

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

September 14-21

2013

September 13-20

Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any day. Call or email for details.

Trip Size

8-12 participants

Total Days:

8 days/ 7 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Aumont-Aubrac/Conques

Activity Level:

Moderate
12-24 km (7-14 miles);
averaging 18.5 km (11.5 miles)

Terrain:

This trip is for hikers with experience as some of the terrain is hilly.

Chemin St. Jacque, Walking

Walking in the footsteps of St. James

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



Getting there :

Aumont-Aubrac - The tour starts in the town of Aumont-Aubrac, about 400 km south of Paris. There are several trains every day from Paris. The trip takes around seven 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.

DAY 1:

Arrive in Aumont-Aubrac, a charming town that dates back to Roman times. It lies on the ancient Via Agrippa that connected Lyon and Toulouse. Be sure to visit the church of St. Etienne, which was once part of a 12th-century monastery.



DAY 2:

Enjoy a day rambling through woods and across beautiful pastures and moors before climbing to Montgros, near the cross-country ski centre of Nasbinal.

DAY 3:

This is your last day on high plateaus. Pass through Aubrac where the Brothers Hospitalier once kept an estate in order to protect the pilgrims. Arrive at the pretty town of Saint-Chély-D'Aubrac.

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Cost

Land Cost (current year):

US \$1650

Includes 7B/2L/6D

Single Supplement:

US \$400

DAY 4:

Walk through remote country to the fortified town of Saint-Côme-d'Olt, designated one of the Plus Beaux Villages de France.

DAY 5:

Enter the Lot River Valley; visit wonderful old towns like Espalion and Saint-Pierre de Bessuéjols on your way to Estaing, another Plus Beau Village.

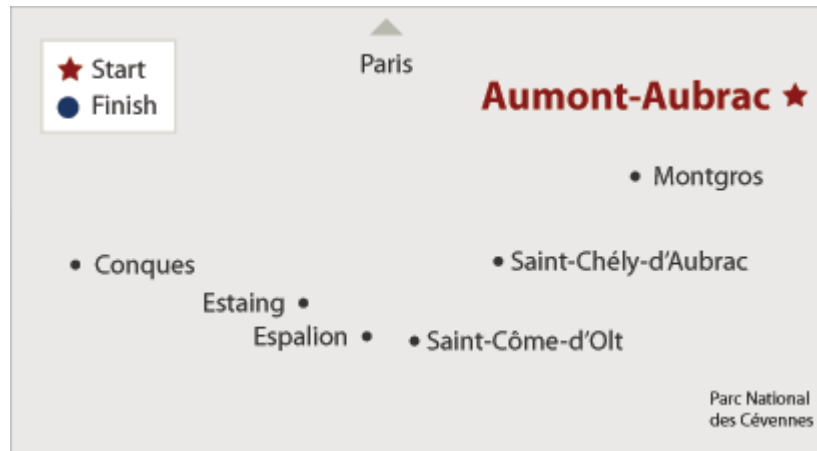
DAY 6:

Beautiful canyon scenery and simple villages mark the route to Espayrac graced by an old stone cross and the church of Saint-Pierre.

DAY 7:

A short day's walk takes you to Conques, clustered around the huge abbey church of Ste-Foy, where the relics of Ste. Foy, a Christian martyr, once drew thousands of pilgrims. Conques itself is a magical destination in a dramatic setting.

DAY 8: Explore Conques before departing for home or other destinations.



What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 7 nights lodging
- all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

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Accommodations



Hotel Prouheze, Aumont d'Aubrac

This 3-star hotel is a large, charming, bourgeoise house in Lozare, offering 25 highly-comfortable and refined rooms equipped with all modern amenities to provide you with the best comfort. Tantalize your tastebuds at the Prouheze restaurant, serving up premium dishes to the highest standard.



Auberge la Maison de Rosalie, Montgros

The Auberge de la Maison Rosalie is an unpretentious 2-star hotel with modern facilities. A restored 19th century farmhouse, la Maison showcases authentic wooden and granite surroundings and warm décor. Meals are served at the main inn and offer a simple 'menu du jour' highlighting the tastes of the Aubrac to its hotel guests.



Hotel des Voyageurs, Saint Chely d'Aubrac

The Hotel des Voyageurs has bright and cheerful rooms: The hotel has been in the same family for four generations, and the restaurant offers delicious regional specialties.



Hotel des Voyageurs, Saint Come d'Olt

A small 2-star hotel with comfortable rooms in the centre of the village.



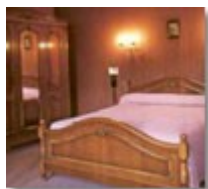
Aux Armes d'Estaing, Estaing

The Hotel Aux Armes d'Estaing is a very good hotel overlooking the Lot valley. The large dining room has a huge, open stone fireplace in which the chef cooks a range of regional specialties. The summer terrace has a magnificent, open view of the Gothic Bridge and river in one of the most beautiful villages in France.



Hotel de la Vallee, Espeyrac

This small hotel, owned by the family Marragou, offers a warm welcome. The hotel has a pleasant restaurant and bar.



Auberge de saint Jacques, Conques

Located in the heart of the medieval village of Conques and across from the famous Abbey Sainte Foy, this 2-star hotel has a very good restaurant with regional specialties.