One Foot
HOLIDAYS

Le Chemin de Saint-Jacques

Le Puy-en-Velay to Conques
September 2025



Good friends, long walks and cold beers...

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Le Chemin de Saint-Jacques

The Chemin du Puy or Via Podiensis, starting in Le Puy-en-Velay, is the most popular of the Camino de Santiago routes from France. It joins up with the Camino Francés, the most popular route in Spain, at Saint-Jean-Pied de Port on the French side of the Pyrenees.



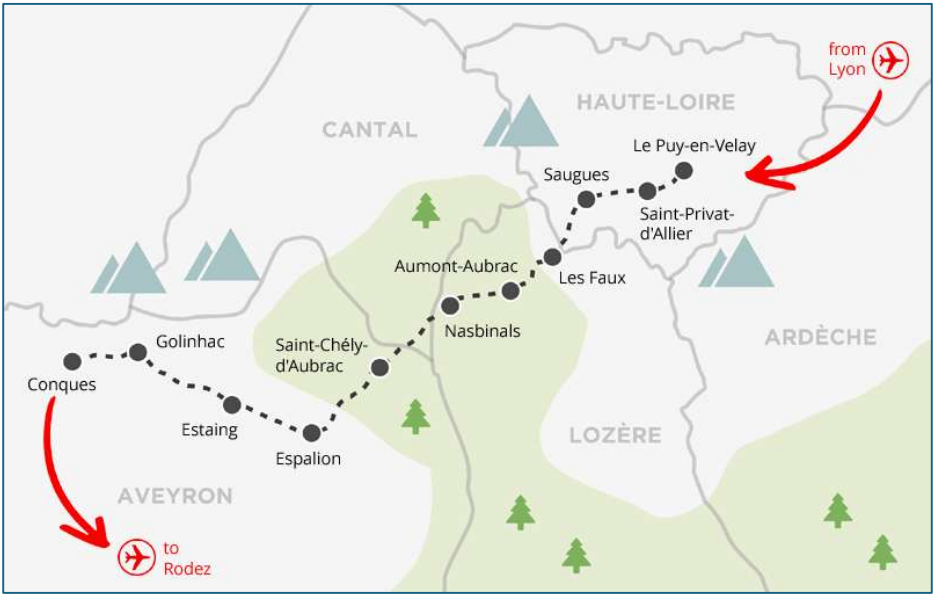
At 736 km in length, this is one of the longest Camino routes, but as with them all, it can be broken into short, manageable sections. On average, it takes 4 to 5 weeks to reach Saint-Jean-Pied de Port, and the same again to complete the journey to Santiago de Compostela.

This adventure starts in the impressive city of Le Puy-en-Velay. Over the next eleven days, you will be taken on a fantastic rural hike through areas of outstanding natural beauty, such as the volcanic landscapes of the Velay, the wild Margeride and Aubrac plateaux, and the Valley of the Lot.

You will pass through beautiful towns and villages, rich in history, culture and pilgrimage sites, like Saint-Côme-d'Olt, Espalion and Estaing; with your journey ending in the picturesque medieval town of Conques, 205 km away.

To be continued...?

Itinerary



Saturday 13 September

Travel: Arrive Lyon Airport / Train to Lyon Part-Dieu

Accommodation: Hôtel Première Classe Lyon Centre, Lyon
Dinner: Not included

Founded by the Romans in 43 BC, at the confluence of two great rivers, the Saône and the Rhône, Lyon is one of France's oldest cities. It is the second largest city in France and is reputed to be the gourmet capital of France.

To see Lyon, start at Place Bellecour, the great piazza in the city centre between the rivers. Take the funicular railway to the hilltop at Fourvière and look out over the city at your feet.

If only you had more time to explore...

Sunday 14 September

Travel: Train to Le Puy-en-Velay

Accommodation: Hôtel Bristol, Le Puy-en-Velay
Dinner: Not included

Nestled between the Auvergne volcanoes and the Rhone Alpes valley, Le Puy-en-Velay is a charming small city that impresses visitors.

