



Chemin St. Jacques Hiking 7 Days — Le Puy Start

Summary

Length

7 days/6 nights,
with 5 days walking

Dates

Any start date between May
1 and September 15

We recommend you to start
your tour on a Friday so that
you can see the market in
Le Puy en Velay held every
Saturday

Level

13 to 24 km daily (7 to 14
miles), averaging 18.5 km
(11.5 miles)

This trip is suited to experi-
enced hikers

On most days there are
climbs and descents which
can be steep and require
caution if the weather is wet

Follow in the footsteps of pilgrims who, for over a thousand years, travelled through France on their way to the shrine of the Apostle James the Elder at Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Follow the Grande Randonnée (GR) 65, a long distance walking path, to travel the first 200 km of the Way of St. James from Le Puy to Conques. Cross the rugged countryside of the Auvergne and the Massif Central, through picturesque towns and past the roadside crosses, chapels, and looming fortresses that marked the way for the faithful in centuries past.

Itinerary



Day 1

Arrive in stunning
Le Puy-en-Velay,
one of the four
main starting
points for the pil-
grimage to Com-
postela. Pilgrims
gathered at the
magnificent

Cathédrale-de-Notre-Dame before their
departure.

Day 2

Follow the pilgrims' route past churches of
volcanic rock and fields where the famous
green lentils of Le Puy grow. Their distinc-
tive taste is said to be due to the volcanic
soil in which they grow. Arrive in the small
town of Saint-Privat D'Allier.

Day 3

Head across the plateau through
Rochegude, a frontier stronghold; pause at
the chapel of St. James where pilgrims
stopped for devotions. Today's destination
is Saugues which English mercenaries, left
unemployed by the end of the Hundred
Years' War, occupied until they were paid
off.

Day 4

Cross the Margaride plateau, through pine
forests and small villages and past ruined
castles to Domaine du Sauvage, a scattering
of farm buildings near the site of a pilgrims'
hospice. A taxi will pick you up and transfer
you back to Saugues, where you'll spend a
second night.

Day 5

Start with a taxi
transfer to Do-
maine du Sauvage,
from where you
head into the
countryside past
the Chapelle Saint-
Roch; visit Le
Rouget, built of the
red sandstone so
widely used in the region. You'll see it again
in the cathedral and chateau when you ar-
rive in Saint-Alban-sur-Limagnole.



Day 6

Walk through woods, across moors, beside
pastures with old stone walls, and along an
ancient Roman road to the charming town
of Aumont-Aubrac.

Day 7

Enjoy a short stroll in Aumont-Aubrac be-
fore departing for your next adventure.



How to get there?

The tour starts in the town of Le Puy-en-Velay, located about 360 km south of Paris.

There are several trains every day from Paris. The trip takes around six hours and usually requires at least one change.

You depart from the tour area by way of Rodez where you can connect to trains to Paris or other destinations.

The Price includes:

- 6 nights hotels
- All breakfasts and 2 dinners
- Detailed route instructions and map
- Luggage transfers

Accommodation

Classic



Hotel du Parc,

Le Puy en Velay

Overlooking a magnificent garden, the 3-star Hotel du Parc , offers comfortable rooms with modern amenities.



Hotel de la vieille Auberge,

Saint Privat d'Allier

This small, traditional hotel boasts beautiful views on the "gorges". The restaurant offers wonderful regional specialties.

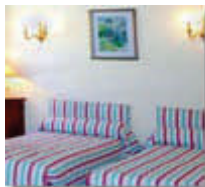


Relais st Roch – Chateau de la Chastre,

Saint Alban sur Limagnole

Christian Chavignon has made this 19th century residence a haven of peace and tranquility.

The service is warm and the rooms are charming and relaxing. The restaurant "la Petite Maison", provides generous, authentic dishes which will satisfy the most discerning gourmet.



Hotel Prouheze,

Aumont d'Aubrac

This 3-star hotel has comfortable rooms equipped with all modern amenities.