there is a magnificent panoramic view over the entire basin. Then on through the Velay region (home of the lentil and the black ewe), passing through La Roche, St Christophe sur Dolaizon, Montbonnet and then St Privat d'Allier.

Walking time: ≈ 5h-6h, 23.5 km.

DAY 3: ST PRIVAT D'ALLIER - SAUGUES (alt: 960m) D+ 660 m / - 560m

Between these two stage, you will cross very different landscapes and terrain, from the small stony path that passes through Rochegude (an interesting lookout point overlooking a gap in the Allier), to the passage through the gorges at Monistrol (a superb climb above the Allier passing the chapelle de la Madeleine, a 17th-century "cave chapel"), before finally approaching the Margeride plateau before Saugues.

Walking time: ≈ 4h-5h, 19 km.

DAY 4: SAUGUES - LES FAUX (alt: 1113m) D+ 570 m / - 360m

A stage to discover the Margeride plateau, with its typical villages, lost hamlets, crosses and pastures surrounded by stone walls. Each village has its own charm (granite houses with carved door pediments, gardens, etc.): Le Pinet, La Clauze (with its curiously leaning tower!), le Falzet, la ferme du Contaldès, le domaine du Sauvage, la chapelle St Roch, then off the GR (1 Km), you'll reach the village of Les Faux.

Walking time: ≈ 7h-8h, 29 km.



DAY 5: LES FAUX - AUMONT AUBRAC (alt: 1050m) D+ 400m / - 500m

This stage continues across the Margeride plateau to Aumont, the gateway to Aubrac. Between Le Rouget, St Alban and Les Estrets, you'll still come across pretty hamlets and churches with a combed bell tower (a wall bell tower supporting another small bell tower).

Walking time: ≈ 5h-6h, 21 km.

DAY 6: AUMONT AUBRAC - NASBINALS (alt: 1180m) D+ 400m / - 260m

A slightly long stage, but without difficulty. We leave the Margeride to cross the Plateau de l'Aubrac (a large plateau with pastures, burons, dry stone walls and, depending on the season, flowerbeds); we pass through La Chaze de Peyre, Lasbros, Rieutort d'Aubrac and Montgros before arriving at Nasbinals (a superb 14th-century Romanesque church built of brown basalt).

Walking time: ≈ 7h-8h, 26 km.

DAY 7: NASBINALS - ST CHELY D'AUBRAC (alt: 808m) D+ 220m / - 580m

This stage descends to the Boraldes valley. We pass through the village of Aubrac, a historic centre on the Plateau at an altitude of 1,300m, where we can see the Church of Notre Dame des Pauvres and the remains of the Dômerie. We then descend to Belvezet to reach St Chély d'Aubrac.

Walking time: ≈ 4h-5h, 17 km.

DAY 8: ST CHELY D'AUBRAC - ST COME D'OLT (alt: 385m) D+ 250m / - 700m

We leave Saint Chély d'Aubrac via the old bridge over La Borlade. We are in the Lot valley. After crossing part of the Rouergue region, we reach the town of St Côme d'Olt, listed as one of the most beautiful villages in France.

Walking time: ≈ 4h-5h, 16 km.

DAY 9: ST COME D'OLT - ESTAING (alt: 320m) D+ 410m / - 460m

Our route follows the course of the River Lot. On this stage, we pass through Espalion, then St Pierre de Bessuéjol before arriving at the village of Estaing, also classified as one of the most beautiful in France.

Walking time: ≈ 4h-5h, 20.5 km.



DAY 10: ESTAING - GOLINHAC (alt: 630m) D+ 540m / - 220m

This is a stage with some changes in altitude: the ascent to Golin hac is a little tough as it is on tarmac. The village is home to a great deal of St James' heritage: church, stone cross sculpted with a small pilgrim holding a bumblebee: this village was on a pilgrimage route as early as the 11th century.

Walking time: ≈ 4h-5h, 16 km.

DAY 11: GOLINHAC - CONQUES (alt: 280m) D+ 360m / - 700m

After the start, there's a fairly steep climb here too (difference in altitude 220m), before descending to Conques, listed as one of the most beautiful villages in France. You'll have plenty of time to explore this medieval village and its many treasures, including the abbey church and its Romanesque sculptures.

Walking time: ≈ 7h, 21 km.

DAY 12: CONQUES – LE PUY-EN-VELAY (alt: 625m)

End of stay after breakfast.

> DATES

From mid-April to All Saints' Day, on dates to suit you and subject to hotel availability.