Highlights include the Saint Michel d'Aiguilhe chapel, perched on top of an 85-metre-high volcanic rock; the Notre-Dame du Puy Cathedral dating back to the 5th century; and the Notre Dame de France statue - head here to enjoy the best views over the city.

Le Puy has been twinned with Tonbridge since 1968. Let a barman know that you're from Tonbridge and you might get a free beer!

Monday 15 September

Walk: Le Puy-en-Velay to Saint-Privat-d'Allier
23.7 km

Accommodation: La Vieille Auberge, Saint-Privat-d'Allier
Dinner: Included

From Le Puy, the Camino takes pilgrims across lush mountains in the Velay Massif, enjoying stunning scenery all day long, before reaching the pretty village of Saint-Privat d'Allier.

Tuesday 16 September

Walk: Saint-Privat-d'Allier to Saugues
19.4 km

Accommodation: Hôtel La Terrasse, Saugues
Dinner: Not included but booked into nearby restaurant / Picnic: Included.

This is a short walk, but the ascents and descents make it the most challenging stage of this first section, however, it is a very rewarding day as you will enjoy wonderful views of the Velay Massif and Gévaudan Plateau.

The Camino trail takes you to picturesque villages and hamlets such as Rochegude, Combriaux and Montaure before you arrive in Saugues, your stop for the night.

Wednesday 17 September

Walk: Saugues to Les Faux
27.4 km

Accommodation: L'Oustal de Parent, Les Faux
Dinner: Included / Picnic: Included.

Today, the route takes you to Le Sauvage, a farming area perched on top of a hill and dating back to the times of the Templars.

You then enter La Lozère department at the Saint-Roch chapel – a great spot for a picnic, with panoramic views – before finishing in Les Faux.

Thursday 18 September

Walk: Les Faux to Aumont-Aubrac
21.1 km

Accommodation: Les Volets Bleus, Aumont-Aubrac
Dinner: Included

A nice hilly, bucolic day following an undulating path crossing small rivers through forests and small villages, crossing the volcanic Aubrac Plateau.

Aumont-Aubrac has always had strong links to the Camino. Back in medieval times, this is where pilgrims coming from the east rested before tackling the imminent isolated lands of the plateau.

Friday 19 September

Explore: Aumont-Aubrac

Accommodation: Les Volets Bleus, Aumont-Aubrac
Dinner: Included

After four tough days, a chance to relax in Aumont-Aubrac. Or maybe to hire e-bikes?

Saint-Étienne church, with its large carved shell of Saint Jacques above the doorway, was a former Benedictine priory dating back to 1061. Much altered in the 12th and 13th centuries, it has retained its Romanesque choir and several Gothic side chapels.

Saturday 20 September

Walk: Aumont-Aubrac to Nasbinals
26.4 km

Accommodation: Hôtel La Randonnée, Nasbinals
Dinner: Included – at La Route d'Argent

Today, the Chemin du Puy takes pilgrims along walled tracks further across the Aubrac Plateau, grasslands all around you and only sheep for company. Stop for a rest at the granite fountain in the remote hamlet of Rieutort d'Aubrac before continuing on the path through sleepy villages to the town of Nasbinals, your stop for the night.

Make sure to visit the 11th century Romanesque church, Sainte-Marie in the village.

Sunday 21 September

Walk: Nasbinals to Saint-Chély-d'Aubrac
17.0 km

Accommodation: Hôtel Les Coudercous, Saint-Chély-d'Aubrac
Dinner: Not included but restaurant at the hotel

Today, the route ascends to one of its highest points at 1370 metres above sea level. Along the way, you will pass through the hamlet of Aubrac, founded by a Flemish knight in the 12th century, as a refuge for passing pilgrims.

After Aubrac you will follow forest paths to the hamlet of Belvezet and the remains of its 13th century castle. Your stop for the night is the pretty town of Saint-Chély d'Aubrac.

Monday 22 September

Walk: Saint-Chély-d'Aubrac to Espalion
24.2 km

Accommodation: Appart'Hôtel - Au Vieux Palais, Espalion
Dinner: Included / Picnic: Included.

