

THE WALKING PARTY

ITINERARY FOR THE TRUFFLE HOP

Walking : easy



INTRODUCTION

Plutarch believed they were mud cooked by lightning, Juvenal that they were the product of thunder and rain and Pliny that they were nature's greatest miracle. Elizabeth David said they were the most delicious of foods anywhere and Brillat-Savarin that 'without truffles there can be no truly gastronomic meal.' And the mystic around the truffle continues, in its nefarious dark way, to intrigue.

This five day weekend is an idea to allow you to get to know the mysterious and gastronomically fantastic fungus as you may never have been able to do before. We concentrate on three subjects concerning truffles: the hunting, the cooking/eating and the buying. You get to make your own truffled foie gras to take home with you and share a precious gastronomic moment with friends.

The weather in January can be glorious. Cold and crisp with perfect blue skies – the perfect skies to go hunting truffles. The idea is to do some walking but should we get bad weather there are ample alternatives (castles, chateaux and wineries to visit) and of course we will be well prepared for such events!

ITINERARY

Day 1 Saturday Bonjour

You arrive at Toulouse airport to be met by James. We drive to Moissac for lunch and visit the beautiful abbey. After lunch we drive to Besse to see the church and have a walk in the beauty of the Dordogne. We will then drive to Domme. You stay at 1 Logis à Domme. I have worked with our hosts Helene and Francois for over twenty years now. They are great friends and do such a wonderful job! All bedrooms have bathrooms en suite. The bedrooms are spacious and beautifully decorated. The bathrooms are modern and elegant. We shall walk down the hill for dinner in Cenac.

Day 2 Sunday Truffle Festival

You are greeted in the morning by a table laden with croissants, pains chocolats, jams, fresh fruit juice, fruits and strong black coffee. Then we set off in the cars back to Campagnac les Quercy to see the truffle festival. This small village is very much off the beaten track. We shall eat a light lunch back at Domme at the hotel with Helene and Francois. In the afternoon we shall drive to visit the gardens of Eyrignac. A short drive for dinner in the four star Domaine du Chateau de Monrecour.

Day 3 Monday Truffle recipes

More croissants and breakfast delights. We then set off on foot for the gardens of Marqueyssac before a walk around the village of Domme to breathe in the crisp air. A light picnic lunch in the gardens. After lunch we shall walk through the gardens. These are fabulous gardens perched on a cliff above the river Lot. Strangely enough they were only 'rediscovered' in the '90s. When you see them this is quite remarkable. If there is time we shall visit the Chateau of Benac. We return to Domme for dinner with Helene and Francois.

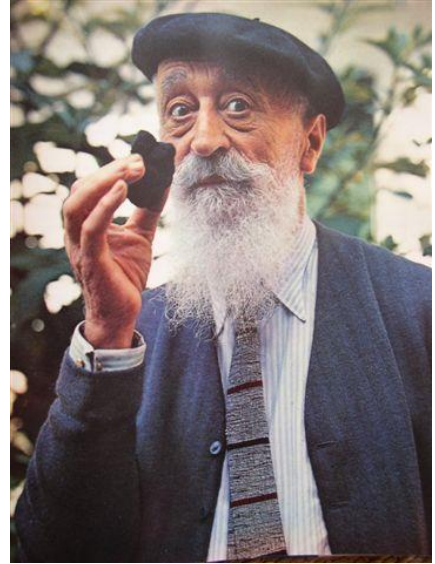


Day 4 Tuesday Kitchen work and truffle market day

After breakfast we shall drive to James' house to learn how to prepare the foie gras. For anyone less interested in this there is a walking opportunity! We prepare the foie gras and the truffles and a truffle lunch at the same time! Chopping and slicing and finding some interesting ways to present your truffle. After lunch we drive to the truffle market at Lalbenque. This is an important truffle market and an opportunity for you to see the people who live off the buying and selling of truffles. Old retired folk as wrinkled as the earth. There is an order to a truffle market and we will watch how this unique affair evolves. You will stay in a charming hotel in the heart of Montcuq village. Dinner in Montcuq.

Day 5 Wednesday Au revoir

After breakfast we drive to Cahors for market day in front of the beautiful Romanesque cathedral. You can buy some excellent French goodies you would like to take home with you! Lunch in Cahors. We continue then to Toulouse Blagnac to arrive at Toulouse Blagnac by 15.00.



NOTE: The itinerary is subject to change according to local conditions. All mileages are approximate.

Bergerac is also available as an airport if coming as a group.