Please indicate on the booking form any other dates that would be convenient for you (e.g. possibility of postponing the tour by one or two days before or after...); this is in case one or several accommodations are not available on the chosen dates.

We also ask you to book **as early as possible**. We do not have any places reserved in the accommodation, and some of them are fully booked, sometimes several months in advance.

ATTENTION: Avoid visiting Aumont and Nasbinals between 23 and 26 May because of the Fête de la Transhumance, which takes place on the Aubrac plateau. This is always a very busy period for accommodation, which is sometimes fully booked several months in advance.



› PRICE COVERS

- 11 nights in Half-board
- Luggage transfer between each stage of the walk
- Provision of 1 guidebook
- Tourist tax.

› PRICE DOES NOT COVER


- Insurance
- Drinks and personal expenses
- Transfers from your home to the meeting point and dispersal
- Picnic lunch
- Return shuttle
- Registration fees (+15 € / person)
- Shipping costs abroad (+20 € / file)
- Priority registration fees on D-15 (+45€ / file).

› ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

You will be met at the first accommodation in Le Puy-en-Velay on day 1, the day before your first day's walk.

Your stay ends in Le Puy-en-Velay on day 12, after breakfast.

› LEVEL

 **Medium**, two stages are a little long. 3 to 8 hours' walking per day. Between 150 and 500 m ascent.

› ACCOMMODATION

1*, 2** and 3*** hotels or bed and breakfast. In some accommodation, the shower and WC may be on the landing or upstairs. In this case, this will be indicated on your registration confirmation.

PLEASE NOTE: Rooms will only be available from 4pm.



When 2 accommodations are fully booked, we are obliged to arrange for you to spend 2 nights in the same accommodation and to organise a transfer (which in no way alters the content of your tour); these details will be indicated on your booking confirmation if the case arises. A supplement may be required.

› MEALS

Breakfasts are traditional (sometimes buffet-style) and served around 8am. If you wish to have breakfast earlier, please check with the hotel the day before if this is possible.

Dinners are generally served from 7.30 p.m. and usually consist of the menu of the day. There is no choice of menu in most accommodation unless you pay a supplement.

› LUNCH

Packed lunches are not included in our prices. You can order them directly from the hotel the day before (to be paid on the spot, from €7 to €15 per person depending on the establishment Δ not all accommodation offers this service), or buy them in the villages, at the existing shops.

› LUGGAGE TRANSPORT

Your luggage will be transported by a transport company between each stage at the end of the morning or during the afternoon. **Your luggage will be delivered by 6 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE:

We ask you to drop off your luggage in the hall of each accommodation in the morning at 8 a.m. and to **IMPERATIVELY** bring **ONLY 1 NON-RIPID LUGGAGE PER PERSON NOT EXCEEDING 13 kg**; beyond this number (1 bag) and weight (13 kg), the transporter may charge you a supplement at the end of the tour or refuse to transport your luggage if it is too bulky.

Rigid luggage is not permitted - we accept no responsibility for damage to this type of luggage.



Please bring a small rucksack to carry your personal belongings for the day.

> ACCESS

ARRIVING:



By train: Le Puy en Velay station.



By car.

RETURNING:



By train: RODEZ SNCF station.



By bus.

Return shuttle: Transfer Conques / Le Puy en Velay. You can book this return trip through us, or directly with the transporter. A transfer of your vehicle can be organised during your walking holiday to collect it at the end of the walk (please contact us).

> TRAVEL FILE

To carry out this tour, we will send you, on payment of the balance, a travel pack including the list of accommodation and the guide book (1 guide book per room booked). If you would like an additional travel pack, you will be charged €20 per pack.

> TAKEOUT LIST

- a small rucksack for a picnic and the day's essentials
- a small first-aid kit (plasters, double skin, eosin, alcohol....)
- a pair of "medium mountain" walking shoes (beware of new shoes)
- sunglasses, sun cream and hat
- rainwear
- Light shoes for the evening
- a water bottle: it's important to drink 1.5 to 2 litres of water a day



- a knife
- torch (not essential)
- a pair of binoculars (optional)
- newspaper for your shoes if they get wet
- tissues
- a needle, a small amount of thread and one or two safety pins
- Masks
- hydro-alcoholic gel.

If we haven't answered all your questions, please call us on 04 71 74 47 40
(00 33 4 71 74 47 40 from outside France)

MORE DETAILS AT THE SUBSCRIPTION

