



Randonnée Tours

Burgundy Walking 6 days

Summary

Length

6 days/5 nights,
with 4 days walking

Dates

Any start day between
May and October.

We recommend you to
start your tour on a
Tuesday to see the
market in Vézelay held
every Wednesday.

Level

9 to 18 km daily (6 to
11 miles), averaging 12
km (7.5 miles)

Some moderate hills on
some of the days.

Opportunities to
shorten the walking dis-
tance through taxi
transfers.

This is rated the easiest
of the Randonnée walk-
ing tours.

Take this rich and rewarding walk to experience authentic France, close up. Set off on a journey of exploration of the land, its people and history. Walk deep into the heart of France. Begin in Vézelay, spectacular, perched, and unforgettable, with its immense basilica of stunning interior lightness and stone carvings of such liveliness that they speak to us today. Your ultimate destination is Auxerre. This ancient Roman city crowds cathedrals among half-timbered houses. In between, contemplate gentle kilometres of walking, and a stellar line-up of accommodations.

Itinerary



Day 1

Arrive in Vézelay, a magical village that was once a starting point for the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. It was also here that St. Bernard

and Eleanor of Aquitaine urged knights to join the first crusade.

Day 2

On a day walk from Vézelay, you'll explore the clean, green hills of the Parc Régional du Morvan. Walk through the small but fascinating vineyards originally planted in the Middle Ages, devastated by phylloxera, then replanted beginning in 1975. Saint-Père-sous-Vézelay has a small but lovely church, and an interesting maker of wooden clogs!

Day 3

Head off on a Grande Randonnée route to the village of Vault-de-Lugny. It's a charming site on the lovely Cousin River, but the real attraction is the château where you will be staying for two nights.

Day 4

Meander along the curves of the Cousin River to the confluence with the Cure. This is classic Burgundian scenery. Pastures dotted with white cows rise up gentle hills crowned with oak trees. The villages are built of a lovely brown stone, adorned with burgundy shutters and roofs. Today's highlight is the beautiful town of Avallon, high above two ravines. Walk back or hop in a taxi to return to Vault-de-Lugny.

Day 5

Start with a taxi ride to Vincellotes, from where you follow the Canal du Nivernais and the Yonne River as you head to Auxerre. Choose to walk past Les Caves de Bailly to taste crémant, sparkling like champagne. The caves are deep in the hillside, in an ancient quarry.

Auxerre is a wonderful destination. Originally Roman, the town boasts many churches, particularly the Cathédrale de St-Étienne rising high above the waterfront. Half-timbered houses crowd narrow streets which open into squares lined with smart shops.





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How to get there?

You start in Vézelay, about 250 km southeast of Paris.

Travel to Vézelay requires both train and bus or taxi connections.

The fastest and easiest but most expensive routing is to take the TGV (high speed train) from Paris Gare de Lyon to Montbard, then take a taxi. In the evenings, a bus connects Montbard with Vézelay (except on Sundays and holidays).

This train and bus journey totals 2.5 hours. There are many trains each day between Paris-Gare de Lyon and Sermizelles-Vézelay. A change of train is required plus a short taxi ride from the station to the town centre. This journey takes between 2.5 and 3.5 hours.

The Price includes:

- 5 nights hotels
- All breakfasts and 1 dinner
- Detailed route instructions and map
- Luggage transfers
- Area Manager available throughout the tour

Itinerary

Day 6

Linger in Auxerre before departing for other destinations.

Accommodation

Classic



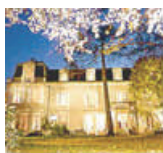
Hôtel de la Poste et du Lion D'Or, Vézelay

This former post office has been renovated into a charming hotel. The rooms have great views and the hotel restaurant has an excellent reputation.



Château Vault de Lugny, Vault de Lugny

With 100 acres on the banks of the Cousin River, this historic 16th century luxurious chateau even has a moat and medieval tower. Rooms are decorated with tapestry, fine antiques and beamed ceilings.



Hôtel Le Parc des Maréchaux, Auxerre

Very close to the centre of Auxerre, the historic hotel, private park and pool are surrounded by hundred year old trees.

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