

THE WALKING PARTY

ITINERARY FOR THE SAINT JAMES'S WAY: Figeac to Cahors

Distance : 87 km max (afternoons off are voluntary)

Walking : moderate +



Day 1 You will be met at Toulouse Blagnac airport by James and driven to Figeac, stopping for a light lunch on the way. You will stay your first night here. It is a very beautiful medieval town and there will be time to relax and wander before dinner. You will stay in the three star Hotel Le Pont d'Or overlooking the river Célé. All bedrooms have bathrooms en suite. Dinner in Figeac.

Day 2 You are driven out of Figeac in the vehicles after breakfast to meet the donkeys and Mag the muleteer for a walk towards Cajarc on the famous pilgrimage route now named the GR65. This is the original route taken by Bishop Godescalc in 951AD. Cajarc is where the Vikings would sail as far as down the river Lot in days of yore. The walking is along the plateau with drystone walls and scrub oaks and junipers. You will stay in a beautiful fortified house on the outskirts of Cajarc. All bedrooms have bathrooms en suite. There is a swimming pool. *Walk: 15km*

Day 3 After breakfast, we leave again in the vehicles to catch up with the donkeys and Mag as we walk to the heart of the *causses*. This is characteristic scrubland with oak woods and dotted with ancient dolmens and drystone shepherd huts. Picnic lunch on the way. You

arrive in Limoges for cold beers and other drinks before driving back to your fortified house near Cajarc for your third night. Dinner at the house. *Walk: 15km*



Day 4 We drive north to a little village on the river Célé. You are leaving the GR65 to move to the GR65a. This is what makes the week so interesting as we are using two well-known tracks of the pilgrimage to give you the contrast of the *causses* with the dramatic cliff lined valley of the Célé river. We walk with the donkeys along the Célé river and along the cliffs stopping for a riverside picnic. You will stay in a charming mill house right on the banks of the river. All bedrooms have bathrooms en suite. There is a swimming pool ... and a river! Dinner at the mill house. *Walk: 15km*

Day 5 We leave the mill house after breakfast on foot to walk down the river valley towards the Lot river. Again this is stunning scenery. Picnic along the way and arrive at Cabrerets and the Chateau des Anglais. There was much activity down here during the Hundred Year's War and anything that has notoriety was called the Chateau des Anglais! Drinks here before you will be driven to the mill house for another night on the banks. Dinner at the mill house. *Walk: 15km*

Day 6 We drive back to Cabrerets to start again with Mag and the donkeys. Another beautiful river walk before driving to St Cirq Lapopie, famed as being one of the prettiest villages of France, for a single night in the heart of the village perched up on the cliffs. Dinner in St Cirq. *Walk: 15km*

Day 7 We drive out of St Cirq to regain our pilgrimage with donkeys and Mag for our walk into Cahors. You will stay at the four star Chateau Mercues perched on the cliffs and the former residence of the Bishop of Cahors. This is a wonderful place to end your pilgrimage. All bedrooms have bathrooms en suite and there is a swimming pool. Dinner at the chateau.

Walk: 12km

Day 8 We drive to Toulouse from Cahors after breakfast to get to Toulouse airport by 09.30am.



NOTE: *This tour starts and ends at Toulouse airport. The itinerary is subject to change according to local conditions. All mileages shown are approximate.*