From Saint-Chély, the Camino starts descending to the superb Lot Valley, home to some of "les Plus Beaux Villages de France" – an official accreditation. The first is Saint-Côme-d'Olt on the banks of the Lot River. Its old quarter has a distinctive medieval feel; spot the twisted spire in its pretty church. You'll see the street names are written in both French and Occitan.

From Saint-Côme-d'Olt it's just a leisurely stroll to Espalion, also along the Lot River. Espalion has a picturesque medieval bridge over the Lot and a lovely riverfront; the buildings with characteristic wooden balconies, used to be old tanneries.

Tuesday 23 September

Walk: Espalion to Estaing
12.6 km

Accommodation: Hôtel Aux Armes d'Estaing, Estaing
Dinner: Not included

Today's walk continues along the Lot Valley where many more beautiful sights await. The beautiful Romanesque church of Bessuéjouls is one of the oldest along the route and has a 11th century chapel in the bell tower.

Estaing is another spectacular sight with its impressive castle welcoming pilgrims from the distance. Strolling its quaint medieval streets, you'll feel like you are stepping back in time.

Wednesday 24 September

Walk: Estaing to Golinhac
14.1 km

Accommodation: Chez Michel & Monique, Golinhac
Dinner: Not included but booked into local auberge

Another short walk as the Chemin du Puy leaves Estaing and continues through woods and lush countryside along the Lot River until you reach your stop for the night, in the pretty village of Golinhac.

Thursday 25 September

Walk: Golinhac to Conques
21.2 km

Accommodation: Le Castellou, Conques
Dinner: Not included

Your last day is an easy walk across wonderful countryside and peaceful woodlands before arriving in Conques, one of the most spectacular villages of the whole Chemin du Puy. Conques is a fairy-tale village of quaint cobbled lanes, medieval wooden beam houses and breath-taking views of the surrounding mountains and forests.

Since the 9th century, pilgrims have walked to Conques to visit the relics of Sainte Foy, in the Romanesque Abbey - one of the most significant treasures on the Chemin du Puy and not to be missed. From the chapel of Saint Roch (heading towards the medieval bridge over the Dourdou River) you'll get lovely views of the whole village, perched on a hillside, and the beautiful mountain scenery surrounding this magical place.

Did you know the name Conques comes from the Latin for 'shell'?

Friday 26 September

Travel: Taxi to Rodez / Pick up hire car

Accommodation: Château de Labro, Rodez
Dinner: Not included but food at the château looks good

The Château de Labro was built in the 16th century by the wealthy de Créato family of merchants. The château is set against a beautiful green backdrop a short distance from Rodez.

Relax and recharge your batteries at a place where the magic happens from the moment you walk through the door...

Saturday 27 September

Explore: Rodez

Accommodation: Château de Labro, Rodez
Dinner: Not included

Rodez is one of France's "Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire" – another official accreditation. From the winding paths of the public park to the narrow side streets of the old town, to the modest charm of the little squares found in its historic heart, Rodez has the perfect blend of tradition and modernity.

Rodez cathedral is a Gothic wonder, completed in the early 16th century after 300 years of work. From the top of the 87-metre-high belltower, you have 360° views of the surrounding countryside, Aubrac and the Lévézou peaks.

Sunday 28 September

Travel: Return hire car / Depart from Rodez Airport

Flights

Saturday 13 September

Flight: easyJet EJU8429
London Gatwick [LGW] to Lyon [LYS]

Departs: 14:45 (North Terminal)
Arrives: 17:25

Sunday 28 September

Flight: Ryanair FR2786
Rodez [RDZ] to London Stansted [STN]

Departs: 14:00
Arrives: 14:50

Luggage Transfer

La Malle Postale

Tel: +33 4 71 04 21 79
https://www.lamallepostale.com/en/
Email: contact@lamallepostale.com

Car Hire

Avis Car Rental

Rodez Airport
Route de Décazeville
12330 Salles-la-Source
Tel: +33 5 65 68 00 66

Accommodation

Hôtel Première Classe Lyon Centre, Lyon



75 Boulevard Marius Vivier Merle
69003 Lyon, France
Tel: +33 4 72 36 86 62
https://lyon-centre-gare-part-dieu.premiereclasse.com/en-us/

Hôtel Bristol, Le Puy-en-Velay



9 Avenue Maréchal Foch
43000 Le Puy-en-Velay, France
Tel: +33 4 71 09 13 38
https://www.lepuy-hotelbristol.com/en/

La Vieille Auberge, Saint-Privat-d'Allier



Le Bourg
43580 Saint-Privat-d'Allier, France
Tel: +33 4 71 57 20 56
https://www.la-vieille-auberge.eu/en/

Hôtel La Terrasse, Saugues



Cours Gervais
43170 Saugues, France
Tel: +33 4 71 77 83 10
https://www.hotellaterrasse-saugues.com/en,1,5084.html

L'Oustal de Parent, Les Faux



Les Faux
48120 Saint-Alban-sur-Limagnole, France
Tel: +33 4 66 31 50 09
https://oustaldeparent.com/

Les Volets Bleus, Aumont-Aubrac



25 Av. de Peyre
48130 Peyre en Aubrac, France
Tel: +33 4 66 31 34 11
https://www.lesvoletsbleus.net/

Hôtel La Randonnée, Nasbinals



Rue de la Rosée du Matin
48260 Nasbinals, France
Tel: +33 4 66 32 54 07
https://www.bastide-nasbinals.com/en/accommodation/hotel-la-randonnee/

Hôtel Les Coudercous, Saint-Chély-d'Aubrac



78 Route de Bonnefon
12470 Saint-Chély-d'Aubrac, France
Tel: +33 5 65 44 27 40
https://www.hotel-lescoudercous.com/

Appart'Hôtel - Au Vieux Palais, Espalion



1 Rue Saint-Joseph
12500 Espalion, France
Tel: +33 6 72 07 60 49
https://vieux-palais.fr/

Hôtel Aux Armes d'Estaing, Estaing



1 Quai du Lot
12190 Estaing, France
Tel: +33 5 65 44 70 02
https://www.hotelauxarmesdestaing.com/en

Chez Michel & Monique, Golinhac



5 Lot Bellevue
12140 Golinhac, France
Tel: +33 7 86 37 39 05
https://www.facebook.com/p/Chez-Michel-et-Monique-100068285684823/

Le Castellou, Conques



33 Rue Charlemagne
12320 Conques, France
Tel: +33 6 48 15 66 91
https://tablechambresdhotes.wixsite.com/le-castellou

Château de Labro, Rodez



Labro
12850 Onet-le-Château, France
Tel: +33 5 65 67 90 62
https://www.chateaulabro.fr/?lang=en_GB

What to Pack

Not too much!

Contacts

Chief Tour Success Officer (CTSO)

Peter Williams
Tel: [redacted]

Room Allocation / Dispute Resolution Manager

Laura Notley
Tel: [redacted]

Route Risk Assessment Analyst

Rachel Williams
Tel: [redacted]

Geocaching Strategy Advisor

Richard Notley
Tel: [redacted]

Useful French Phrases

Although the predominant language of the region is French, some locals also speak Occitan. So, no hope there! You may find others that have a passing understanding of Franglais, but if communication is an issue, try speaking louder in English whilst waving your UK passport.

Some phrases that may come in useful:

We'd like the room with the four-poster bed. They'll take the servants' quarters.

- *Nous aimerions la chambre avec le lit à baldaquin. Ils prendront la chambre de bonne.*

No, there are four of us. The other two should be here by sunset.

- *Non, nous sommes quatre. Les deux autres devraient être là au coucher du soleil.*

Which of these desserts is most like 'flan'?

- *Lequel de ces desserts ressemble le plus à un flan?*

Four beers, please ... and whatever they're having.

- *Quatre bières, s'il vous plaît ... et ce qu'ils prennent.*

This stew is very tasty. Is it donkey?

- *Ce ragoût est délicieux. C'est de l'âne?*

Are you sure we'll be the only people in the dormitory?

- *Êtes-vous sûr que nous serons les seuls dans le dortoir?*

Is there a more dangerous alternative to the sign-posted path?

- *Y a-t-il une alternative plus dangereuse que le chemin balisé?*



Apologies to our friends at On Foot Holidays for this shameful parody of their excellent holiday documentation!